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# IAU Office of Astronomy for Education Center Italy

*Activities and projects*

#astronomyforabetterworld



# The IAU Office of Astronomy for Education Center Italy

The IAU Office of Astronomy for Education Center Italy (I-OAE) is a joint project of a consortium of Italian partners led and represented by Istituto Nazionale di Astrofisica (INAF, National Institute for Astrophysics), the International Astronomical Union (IAU) and the IAU Office of Astronomy for Education.

The Italian consortium is constituted by: INAF, the Italian Astronomical Society (SAIt) and the University of Rome Tor Vergata (ToV).

I-OAE HQ are hosted by the INAF - Rome Astronomical Observatory, in Monteporzio. Personnel is selected on voluntary bases according to their interests and competence, in agreement with the Institutes they work for.

Research structures involved so far:

## **Milan**

INAF - Astronomical Observatory of Brera

## **Padua**

INAF - Astronomical Observatory of Padua

## **Bologna**

INAF - Astrophysics and Space Science Observatory of Bologna

INAF - Institute of Radio Astronomy

## **Florence**

INAF - Astronomical Observatory of Arcetri

Italian Astronomical Society Headquarters

## **Rome**

INAF - Astronomical Observatory of Rome, Monteporzio, I-OAE Headquarters

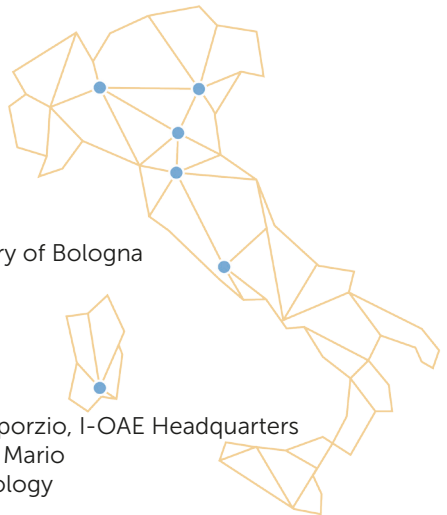
INAF - Astronomical Observatory of Rome, Monte Mario

INAF - Institute for Space Astrophysics and Planetology

University of Rome Tor Vergata

## **Cagliari**

INAF - Cagliari Astronomical Observatory





## The International Astronomical Union

The International Astronomical Union (IAU) is the international astronomical organisation that brings together more than 12 000 active professional astronomers from more than 100 countries worldwide. Founded in 1919, the IAU is the world's largest professional body for astronomers.

Its mission is to promote and safeguard astronomy in all its aspects, including research, communication, education and development, through international cooperation.

The IAU also serves as the internationally recognised authority for assigning designations to celestial bodies and the surface features on them.



*About the IAU*  
<https://www.iau.org/administration/about/>



## The Office of Astronomy for Education

The IAU established its Office of Astronomy for Education (OAE) in December 2019.

OAE is at the forefront of efforts by the IAU to leverage astronomy for education, specifically in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The OAE's mission is to support and coordinate astronomy education by astronomy researchers and educators, aimed at primary or secondary schools worldwide.

The IAU Office of Astronomy for Education headquarters are hosted at Haus der Astronomie (HdA), managed by the Max Planck Institute for Astronomy. HdA's hosting the OAE was made possible through the support of the German foundations the Klaus Tschira Foundation and the Carl Zeiss Foundation.

