



**TITAN**

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE  
IN ASTROPHYSICS

HORIZON-WIDERA-2022-TALENTS: ERA Chairs



**TITAN:**  
Frugal Artificial Intelligence and  
Application in Astrophysics

ERA CHAIR: Jean-Luc Starck

*Project Overview*

Panagiotis Tsakalides

Institute of Computer Science (ICS)

Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas (FORTH)

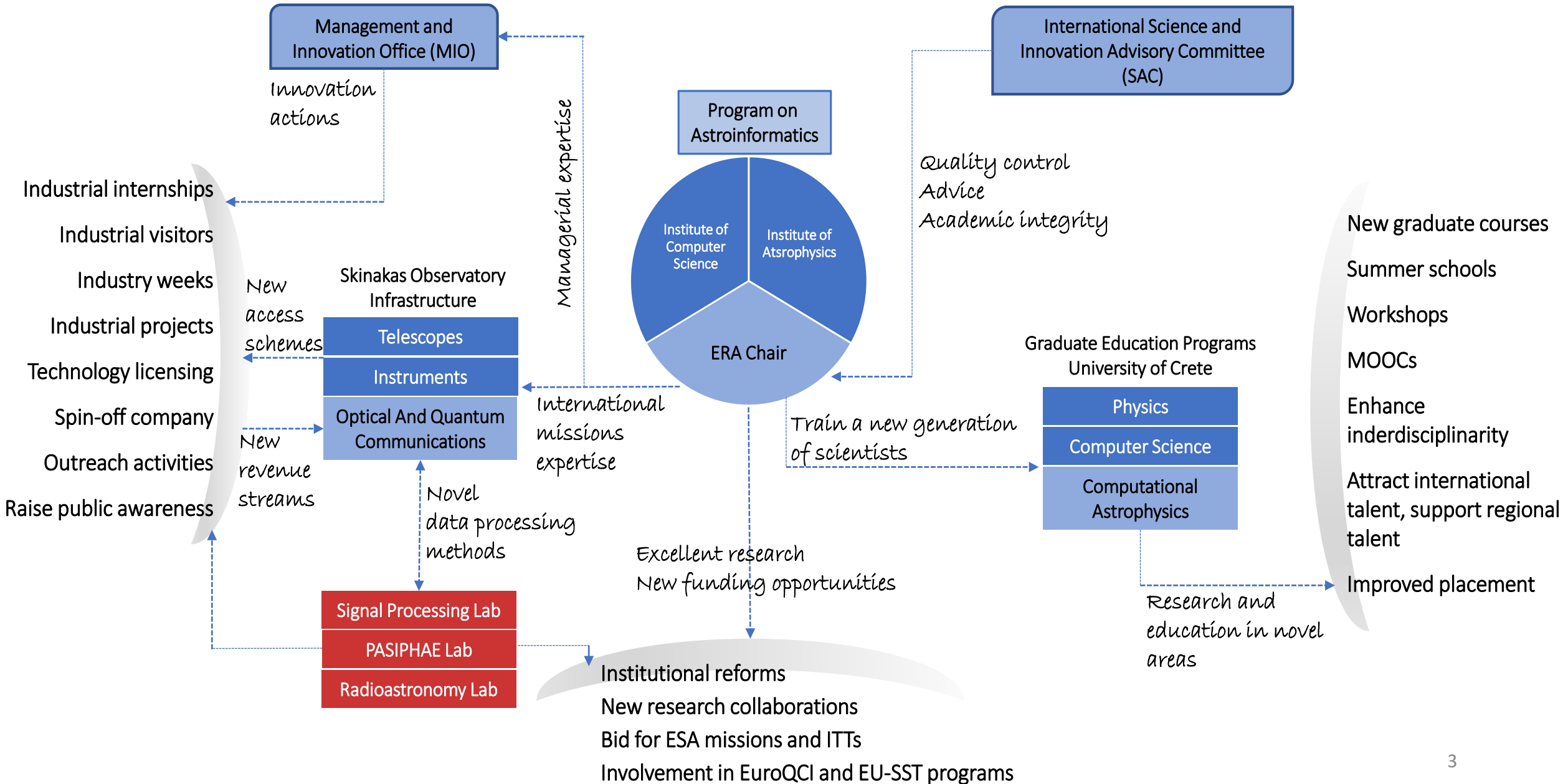


# The TITAN ERA Chair Project

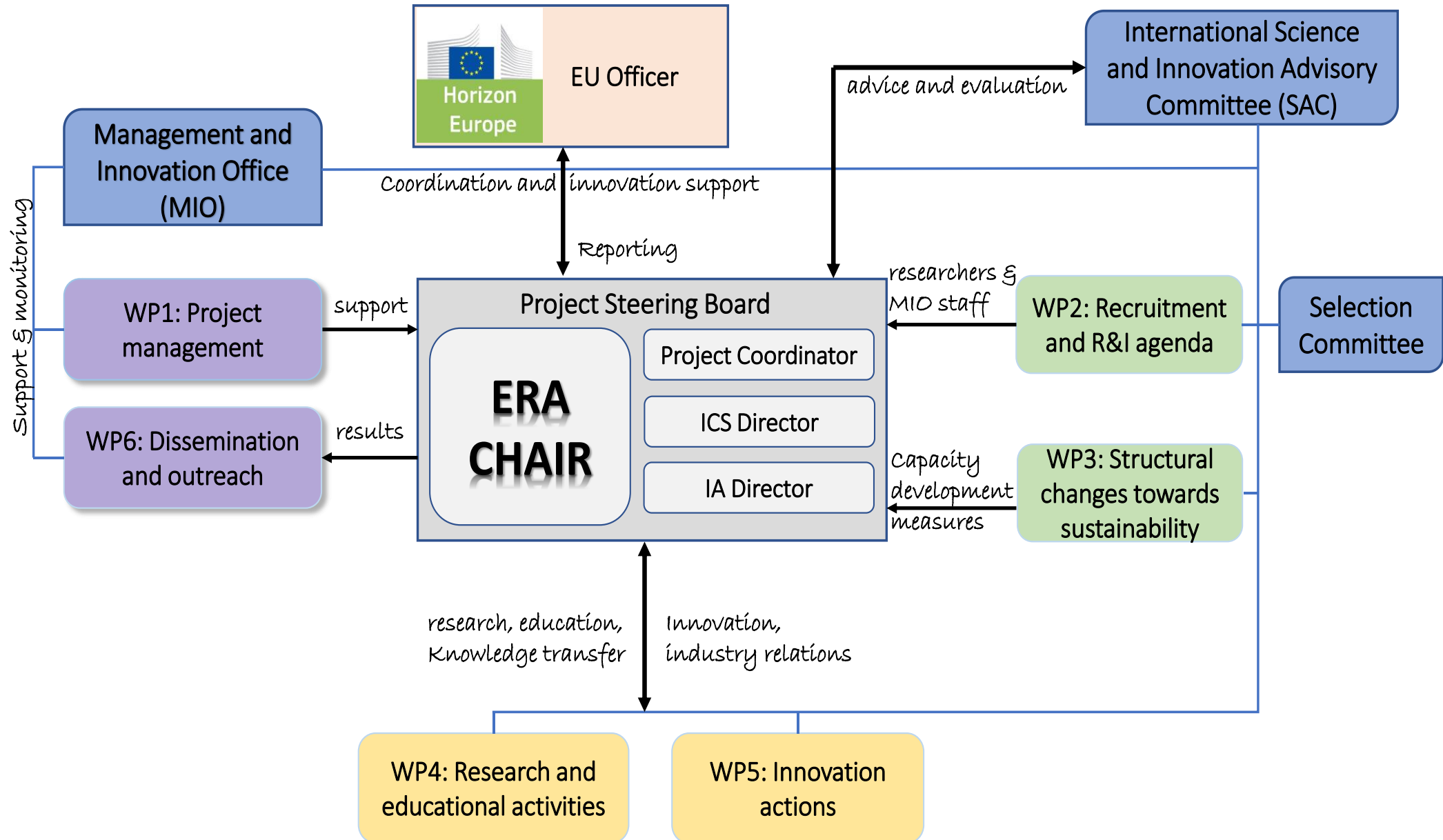
- **Scope:** Establish a collaborative **Astroinformatics Program** at FORTH in Crete. Form a high-caliber research team specializing in **statistical data science** and **machine learning** for **astrophysics**, accompanied by relevant educational initiatives.
- **Expected impact:** Unlock the potential of FORTH through the implementation of a set of measures geared towards **capacity building**; institutional development and **structural change**; intersectoral and international partnership activities bolstering a **research and innovation culture**.



