

Red Española para la Divulgación de Astronomía

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Abstract

The Spanish Network for Astronomy Outreach began his activities in July 2011. One year after, we show the numerical data that represent the astronomical outreach carried out in Spain.

1 Introduction

1.1 When?

Creation of Spanish Network for Astronomy Outreach (REDA, for its acronym in Spanish) was a result of the International Year of Astronomy (IYA2009) in Spain to continue the astronomical activity in our country. The creation of this network has gone through several steps:

- April 1st 2011: begins project named Creation of the Spanish Network for Astronomy Outreach , cod. 201150E057 with a duration of one year, so the project would end on March 31st, 2012 with possibility of extending the project. Economic funding was provided by the Spanish Research Council (CSIC, for its acronym in Spanish).
- July 1st 2011: Upon completion of the administrative process, REDA began operating officially.
- January 1st 2012: On this date the REDA had already contacted with astronomical associations, science museums, planetariums and press. REDA began operating at full capacity.
- March 31st 2012: 201150E057 initial project was ended, but was extended to three months to complete the 12-month project.

- June 30th 2012: Extension was ended and with it, the project 201150E057. Due to government cutbacks in Science and Development and the disappearance of the Ministry of Science and Innovation, the REDA ended all their activity and therefore disappear

1.2 Why?

In 2009, International Year of Astronomy, in Spain were made several thousand activities of Astronomy outreach. During that year there was a great approach from citizens to Astronomy. When finished the IYA2009 a scientist committee raised the idea of creating an organization to keep that union Astronomy-Citizen. This organism would be the REDA.

1.3 Where?

The headquarter of REDA was the Center for Astrobiology (CAB), a mix organism of the Spanish Research Council (CSIC) and the Spanish Institute of Aerospace Technology (INTA). The REDA was on the Astrophysics Department of CAB and was closely linked to the Scientist Culture Unit of the this Centre.

1.4 Targets

The main target of the REDA was continuing the boost of the IYA2009 to do Astronomy outreach with rigor and quality.



Figure 1: Evolution of the number of activities over time.

2 Activities

During its year of operation, REDA received 458 activities in the field of Astronomy outreach. All these activities are advertised on a website where you could find information as location, date and time, organizer, and additional information.

Figure 1 shows the evolution of the number of activities received over time. On the graph is particularly remarkable the point of November 2011, due to the Spanish Science Week, which can be considered as the first real test for REDA. You can also see the remarkable growth in the number of activities from January 2012, which was when the REDA began its real work.

Figure 2 shows the variety of activities that the REDA received. It is particularly remarkable the astronomical observations, followed by lectures and conferences. To a lesser degree, are the projections of documentaries/films and conferences/congresses astronomy outreach.

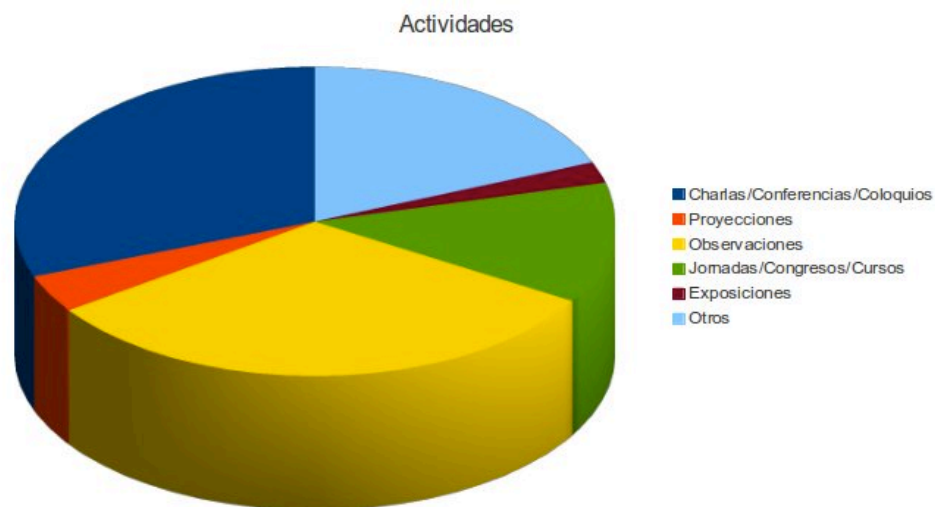


Figure 2: Variety of activities.

Figure 3 shows the activities in the different Spanish regions. We appreciate the great activity showed especially Catalonia, followed by the Valencian Region and Castilla y Len. There are also communities that no received activities.

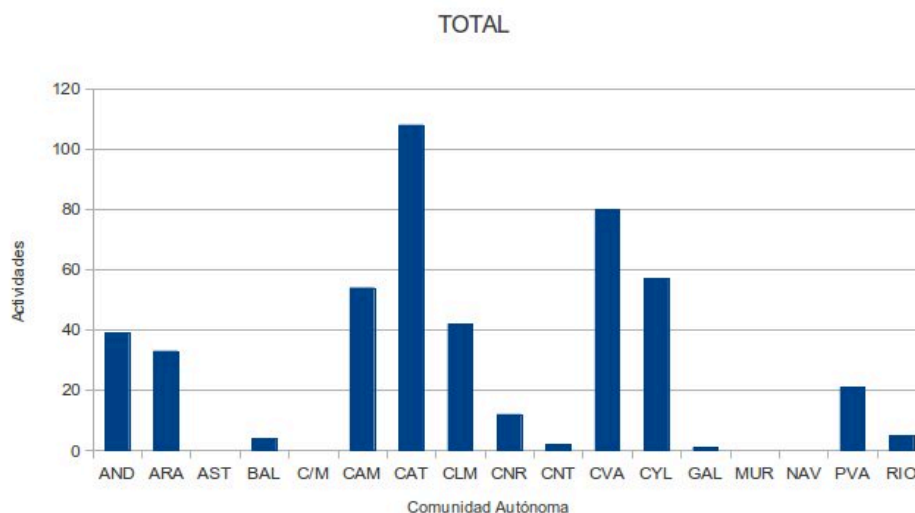


Figure 3: Activities in Spanish regions.

3 Social Networks

Social networking is a powerful tool for Science outreach and REDA had them, particularly with a Facebook page and a Twitter profile. In July 2012, the Facebook page had 336 “likes” and Twitter profile with 1892 followers. In the Facebook, REDA linked activities were to take place in the coming days. On Twitter REDA linked news related with Astronomy. In Twitter, REDA’s activity follows with “minimum services”. Now, the profile of REDA has 2354 followers.

4 Press

In the short existence of the REDA, sent press releases to various media, both national and international. Following this, there were appearances in print media, digital media, radio and television. In addition, REDA had regular commu to press releases had regular collaborations with the Spanish journal Astronomy and the radio program “El Cinturón de Orión”.

5 Conclusion

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