

The concept of a **Virtual Observatory** is that the entire world's astronomical data should feel like it sits on the astronomer's desktop, analysable with a user selected workbench of tools and made available through a standard interface.

Euro-VO is the European implementation of this idea that will produce a unified data and service resource (a data and service grid) with the ability to perform complex data discovery and manipulation tasks across the whole range of astronomical research topics.

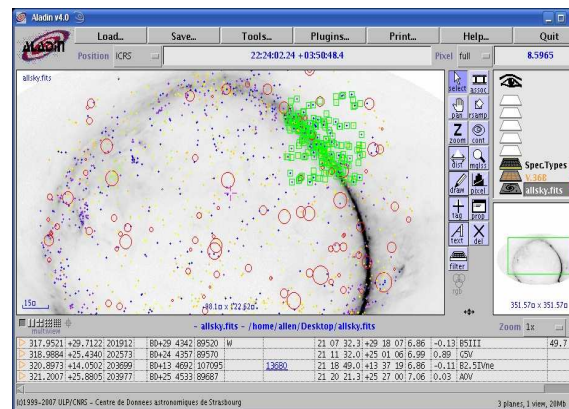
The **top level objective** of the EuroVO-DCA is to coordinate European Data Centres in forming a co-operating community enhancing the European astronomical eInfrastructure and, thereby, maximising the scientific utilisation of the rich astronomical on-line resources distributed all over Europe.

The project will enable the identification and promotion of requirements from programs of strategic European and national interest that require VO technologies and services. The implementation and sharing of standards and methods will make it possible to achieve a production-level European-wide eInfrastructure.

The objectives of EuroVO-DCA can then be summarized in 6 key points, corresponding to the project work packages:

- **co-ordinate the national and European Agencies VO initiatives**, to implement networking of European data centres (WP2),
- **disseminate knowledge and good practice** about the VO technical framework (WP3),
- organise **feedback from implementation** of interoperability standards (WP3-2),
- prepare the **inclusion of theoretical astronomy** in the VO framework (WP4),
- seek **coordination with national and international projects for computational Grids**(WP5),
- and **help data centres from beyond the partners' countries** to participate in the VO endeavour (WP6).

The DCA will be an alliance of data centre communities represented at a national level. The DCA will coordinate and assist European Data Centres to take up VO standards, share best practice for data providers, consolidate operational requirements for VO-enabled tools and systems and enable the identification and promotion of scientific requirements from programs of strategic national interest that require VO technologies and services.



An image of the sky shown in a VObs portal, with a display of astronomical objects available from distributed data archives and value-added data-bases. More details about each object, as well as a link to the archival data when relevant, are available through a simple click.

Project acronym:	EuroVO-DCA
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EC Funding:	1540855 €
Effort in person-month:	170
Web site:	www.euro-vo.org/pub/dca/overview.html
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Funds for the DCA have been allocated by the European Community, within the [Sixth Framework Programme](#) (FP6), starting in September 2006 for a duration of 28 months.