# The TITAN project concept



# The TITAN project structure



# The TITAN Team



Jean-Luc Starck

ERA CHAIR



Panos Tsakalides

PROJECT COORDINATOR



Greg Tsagkatakis

SENIOR RESEARCHER



George Tzagkarakis

SENIOR RESEARCHER



Samuel Farrens

SENIOR RESEARCHER



Anastasia Aidini

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW



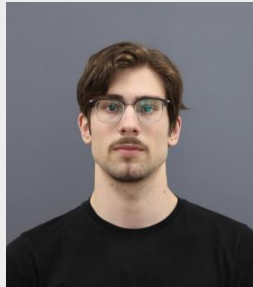
Athanasia Gkogkou

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW



Victor Bonjean

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW



Andreas Tersenov

PHD STUDENT



Pauline Gorbatchev

PHD STUDENT



Amab Lahiry

PHD STUDENT



Ioannis Gavalas

MANAGEMENT AND  
INNOVATION OFFICER



Marian Papadaki

ADMINISTRATIVE  
ASSISTANT



Stelios Roubakis

RESEARCH ENGINEER



Jan. 2023



05 Senior Researchers

03 PhD Students

03 Post-doc Researchers

03 Administrative/Technical Personnel



# The TITAN Collaborators



**Vassilis  
Charmandaris**

FORTH-IA DIRECTOR



**Tanio  
Diaz-Santos**

IA SENIOR RESEARCHER



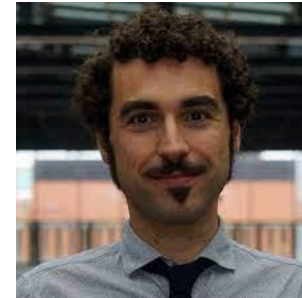
**Kostas Tassis**

IA SENIOR RESEARCHER



**John Antoniadis**

IA SENIOR RESEARCHER



**Stefano Camera**

PROF. UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI  
STUDI DI TORINO



**Martin Kilbinger**

EUCLID SCIENTIST  
CEA - COSMOSTAT



**Klea Panayidou**

EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY  
CYPRUS

# The TITAN Science and Innovation Advisory Committee



**Christina  
Giannopapa**

EUROPEAN SPACE  
AGENCY



**Carola-Bibiane  
Schönlieb**

UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE



**Emmanuel Candès**

STANFORD UNIVERSITY



**Sune Toft**

NIELS BOHR INSTITUTE



**Frédéric Courbin**

EPFL

# TITAN Research Challenges (1)

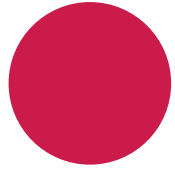
- **Challenge 1 - Develop a robust Deep Learning (DL) framework.** Use a *physics-driven approach* that: (i) generalises well; (ii) provides uncertainties quantification; and (iii) is frugal.
- **Challenge 2 - Unlock the application of DL to higher dimensional data.** Assimilate *high-dimensional (3D and 4D) observations* from different sensing modalities.
- **Challenge 3 - Enhance radio-interferometry image reconstruction.** Take advantage of SKA's *widefield imaging capabilities*, *high angular resolution*, and *instantaneous sensitivity*, to find and characterize radio emission from sources.

## TITAN Research Challenges (2)

- **Challenge 4 - Develop robust weak lensing methods for both optical and radio weak lensing.** Develop new *weak lensing tools* for image reconstruction, and *galaxy shape and mass mapping methods* for both Euclid and SKA.
- **Challenge 5 - Promote frugality in Astrophysics.** Introduce a *likelihood-free cosmological parameter inference framework*.
- **Challenge 6 - Develop cutting-edge technologies.** Novel imaging systems including *AI-powered sensing platforms*, *distributed camera networks* for space asset tracking, and space mission designs for *astrophysical research and Earth Observation*.

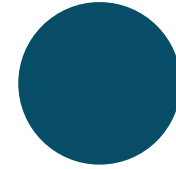


# TITAN Research: 3 intellectual themes and 3 target applications



## IT-1: A robust DL approach

- Quantify uncertainties
- Ensure good generalization and trustworthiness



## IT-2: Towards higher dimensions

- New 4D representations
- Sparse decompositions in a DL framework
- Extension of learnlets to 3D and 4D



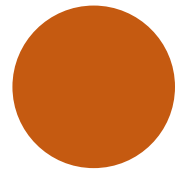
## From models to technologies

- Integration of physics-driven analytical models and data-driven ML approaches
- Resource-efficient ML considering appropriate hardware (FPGA/GPU)



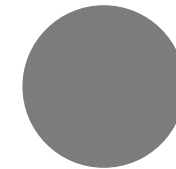
## TA-1 Time Domain Astrophysics

- Reconstruct high dimensional radio-interferometry data
- SKA will provide a gain in resolution, sensitivity and survey speed



