

Annual Report Executive Committee Working Group Astronomy for Equity and Inclusion Submitted April 2023

Organizing Committee Members:

Susana E. Deustua (Chair), Jacob Noel-Storr (Co-Chair)
José Miguel Rodríguez Espinosa (EC Liaison)
Kimberly Kowal Arcand, María del Carmen Argudo Fernandez, Pierre Chastenay
David L Clements, Beatriz Elena García, Nicoletta Lanciano, Javier Mejuto Gonzalez
Dominique Proust, Kumiko USUDA-SATO, Stefania Varano, Ilhuyolitzin Villicana-Pedraza

SubWorking Groups

Visually Challenged. Coordinator: Amelia Bayo
Hearing Impairments. Coordinator: None
Motor Impairments. Coordinator: Angela Perez Henao
Migrants, Displaced People and Refugees, Underrepresented Ethnic Groups, Underprivileged.
Coordinator: Emilio Molinari
Inclusive Outreach. Coordinators: Cesare Pagano, Andra Stoica
Neurodiversity and Mental Health. Coordinator: Natalia Lewandowska
Hospitals, Children's Homes, Nursing Homes and Prisons. Coordinator: Joao Retre
Best Practice on Enforcement of Standards. Coordinator: Dave Clements
Management of Diversity and Inclusion in Large International Collaborations. Coordinator:
Simona Mei
LGBTQI+ Communities in Astronomy. Coordinators: Jake Noel-Storr and One Other
Best Practices for Surveys: Coordinators: Jake Noel-Storr and Susana Deustua

193 Working Group Members

WG members have partnerships and collaborations with organizations involved in equity and inclusion, thus the activities of sub-working groups and individual members often take place in the context of cooperation with these entities.

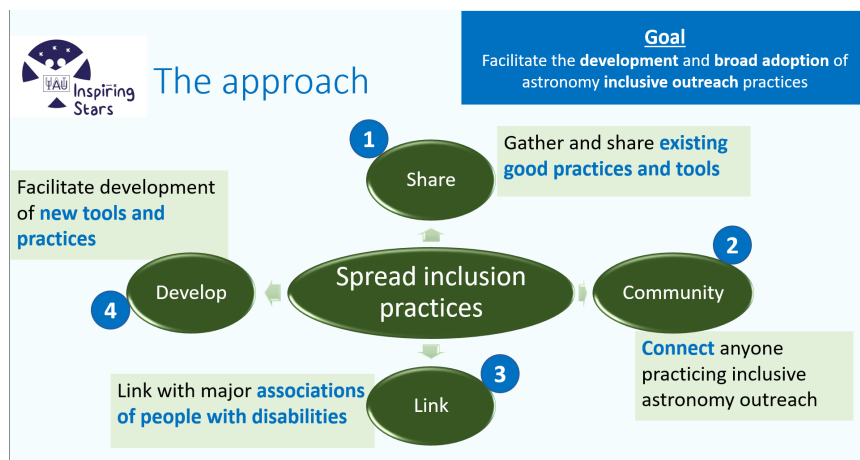
The WG change the Organizing Committee structure to be formed by all sub Working Group coordinators plus at large members.

Reported Activities

NEWS: Argentina Sign Language as an official language is recognized by law on 13 April 2023.

The Best Practice on Standards subWorking Group have worked on the development of a climate monitoring proposal to allow reporting of standards problems across astronomy, and are also developing a proposal on standards for meeting locations to ensure the safety of diverse members of the astronomical community.

IAU Inclusive Outreach (Inspiring Stars) subWorking Group held two “Community of Practice webinars”, with 40 participants and positive feedback, and sessions on various topics at the CAP22 conference, and participated in Global Hands-on Universe conferences. They have actively posted on the IAU Astronomy for Equity and Inclusion and IAU Inclusive Outreach Community Facebook groups. The SWG have a partnership with “Astronomy for Equity” (astro4equity.org), and contacted the European Blind Union and published two articles in the European Blind Union newsletter. Recognizing the need for better and stronger approach to accessibility of published images with high visibility on media e.g.: JWST initiated outreach to NASA. This SWG published detailed instructions for two new tools: “Personal planetarium” and on eyepiece extensions for wheelchair observing. In addition, the group has reprioritized their activities based on the (decreasing) number of active members.



Best Practice on Standards Group: Over the past year we have worked on the development of a climate monitoring proposal to allow reporting of standards problems across astronomy. We are also developing a proposal on standards for meeting locations to ensure the safety of diverse members of the astronomical community.

Astronomy Sign Language WG in Japan. Led by Dr. Shin Mineshige (Kyoto University), compiled by Yusuke Tampo (Kyoto University), The Astronomy Sign Language working group published the first version of the astronomy sign list at: http://www.kusastro.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~tampo/outreach/astro_sign_lang_JP/master.html

Touch the Universe project. A series of “Touch the Universe” tactile exhibitions has been held at science museums throughout Japan since January 2022, using a whole set of tactile models that we created with a grant from the JSMA; Japan Science Museum Association (PI; Y. Suzuki) in the fiscal year 2020 (FY2020). In FY2022, using the JSMA’s lending-borrowing system, eight museums from Kyushu to Hokkaido (Southwest to North of Japan), including Sendai Astronomical Observatory, held special exhibitions rotating from one museum to another. The rotation continues in FY2023 among seven other museums. The Touch the Universe project is promoted in collaboration with Akashi Municipal Planetarium, the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ), Japan Braille Library, and Sendai Astronomical Observatory.

REINFORCE Project (<https://reinforceeu.eu>). Over the last 3 years, Argentinian members in Mendoza have led Work Package 7: Sonification, Increasing the senses, increasing inclusion, devoted mainly to the sonification of astrophysical data. The sonoUno software (see <https://reinforce.sonouno.org.ar>), provides sonification of light curves, spectra, cosmic rays, particles in the LHC, muons for tomography, glitches at the Virgo gravitational wave detector and the neutrino detectors under the Mediterranean sea (KM3NeT neutrino telescope). The first PhD thesis on sonification by Johanna Casado is expected next May. Other PhD work in progress include perception studies. In addition, training courses are in development, plus the group has participated in many events, workshops, exhibitions and courses (<https://zenodo.org/search?page=1&size=20&q=REINFORCE>)

The sub_WG for Hospitals, Children Homes, Nursing Homes and Prisons faced a lot of challenges in 2022, since its main target publics are exactly the ones which the pandemic restricted the most. Despite this, the group continued its regular meetings and discussing new ideas to implement and build a community around the globe. The group has constructed a survey to gather, among other information, all the activities that exist around the world in the context of this group. That survey will be released in 2023 and disseminated through several institutions and individuals around the world (e.g. OAO's NOC's community). Other actions were planned and designed. Among them are the creation of a website which will be the central repository and principal mean of communication for the community. At the same time we are starting to design webinars to be held in the framework of the group, as well as specific workshops. The group has been collecting several articles, activities in order to create a best practice Manual for each of the specific four target publics.

The IAU EC and the WG were a sponsor of the "Our Giant Leap Hackathon 2022" held in Daejeon, South Korea on August 14th and 15th 2022 and organised by the SGAC (Space Generation Advisory Council) Diversity and Gender Equality Project Group. Teams of up to 5 hackers worked on the next best idea for gender equality on Earth using space technology and know-how. Jake Noel-Storr represented the WG at this event.

Brad Gibson reports 150 events with the public, schools, and colleges, many of which have EDI embedded throughout ... 6,471 people reached in person, including 38 schools & colleges, 300,000 via radio, and 200,000 via on-line platforms.