

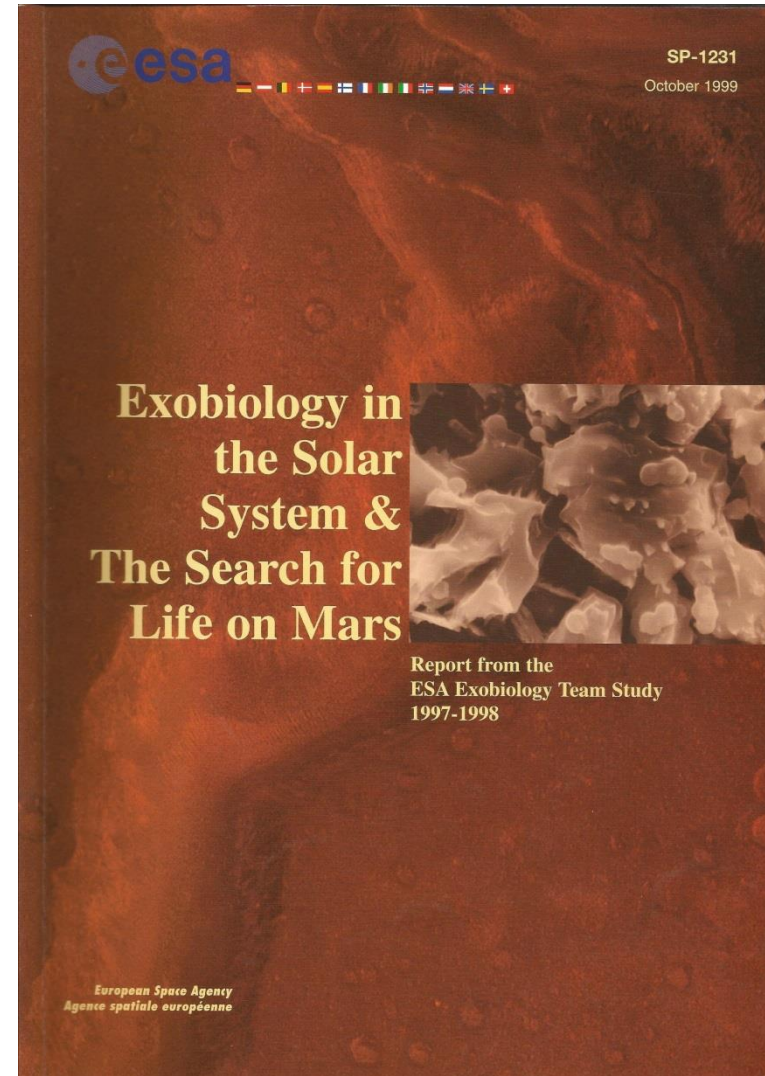
Presented by Gerda Horneck

Exobiology in the Solar System & The Search for Life on Mars, Report of the ESA Exobiology Team Study ESA SP 1231, 1999 (Team leader: André Brack)

Recommended research activities:

- Search for extant and extinct life (Mars, Europa, Titan, Martian meteorites)
- Study the precursors of life (comets, meteorites and micrometeorites)
- Organic chemistry processes and microorganisms in space (experiments on a space station)
- Laboratory-based studies (simulation of planetary environments, basic research)

This study has essentially influenced the development of **ESA's Aurora Program** and the Flagship mission **ExoMars**, with launches in 2016 and 2018



1. Directorate of Human Spaceflight and Operations (DHSO): EXPOSE-missions
2. Directorate of Space Sciences and Exploration (DSE): ExoMars (2016/2018)