## TA-2: Weak Lensing

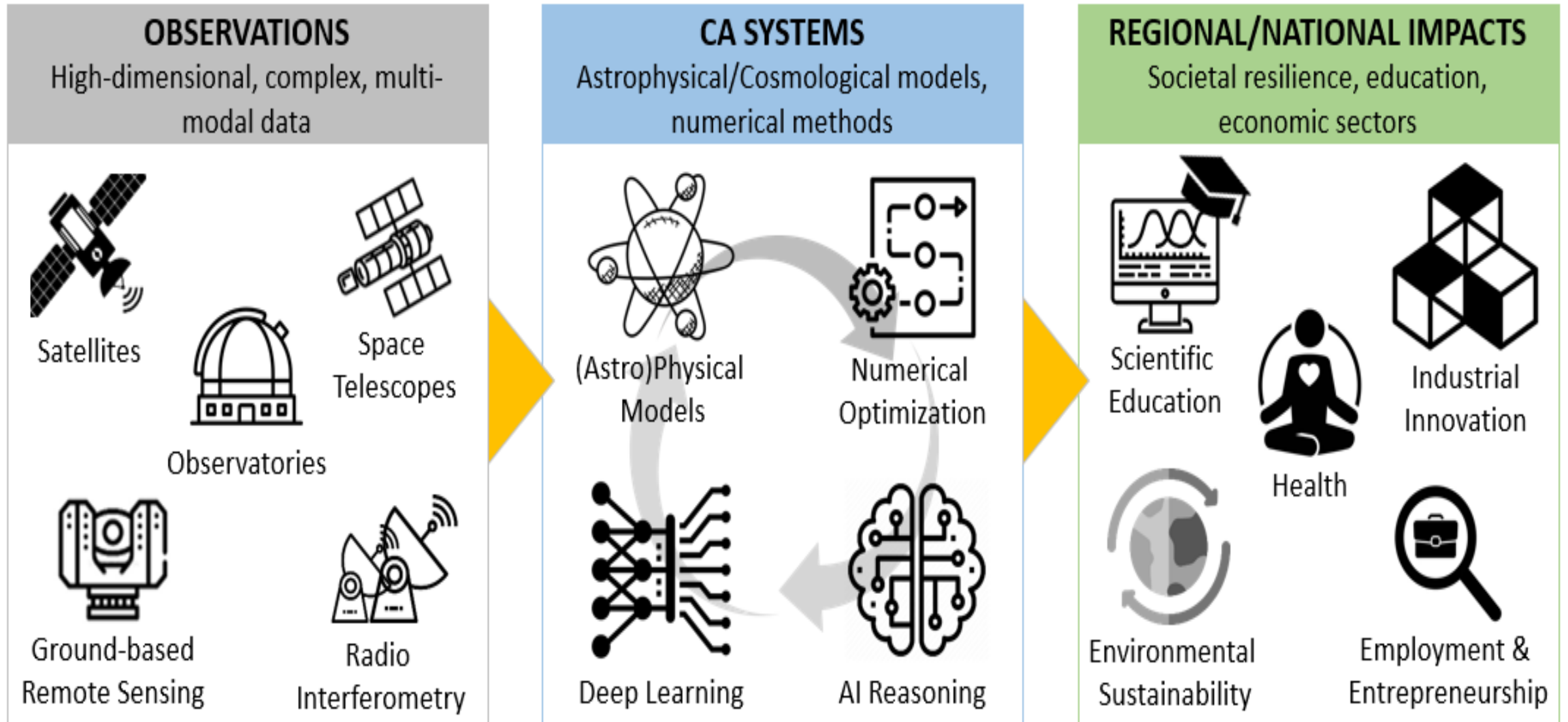
- Measuring galaxy shapes from radio interferometric measurements
- Couple deep learning priors with geometrical shape regularization



