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Production of outreach material for astronomical community

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1 Document information

Name	Production of outreach material for astronomical community
Type	Other
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1.1 Dissemination Level

Dissemination Level		
PU	Public	X
PP	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	
RE	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)	
CO	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	

1.2 Content

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2 Report

Production of outreach material for astronomical community: creation of a database of European radio telescopes, with various information of the individual telescopes to allow e.g. queries aimed for the preparation of observing proposals.

2.1 Introduction

The database was created by the ERATec group in order to offer a collection of all information (general and technical) of European telescopes and antenna arrays. The main target of users of this database is the community of non-specialist radio astronomers and even non-professionals.

The main purpose of the database is to gather all information into one single place necessary for planning and preparing radio astronomical observations. In such a way astronomers would be able to retrieve information with targeted queries instead of having to find all this information in individual telescope or array homepages and handbooks.

In addition to that, the database combines all the available pieces of information, giving hints about the feasibility of an observing run (based on the source coordinates), the antennas' field of view, the available receivers, etc.

The information has been stored in a specially designed database and can be useful for accessing key information of telescopes or arrays. The database design has been developed in such a way that future software applications or statistical and analytical analysis of the instruments is possible.

2.2 The online material

The database prototype is available at:

<http://www.ira.inaf.it/synergy/>

The information from all the available radio telescopes has been, at this first stage, collected from different sources. Some of them have been extracted from individual web pages of the instruments (for general info) and handbooks for technical facts. Many have been directly inserted or have been updated (and validated) by local people in charge.

The database also includes the name of the contact person and the webpage of outreach and education located at each observatory. The aim of this additional information is to provide young astronomers details of the outreach network and activities in radio astronomy.

The user can query the database on page:

<http://www.ira.inaf.it/synergy/webQuery.php>

The page presents the option to display antennas information either selecting them by name or through a search mask where one can alternatively define the source declination in degrees, the frequency in MHz or the resolution in arc seconds.

PLEASE SUBMIT ACCORDING TO YOUR SEARCH CRITERIA:

A RESULT WILL BE PRODUCED BASED ON THE FIELDS FILLED IN

Your source declination (in decimals):	Frequency you would like to observe (in MHz):	Resolution you would like to observe (in arcsec):
[10]	[2200]	[100]
<input type="button" value="Submit"/>		

Get the complete antenna data:
<input type="button" value="EFLSBERG - Ef"/>
<input type="button" value="Submit"/>

Some real time images from telescopes (Klaus Pusacker's page)

The database query will show the antennas information filtered by the user input, if such information is not available feedback will be given.

In addition to the query option, the home page provides the possibility of updating individual information.



RADIO TELESCOPES DATA

"RadiotelDB"

GO TO QUERY PAGE ⇒

Enter Login Details	
Username	<input type="text"/>
Password	<input type="text"/>
Antenna id - optional if multiple antennas managed	<input type="text"/>
<input type="button" value="Submit"/>	

To register as an antenna operator	
type your antenna id (e.g. Xx or Xxx)	[]
<input type="button" value="Submit"/>	

[\[http://www.ira.inaf.it/synergy/\]](http://www.ira.inaf.it/synergy/)

This is possible in the login process if credentials have been given during the registration process.

Hello Giuseppe

UPDATE YOUR PERSONAL INFOS:

Your name:

Your surname:

Your email:

An alternative email contact for the station operations:

UPDATE ANTENNA INFOS:

Name:	<input type="text" value="MEDICINA"/>
Antenna code:	<input type="text" value="Mc"/>
Institute:	<input type="text" value="INAF - IRA"/>
Country:	<input type="text" value="Italy"/>
Notes:	<input type="text" value="Medicina, Italy"/>
Proposal link/email:	<input type="text" value="http://www.ira.inaf.it/Obs"/>
Proposal deadline (e.g. 2014-01-31):	<input type="text" value="April, October"/>
Outreach responsible name:	<input type="text" value="Stefania"/>
Outreach responsible surname:	<input type="text" value="Varano"/>
Outreach link/email:	<input type="text" value="http://www.centrovisite.it"/>
Support:	<input type="text" value="TRUE"/>
Kind of sources observed:	<input type="text" value="spectrometry of water and methanol maser sources, sky surveys, flux variability of compact extragalactic sources, polarimetric observations of Galactic regions, planetary studies"/>
Number of elements:	<input type="text" value="1"/>
Days of operation:	<input type="text" value="365"/>
Open:	<input type="text" value="TRUE"/>
Trans National Access:	<input type="text" value="TRUE"/>
Dish diameter (in meters):	<input type="text" value="32"/>
Latitude (in decimals, e.g. 12.3456):	<input type="text" value="44.3283"/>
Longitude (in decimals, e.g. 12.3456):	<input type="text" value="11.6469"/>

Once registered, the operator can use the web form to fill in all the relevant information.

After submission, feedback is provided and, if successful, the operator is automatically redirected to the homepage.

THANK YOU FOR UPDATING YOUR INFOS

No new picture sent.

Your antenna data has been updated to the database.

You'll be redirected to the login page in 15 seconds.

2.3 Future developments

The objective of this project is to provide an easy access of the telescope status and to easily maintain and update the database.

The critical activities that must be held in order to accomplish this goal are:

- to check all available data for correctness and actuality;
- to keep the database up-to-date.

Next steps of this project will be:

- involve experts (e.g. EVN friends) or possibly telescope operators to validate the information given for the individual telescopes and feedback into the database;
- to “create a best practice” in the servicing of the database, in order to make it a reliable and stable reference for astronomers.

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