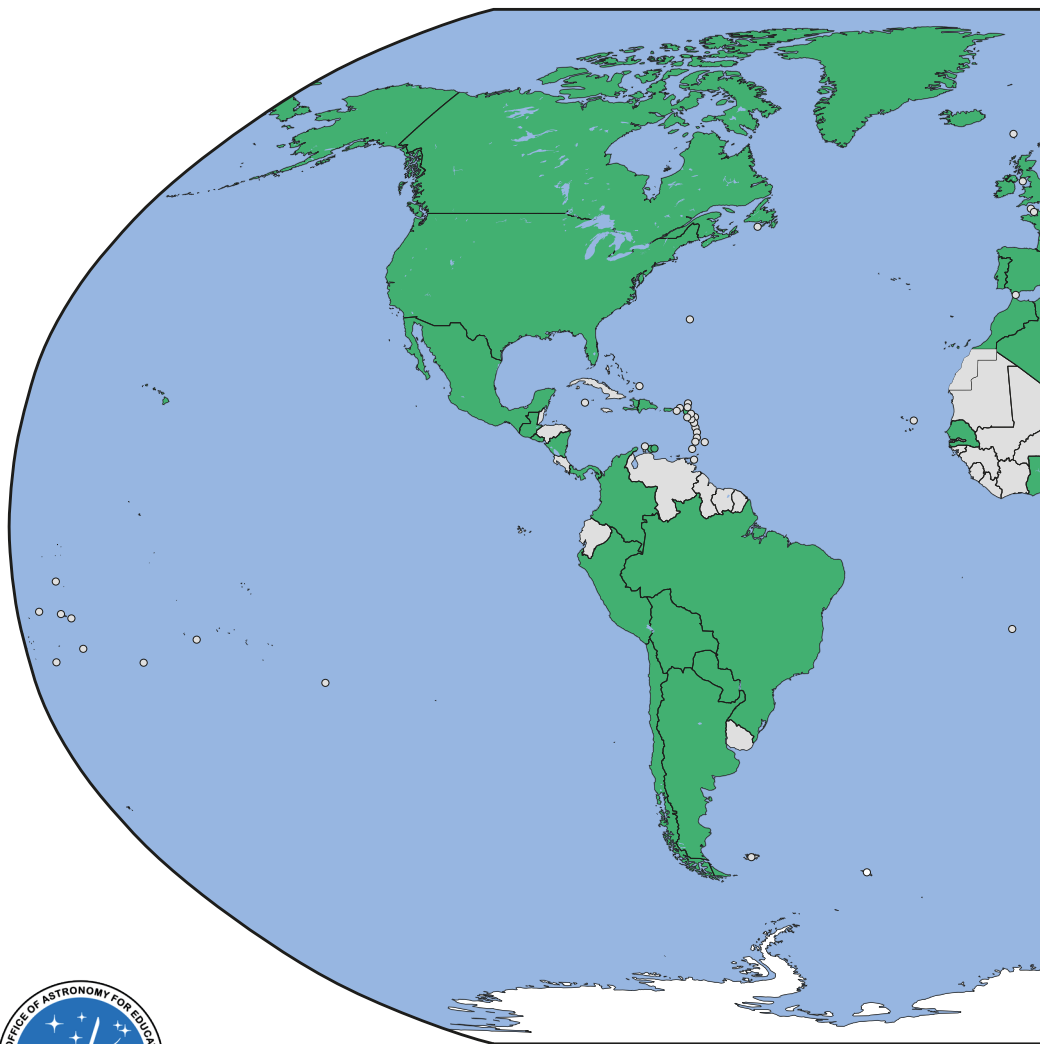


*You can follow the activities of the IAU OAE at its website*  
<http://astro4edu.org>  
*or on Twitter and Facebook under @astro4edu*



