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Collaboration Plan update

ASTERICS GA DELIVERABLE: D1.4

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Abstract

As described in the project plan, ASTERICS plans to widen the collaboration by seeking links and interactions with parties, outside the consortium, that can be of interest to the ASTERICS partners, or are interested in the results of the ASTERICS project. The Collaboration Plan describes the rolling wave plan for the execution of this search. This will be elaborated on in the course of the project as more details and options are explored and identified. Therefore, the plan will be continuously updated during the execution. This document reflects the status of the plan at almost two years into the project. The ambition is not changed. Some details of the implementation are adapted, based on results in the first two years and on lessons learnt.

I. COPYRIGHT NOTICE

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II. DELIVERY SLIP

	Name	Partner/WP	Date
From	Giuseppe Cimò	ASTRON / WP1	01-04-2017
author(s)	Giuseppe Cimò	ASTRON / WP1	01-04-2017
Reviewed by	Rob van der Meer	ASTRON / WP1	20-04-2017
Approved by	AEB		

III. DOCUMENT LOG

Issue	Date	Comment	Author/Partner
1	09-03-2017	itemised list of steps	G. Cimò/ASTRON,JIVE
2	15-03-2017	first draft	G. Cimò/ASTRON,JIVE
3	11-04-2017	corrected draft	R. van der Meer/ASTRON
4	20-04-2017	final version	G. Cimò/ASTRON,JIVE

IV. APPLICATION AREA

This document is a formal deliverable for the GA of the project, applicable to all members of the ASTERICS project, beneficiaries and third parties, as well as its collaborating projects.

V. TERMINOLOGY

ASTERICS	Astronomy ESFRI & Research Infrastructure Cluster
ESFRI	European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures
ASTRON	The Netherlands Institute for Radio Astronomy
WP	Work Package

VI. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Central in the ASTERICS strategy is to seek links and interactions with other projects (including other EC-funded projects), industries, research organisations etc. in order to broaden our knowledge base and to find opportunities to showcase our results and products. This document, hereinafter *plan*, describes the status at two years into the project of the ambition, the boundaries, the means, resources, and risks of the collaboration strategy. The ASTERICS consortium is a collaboration of astronomy, astrophysics and astroparticle physics institutes, four ESFRI facilities and their pathfinders, and other linked projects. During the first two years, ASTERICS achieved that such a wide palette of researchers works together in an orchestrated way. The collaboration plan has the ambition to expand the ASTERICS collaboration beyond the consortium by establishing links to organisations outside the astro(particle)physics community and outside the research community. We have set the first steps based on the knowledge within the collaboration at the start and continue to establish contacts with external parties. To claim early success, we contacted the most obvious and easier to recognize external parties: i.e. those closely related to the collaboration and those who already have connections to ASTERICS though not described or not formally part of the project. The successes are described in this document. They can act as examples and ambassadors helping us to continue promptly with the more uncertain possibilities. This approach requires a frequent scanning of the results and matching them with our ambition and intermediate goals. The frequent scanning will now be secured by the new project liaison officer at ASTRON. This plan has overlap with the exploitation plan. Both plans are complete and can be studied and executed individually. The results of this plan will be published in the periodic report.

Table of contents

I. COPYRIGHT NOTICE	1
II. DELIVERY SLIP.....	1
III. DOCUMENT LOG	1
IV. APPLICATION AREA	2
V. TERMINOLOGY.....	2
VI. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	2
Table of contents.....	3
1. Objectives.....	4
2. Actions and results of Collaboration plan D1.2	4
3. Links and interactions	6
4. Knowledge base	6
5. Means (update).....	6
5.1. Information gathering	6
5.2. Establishing a link.....	6
6. Actions for a sustainable Collaboration	6
7. Management.....	7
8. Risks.....	7
9. Resources	8
10. Timeline.....	8

1. Objectives

This document is an update of the Deliverable D1.2, the Collaboration plan, and describes how the partners in the ASTERICS project actively pursue interactions with other projects, industries and research organizations.

The scope of the plan has not changed. We continue to seek links and interactions with parties that can be of interest to the ASTERICS partners, or are interested in the results of the ASTERICS project (see Exploitation plan). In the first half of the project, the objective was to establish links. Longer-term objectives have now become short-term ones. Since the ambition for the first two years has been materialized, we have not been overly ambitious and we have not underestimated the collaboration potential. Our ambitions are still the same and are achievable.

