

RadioNet support for scientific events

Application form

EVENT INFORMATION	
TITLE	YERAC 2018
PLACE	JIVE/ASTRON Headquarters, Dwingeloo (The Netherlands)
ORGANISER'S INSTITUTE NAME	JOINT INSTITUTE FOR VLBI ERIC (JIV-ERIC) – Contact Dr. Ilse van Bemmel ASTRON
DATE	4-5-6 September 2018
NO. OF PARTICIPANTS	Estimated number around 40
TOTAL EVENT COST	Estimated costs 17.000 Euro
RADIONET SUPPORT	14.500 Euro
OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING	Requested to JIVE, ASTRON and LKBF
REQUEST	
(max. 2 pages)	
Short abstract of the event	The Young European Radio Astronomers Conference (YERAC) is addressed to (35-45) early career researchers, which comprises mostly doctoral students, in some cases postdocs or master students. The scientific programme constitutes of contributed talks by all participants. Early career researchers are involved in all aspects of the event. There will be talks by invited speakers on science topics relevant to the host institutes, including the NOVA optical lab, and on alternate career tracks (e.g. engineering, software development, big-data analysis). The programme will include several informal scientific and social events.
Relevance for RadioNet	<p>The YERAC is an event which lies at the crossroads between science training, enhancing global relations within the European VLBI Network partners, and building new scientific collaborations. It provides young researchers with an opportunity to present their work to a broad international audience, often for the first time in their career. At the same time, the participants are exposed to a broad scientific programme, covering topics from all aspects of radio astronomy.</p> <p>Early career researchers can experience all aspects of attending and organising the meeting, such as chairing sessions, being invited speakers, and being a member of the LOC. With the programme leaving sufficient room for informal interactions, the YERAC is an ideal event to forge ties with other junior researchers, often leading to decades long collaborations. As part of the scientific programme a visit to the LOFAR core and/or Westerbork site is planned, as well as a meet-and-greet with astronomers and engineers in JIVE, ASTRON and NOVA.</p> <p>By tradition, the participants come from the main radio astronomical institutes in Europe, while participants from EVN affiliated institutes and other regions (e.g. Africa) are also welcome.</p>

Impact on RadioNet	<p>YERAC has been held annually in different radio astronomical centres in Europe since 1968 and has enabled many graduate students and young post-docs doing radio astronomical research to meet and present their current work. For a history of YERAC, see http://www.yerac.org/.</p> <p>YERAC covers all aspects of radio astronomy, using single dishes, interferometers, and also models or theoretical work. YERAC is especially valuable in forging pan-European links between early career astronomers, and can strengthen development of radio astronomy in countries with an emerging research population, such as several countries in Africa.</p> <p>Including the optical experts from the NOVA laboratories will give a unique angle to this year's YERAC, by highlighting the latest developments and potentials of combining science in radio and optical astronomy.</p> <p>The organization of the YERAC is a deliverable in RadioNet (WP2.1) and the financial support to this event is mandatory.</p>
Use of the RadioNet contribution	<p>Traditionally the cost of the organization of YERAC are covered by the host institutes. The requested RadioNet contribution will be used to cover the accommodation, local transportation and all subsistence of the participants, in accordance with the RadioNet funding principles. Lacking cheap accommodation in area, the lodging for the participants significantly drives the requested RadioNet support. Travel costs to the institute/hotel are expected to be paid by the participant's affiliated institutes, though a shuttle service will be organised at times when most participants arrive or depart. Additional funding is requested from JIVE, ASTRON and the LKBF.</p>
Ethics	<p>The participants in YERAC are traditionally nominated by the Directors of their own institutes, so diversity in every aspect is not entirely in the hands of the Local Organizing Committee. Nevertheless, attention to diversity, e.g. the gender balance, age, and ethnic origin, will be encouraged in the announcement of the conference. This will be distributed in due time to all eligible institutes in Europe and abroad, so students will have equal opportunities regardless of their personal background and origin.</p>