

IYA2009 in Portugal

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Abstract

Here the general guidelines of the Portuguese organisation, past, present and future, regarding the International Year of Astronomy 2009 are presented. The work started in July 2006, with the goal to define the general guidelines for the IYA2009.

Organisation

A commission was established by the Portuguese Astronomical Society to start preparing for IYA2009:

- João Manuel Fernandes — Coimbra University — SPoC
- Rosa Doran — Interactive Nucleus of Astronomy (NUCLIO)
- Filipe Pires — Centre for Astrophysics, Porto University
- Máximo Ferreira — Lisbon Science Museum
- António Pedrosa — Navegar Foundation, Espinho

Goals of this commission:

- Present a plan of activities.
- Establish a budget.
- Promote an open national discussion.
- Create a web page¹.

The plan was made public on the website on 23 July and was discussed publicly in four different meetings. Twenty five institutes have already expressed an interest in participating. In January 2008 an executive committee will take over, with responsibility for organising and supervising all the activities of the IYA2009.

Goals for IYA2009 in Portugal

- Full compliance with the IAU goals.
- Reach all areas of the public, with special emphasis on the younger generations.
- Involve amateur and professional astronomers alike.
- Promote partnerships and collaborations between institutions.

¹ <http://www.iac.es/ensenanza/master/>

- Give opportunities for activities not promoted under the IYA organisation.
- Fill gaps regarding Portuguese literature in astronomy, both in history and teaching.
- Create the necessary conditions for the IYA projects to be preserved well beyond 2009.

Activities organised by the commission

National level activities, which will be organised by the executive committee:

- Night of Astronomy — lights shutdown in the major cities for a short period of time.
- Talks — organise talks around the country in all districts.
- Planetarium show — create a planetarium show involving all the Portuguese planetariums.
- *I'm Galileo Galilei* — activity dedicated to young students with the goal of reproducing the observations made by Galileo.
- Astronomy kit — a kit with several hands-on experiences related to astronomy.
- Contests — scientific and artistic contests for different publics. Workshops for high-school teachers.
- Travelling exhibition — a large exhibition regarding Portuguese astronomy and its history that will travel around the country.
- Videoposts — a set of short movies to be placed in the website (or on TV?) concerning different astronomical subjects.
- Network resources — make a network of resources available, that all can share, mainly schools.

Activities to be organised by third party institutions

These activities include a set of activities that will be organised by third party institutions in close cooperation with the IYA2009 organisation. These activities are mainly proposed by the IYA organisation and include:

- Music concerts;
- Postage stamp collection;
- Exhibitions;
- Edition of books of reference;
- Fireworks;
- TV Shows.

A fraction of the budget will be used in another set of activities and events, organised outside the IYA2009 committee. Financial support will be granted according to a selection made in a call for proposals.

Summary

The organisation of the IYA2009 in Portugal is well underway, and it is expected that the new executive committee will start working at the beginning of 2008, in order to start executing the detailed plan. Many institutions/organisations have already expressed their willingness to join this celebration in order to make 2009 a start for an even better promotion and awareness of astronomy.