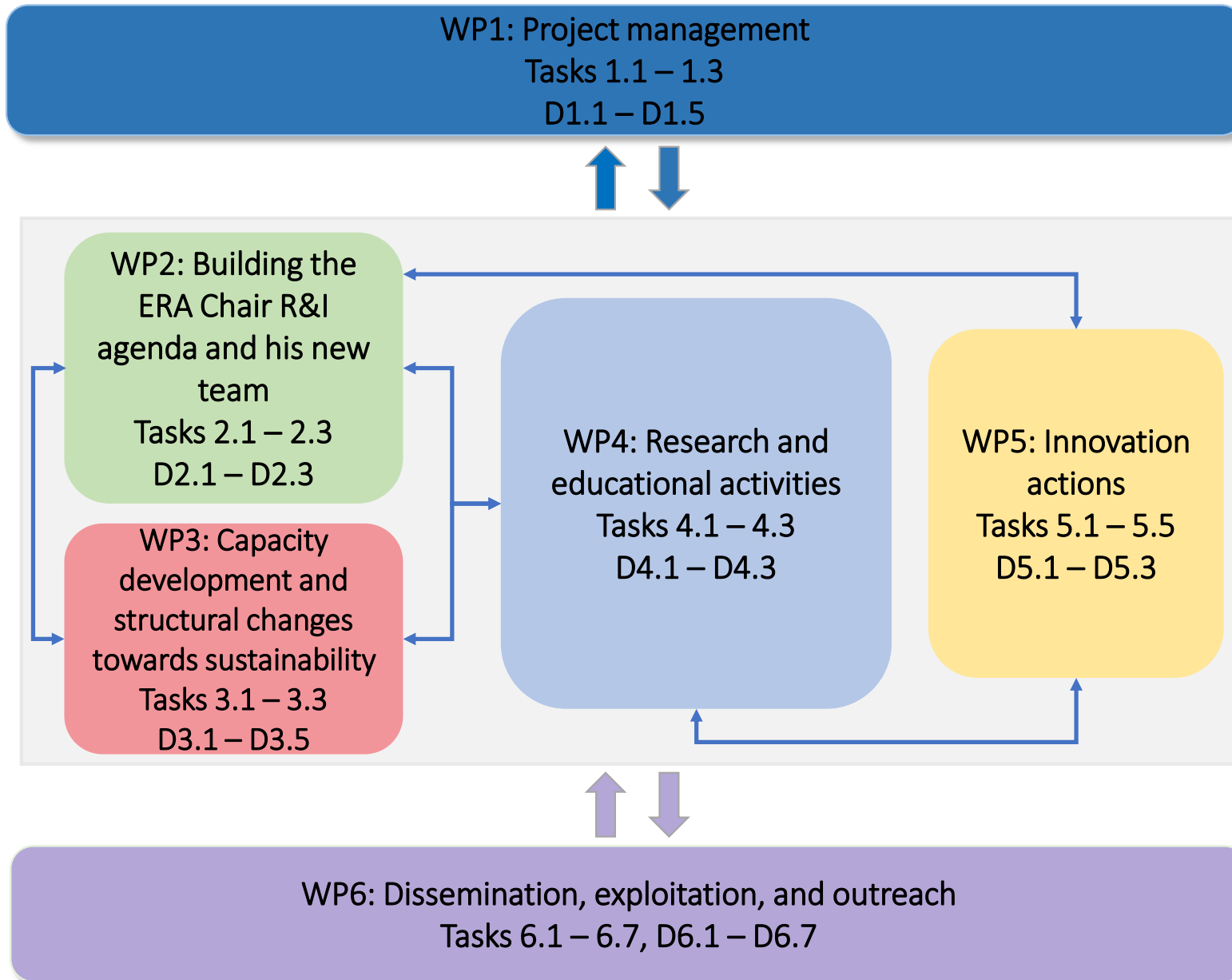
## TA-3: Frugal Cosmological Parameters Estimation

- Likelihood-free cosmological parameter inference based on high-order statistics
- Reduce computational (CPU/GPU) resources

# *TITAN will create scientific/technological/societal impact*



# The TITAN project Pert Chart



# TITAN YEAR 1 ACHIEVEMENTS

# Team Recruitment

## 03 Post-doctoral Researchers



Anastasia Aidini

SPARSE SIGNAL PROCESSING  
AND DEEP LEARNING FOR  
DATA ANALYSIS



Athanasia Gkogkou

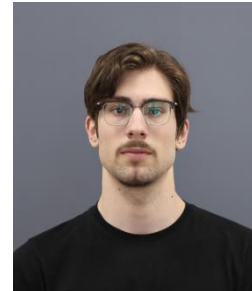
DEEP-LEARNING-BASED IMAGE  
PRIORS WITH GEOMETRIC  
SHAPE REGULARIZATION



Victor Bonjean

WEAK LENSING & HIGH  
ORDER STATISTICS

## 03 PhD Students



Andreas Tersenov

DATA-DRIVEN  
APPROACHES FOR WEAK  
LENSING MASS MAPPING



Pauline Gorbachev

HIGHER-ORDER  
STATISTICS FOR NEUTRAL  
HYDROGEN INTENSITY  
MAPPING



Arnab Lahiry

MORPHOLOGY AND  
SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF  
THE DUST EMISSION  
USING DL METHODS

## 03 Administrative/Technical Personnel



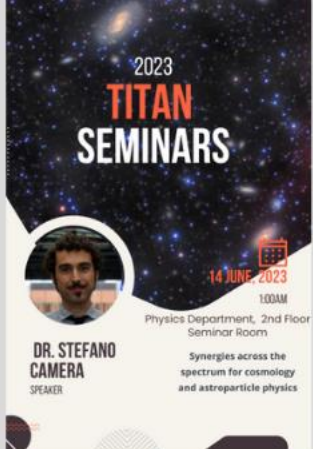
Ioannis Gavalas



Marian Papadaki



Stelios Roubakis



Galaxy Cluster Cosmology with fgas



Dr. Michael Elad  
Technio - Israel  
Instiute of Technology



Dr. Sergio Verdu  
Princeton University  
Recent Research Results on the Cauchy Distribution in Information Theory



7/23

6/23

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9/23

1/24

Dr. Stefano Camera  
University of Turin  
Synergies Across the Spectrum for Cosmology and Astroparticle Physics