The overlaps between exploitation and collaboration plans become more evident now that the project has almost reached its two-year mark. In the second half of the project, the exploitation plan and the collaboration plan need to come together to ensure a sustainable success of the project beyond its formal contract duration. The actions and execution of both plans need to be complementary. Many targets identified for the exploitation plan are also targets for the collaboration plans. Industries and academic partners, who can be attracted as potential collaborators, are also the identified users of ASTERICS technology and results. In this document, the outcomes of the original collaboration plan are presented, and updated actions and corrections to the plan will be described.

2. Actions and results of Collaboration plan D1.2

ASTERICS is a collaboration of 23 partners linked to four ESFRI facilities. The aim of ASTERICS is to find solutions for the Big Data challenges that these ESFRI facilities will face when they come online. ASTERICS will seek commonalities in data handling, data storage, etc. There might be many other communities and organisations that will face similar, or related, challenges. Some communities will be able to learn from the ASTERICS products and results, others might be ahead of us.

Finding links and connections has been a continuous process within ASTERICS. Since the early stages of the project, work packages have worked to identify interested parties and, in some cases, to start new links.

The first step of the collaboration plan consisted of a number of brainstorming sessions with small groups. The project manager and the project scientist have organized video calls with the WP leaders as a first step in the information gathering. However, instead of creating

questionnaires (as originally planned), the following step consisted of a general discussion with the ASTERICS stakeholders during the ASTERICS General Assembly (AGA) meeting held in February 2016. This helped defining a list of possible ASTERICS target sectors or industries.

In the course of the first two years of the project, ASTERICS has strengthened the links with a number of EC and non-EC funded projects. ASTERICS has been an active participant in consortia and policy forums such as ASTRONET and APPEC. In addition to participating in common events, ASTERICS pursues direct interaction with other bodies and consortia. In February 2017, representatives of ASTERICS, EuroPlanet and OPTICON met at the Royal Astronomical Society in London to discuss coordinating and collaborating on their activities in education, public engagement, and engagement with policy-makers. The common goal is to make a shared set of nation-specific one-page briefing documents on the social and economic benefits of Space (including both ground-based astronomy and space science).

The astronomy and (astro)particle physics landscape is a dynamic one and ASTERICS has always been attentive to newly formed collaborations that could benefit of ASTERICS results and experience. ASTERICS has been invited to the kick-off meetings of the new Horizon2020 projects RadioNet, JUMPING JIVE and AENEAS, but also to meetings of well-established projects such as HNSciCloud, AARC, Indigo DataCloud and EGI. Because of the ASTERICS network in astronomy and astroparticle physics, the project coordinator, ASTRON, is partner in the RISCAGE project where it provides an international research infrastructure landscape analysis.

A special interest has been dedicated to industrial collaboration. WP3-OBELICS has issued a call for expression of interest for industrial collaboration, offering contributions between €10.000 and €60.000 to a small number of SMEs' projects. Furthermore, a new SME has spun-off from the work of WP5-Cleopatra, creating a strong new connection between ASTERICS and the industrial sector. Finally, it is worth to notice that big tech industries have been involved in the First ASTERICS-OBELICS Workshop with lectures given by representatives of Oracle, NVidia, and IBM.

Meetings, like the DADI Forums and the First ASTERICS-OBELICS Workshop, have been the most useful collaboration tool of the project. The events organized by ASTERICS bring together people involved in the ESFRIs that the project is supporting, but they are also a show-case of the ASTERICS results that can find applications in other scientific fields. A Data Provider Forum and Virtual Observatory publishing workshop, organized by WP4-DADI, was attended by representatives of the European Solar Telescope (EST). This has been the first contact between this newly formed ESFRI. It is ASTERICS intention, and a strong recommendation of the project reviewer (at the Mid-Term review) to reach out to EST for a possible inclusion of their needs into the ASTERICS scope.

The results of the original collaboration plan have been published in the first periodic report. New results will be distributed in the same channel, as well as on the website and in the ASTERICS newsletter.