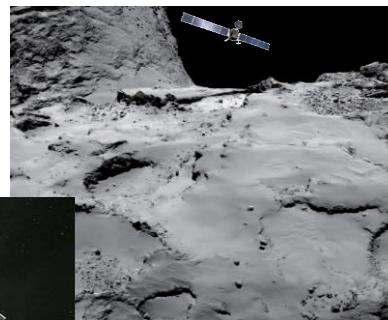
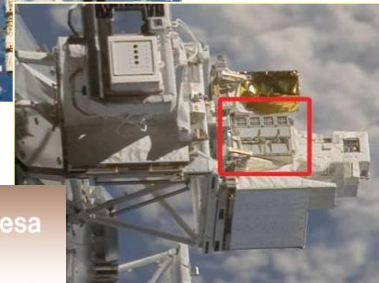
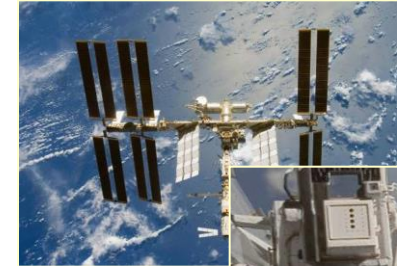
other science missions, not called “astrobiology”:
Rosetta (2004)

JUICE (2028)

Herschel (2009)

Cheops (2017)

PLATO 2.0 (2024)



Instruments and data analyses are provided by national space agencies

Cosmic Vision, Space Science for Europe 2015-2025 Directorate of Human Spaceflight and Operations (DHSO) Issued 2005

First theme is strongly related to astrobiology, although
“astrobiology” is not mentioned:

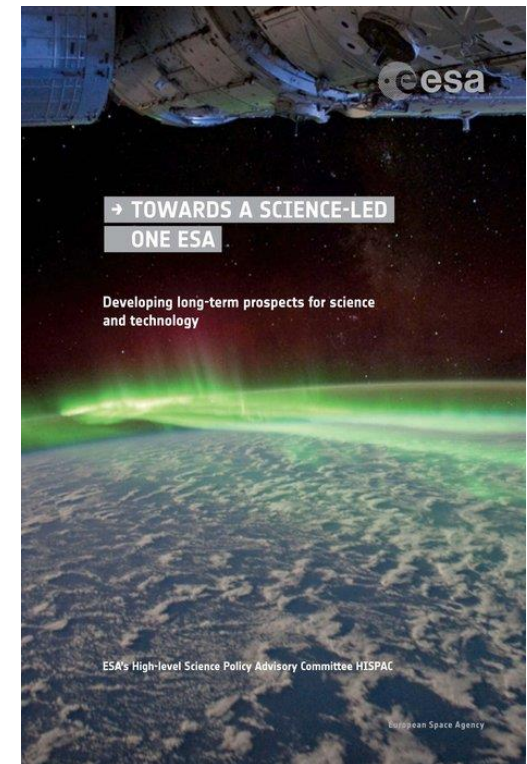
“What are the **conditions for planet formation
and the emergence of life?**” with the topics:

- From gas and dust to stars and planets.
- From **exo-planets to biomarkers**. Search for planets around stars other than the Sun, looking for biomarkers in their atmospheres, and image them.
- **Life and habitability in the Solar System**. Explore in situ the surface and subsurface of the solid bodies in the Solar System most likely to host – or have hosted – life. Explore the environmental conditions that make life possible.



ESA High-level Science Policy Committee (HISPAC)
set up by ESA Director General in 2007
to address the issue of
promoting and advising
on the creation of a Science-led One ESA.

Life in the Universe and **Astrobiology**
were laid down as one of the
four grand Science Themes for ESA
in the 2013 HISPAC report
Towards a Science-led One ESA (ESA BR-315)





HORIZON 2020

The EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation

European Commission > Horizon 2020

- **Horizon 2020 addresses all aspects of space science and technology development for the period 2014-2020**
- Horizon 2020 is structured around bi-annual work programs and annual calls
- Most Horizon 2020 space-related call topics are targeted towards developing appropriate space technologies and services, and fostering European industry competitiveness
- Total budget: 1.4 B€ , of which 5 % targets “space sciences”
- First call for space sciences in 2014 (4 M€): Mars data evaluation and the definition of a European sample curation facility (<http://www.euro-cares.com/>)
- Second call for space sciences in 2015: (1.5 M€) Scientific exploitation of astrophysics, comets, and planetary data; (1 M€) addressing international cooperation in the context of planetary protection

