

Third EURO-VO SAC meeting, ESTEC, 18 June 2007

Participants :

Francisco Carrera (FC), Luis Colina (LC), Dave De Young (DD), Paolo Giommi (PG), Florian Kerber (FK), Andrew Jaffe (AJ), Raffaella Morganti (RM), Reynier Peletier (RP), Timo Prusti [Chair] (TP), Alberto Salama (AS), Stephen Smartt (SS), Robert Laing (RL), Caroline Soubiran (CS), Mark Allen (MA), Matteo Guainazzi (MG), Paolo Padovani (PP), Nic Walton (NW), Francoise Genova (FG), Evanthia Hatziminaoglou (EH)

Agenda :

- Welcome
- EURO-VO/IVOA status [FG]
- EURO-VO SAC goals [DD]
- Status report [VO scientist]
- AIs
- Astrogrid/VO meeting [SS]
- Error Handling in VO [FK]
- Astronet report [PP]
- Closed Session
- AOB and conclusions

TP presents FG, introduces EH

[FG] EURO-VO/IVOA status

(<http://www.euro-vo.org/internal/Fc/SacMeeting03/EuroVO-SAC-June2007.pdf>)

[DD] EURO-VO SAC goals & mission statement

Discussion on the goals of the SAC :

[PP] how does the SAC interact with the community?

[AJ, DD, FG] how to inform the community?

[FG] should the SAC be promoting the VO?

[RP] SAC should be a bit independent otherwise the community will see the SAC only as promoters of the VO;

[FG] strong objections against the VO from SAC members should be clearly spelled out;

[TP] feedback from the project should be given to the SAC on what to advise on

[PP] SAC has already been asked to give input on the web pages (AI from previous SAC meeting), the call for proposals etc

[DD] will revamp the mission statement, ideas should be sent to him

Status Report

[NW] VOTC (<http://www.euro-vo.org/internal/Fc/SacMeeting03/sac-jun07-naw.pdf>)

Discussion : [RL, FG] connection to OPTICON/RadioNet. EURO-VO should continue the discussion with them; [RL] brings up the issue of many and complicated acronyms; [TP] Is a single sign on really compulsory? [NW] parallel with Google : simple access is done without login in but if one wants more services one has to login. We'll soon see many of them in the VO. Tracking of logins is not done (yet). [RM] Will more science cases be available? [NW] Cases and papers are on their way. Lists of VO tools should also be available (there is one in the IVOA pages and one in

the EURO-VO tools)

[MA] DCA (http://www.euro-vo.org/internal/Fc/SacMeeting03/DCA_June2007a.pdf)

Discussion : There is some debate on the length and content of the DCA questionnaire to be soon circulated in the form of a web form, as well as the targeted public [RL, FG, MA]; [TP] are astronomical journals DCs? [FG] could be a "thematic" services but has not envisaged so far. [MA] answering a question of TP on the participants to the DCA workshop June 25-29] : not everybody that should be there will be there; some DCs and large projects are missing. Future workshop : autumn(?) 2008 at ESO. [RL] brings up the issue of IRAM not responding favourably in such calls. [FG] some IRAM data are available through Vizier; [TP] SAC might want to make a statement about the necessity of data made available; [PP] we're missing out big surveys, like COSMOS, VIMOS (some data available from VIMOS though). [DD] big projects do not see any particular advantages to them making their data available; [FG] mentions the example of the Besancon models increasing their use by a factor of 3 when a web access to the model was provided. [MA, answering a question of TP] Among the participants to the June workshop only already existing projects there. As a general agreement, it has to be advertised and demonstrated that doing things the VO way is the right way.

[MG] FC (<http://www.euro-vo.org/internal/Fc/SacMeeting03/FC.pdf>)

Discussion : [RL] what was the ratio of the different wavelengths (in terms of participants) during the spectroscopic workshop? [MG] not known but the entire spectrum was covered; [SS] how much time is the FC investing in the accepted proposals? MG up to 25 [MG] The ultimate scientific responsibility lies on the teams though. [RP] the quality of the proposals was low, is it because of lack of money offered? [FG, PP] A page long proposals were requested. [PP] The FC will issue another two calls in the coming two years

[SS] **Astrogrid/VO meeting**

(<http://www.euro-vo.org/internal/Fc/SacMeeting03/smartt-euro-vo-feedback.pdf>)

Discussion : [PP] ESO will not make data available till the issue of the single sign-on is settled. However, by JENAM some data will have to be made public. [NW] suggests ESO should announce when some of the data will become available.

[FK] **Error handling in VO**

Much data available without the necessary errors associated; info is usually there, it should be properly included in the VO

[PG] **How to conduct the AGILE + Swift science using the VO**

[PP] **Astronet report**

Discussion : VO was asked to provide part of the Astronet questionnaire to be circulated soon but will not be asked to fill the questionnaire

Closed Session

Discussion after the end of the session : -there is a general feeling that the project is under development and we should try to make it (look) more in operation -some publicity of the activities required (newsletter? mailing list was a good idea) -more user-friendly tools list -should the SAC members act as VO users or even attract more users to the VO?

AIs

- SAC comments on web form (deadline??)

- SAC comments on the web pages (deadline 15th of July)
- SAC members to act as users and use VO tools in their everyday research(?)
- SAC members' most favourite must-have tools :
 - [TP] : cross-matching with different beam size, interaction tool ; SED builder
 - [DD] : multi-wavelength imaging overlays, calibrated, scaled etc
 - [AJ] : Hilpix (??) all sky visualisation
 - [RP] : galaxy kinematics tool to derive light profile, radial velocity and velocity dispersion or a tool that fits Gaussian ; 3D visualisation tool (improve the one made by Sebastian Sanchez)
 - [CS] : name resolver (implemented, e.g. in topcat) ; tool to query databases of stellar spectra in given spectral range or resolution ; inventory of tools, with short user's manuals
 - [FK] : cross-correlation tool with full access to metadata ; SED builder dealing with errors ; conversion between different photometric systems
 - [RL] : tools to access radio interferometric archives data ; capabilities that understand spacial capabilities, handling images with different resolution
 - [LC] : general tools for selecting or filtering data (by wavelength, quality of photometry), more science oriented tools allowing e.g. to do spectral analysis
 - [SS] : interface between VO tools and IDL
 - [RM] : deal with the (in)completeness of the data available through the VO
 - [AS] : tools that work with LARGE datasets (catalogues) on the server side ; and a nice inventory of tools
- [NW] to provide links to the Science Framework Document (wiki)
- [TP] to ask Rob Kennicutt to ask his postdoc to check again the VO tools he checked before the previous SAC meeting

Things to be looked at before the next meeting (leading probably to some action items)

- do we want the SAC's opinion on the maturity of the tools offered through the VO pages?
- add on list of must-have tools the scripting languages people are using
- data providers should be made interested in attending future meetings (like the DCA meeting in June)

Next meeting, sometime in Nov/Dec, maybe in Strasbourg? if not, ESAC is always an option