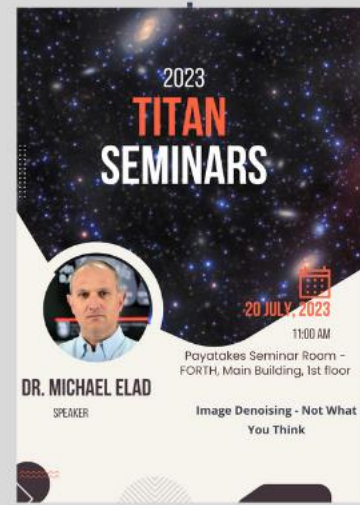
CosmoStat  
Dr. Lucie Baumont

Dr. Grigorios Tsagakatakis  
ICS - SPL  
Machine Learning for Big Science Data Analysis

Image Denoising - Not What you thing

Dr. Stephane Mallat  
Collège de France  
From Deep Network Mysteries to Physics

Prof. John Baras  
Maryland University  
Robust Machine Learning, Reinforcement Learning and Autonomy: A Unifying Theory via Performance and Risk Tradeoff





CosmoStat  
Dr. Lucie Baumont

Dr. Michael Elad  
Technio - Israel Institute of Technology

Dr. Sergio Verdu  
Princeton University

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Dr. Stefano Camera  
University of Turin

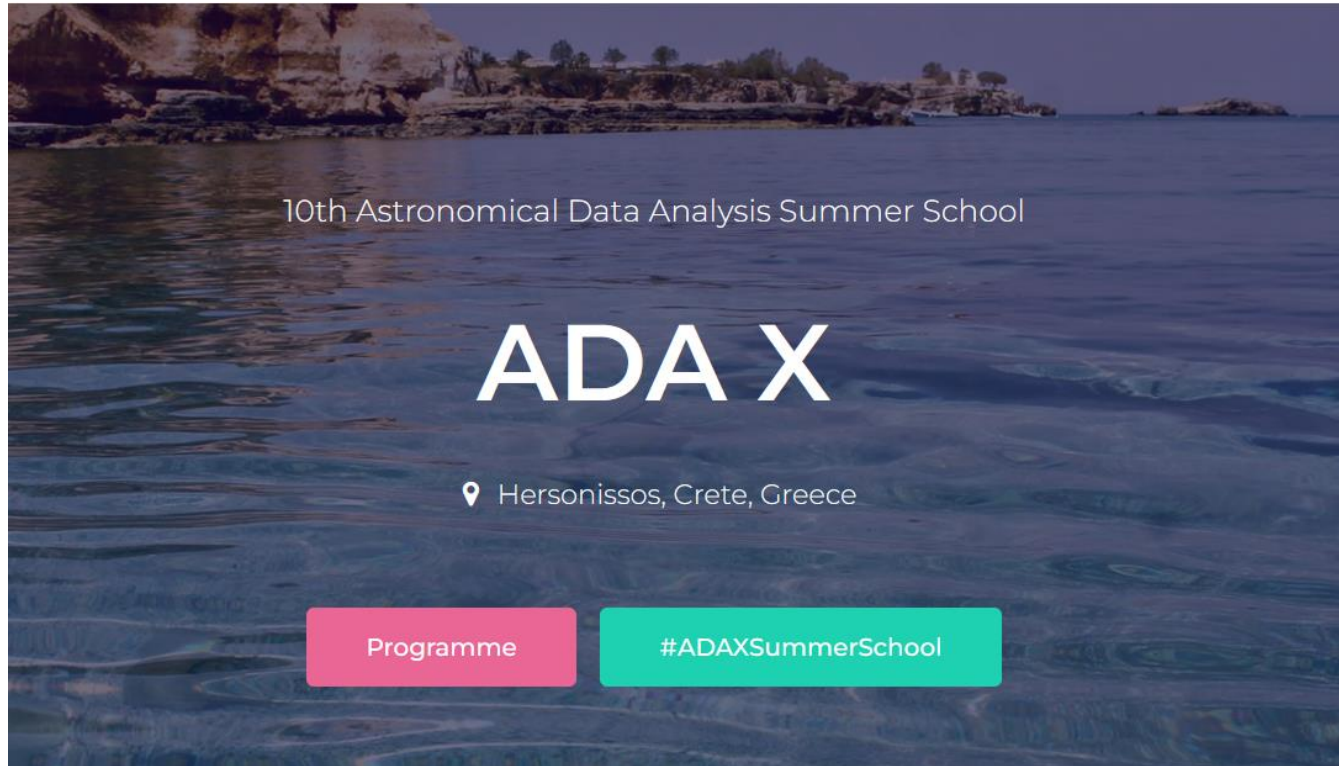
Dr. Grigorios Tsagkatakis  
ICS - SPL

Dr. Stephane Mallat  
Collège de France

Prof. John Baras  
Maryland University



# ADA X Summer School

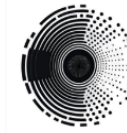


10th Astronomical Data Analysis Summer School

# ADA X

📍 Hersonissos, Crete, Greece

[Programme](#) [#ADAXSummerSchool](#)