European Astrobiology Landscape

European Astrobiology Network Association



**19 European countries,
~200 individual members.
Plus association/affiliation
with organizations in
Brazil, China, Japan,
Mexico, USA**

Highlight activities:

- Annual Workshops
- Publications
- On-line teaching
- Road-mapping

<http://eana-net.eu>

European Astrobiology Landscape European Astrobiology Network Association



EUROPEAN ASTROBIOLOGY NETWORK ASSOCIATION
27 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2016, EUGENIDES FOUNDATION

AstRoMap

Astrobiology Road Mapping for Europe

AstRoMap Team:

F. Gomez, Centro de Astrobiologica (INTA-CSIC), Madrid, Spain (coordination)

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C. Muller, B-USOC, Brussels, Belgium

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P. Rettberg, DLR, Köln, Germany

www.astromap.eu



AstRoMap

Astrobiology Road Mapping for Europe

In the context of **AstRoMap**
astrobiology is understood as
'the study of the origin, evolution, and distribution of life
in the context of cosmic evolution;
including habitability in the Solar System and beyond'

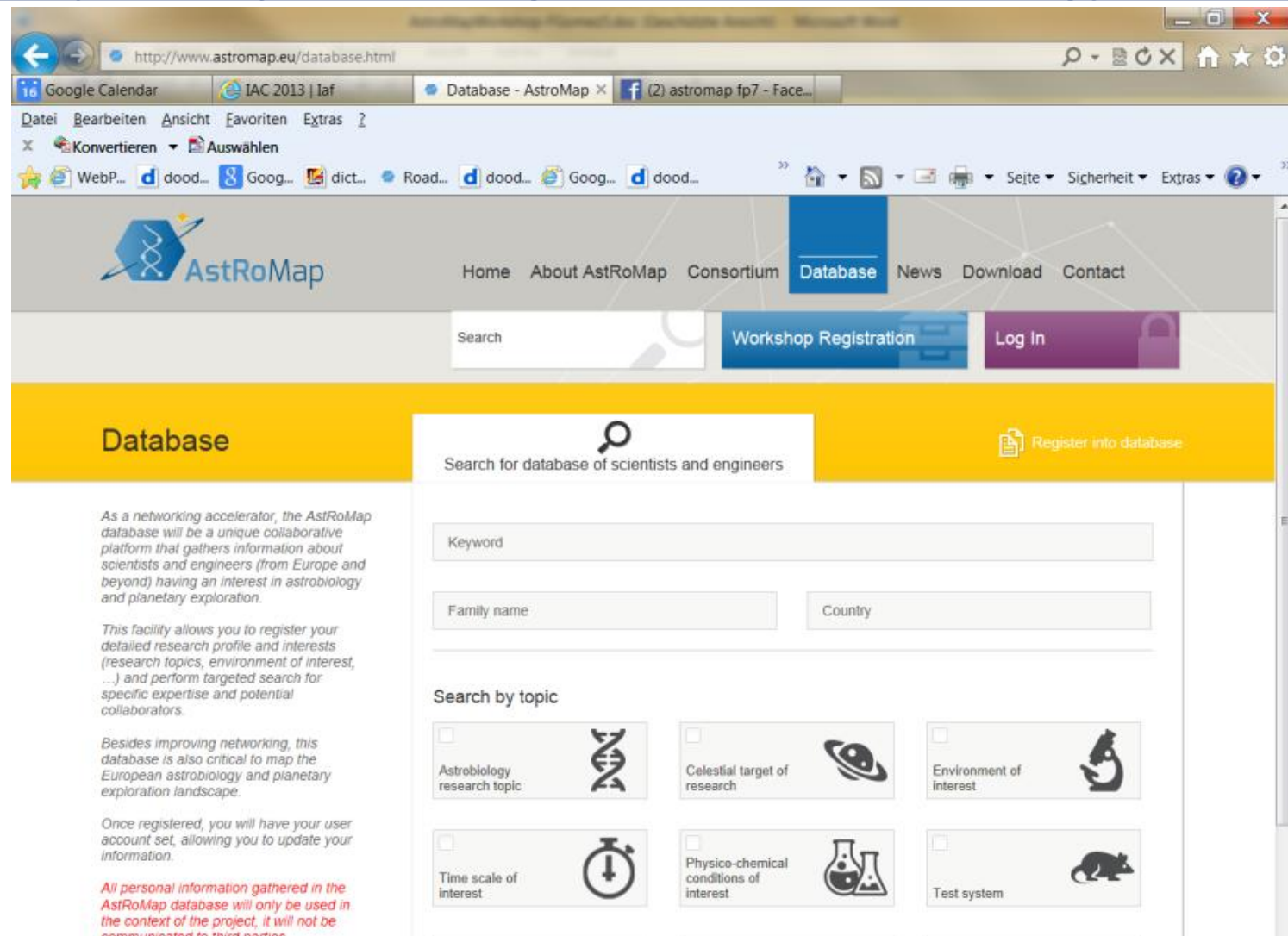
www.astromap.eu



Main objectives

- **Map** scientific knowledge related to astrobiology in Europe
- **Identify the main astrobiology issues** to be addressed by Europe in the next decades in relation with space exploration
- Identify **potential mission concepts** that would allow addressing these issues
- Identify the **technology developments** required to enable these missions
