

# The European SKA Forum

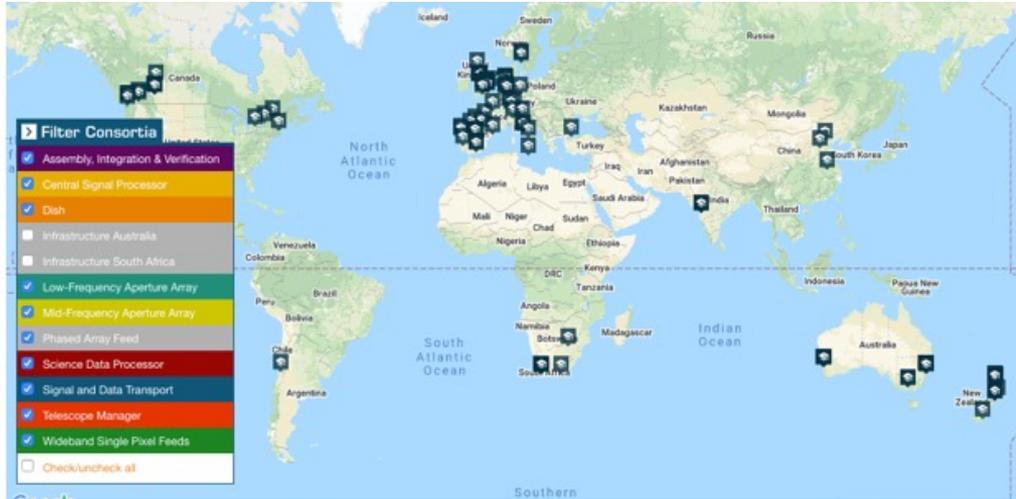
## ESKAF



**Chiara Ferrari**

SKA-France Director, Chair of ESKAF, OCA

# Europe: an important player in the SKAO development since its early phases



- Relevant participation of European countries in SKA design consortia
- A very sizeable European radio astronomical community
- Strong involvement in SKAO pathfinders/precursors
- EC projects funded in key phases of the project's development

## SKADS

Grant agreement ID: 11938



Start date

1 July 2005

End date

31 December 2009

## PREPSKA

Grant agreement ID: 212243



Closed project

Start date

1 April 2008

End date

31 March 2012

## GO-SKA

Grant agreement ID: 283632



Closed project

Start date

1 November 2011

End date

31 January 2015

## AENEAS

Grant agreement ID: 731016



Closed project

Start date

1 January 2017

End date

31 December 2019



ESFRI Landmark  
2016



# From ESKAC to ESKAF

- 2008: creation of the European SKA Consortium
  - Consortium of European Institutes/Organisations
  - Mission: foster the SKA scientific and technical support
  - Particularly active in the pre- and initial SKA Organisation phases
- 2020: ESKAC becomes ESKAF
  - New era: ample purpose to continue having a joint European effort towards the SKA, but in a modified form
  - Mission: 1/ develop a vision at European level of matters of interest for European SKA member Countries; 2/ promoting the SKA project within Europe
  - (Prospective) SKAO members informally represented by individuals actively involved in the project



# ESKAF Members

- FRANCE:
  - Chiara Ferrari (chiara.ferrari@oca.eu) **CHAIR**
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# ESKAF Goals

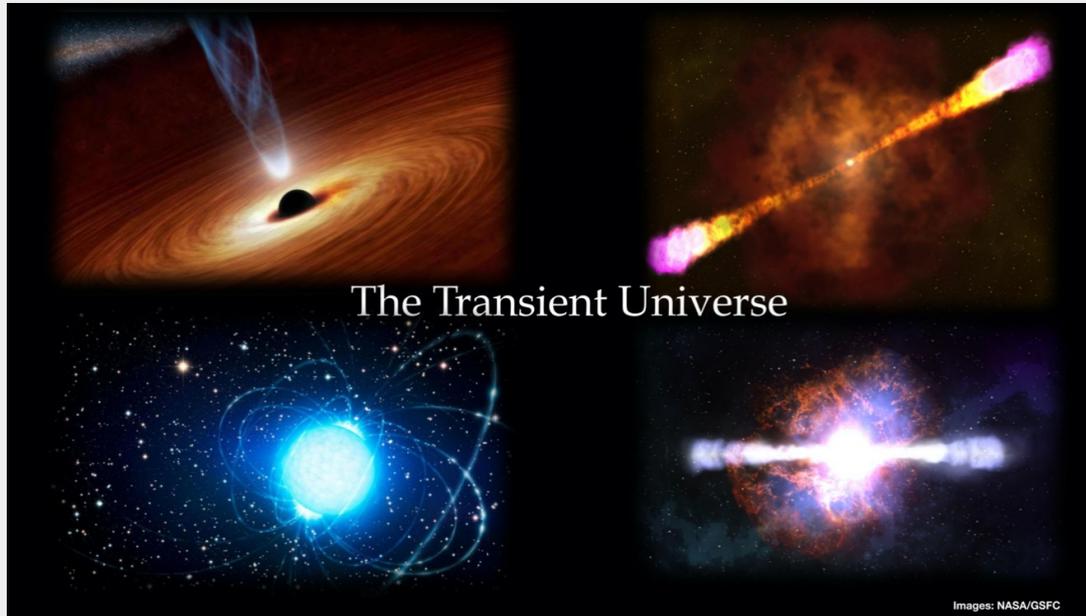
- Discuss European SKA related initiatives, e.g.:
  - SKA Regional Centres (SRCs)
  - software/algorithmic developments for SKA and its pathfinders and precursors
  - future SKA technology developments
- Provide a platform to coordinate and promote European SKA related R&D (e.g. Horizon Europe projects lead by European countries **with SKAO partnership**)
- Offer an additional voice that can speak to national funding agencies for SKA interests and that can be applied within the various EU-institutions **in coordination with the SKAO**
- Work together with EU – Africa and EU – South Pacific cooperation initiatives
- Encourage and inform European countries interested in joining the SKA, but also engage them through Open Access to SKA pathfinder/precursor data (now) as well as SKA data (in the future)
- Bring together European members of the SKAO and connect them with representatives of the European radio astronomical community



