Training Schools WP12

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Who are we?

• **Work package leader**: Heidi Korhonen (Denmark)

• **WP12 board**: Tanyu Bonev (Bulgaria), Michel Dennefeld (France), Roland Gredel (Germany), Petr Kabath (Czech Republic), Elina Lindfors (Finland), Alessandro Pizzella (Italy), and Martin Ward (UK)

• **OPTICON contact**: Gudrun Pebody (UK)
Core activities

Supports different types of schools

• Main school of the year: **NEON Observing School**

• Also organising other events:
  • Life-long training: specialised workshops
  • Archival schools
  • ’Hot Topics‘ conferences
  • Instrumentation oriented schools/workshops

• Also developing synergies: joint events with ESO/IAU/other EU projects
NEON Observing Schools

• Organised yearly in different European observatories
• 16-20 participants
• Student selection striving to achieve diversity of origin and gender
• Meant for people without prior observing experience, but with a need to obtain it
• Small groups of students led by an experienced tutor
• Hands-on experience combined with expert lectures
• Students present their projects in the end of the school
2017 & 2018 NEON Schools

• 2017 NEON Observing School
  • On La Palma in September 2017
  • 72 applicants
  • 16 students from 12 different countries and 16 institutes
  • 10 men and 6 women

• 2018 NEON Observing School
  • In Asiago Observatory in September 2018
  • 65 applicants
  • 20 students from 14 different countries and 20 institutes
  • 14 women and 6 men
  • First participant from the sub-Saharan Africa
What was new in the 2017 and 2018 NEON Observing Schools?

- **Focus on infra-red observations**
  - Lectures on infra-red techniques in all the observing schools
  - Two out of the four groups in the 2017 NEON School also used infra-red observations

- **Multi-messenger astrophysics**
  - One of the focus areas
  - We will organise a dedicated school
  - In the 2018 NEON School already had a lecture on MAGIC and remote connection to La Palma to see the observations in practice.
Collaboration with ESO and SUNDIAL

• 2nd ESO/NEON Observing School
  • February/March 2018
  • 20 students from South America, Europe, and Australia
  • Lectures/group work in Santiago
  • Three nights of observations at La Silla using 3.5 metre NTT and Danish 1.54 metre telescope

• SUNDIAL Observing School
  • SUNDIAL is an EU funded Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Network
  • Observing school on La Palma in October 2018
  • Two of the highly ranked applicants from the 2018 NEON Observing Schools were chosen for the SUNDIAL School
  • SUNDIAL organised the school and provided the teachers/tutors.
  • OPTICON WP12 paid the costs of the two selected students: French woman and Italian man
Instrumentation School

- The 1st OPTICON Instrumentation School
- July 3-12 2017, in Copenhagen
- Emphasis on ‘Transient Sky’
- Instrument Phase A study with a help of an experienced tutor
- 22 participants selected from 58 applicants (from 13 different countries)
- Eight engineering and 14 astronomy students
- Five women and 17 men
Low-resolution Spectropolarimeter for Transients

A new polarimeter, for the

ALMOST

A Low-resolution Multi-Object Spectrograph for Transients
WP12 plans 2019 – 2020

• Yearly NEON Observing Schools
  • 2019: September in Rozhen Observatory, Bulgaria
  • 2020: Location TBD (Spain, France, Greece, ...?)

• At least one other event every year:
  • Proposal writing school in June 2019 in Tatranská Lomnica, Slovak Republic (jointly organised with an ERASMUS+ project)
  • ’Hot Topics’ conference in Sofia combined with the 2019 NEON Observing School
  • Multi-messenger Astrophysics School in 2020
  • Archival school at ESO? 2nd Instrumentation School?
Diversity

**NEON Observing Schools 2000 – 2018: 296 students, 148 men and 148 women**

*Home institute*

*Nationality*

*Country of the home institute (3 students or more)*

*Country of origin (3 students or more)*
• We have taken a detailed look at the students who took part in the first 10 NEON Observing Schools (2000-2012) and the three archival schools (2002, 2006, and 2008).
• The NEON schools had 181 students: 93 women and 88 men
• 115 of the NEON School participants are still in astronomy (64%)
• The archival schools had 59 participants: 29 women and 30 men
• 49 of the archival schools students are still in astronomy (83%)