



SIXTH FRAMEWORK
PROGRAMME

European Commission

Community Research



The NEON Observing Schools

The Network of European Observatories in the North (NEON) organises a yearly observational summer school sponsored by the European Community under FP5. The purpose of the school is to provide an opportunity for students to gain practical experience at observatories with state of the art instrumentation. The school organises observing sessions with small groups of students, under the guidance of experienced observers. The observing sessions are centred around a small research project. Each student team goes through all steps of a standard observing programme, i.e. observation planning, observing and data reduction.

This annual school is open to students working on a PhD thesis in Astronomy and to post-doctoral workers already in the field who are nationals of a Member State or an EU Associated State. Typically 18 participants will be selected by the organising committee. If the students satisfy the EC rules (under 35 years old at the time of the Euro Summer School) they can have their travel and living expenses paid.

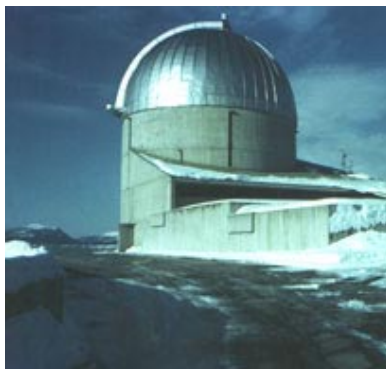
In addition to the practical activities, each school also features a series of introductory lectures by professional astronomers.

Three schools have been held to date:

- Asiago Observatory, Italy in September 2002
- Haute-Provence Observatory, France in July 2001
- Calar Alto Observatory, Spain in July 2000

NEON will be an important access activity of the proposed OPTICON FP6 Integrated Infrastructure Initiative. Using the contacts established through the medium sized telescopes activity (COMET) within the I3, it is hoped to expand these activities to more telescopes across Europe.

Students of 9 different nationalities attended the last summer school. In FP6 we hope to reach students from the whole European Community.



Schedule of the 2002 Summer School at Asiago.

- Sept. 9-11: Preparation of the observations.
- Sept. 11-17: Observations at the telescopes.
- Sept. 11-19: Data reduction by students.
- Sept. 20: Presentation of the scientific results.

Our Mission

The OPTICON Infrastructure Coordination network brings together all of Western Europe's owners and operators of large observatories and data centres. Our goal is to identify opportunities where greater progress can be made by collaboration than by competition, and to take unified actions to achieve those agreed goals.

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