

Fourth Euro-VO SAC meeting, IoA Cambridge, March 11-12 2008

Participants:

N. Walton (NC), M. Allen (MA), F. Genova (FG), A. Jaffee (AJ), R. Kennicutt (RK), M. Guainazzi (MG), P. Padovani (PP), F.J. Carrera (FJC), C. Soubiran (CS), D. DeYoung (DD), E. Roueff (ER), R. Laing (RL), T. Prusti (TP), A. Salama (AS), E. Hatziminaoglou (EH)

Agenda:

Day 1, Tuesday, March 11

12.45 Lunch

14:00 Welcome [TP]

Reports [VO Scientists]

14:15 Facility Report [EH/PP]

14:35 Technology Report [NW]

14:55 DCA Report [MA]

15:15 Issues and Discussion

15:45 Coffee

16:30 VirGO Demo [EH]

17:00 VO data publishing: use case Santander [FJC]

17:15 EURO VO SAC goals [DD]

17:30 Science Calls (Euro-VO/ National) [EH/NW]

18:00 Close

Day 2, Wednesday, March 12

09:00 Demo of large Catalogue VO publishing [NW]

09:30 Demo of AstroGrid VODesktop [NW]

10.00 Sustaining the Euro-VO, Upcoming FP7 opportunities [NW]

10.45 VO in the AstroNet roadmap [PP]

11.00 Coffee

11:30 Closed Session [SAC]

12:00 Conclusion and AOB

12:15 Action Items

12:30 Lunch

14:00 Close

Day 1, Tuesday, March 11

Welcome [TP]

Facility Report [EH/PP]

[Recent activities](#) [EH]

[RK] Follow-up of people actually using VO tools for everyday research?

- Difficult to measure

Why people would choose to use the EURO-VO pages instead of, say, AstroGrid?

- Serves to centralise access to resources

[TP] Monitoring of access to data through VO or through "traditional" channels?

[PP] ESO is doing it, but it is still too early

[MA] All DB can do it

[MG] ESA is doing this, but sometimes VO-like data is accessed through non VO tools

[AJ] No absolute numbers are needed as what is of interest are the trends

[RK] why most attended workshops 2nd and 3rd world countries

[EH] major Euro-VO members already have "in house" experts

[FG] mandate by Brussels to promote VO in "new" European countries

[AIDA Astronomical Infrastructure for Data Access](#) [PP]

3 science workshops: 2 community feedback, 1 hands-on; topics?

how to structure hands-on?

SAC will need to give fee-back on AO and Workshops

AI: inform SAC by end next week on the timescales they will need

Announcement: MG is leaving the Facility Centre, a new VO FC position will be announced at ESA

[Technology Report](#) [NW]

Key VOTC Development Activities

Wrap-up of VOTech Dec 2008, VOTech activities will continue within AIDA

[RL] VOTech terminology incomprehensible to astronomers

[NW] astronomers do not need to understand the technical terms, FC is supposed to make the "translation" and provide the astronomer with things easy to

understand

[DCA Report](#) [MA]

Extensive report on the outcome of the DCA workshop last June

[DD] who were the participants?

[MA] no real large projects; several small projects and astronomers with their own data

[DD] what didn't the participants like?

[MA] too much choice of tools to publish data

[RK] On the Grid workshop, who are the communities targeted?

[AJ] are astronomers using the grid? FG: at least in France, yes

[AJ] Grid and Theory are the less important thing for the VO

[TP] are there big data centres that refuse to go VO for some reason? Who will join the next DCA workshop on publishing data in the VO?

[PP] targeting large projects

[FG] some data centres are "taken care of" at the national level; part of the goals was to bring people together

Issues and Discussion (some of the questions above were addressed during this session)

VirGO Demo [EH]

ESO ADPs available through VO services:

- WFI Images in 30 Doradus
- WFI + ISAAC images in CFD-S
- FORS2 + VIMOS spectroscopy in CDF-S
- UVES spectra
- HARPEX spectra
- ~1200 zCOSMOS spectra (PI. Lilly)
- WFI images from MONITOR (PI. Aigrain)

[VO data publishing: use case Santander](#) [FJC]

Galaxy formation and obscured accretion

[FG] DCA is ready to help those that want to publish data in the VO (by organising visits?)