Symposium S13

30 June - 1 July 2021

## The Transient Universe



# ESKAF promoting SKAO at European level

- Challenges and opportunities offered by radio astronomy, "A New Era for Africa-EU Science and Innovation Partnerships"
- SKA from a European perspective, "The Square Kilometre Array: A global Research Infrastructure for the 21st Century and beyond", SKA session @UNGA75
- The Square Kilometre Array Telescope, "Opportunities for enhanced STI cooperation between the EU & Africa"



Europe must become better able to take action and shape events in the field of new technologies. Common European standards and norms must support the development of these technologies. Our European values and fundamental rights remain the basis we are championing, also in the digital age. We also want to harness the opportunities posed by the digital transformation to achieve greater stability and to keep the energy and resources consumed by digital infrastructures to the lowest possible level. We are committed to the responsible, and human-centric development and use of artificial intelligence (AI) which serves the good of society in the EU. We should harness the potential of this key technology in the measures to promote economic recovery in all sectors. The use of AI in the healthcare sector has an important role to play in this regard. AI applications should always be developed with the good of our liberal democratic society in mind.

Together  
for Europe's recovery

Programme for Germany's Presidency  
of the Council of the European Union

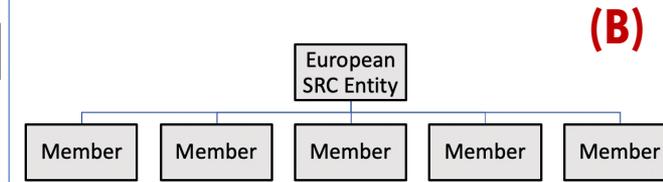
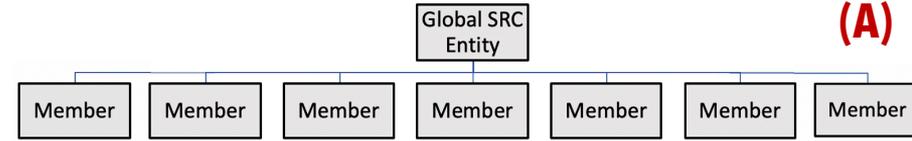
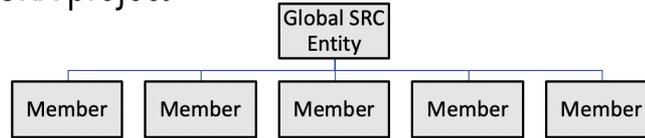
1 July to 31 December 2020



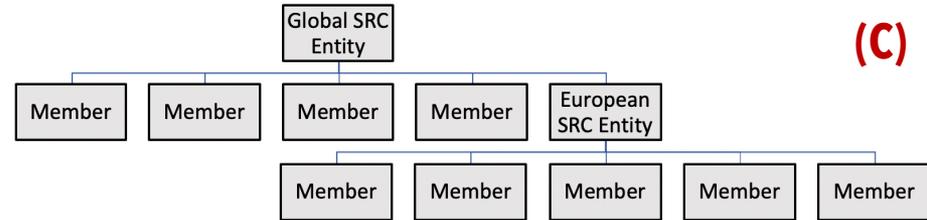
*"Through the SKA, radio astronomy will - much more than ever - both rely on and contribute to state-of-the-art developments in critical areas of EU priorities, such as Information Technologies (IT) and green energy"*

# AENEAS

- **Advanced European Network of E-infrastructures for Astronomy with the SKA:** develop a concept and design for a distributed federated European Science Data Centre to support the astronomical community in achieving the scientific goals of the SKA project



- Very relevant technical input for the current worldwide activity lead by the SRC Steering Committee
- General agreement for the need of a European coordination, but not on its level: loose vs. structured coordination
- In several countries, not possible to think about a SRC nodes just for (radio-)astronomy: importance of collaborative projects, e.g. ESCAPE & C.A. with CERN/PRACE/Géant



Courtesy: M. van Haarlem (ASTRON)

# AENEAS' follow-up: questions for ESKAF

- Do the European SKA members join the global SRC partnership individually or do we organise at European level and if so, how?
- What is the collective European ambition in terms of taking a share of the SKA data?
- How do we make optimal use of the extensive European infrastructure that can support our SRC ambitions?
- To what extent can the SKA members support access to SKA data for astronomers/users from other European/EU/EEA countries?  
Does the EU have a role to play in this?



# Conclusions

- In 2020 we felt that ESKAF needed to be started and to evolve into a recognised forum bringing together European countries already active or interested in participating in SKA or activities geared toward preparing to use SKA data once the telescope is operational
- ESKAF is today a forum for open and informal discussions, where new ideas can be brought and new initiatives can be presented and proposed to more formal/institutional bodies following a bottom-up approach
- Among the most urgent/on-going actions:
  - Organise strategic discussions on how to coordinate the SRCs efforts at European level and connect them with strategic EC environment/initiatives (e.g. EOSC, EuroHPC)
  - Play an active role in jointly organising SKA meetings in order to bring the scientific community together at European level
  - Coordinate and promote SKAO related projects within Horizon Europe calls
- ESKAF may also evolve and become more and more active in representing common interests