3. Links and interactions

In order to set quantitative and verifiable goals, one needs to establish a measurable definition of links and interactions. Such metric is described in Section 3 of the original plan (Deliverable D1.2) and it does not need to be updated. D1.2 serves as a reference document.

4. Knowledge base

The basis of defining and broadening our knowledge base is well described in See Section 5 of the original plan (Deliverable D1.2).

5. Means (update)

5.1. Information gathering

Instead of relying on brainstorming sessions and questionnaires, the information gathering will have a more direct approach in the second half of the project. WP1 has planned the hiring of a project liaison officer, who will assist the project scientist and manager with the realization of the exploitation and collaboration plans. In particular, the project liaison officer will continuously scan the scientific and industrial landscape surrounding the ASTERICS cluster in search for short- and long-term collaboration opportunities. This will enlarge the discovery potential and guarantee swift follow-up on discovered possible collaborations.

5.2. Establishing a link

The steps to establish a link with external bodies is still actual and can be found on Section 3 of the original plan in Deliverable D1.2.

In addition to those steps, the project coordination will be more active in establishing contacts at higher level with existing and prospective institutions.

6. Towards a sustainable Collaboration

Following the success of ASTERICS events, such as schools, forums and workshops, it is important to act to ensure the long-term and sustainable exploitation of the project beyond its formal contract duration.

After the Mid-term review, the assembly of the ASTERICS partners and ESFRI representatives will meet to discuss the reviewer's comments and suggestions. This important milestone gives the stakeholders the opportunity to reflect on the status of the collaboration and on the plans for its future. Therefore, the first step in the path of a sustainable ASTERICS will be an actionable discussion at the ASTERICS General Assembly in June 2017. The AGA inputs will be used by the ASTERICS management to prepare a list of actions to be taken during the second half of the project to ensure its sustainability.

7. Management

The management of the execution of the plan is well described in Section 8 of the original plan in Deliverable D1.2.

It is expected that a project liaison officer will help the current management team in the execution of the plan.

8. Risks

The risks identified within the definition of this plan are:

Risk	Mitigation plan
People involved are not active enough, resulting in not enough progress.	The task leader should follow the process closely, setting many small targets with nearby deadlines. Create an easy reporting mechanism for easy follow-up. The new liaison officer will more easily spot this and urge the project Management team to plan new ways with the task leaders.
People involved are too active in certain areas, resulting in missing focus in follow up areas. This way the contacted organisations get frustrated by lack of progress	The task leader should follow the process closely, setting many small targets with nearby deadlines. Create an easy reporting mechanism for easy follow-up.
Focussing too long on one or few organisations that are not active enough to get to the expected interaction	The task leader should follow the process closely, setting many small targets with nearby deadlines. Create an easy reporting mechanism for easy follow-up.
Linking with too many organisations, diffusing the objectives and resulting in not enough added value.	Create a priority. The task leader should follow the process closely, setting many small targets with nearby deadlines.

	Create an easy reporting mechanism for easy follow-up.
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9. Resources

The collaboration plan will be managed from WP1 under supervision of the project coordinator. One full additional FTE, a Project Liaison officer, will be dedicated to the realization of the plans. The work for the collaboration plan will be spread over all WPs and all partners. The partner with the best contacts to the new sectors to be explored will be asked to take up the work, as this will result in minimal effort and large impact.

10. Timeline

Timeline for linking and interactions:

Deadline	Activity
June 2017	Activate or hire resources (project liaison officer)
Dec 2017	Internal review of collaboration plan
April 2018	Actions to converge Collaboration and Exploitation plans
Oct 2018	Internal report on long-term sustainability

Timeline on knowledge base activities:

Deadline	Activity
April 2017	Continue to solicit input to identify major conferences and corporate events
June 2017	Update calendar of events
July 2017	Plan "meet and greet" events
Nov 2017	Continue to collect content on knowledge base
Nov 2017	Continue to collect content for showcase of results
Mar 2018	Design open forum for contact with sectors
Apr 2018	Create open forum for contact with sectors
June 2018	Solicit and attract users to open forum

Longer term timeline:

Period or deadline	Activity
2018-2019	Repeat all steps and identify and act on higher ambitions
Beginning 2019	Integration event