

Sixth Euro-VO SAC meeting, ESO Garching, December 14 2009

Participants:

C. Turon (CT), F. Combes (FCO), D. Engels (DE), A. Comastri (AC), R. Peletier (RP), A. Pollock (AP), D. Baines (DB), P. Padovani (PP), M. Allen (MA), F. Carrera (FCA), E. Hatziminaoglou (EH)

Agenda:

09:30 Welcome [FCA]

09:45 Introductions, members' background

10:00 The VO and the EURO-VO project [PP]

10:30 EURO-VO SAC Terms of Reference [PP]

10:45 Reports [EH, MA, DB, PP]

13:00 *Lunch*

14:00 Reports [EH, MA, DB, PP]

16:15 EURO-VO long term goals

17:00 Conclusion and AOB

Welcome & Introductions

[PP] The VO and EURO-VO projects

- \* [FCO] suggestion to include papers with less heavy use of the VO in the list of VO-enabled papers
- \* Discussion on why Spitzer and other facilities never went VO
- \* Discussion on how difficult it is to publish data in the VO; there are no real manuals for people wanting to publish in the VO, the only available material is that developed for the needs of the workshops; general consensus that thing should be made easy
- \* Discussion on the fact that the VO cannot be the data "police" at the data level, as ultimately this is the responsibility of the data centres; however, at the metadata level technical validation services are being worked on to make sure that the data follow the required format.

[PP] EURO-VO SAC Terms of Reference

[EH] VO tools

- \* [AP] need for transmission curves in the VO

[EH] Research Initiatives

- \* Discussion on how far should the VO support go? [MA] we should not do things for the PIs, we should teach them how to do them; [FCA] providing the SEDs to the PIs is part of the support
- \* Lessons learnt from the research initiatives: PIs did not feel involved the first time; face-to-face meeting was necessary; both projects and EURO-VO were very ambitious in the first run; the projects have become more focused and realistic with time

[PP] VO schools, VO days and other dissemination efforts

- \* [PP], answering RP's question: the FC activities might be continued by the submitted FP7 proposal and after that there will be a larger FP7 proposal
- \* Discussion on the VO schools' participants: only one applicant per year from the UK both this year and last year; quite a few participants from non-EURO-VO member states

[MA] Publishing data in the VO

- \* "How to publish in the VO" available through the EURO-VO pages but tutorials are not written for astronomers but for data centres; we need to find a way of serving the emerging community of astronomers that want to publish their data in the VO
- \* Discussion: it might be worth it for the VO to provide a data hosting mechanism but this infrastructure is not in place
- \* [MA] publishing catalogues in the VO (table Access Protocol) has been a problem for a very long time but it is now becoming reality; the VO will also provide the tools to publish catalogues in the VO
- \* [RP] suggests journals should provide the possibility to load the data related to a paper to the VO upon submission; [PP] this would generate a problem of the long-term storage of the data, who would take this responsibility? [FCO] notices that this is partly there for catalogues; [MA] Vizier has the capability of linking associated data products (e.g. images, spectra) to catalogues and journal publications; [FCA] however the ascii listings are impossible to use in the current format because columns are missing from some rows in some tables
- \* [FCA] some of the publishing tools are still at an experimental level and this makes their use very difficult

[DB] DCA-like workshop

[MA] Technical Work

- \* [AP] requests for the SAC to see and revise the photometry data model description

[PP] VO long term

- \* [AP] SAC could come up and carry out with "little" VO projects

- \* Discussion: should analysis tools be developed in the VO, or should tools doing data analysis be imported in the VO (e.g. using SAMP)? [AP] more functionalities need to be added in the VO tools; some tools are actually now implementing more and more functionalities; [PP, MA] things should rather go the other way round: instead of the VO competing with legacy software (e.g. iraf, xspec, ...), it should import it (e.g. using SAMP)
- \* [AP] would be nice for ESO to publish all data reduced by the PIs to the VO
- \* [FCA] IVOA standards are *really* difficult to understand and implement
- \* [FCA] VO tools pages are still not very clear and the number of tools and their crossing capabilities is confusing
- \* [RP] provide real science case examples where VO tools have been used; e.g. illustrate how the various VO papers have used the various tools
  
- \* next meeting some time in June (to be decided soon)