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ACTIVITIES (D5)

Knowledge management for space activities in the digital transformation age (2)

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OPEN UNIVERSE: OPEN DATA FOR SPACE SCIENCE AND ASTRONOMY

Abstract

The Open Universe Initiative aims to foster the continued development of a culture of open shareable data in astronomical and space sciences, including promoting discussions to formulate new policies on open shareable data at an international level. It links holders of astronomy and space science data with an ever-broader world community of all those interested in exploiting those data for whatever scientific, educational or cultural purpose.

In this perspective, the initiative is open to all types of public entities dealing with data in astronomy and space science, whether they are governmental entities, non-governmental organisations, intergovernmental organisations or associations. Private entities accepting the licence conditions on their data are similarly welcome to join the initiative.

Open Universe will increase transparency of data already available, resurface data and other hidden or otherwise hard-to-access resources, then promote standards for the exchange, aggregation and visualisation of data.

Participants are structured into a network of Working Groups and so-called “Nodes”, where a Node is an entity that provides data, documents, software, training, educational material or access to hardware to others. The initial set of Working Groups is as follows: - Working Group Capacity Building gathers participants who either carry out training activities or knowledge dissemination, develop specific tools for public-engagement or education activities, or identify the needs from target users of the initiative. - Working Group Infrastructure gathers participants developing hardware or software to operate the initiative. This includes activities to develop standards and models to accommodate new data, as well as protocols for the dataflow and integration. It also includes development of tools and new software for capacity building activities; - Working Group Data addresses new data insertion into the User Portal, and associated software tools to enable it, using existing standards and models. This includes activities to resurface data and authorise its dissemination, as well as surveys to identify what data re-surfacing tasks need to be carried out.

The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), as the UN’s dedicated entity for space affairs, works on the legal, policy and capacity building aspects of international cooperation in the peaceful

uses of outer space. For the Open Universe initiative, UNOOSA acts as the Executive Secretariat.

The Paper shall present the initial workplan of the working groups to encourage interested parties to join the initiative and contribute data.