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THE EUROPEAN ASTROBIOLOGY ROADMAP - ASTROMAP

Abstract

AstRoMap was supported by the European Commission Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) from 2012 to 2015. The main outcome of the AstRoMap project is its roadmap for European astrobiology, astrobiology being understood as the study of the origin, evolution and distribution of life in the context of cosmic evolution; this includes habitability in the Solar System and beyond.

The AstRoMap roadmap, published in March 2016, results from expert workshops as well as wide consultation of the community. It puts forward five core research topics that represent interrelated roadmap building blocks. Each research topic is broken down into several key objectives (and sub-objectives) that put forward more detailed priority areas to be addressed in the future.

- Research Topic 1: Origin and Evolution of Planetary Systems
- Research Topic 2: Origins of Organic Compounds in Space
- Research Topic 3: Rock-Water-Carbon Interactions, Organic Synthesis on Earth, and Steps to Life
- Research Topic 4: Life and Habitability
- Research Topic 5: Biosignatures as Facilitating Life Detection

This roadmap will form the basis of an active astrobiology programme both in ESA and the European framework research programme.

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