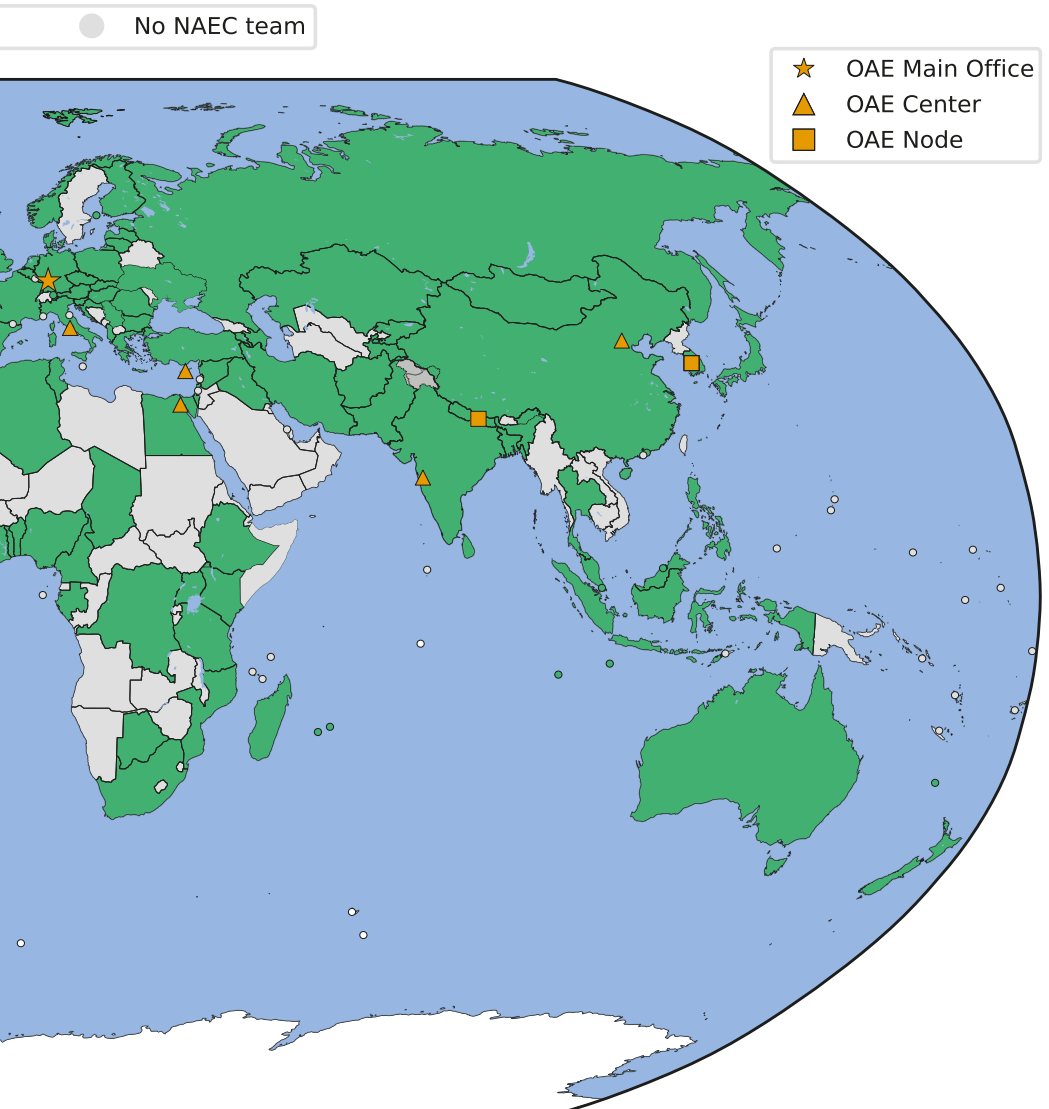
# The NAECs strategy

● Has NAEC team



The IAU is the worldwide organisation of professional astronom

The OAE main office in Heidelberg, its branch offices in China, Cyprus, Egypt, India, Italy, Korea and Nepal as well as a network of National Astronomy Education Coordinators in 99 countries, support the collation and translation of excellent astronomy education resources, help educators, astronomers and other stakeholders to get started in contributing to astronomy education, and support the creation of reliable and accessible education resources.



omers regardless of borders. See <http://astro4edu.org/maps/>



## The 3rd Shaw-IAU workshop on Astronomy for Education

The 3rd Shaw-IAU Workshop on Astronomy for Education was held online from the 12th to the 15th of October 2021. Organized by the OAE and supported by the IAU and the Shaw Prize Foundation, the 2021 workshop was aimed at answering the question: **what should everyone know about astronomy education?**

In addition to the efforts from the OAE office in Heidelberg, Germany, and from the I-OAE, also the Cyprus Centre and the Nepal Node made key contributions to organizing this event. Our colleagues from what has since become the OAE Center India also made significant contributions.

<http://astro4edu.org>



@astro4edu

The annual Shaw Prize-IAU Workshops on Astronomy education that OAE organizes are funded by the Shaw Prize Foundation.

*Astronomy across disciplines; Equity, diversity and inclusion in education; Teaching methods; Evaluation; International collaborations with an educational component; Earth as a planet; Teaching with astronomy exhibits:* these are the 7 out of 18 sessions chaired by I-OAE members.

10 members took part in the Scientific Advisory Committee, too, while 7 participated in the Organising Committee. An I-OAE member took part in the Local Organising Committee and edited the Proceedings.

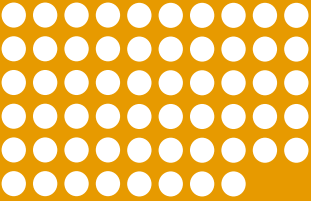
**3rd SHAW-IAU  
Workshop**

# The workshop in numbers

18 sessions



580 participants



90 countries and territories



91 talks



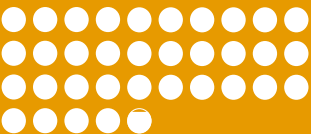
31 posters



122 videos



349 pages proceedings



YouTube channel of the IAU's Office of Astronomy for Education  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLeQtIKnFCOpqSGn6iQ2-8ZBispVUtN3u1>



Proceedings  
<http://www.iau.org/static/announcements/pdf/ann21065a.pdf>

"All knowledge is socially constructed, including astronomical knowledge. Therefore, astronomy has to be viewed as a cultural product, even though every culture has its own version of astronomical knowledge. [...] it is empowering for learners to learn about how other astronomers of other cultures handle and understand the sky and the stars. Recognizing that cultures influence each other and have many commonalities may assist in addressing issues of domination, disrespect and powers."

*Sivuyile Manxoyi, South Africa NOC & NAEC, South African Astronomical Observatory*

"The learning experience should be meaningful and significant, learners should be able to experiment and understand with their own experience. The learning itself should be personal and creative as personal and creative is the work of scientists. STEM learning should be for all: we cannot allow the learners to boycott themselves thinking they "are not enough" for science" "in the knowledge society, it is a matter of democracy to allow children to connect with science, to develop their own ideas, and to act in our society as an active citizen."

*Sara Ricciardi, I-OAE*



## MIRTO

### **MIRTO - Mediterranean Informal Round Table**

The MIRTO project's final goal is to build a collaborative environment on a permanent basis for multicultural, trans-disciplinary projects, in order to highlight the cultural richness of those areas, and to promote activities supporting astronomy education.

MIRTO is focused upon all the countries of the Mediterranean area, and aims at encouraging cooperation with meetings, training courses, learning activities and other initiatives.



**Representatives from 14 countries of the Mediterranean participated as speakers: Albania, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Italy, France, Montenegro, Morocco, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Turkey.**

Every week, I-OAE organizes a 2-hour online meeting in which at most NAECs from 4 different countries introduce themselves and their work for about 10 minutes.

In the second part of the meeting, we discuss freely about the situation in our countries and about what we expect from the OAE office.