- **Provide a prioritised roadmap** integrating science and technology activities as well as ground based approach

Map scientific knowledge related to astrobiology in Europe



The screenshot shows the AstRoMap database website. The browser window displays the URL <http://www.astromap.eu/database.html>. The website has a navigation bar with links: Home, About AstRoMap, Consortium, Database (highlighted), News, Download, and Contact. Below the navigation bar is a search bar and buttons for 'Workshop Registration' and 'Log In'. The main content area is titled 'Database' and contains a search form for scientists and engineers. The search form includes a 'Keyword' field, 'Family name' and 'Country' dropdowns, and a 'Search by topic' section with six checkboxes and icons: Astrobiology research topic (DNA helix), Celestial target of research (planet), Environment of interest (microscope), Time scale of interest (clock), Physico-chemical conditions of interest (flasks), and Test system (mouse).

Database

Search for database of scientists and engineers

Register into database

Keyword

Family name Country

Search by topic

☐ Astrobiology research topic

☐ Celestial target of research

☐ Environment of interest

☐ Time scale of interest

☐ Physico-chemical conditions of interest

☐ Test system

As a networking accelerator, the AstRoMap database will be a unique collaborative platform that gathers information about scientists and engineers (from Europe and beyond) having an interest in astrobiology and planetary exploration.

