

THE INTAS PROJECT “INTEGRATION OF THE FSU OBSERVATORIES INTO INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL DATA NETWORK”

F. Genova¹, M. Crézé² and G. Jasiewicz³

¹*CDS, URA CNRS 1280, Observatoire de Strasbourg, 11 rue de l'Université,
F-67000 Strasbourg, France*

²*IUP-Vannes, 8 rue Montaigne, BP-1104, F-56014 Vannes Cedex,
France*

³*GRAAL, UPRESA 5024 CNRS/ UM II, Université de Montpellier II,
CC 072, F-34095 Montpellier Cedex, France*

Received November 7, 1996.

Abstract. A short report on the activities of the INTAS project “Integration of the FSU Observatories into International Astronomical Data Network” is given.

Key words: international cooperation – networks

A meeting of the participants to the INTAS project “Integration of the FSU Observatories into International Data Network” was held in Pulkovo (St. Petersburg, Russia) on July 5, 1996. The International Association for the Promotion of Cooperation with Scientists from the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union (INTAS) is an international non-profit association, based in Bruxelles (Belgium), which supports joint research and networking projects involving laboratories in the Former Soviet Union states and laboratories in Western Europe.

The main goal of the project is to construct a network of the FSU astronomical institutes, under coordination of the Center of Astronomical Data (CAD) and INASAN (Moscow, Russia), to upgrade their facilities and to join worldwide efforts, both technically and scientifically, in:

- providing the world astronomical community with access to raw data archives and observing logs of the FSU observatories;
- providing the FSU astronomical community with access to the astronomical resources of the world, by forming the hub of a FSU-wide network of astronomical institutions connected to the Internet;
- developing facilities for the scientific planning of observations for future space missions, as well as facilities for the distribution center of the FSU space mission data to the world;
- further development of cooperation on a worldwide scale between astronomical data centers (data exchange, remote access to data bases and archives, coordination of efforts for preparation of new catalogs and other tools of astronomical research, avoiding duplication of efforts).

The INTAS project is coordinated by the Centre de Donn  es astronomiques de Strasbourg (CDS), with the participation of the Institute of Astronomy of the Russian Academy of Sciences (INASAN), Center for Astronomical Data (CAD, Moscow, Russia); the Astrophysical Institute of the Academy of Sciences of Kazakhstan, Nebula Physics Laboratory (AAI, Almaty, Kazakhstan); the Crimean Astrophysical Observatory of the Ukrainian National Academy of Sciences, Laboratory of Stellar Physics (CrAO, Village Nauchny, Ukraine); the Main Astronomical Observatory (Pulkovo) of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Department of Positional Astronomy (GAO, St. Petersburg, Russia); the Institute of Theoretical Astronomy of the Russian Academy of Sciences (ITA, St. Petersburg, Russia); the Main Astronomical Observatory of the Ukrainian National Academy of Sciences, Department of Astro Cosmic Informational Computing Center (MAO, Kiev, Ukraine); the Sternberg Astronomical Institute, Moscow University (SAI, Moscow, Russia); the Russian Space Science Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences; Special Astrophysical Observatory, Information Department (SAO, Nizhnij Arkhyz, Russia); Osservatorio Astronomico di Trieste (OAT, Trieste, Italy).

Most of the participating institutes were represented at the St. Petersburg Colloquium "International Cooperation in Dissemination of the Astronomical Data" and at the project meeting. The project meeting was devoted to the preparation of the periodic report for INTAS, with an overview of the activities carried out during the first year of the project, and to a discussion of various practical points. The colloquium was a major forum for discussion on

the topic of international astronomical data network, between astronomers from the FSU countries and from Europe, America, Japan and China. More than ten papers resulting from the INTAS project activities were presented at this meeting.

The first year of the INTAS project demonstrates that it provides a very valuable framework to develop access, for the FSU astronomical community, to external astronomical resources and, for the worldwide astronomical community, to the data archives and databases of the FSU institutes.