Veselka Radeva from Bulgaria made the following statement, when she was asked about her impression of this course: “Excellent organization, wonderful presentation of the observational possibilities of ESO, excellent work on the existing exercises and efficient creative work for the invention of new exercises by an excellent group of teachers. Thank you very much!”

After this good start, the ESO Educational Office now looks forward to organizing more teacher training courses in the next years.

Participants in front of the ESO Headquarters building in Garching. Photo taken by Gian Nicola Cabizza.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STRUCTURE EVOLUTION AND COSMOLOGY:

New synergy between ground-based observations, space observations and theory

An international workshop to be held at ESO/Santiago, Chile, on October 28–31, 2002

Sponsoring Organizations:

European Southern Observatory (ESO); Centre National d’Etudes Spatiales (CNES); Commissariat a l’Energie Atomique CEA); DAPNIA/Service d’Astrophysique (SAp)

Scientific Rationale:

With the upcoming of the new generation of powerful wide-field instruments (XMM, Megacam, VIRMOS, Integral, SIRTF, GALEX, VLA, Omegacam/VST, VISTA...), the first decade of the XXIst century is to open a decisive era in the study of large-scale structure formation.
These observational developments are being complemented by considerable numerical and semi-analytical advances. The workshop aims to bring together groups closely involved in carrying out and coordinating ground-based and space surveys with efforts made in modeling the formation of structures. An important point will be the optimization of observing strategies and science returns in the context of th forthcoming Virtual Observatory. First results from various on-going programmes will be presented. Attendance by young researchers (students and postdocs) is most welcome. In this respect, a half-day cosmology introductory session will be given.

Scientific Organizing Committee:

M. Birkinshaw (Bristol), R. Ellis (Caltech), M. Kamionkowski (Caltech), C. Lonsdale (Caltech/IPAC), M. Pierre (CEA), A. Refregier (Cambridge), J. Silk (Oxford), S. White (MPA).

Local Organizing Committee:

D. Alloin (ESO), R. Cabanac (ESO), H. Quintana (PUC), J. Willis (PUC).
More details are available at: http://www.eso.org/cosmology2002

STELLAR CANDLES FOR THE EXTRAGALACTIC DISTANCE SCALE

An international Workshop to be held at the Universidad de Concepción, Chile, on December 9–11, 2002

Sponsoring Organizations:

CONICYT/FONDAP Institute for Astrophysics, Chile; European Southern Observatory; Fundación Andes; Universidad de Concepción, Chile

Organizing Committee:

D. Alloin, ESO (Co-chair); P. Fouqué, Paris;
D. Geisler, Concepción; W. Gieren, Concepción (Co-chair);
G. Pietrzynski, Concepción; T. Richtler, Concepción

Rationale of the workshop:

The past decade has seen a huge effort to improve the calibration of the extragalactic distance scale. Stellar methods of distance determination are used to measure the distances to nearby galaxies, setting the zero point of the extragalactic distance scale. Yet, comparison of the results from a variety of stellar standard candles shows that there are significant systematic uncertainties attached to most, if not all stellar methods of distance measurement, preventing a truly accurate calibration of the distance scale. This workshop will bring together leading experts on the most prominent stellar standard candles including Cepheid variables, RR Lyrae stars, Type Ia supernovae, blue supergiants, planetary nebulae, novae and globular clusters to explore their current usefulness for the calibration of the distance scale, and for putting constraints on the Hubble constant as a fundamental cosmological parameter. Special attention will be given to improve our understanding of systematic uncertainties in the various methods of distance measurement, and in designing strategies to reduce these uncertainties in the near future.

More details can be found at: workshop@coma.cfm.udec.cl
http://cluster.cfm.udec.cl