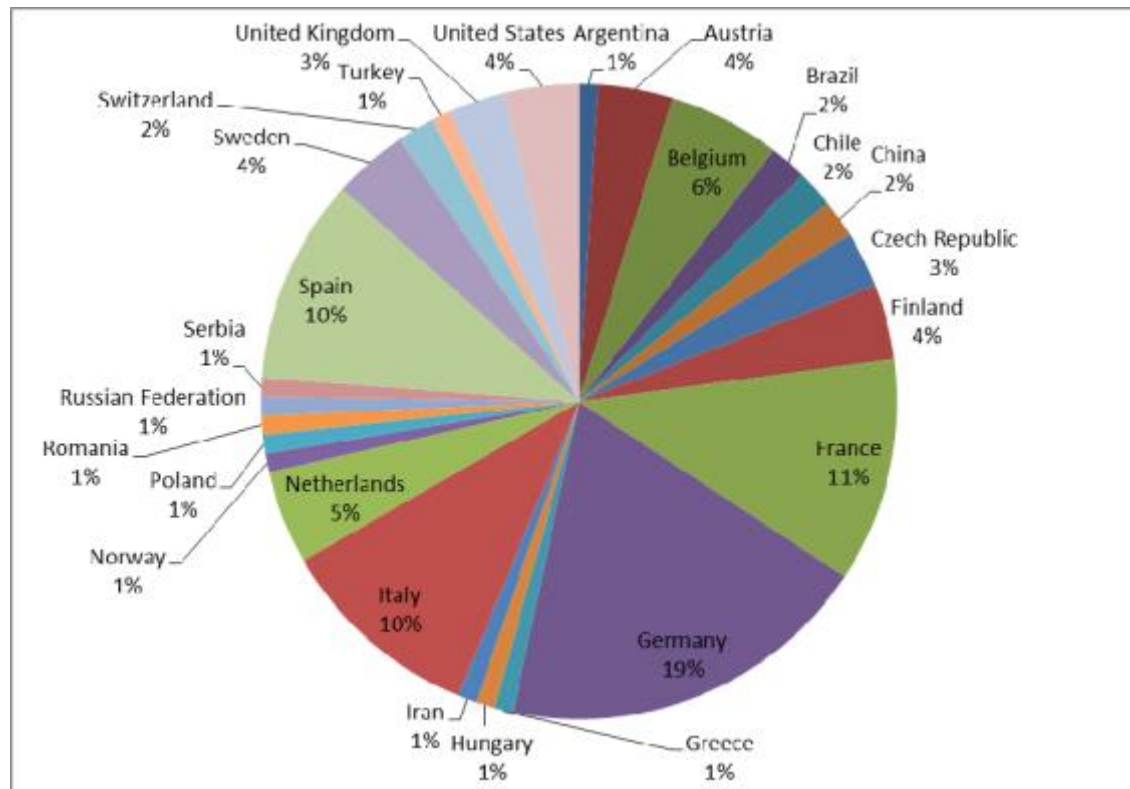
This facility allows you to register your detailed research profile and interests (research topics, environment of interest, ...) and perform targeted search for specific expertise and potential collaborators.

Besides improving networking, this database is also critical to map the European astrobiology and planetary exploration landscape.

Once registered, you will have your user account set, allowing you to update your information.