**TITAN**  
Artificial Intelligence  
in Astrophysics



**FORTH**



**CosmoStat**

## Speakers



Stéphane Mallat  
Collège de France



Frosso Doutsis  
FORTH-ICS



Samuel Farrens  
CosmoStat, CEA Paris-Saclay



## Organizers



Jean-Luc Starck  
CosmoStat, CEA Paris-Saclay



Grigorios Tsagkatakis  
FORTH-ICS



Samuel Farrens  
CosmoStat, CEA Paris-Saclay



Anna Bonaldi  
SKAO project



Alan Heavens  
Imperial College London



Elena Sellentin  
Leiden University



François Lanusse  
CosmoStat, CEA Paris-Saclay





# Greek ERA Chairs Day



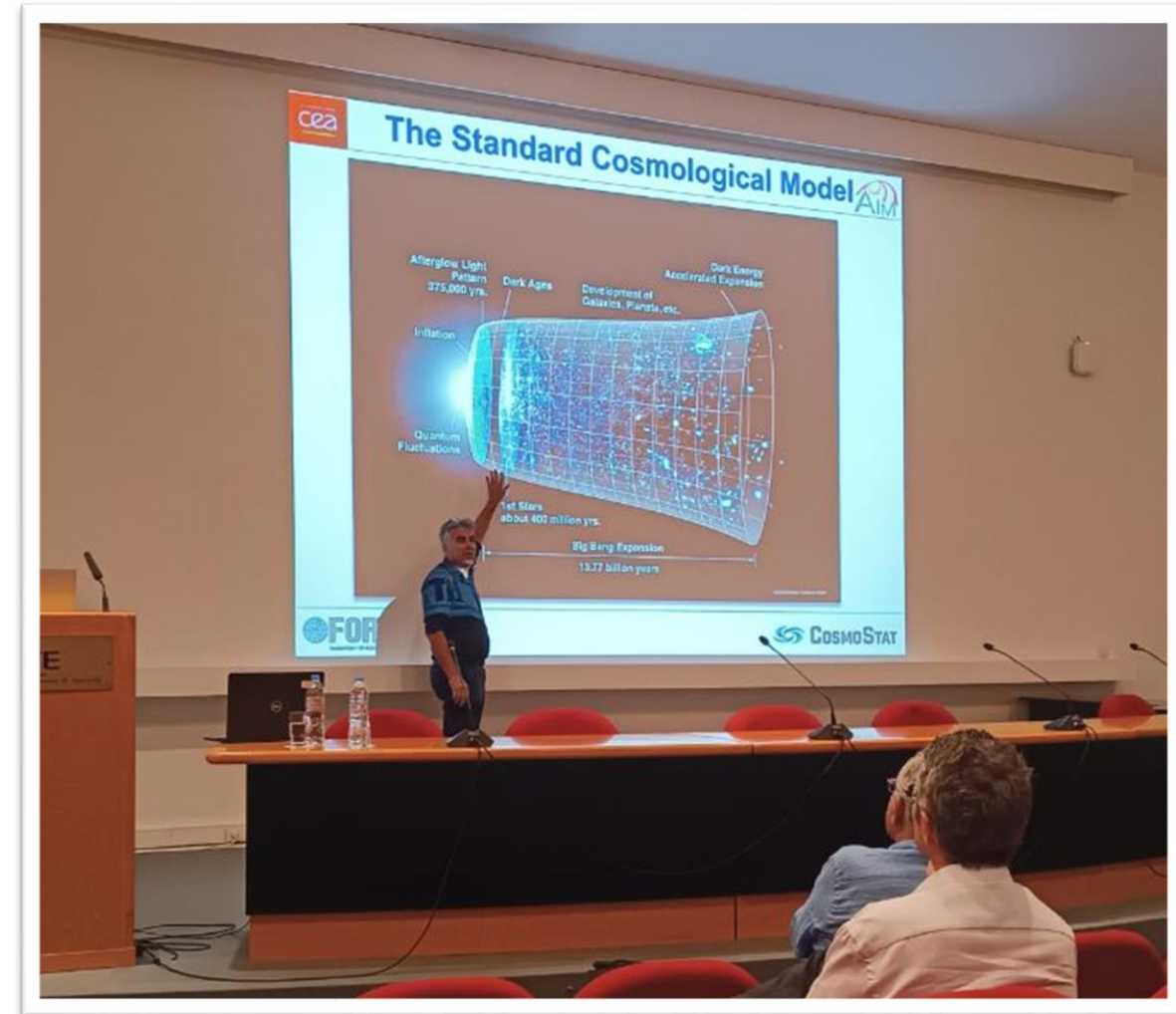
**Greek ERA  
Chairs Day**



Inaugural Day event  
of the Seven  
ERA Chair research projects

**26** 2023  
September  
11 am

**FORTH**  
Heraklion, Crete



# Upcoming Event: COSMO21



20 – 25 May, 2024



Chania, Greece



80 - 100



# Upcoming Event: COSMO21



20 – 25 May, 2024



Chania, Greece



80 - 100

## Invited Speakers

- [Justin Alsing](#), Oskar Klein Centre for Cosmoparticle Physics, Stockholm University, Sweden
- [Chihway Chang](#), Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics, University of Chicago, USA
- [Sihao Cheng](#), Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, USA and Perimeter Institute, Canada
- [David Donoho](#), Statistics Department, Stanford University, USA
- [Jia liu](#), Kavli, IPMU, Japan
- [Bhuvnesh Jain](#), Penn Center for Particle Cosmology, Pennsylvania School of Arts & Sciences, USA
- [Luisa Lucie-Smith](#), Max Planck Institute for Astrophysics (MPA), Garching, Germany
- [Simone Mastrogiovanni](#), Department of Physics, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy
- [Annalisa Pawlosky](#), Google Accelerated Science Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Laboratory, Switzerland
- [Marta Spinelli](#), Nice Observatory, France

## TITAN Deliverables (Due by 1st project review in June 2024)

WP No	Del No	Title	Description	Person Responsible
WP1	D1.1	<b>Project management and quality assurance plan</b>	A report outlining the project technical and financial management structure and the quality assurance workflow.	George Tzagkarakis
WP1	D1.2	Report on <b>MIO's organization plan</b>	Report on the organization of the Management and Innovation Office (MIO): identification of funding opportunities; assistance with proposal writing, networking and interacting with the industry.	Giannis Gavalas
WP2	D2.1	Report on <b>R&amp;D trends, best practices and future missions</b>	A comprehensive uptake of the current and forthcoming research and innovation agenda, within Europe and internationally, in the field of Astroinformatics.	JL Starck, Greg Tsagkatakis, P. Tsakalides
