

Dear Fellow FP6 Astronomy Programmes

As the Outreach Officer for RadioNet, I am emailing you concerning a proposal for coordinating activities aimed at increasing the awareness of our programmes within the EU.

We recently met with a representative of the EU Politix website who are charged with providing information about EU funded projects (and the relevant financial, political and environmental issues) to the 35,000+ EU civil servants and their MEPs. I have included below a full description of what this service is for, but essentially it is a powerful method of getting any issues of concern to astronomy into the EU decision-making process, and keeping people informed about our important work.

We pointed out to the EU Politix representative that we felt only a coordinated astronomy presence within their service would be beneficial to us, not only in terms of financing it, but in order to have a broad and balanced representation of the issues relevant to astronomy.

I therefore seek your opinions on forming a single collaboration of all four I3s and ICNs within FP6, with the aim of targeting the EU in a coordinated fashion. We believe our inclusion in the EU Politix service will be greatly beneficial, both within the FP6 timeframe and beyond.

There is a cost for this service which is not trivial, and hence our idea to spread the cost across the four programmes. We already have agreement that a joint representation will incur the same costs as if RadioNet did this alone. We envisage the costs coming from our Outreach Programme, and this single incentive deals almost completely with our need to address the EU and its decision-makers directly. An estimate of the cost to each programme would be in the region of about 800 Pounds Sterling per annum.

Please could you consider this proposal within your programme (and copy this message to any relevant personnel not included in its distribution) and let me know whether you are willing to join forces for this incentive. I include below a description of the EU Politix website for your information.

I look forward to hearing your views.

Sincerely

Alastair Gunn  
RadioNet Outreach Officer