[AJ] wouldn't it be easier for those that know how to publish data in the VO

(DCA?) do it for those that have the data?

EURO-VO SAC goals [DD]

Euro-VO SAC mission statement read

Science Calls ([Euro-VO](#)/ National) [EH/NW]

Discussion on what went wrong: projects too ambitious, tools not mature enough, lack of commitment from the projects' side

Should a contact point per country be added in the next announcement?

SAC should be given enough time before the announcement

[NW] The UK call worked pretty well; three projects selected: a large, medium size and a small one

Day 2, Wednesday, March 12

Demo of large Catalogue VO publishing [NW]

Demo of [AstroGrid VODesktop](#) [NW]

[IPHAS Initial Data Release](#)

[TP] keep the people maintaining the Euro-VO web pages informed of the latest news

[FG] reminder: catalogue long term curation is taken care by CDS

Sustaining the Euro-VO; Upcoming FP7 opportunities [NW]

message: use, support and promote the VO!

VO in the [AstroNet](#) roadmap [PP]

VO did not appear in the first science document, it's a good thing VO representatives were there

VO is not considered as a facility

DD: in the US the project was originally funded for 5 years, then extended to 7 years; call for proposals came out last month, due April 22; proposal written as we speak for facility operations 5 years, 30 million dollars, will be called virtual astronomical observatory

Discussion:

SAC advice needed on how to build the AO

[RL] first call did not work; why would the next one work? people should be

- contacted in advance to give them time to put forward good proposals.
Make a list of projects that might benefit from the VO and contact them?
- [FG] the point is to exploit the VO, not publish data in the VO (as an answer to TP's suggestion to target ESO large programmes groups)
- [MG] it should be made clear to these projects that we're just advertising the call, not that we're promising anything to them
- [AJ] discuss with the selected project before they are officially inform they have been selected
- [RL] no financial support involved, make clear in the call what exactly we offer in order to convince them we are really offering something useful
- [NW] the support provided should be something similar to that provided by telescopes:
people apply and get data, we provide a way and tools to put the various things together
- [NW] requests the Euro-VO SAC to provide a statement recognising the important role of AstroGrid both in the national UK context and as the lead partner in the Euro-VO Technical centre, developing the core VO infrastructure for the Euro-VO

The final SAC resolution states:

"The Euro-VO Science Advisory Committee strongly affirms the importance of AstroGrid in providing valuable tools for the Euro-VO infrastructure that can be widely used by the European astronomical community"

Closed Session (SAC)

OUTCOME:

- Mission statement approved
- SAC acknowledges the importance of the FP7 successful outcome
- VirGO and VOexplorer: both tools very interesting

The SAC suggests that the information flow towards those that maintain

[CS] the Euro-VO web site needs improvement; that the Software page needs refurbishing with more information for new users, and a list of functionalities for each tool (AI)

[NW] mark which tools have support within Europe

Action Items (AIs)

- Euro-VO AIDA give info to SAC on the schedule
- Discussion: suggestions for the topics of the workshops: multi-wavelength,

SED building, Surveys

- Add list of functionalities for each VO tool in the software page
- inform SAC by end of 3rd week of March on the timescales of the AO

Discussion

[TP] during FJC's talk the question of where to physically locate the data came up

[MA] the VO should provide the whole range of support

[TP] it is difficult to store and maintain data for many years

[FG] if one wants to provide the service one needs to make sure one has the necessary expertise

[TP] next meeting October (?), possibly attached to the first community workshop at ESA

[TP] some continuity between this SAC and the AIDA SAC might be useful; some current SAC members wish to be replaced

[DD] will the terms and references be different from the current one?

[PP, FG] planning to build on the current ones

Close