

The IAU European Regional Office of Astronomy for Development (E-ROAD)



Dr. Sandra Benítez Herrera
Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias
sbenitez@iac.es

The IAU OAD was created in 2008 to implement the IAU Strategic Plan, which aims at realising developmental benefits from astronomy. To address the UN Sustainable Development Goals.



THE E-ROAD

Vision: By 2030, the European Astronomical Community contributes meaningfully to sustainable development of our planet at local, regional and global levels.

Mission:

The IAU E-ROAD supports and implements actions that directly contribute to accomplishing the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Strategic Objectives:

- Stimulate the use of European astronomy for development by building and fostering a community and mobilise resources to support relevant actions. (SDG 17)
- Support the development of research capacity within developing countries: collaborative programmes between universities, institutes and individual researchers from European and developing countries. (SDG 9)
- Design, prototype, implement and evaluate an educational project that uses the cosmic perspective to foster global citizenship, namely peace and sustainability dimensions. (SDG 4 & 13)

Capacity building

Twinning programme to stimulate capacity building globally

- To share resources and expertise between the regional offices
- We have been mapping needs of other ROADS to find suitable matches
- Exploit online communication methods when possible (Zoom, Skype etc.)



Fostering inclusive societies

Potential future focus areas and proposals:

- Social entrepreneurship and training in PhD programmes
- Gender equality and inclusion
- Refugee communities and scientists

Pale Blue Dot

“Look again at that dot. That's here. That's home. [...] To me, it underscores our responsibility to deal more kindly with one another, and to preserve and cherish the pale blue dot, the only home we've ever known.” - Carl Sagan



Apollo 8, 1968
Earthrise

Objectives

01.

Promote global citizenship and tolerance

02.

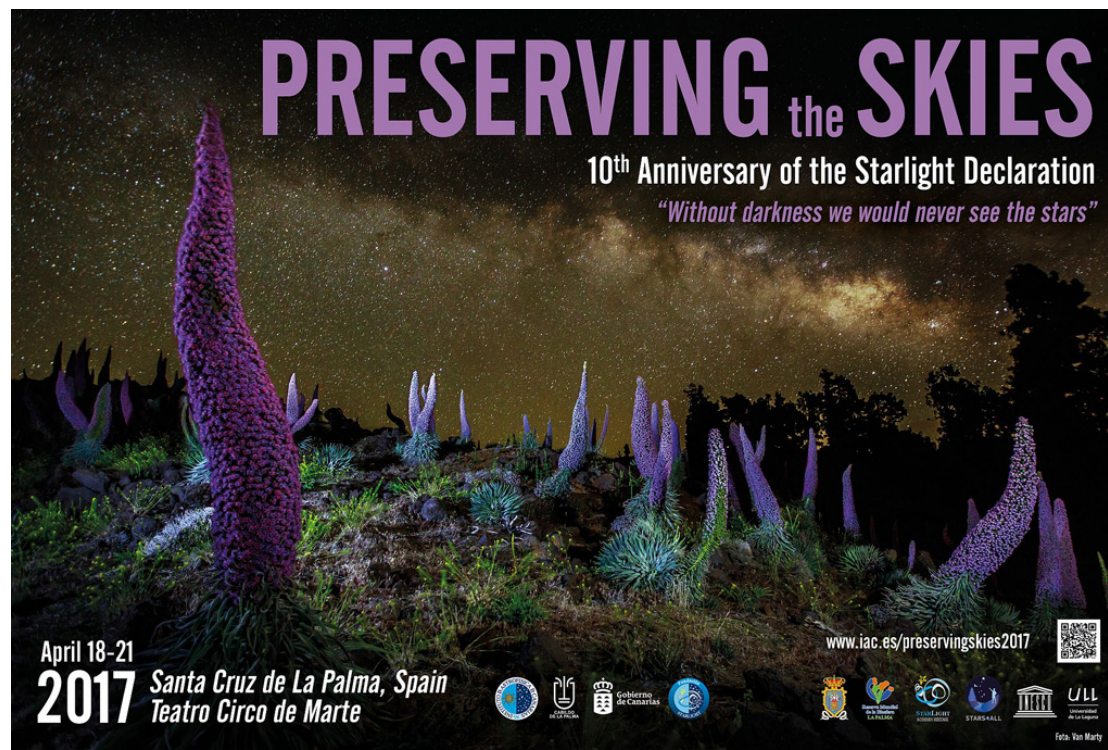
Raise awareness about our fragile planet and climate change

03.

Enthuse children about science and technology

In Spain

- Spain is very active in the fields of Astronomy communication, outreach and education.
- More than 280 initiatives for the IAU100.
- Carried out by astronomy departments, research centres, professional observatories, planetariums, science museums, amateur astronomers, the Spanish Astronomical Society.
- Many already focus on the UN SDGs: empowerment of women and girls, reduction of inequalities, preservation of the ecosystems and dark skies or promotion of peace.



In Spain

➤ A Touch of the Universe

(Amelia Ortiz – Universidad de Valencia)



➤ Capacity building in Astronomy in East-Africa



➤ Amanar: under the same sky

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41550-020-1053-z>