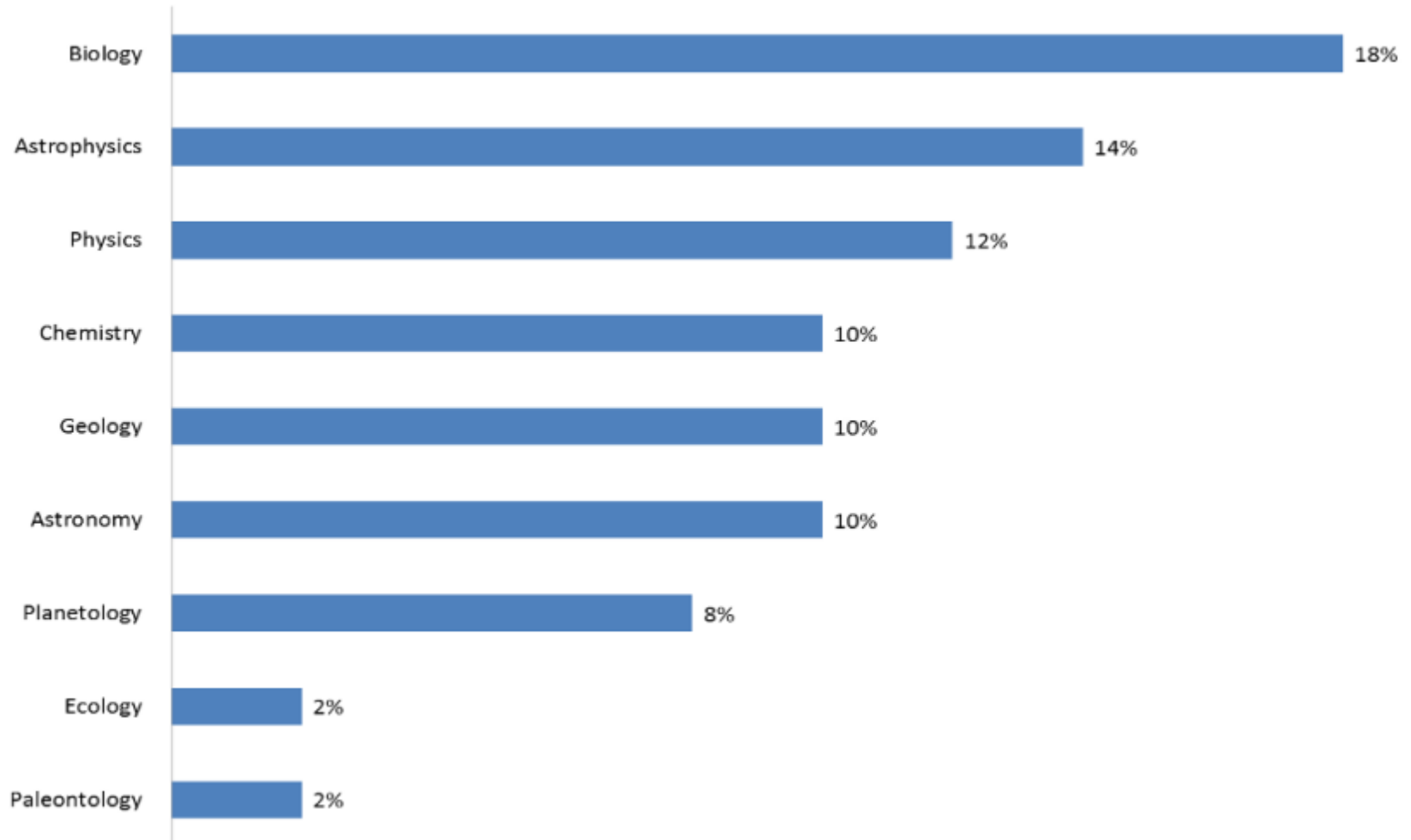
All personal information gathered in the AstRoMap database will only be used in the context of the project, it will not be communicated to third parties.

Geographical distribution



As of November 22, 2013, the AstRoMap database included the profiles of 105 European and international scientists

Scientific background





Résumé

- The astrobiology community in Europe is widely spread over all nations of the European Union and beyond
- The astrobiology community in Europe is multidisciplinary with a wide spectrum of scientific backgrounds.
- This multidisciplinary field of astrobiology is not sufficiently supported – if at all – by national or European governmental organizations.

Provide a prioritised roadmap integrating science and technology activities as well as ground based approach

- **Four topical workshops organized in 2013-2014**
(More than 50 participants)
 - Origin of Solar System, the astrobiology point of view
 - Origin of organic compounds, steps to life
 - What are the physico-chemical boundary conditions for habitability?
 - What bio-signatures facilitate life detection?
- **Each expert workshops was supported by a community consultation**
- **Two integrating workshops organized in 2014-2015 to substantiate and finalize the AstRoMap roadmap**
(12 experts in the roadmap panel)

