

Support for European ground and space astronomy (N4)

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Scientific support for major European astronomy facilities in Space and on the ground

- this excludes what is covered by the ACCESS program (smaller telescopes) and under ENO
- for ground it should be VLT, ALMA, Grantecan
- for Space XMM, INTEGRAL, PLANCK, HERSCHEL, GAIA, JWST

- work plan:
 - 0-6 months meetings with one representative per facility together with ESA and ESO representatives to draft a plan for a support (which would reasonably match similar support given by US institutions)
 - first report after 9 months

Technical support

- 0-6 months meeting of major test and calibration facilities in Europe
 - (CSL, RAL, IAS, MPI Heidelberg)
 - compare existing capabilities
 - identify other facilities not in the core group
 - identify facilities not available but needed for the development of future major astronomical facilities

Technical support

- specialised meeting involving more participants
- meeting with ESA and ESO to discuss new facilities to be developed
- meetings with the relevant national agencies
- draft report on these facilities, possible scheme for initial funding, running costs,...

Integrating data from major astronomical European facilities in the AVO

- the AVO develops the infrastructure needed
- meeting of the facility representatives to identify
 - the needed actions (and associated resources) not part of the AVO infrastructure to make the data of each facility usable for the general users through the VO
 - mechanisms of support for these actions

Elite fellowships

- meeting of representatives of ESO, ESA ESF to identify the need for the set up of prestigious fellowships in Europe
- discuss the appropriate disciplinary field which should be covered (astronomy or broader)
- elaborate the needed funding, selection mechanisms