WP2	D2.2	Move of the <b>ERA Chair to FORTH</b> , outline of <b>research group structure</b> , and <b>timeline of recruitment</b>	Detailed description on the move of the ERA Chair to the host institution confirming the move and the arrangements in place. Initial planning phase of the structure and the size of the ERA Chair group, preparation of job descriptions and advertisement of positions worldwide. Selection and appointment of the members of the research group.	P. Tsakalides
WP3	D3.1	<b>Capacity development plan</b>	The plan will describe the Program's education/research/innovation targets, it will outline capacity development objectives such as administrative policies and procedures, it will define capacity development indicators, and it will describe a sustainability strategy.	P. Tsakalides

## TITAN Deliverables (Due by 1st project review in June 2024)

WP4	D4.1	Report on <b>research and educational activities</b> and associated material for the period M1-M15	Report and demos on the Astrophysics signal processing research, the educational activities (workshops, summer schools, tutorials, etc.).	Emma Soultatou, P. Tsakalides
WP6	D6.1	<b>Dissemination, exploitation and communication strategy</b> and action plan, 1st edition	A report on the dissemination of the project activities and results and the exploitation of its outcomes.	George Tzagkarakis
WP6	D6.4	<b>Website</b> of the project	Set-up and maintenance of the project's website. The website will promote the objectives, activities, achievements, and the events to be organised.	Stelios Roubakis
WP6	D6.5	Report on the <b>outreach activities and mass media material</b> for the period M1-M15	Report on the dissemination activities to academic audience (workshops, summer schools, etc.) Outreach activities to non-academic audience including presentations of the ERA Chair at exhibitions, industrial fora, etc.	Stelios Roubakis
WP6	D6.8	<b>Data Management Plan / OSCeP platform</b> , 1st edition	A detailed Data Management Plan where the access and use of all data collected or generated by the Program will be clearly defined. We will also develop an Open Science Collaboration e-Platform (OSCeP) for sharing data, computational tools, and mathematical models with the academic and industrial communities.	Greg Tsagkatakis

# Topics for discussion

- Facilitate the interaction between astrophysicists and computer scientists
- Specify 1-2 “grand challenges”
  - Classification vs Inverse problems
  - Identify ML aspects (robustness, imbalance, recovery, etc.)
- Specify and generate TITAN datasets
  - Access to Simulations or Observations
  - Dimensions, Characteristics, Storage, Open-access
- Define performance metrics
  - State-of-the-art solutions (codes & papers)
  - State-of-the-art datasets

# Next major TITAN milestone

- *1<sup>st</sup> TITAN project review meeting*
  - June or July, 2024
  - On location(?), with the participation of the project PO and external evaluators



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<https://spl.ics.forth.gr/titan>