VO Working Group update

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ESCAPE Virtual Observatory Working Group

- **Main activity: starting the OSCARS cascading grant "Astro-CC Pilot"**

  - Project started 1 April 2025, after ~5 month delay.

- **ESCAPE follow-on activities:**

  - VO resources and training material in the EOSC Resource Hub.

  - ESCAPE supported tools/ tutorials – used to test EOSC EU Node.

  - OPAL (Oscars Cascading Grant), OSTrails projects are active.

- **International VO efforts:**

  - IVOA Interoperability meeting 2-6 June, Maryland USA. (https://indico.ict.inaf.it/event/3121/)

    - ~120 participants, remote participation emphasised.

  - High energy astronomy in VO - *tomorrow* (https://indico.obspm.fr/event/2674/overview)

5 "Competence Centre" events

Designed for community participation.

- **A Data Provider Forum event** - for Research Infrastructures and data-intensive projects to share best practices for the implementation of standards to provide services for FAIR data.

- **Technology Forum events** - for the developers of astronomical software/services; to discuss community open standards and approaches to FAIR in the astronomy (in its largest definition) research domain.

- **Scientific Training events** - for astrophysics Ph.D students and early career researchers; to learn using interoperable tools and services as well as to gain skills for Open Science publication and research in astronomy.

Revised project timeline:

- Engagement meeting gathered requirements (51 participants) (https://indico.in2p3.fr/event/35455/)

- Technology forums to prepare not just for IVOA but also IPDA and for integration in EOSC.

- Schools – 1st schools as a *'Winter School'* near Madrid.

Month Number	Month	Astro-CC Pilot Schedule
	Oct-25	
	Nov-25	
	Dec-25	
	Jan-25	
	Feb-25	**Engagement meeting** ✓
	Mar-25	
1	Apr-25	
2	May-25	
3	Jun-25	
4	Jul-25	
5	Aug-25	
6	Sep-25	
7	Oct-25	**Technology Forum 1. Trieste.**
8	Nov-25	
9	Dec-25	**Scientific Training event 1. Madrid, 2-4 December**
10	Jan-26	
11	Feb-26	
12	Mar-26	**Data Provider Forum Event. Heidelberg**
13	Apr-26	**Scientific Training event 2. Strasbourg (Apr/May)**
14	May-26	
15	Jun-26	
16	Jul-26	
17	Aug-26	
18	Sep-26	**Tech Forum 2 - Paris (Sept/Oct)**
19	Oct-26	
20	Nov-26	
21	Dec-26	
22	Jan-27	
23	Feb-27	
24	Mar-27	**Final Report**