



# RadioNet support for training events

## Application form

EVENT INFORMATION	
TITLE	ALMA Community Days 2017 of the German ARC node
PLACE	University of Bonn, Germany, and University of Bern, Switzerland
ORGANISER	Dr. Stefanie Muehle ( <a href="mailto:muehle@astro.uni-bonn.de">muehle@astro.uni-bonn.de</a> ), German ARC node; Dr. Susanne Wampfler, Center for Space and Habitability, University of Bern; Prof. Dr. Frank Bertoldi, Argelander-Institute for Astronomy, University of Bonn
DATE	27/28 March 2017 and 03 April 2017
NO. OF PARTICIPANTS	30 + 30
TOTAL EVENT COST	3000 Euros
OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING	Argelander-Institute for Astronomy, University of Bonn, Germany (500 Euros) Center for Space and Habitability, University of Bern, Switzerland (500 Euros)
REQUEST <i>(max. 2 pages)</i>	
Requested contribution	In order to enable the extension of the German Community Days to the Swiss Community, we ask for financial support covering the travel and subsistence expenses of the ALMA experts travelling to Bern. The costs include the flight/train ticket Bonn-Bern (300 Euro/person), the hotel in Bern (1 night, 100 EUR/person), public transport to/from the airport, local transportation and a daily allowance (100 Euro/person). With four ARC node experts needed to give the talks and carry out the tutorial, we request 2000 Euros in total.
Use of the RadioNet contribution	<p>The high oversubscription rate of ALMA calls for optimal preparation of both current and aspiring ALMA users in the catchment area of our ARC node. To that end, the German ARC node has organized ALMA Community Days in Bonn before each proposal deadline since the first ALMA Call for Proposals in 2011. Given the continued strong interest of the German community in such an event, we plan to again organize Community Days in Bonn on 27/28 March 2017 as preparation for the Cycle 5 ALMA proposal deadline on 20 April 2017.</p> <p>However, high travel costs to the nearest ARC node form a big obstacle for potential new users of ALMA to attend such an event, especially for astronomers from southern Germany and Switzerland. In order to reach out to these communities, we propose to organize the first-ever ALMA Community Day in Switzerland. Like the Community Days in Bonn, the Swiss Community Day will comprise a short introduction into radio interferometry, an introduction to ALMA and overview of the capabilities for the next proposal cycle, a hands-on training with the ALMA-OT, the ALMA software needed to submit a proposal, and the possibility to consult the experts for advice on already planned proposals. From the staff involved in the German ALMA Community Days, a subset of four ALMA experts will be sent to Bern, who will cover all important aspects of radio interferometry and proposal preparation, and conduct the software tutorial and proposal clinic.</p> <p>While the Argelander-Institute for Astronomy will cover all expenses incurred for the German ALMA Community Days (rooms, equipment, catering), and the Center for Space and Habitability will provide rooms, equipment and catering in Bern, there is no budget for sending German ARC node staff to the Swiss Community Day. In order to enable the Community Day in Switzerland, we need a total of 2000 Euros for travel and subsistence of the four experts from the German ARC node.</p>

	<p>The Swiss Community Day will significantly improve the knowledge about radio astronomy and in particular ALMA in Switzerland, most importantly among the PhD students and postdocs. Several young scientists approached us saying that they would like to learn more about ALMA and radio/mm/submm facilities in general, but that they did not have a budget to attend a training abroad. Because this training aims at astronomers and planetary scientists from PhD students to professors, this event would significantly increase the community of Swiss-based scientists who know enough about radio astronomy to feel confident enough to submit a proposal.</p>
Impact of training	<p>The German ALMA Community Days, which are adjusted each year to cater to the changing needs of the local community, have always been well attended, especially by students and postdocs, and our continued effort in training the local community shows results: In the latest proposal cycle, German PIs had an excellent success rate of ~45% and one of the two accepted large programmes is led by a German PI.</p> <p>Very few scientists in Switzerland currently use radio/mm/submm facilities or submit radio astronomical proposals, e.g. for ALMA observing time. The planned Swiss Community Day will educate about 30 scientists, many of them PhD students or postdocs, about radio/mm/submm astronomy, interferometry, and ALMA. Astronomers from all major Swiss astronomy and space science departments have registered their interest in such a training event. With them as ambassadors, the knowledge about ALMA and radio astronomy will be spread in all major Swiss institutes. The hands-on tutorial on the ALMA observing tool will enable them to write and submit their own proposal in time for the next ALMA deadline if they wish - and they will know where to get help if needed - and show them how ALMA can contribute to answering important research questions in their field. The people who have already declared interest in an ALMA tutorial come from a large variety of research fields: cosmology and extragalactic science, protoplanetary disks, astrochemistry, cometary science, solar physics, solar system science, and exoplanetary science. This event can help to increase the number of potential ALMA users from all the different Swiss institutes and from a variety of research topics, in particular also from solar system sciences.</p>
Accessibility	<p>Registration to the Community Days will be open to all interested astronomers regardless of affiliation, nationality or professional level. It is expected that the Swiss event will attract in particular astronomers from Switzerland (and southern Germany). The events will be advertised throughout the catchment area of the German ARC node and in particular at all Swiss astronomy and space science departments. Holding the Community Day at two different strategically selected locations (Bonn and Bern) minimizes travel costs and thus lowers the barrier of attending such an event for a large fraction of the German and Swiss communities.</p> <p>With the presentations being held in large lecture halls at the respective university institutes, we do not expect any space limitations for this part of the Community Days. The workshop places, however, must be limited in order to ensure a reasonable ratio between tutors and participants. They will be assigned on a "first come, first served" basis and participants can register for only one place at either Bonn or Bern. If the limit of 30 places is reached at an event location, a waiting list will be opened and we will look into ways to increase the number of available places.</p>
Ethics	<p>Of the 27 people who have already declared interest in an ALMA workshop in Switzerland, 13 are female. They come from all major universities in Switzerland with an astronomy or space science department (Univ. Geneva, EPFL Lausanne, Univ. Bern, FHNW Brugg-Windisch, Univ. Zurich, and ETH Zurich). Bern can be reached by train within 1-2 hours from all those institutes. While affiliated with Swiss institutes, only a few of them are Swiss nationals. Most if not almost all of the people who are interested in participating have never participated in an ALMA workshop or tutorial before, either because they do not know how to use ALMA for their science, or because they could not afford the travel to any of the ARC nodes. Concerning the selection of lecturers and tutors, diversity considerations will be taken into account as for all outreach events of the German ARC node.</p>