



RI031675

EuroVO-DCA

The European Virtual Observatory Data Centre Alliance

COORDINATION ACTION

RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

COMMUNICATION NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

### D7 - Second EuroVO-DCA Workshop

Due date of deliverable: 30/06/2008 - Rescheduled from 31/08/2008

Actual submission date: 27/08/2008

Start date of project: 01/09/2006

Duration: 28 month

ESO

FINAL

Project co-funded by the European Commission within the Sixth Framework Programme (2002-2006)		
Dissemination Level		
<b>PU</b>	Public	X
<b>PP</b>	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	
<b>RE</b>	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)	
<b>CO</b>	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	

The "EuroVO-DCA Workshop 2008 on how to publish data in the VO" was held between 23-27 June 2008 at ESO (Garching bei München, Germany).

## Workshop preparation

A website (<http://www.euro-vo.org/dcaworkshop2008/>) was created where participants could get logistic information prior to the event, including the schedule (<http://www.euro-vo.org/dcaworkshop2008/program.html>) which gives an overview of the workshop. Software pre-requisites were provided 10 days in advance, and supporting materials for the hands-on sessions were made available as required during the week.

The workshop was publicised through the Euro-VO mailing list (<http://www.euro-vo.org/announcements/>), through the IVOA mailing list (<http://www.ivoa.net/forum/interop/>), and to data centres registered in the Census of European Data Centres (<http://cds.u-strasbg.fr/twikiDCA/bin/view/EuroVODCA/DCAcensus>). The official announcement was made on 16 April.

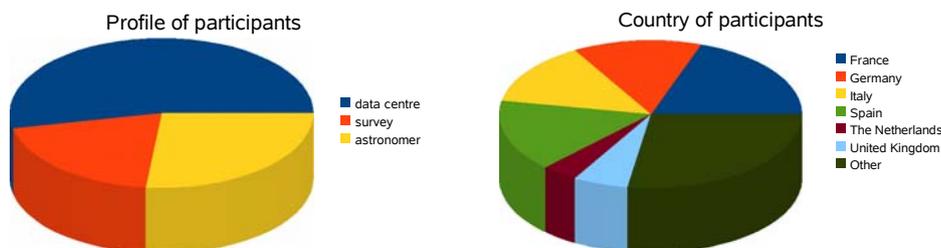
The workshop primarily targeted large data centres, large projects and surveys to encourage them to become "publishers" in the VO and acquire the knowledge and experience necessary to do so. Several smaller data centres and individual astronomers who wanted to publish their data holdings to the VO were keen on participating and also attended the workshop.

Following an introductory session for all participants, full-day hands-on sessions were arranged in which participants were introduced to tools that allowed them to publish their own particular catalogues, images and spectral data holdings through the VO according to established VO protocols. Participants were encouraged to bring some samples of their data to the workshop or access datasets remotely in order to work on real examples and ensure that they would be able to build the corresponding VO services after returning to their data centres. Time-series and theoretical data were also covered using emerging VO standards in two half-day sessions. In addition to the main hands-on group sessions, participants could also attend short and focused sessions and obtain one-to-one help dealing with specific topics relevant to publishing their datasets.

## Participants profile

The workshop had a total of 82 participants, of which 51 were not related to the EuroVO-DCA project (in the role of advisor or otherwise). From these, about three quarters came from EuroVO-DCA project partner countries, while the others came from: Armenia, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Lithuania, Mexico, Portugal, Russia, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey.

About half of the participants represented a data centre, a quarter represented a survey and the remaining quarter were astronomers wanting to share their data (note: several participants fit in more than one of these categories).



Major facilities and missions represented covered almost all wavelengths from high-energy facilities such as HESS, XMM and SWIFT, massive surveys e.g. GAIA and international facilities such as ALMA, and radio including VLBI. Science foci covered a wide range, from geodetic and planetary archives to the Planck Cosmic Microwave Background satellite. Large collaborations

were also represented e.g. WINGS-Nearby Galaxy Cluster Survey and the Digitized First Byurakan Survey. A number of participants also wanted to publish source lists, on-demand products and/or a variety of coordinated products e.g. images and spectra.

Among non-European participants were one Chilean participant involved in discussions about the possible development of a national VO; one Mexican participant involved in the development of VO services; two Chinese participants involved in the development of LAMOST (the Large Sky Area Multi-Object Fiber Spectroscopic Telescope, a large infrastructure project of the Chinese Academy of Sciences) and China-VO.

## **Networking aspects**

### **Networking with existing or potential VO projects**

- Participants from EC countries beyond EuroVO-DCA partner countries, with which relations have been built in particular through Work Package 6 *Support to data centres from other European countries*: Bulgaria, Lithuania, Portugal
- Participants from Associated Countries: Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey – it is particularly interesting to have several participants from Turkey, expressing their willingness to build a Turkish VO, since it is the first time a contact is established with Turkey on these matters
- Participants from other countries: from the Armenian, Russian and Chinese Virtual Observatory projects; from Chile and Mexico – efforts are on-going in particular in Chile to build a national VO project

### **Networking with nearby disciplines, with other EC funded projects**

- Several participants from radio astronomy (ALMA, EVN/JIVE, VLBI for Geodesy & Astrometry), astroparticles (HESS), planetary science (EuroPlaNet)
- Participants from EuroPlaNet (FP6 Coordination Action, FP7 I3), BalticGrid II

## **Feedback**

A feedback survey was conducted online at <http://www.insitefulsurveys.com/Survey.asp?SI=968831113304>.

Feedback was nearly all positive: the sessions were mostly rated between “Very useful” and “Fairly useful”. A small number of participants described some sessions as “Interesting but of no immediate use”. People valued the interaction with peers and experts as well as the formal sessions; the short and focused “one-on-one” sessions were very well received. Participants especially valued being able to publish their own data since this gave them more confidence that the workshop would be of ongoing use when they went home.