AstRoMap Report

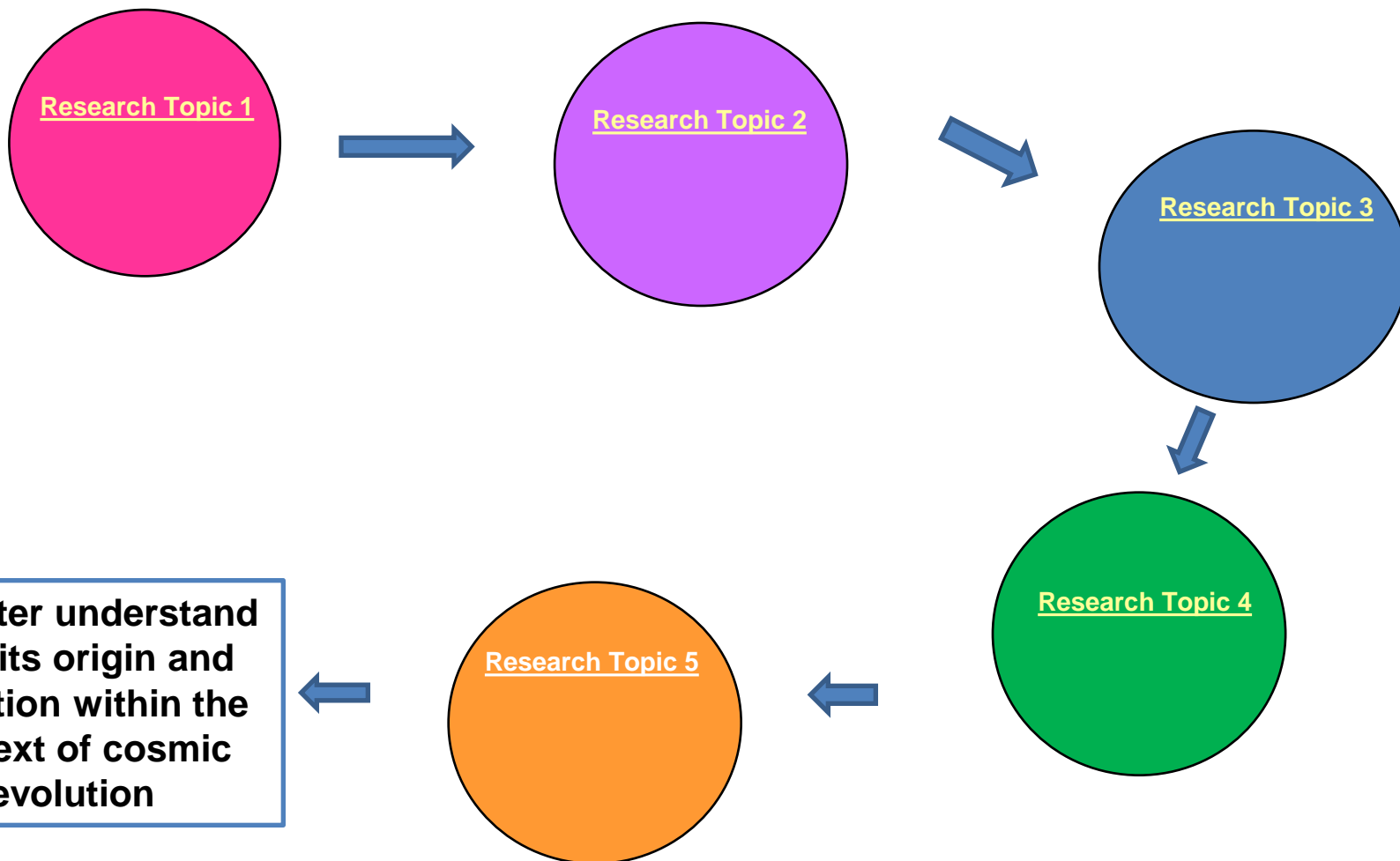
Coauthors:

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Astrobiology, 16 (3) 201-243 (Special Issue)

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Life as a cosmic imperative

" Life emerges at a certain stage of either cosmic or planetary evolution, if the right environmental physical and chemical requirements are provided "

Christian De Duve, 1996



*Christian De Duve (1917-2013)
Nobel Prize (1974) for his work
on the structure and function of
organelles in biological cells*



ASTROMAP ROADMAP

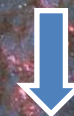
Research Topic 1
Origin and Evolution
of Planetary Systems



Research Topic 2
Origins of Organic
Compounds in
Space



Research Topic 3
Rock-Water-Carbon
Interactions, Organic
Synthesis on Earth,
and Steps to Life



Research Topic 4
Life and
Habitability



Research Topic 5
Biosignatures as
Facilitating Life
Detection



Towards a better
understanding of Life,
its origin and evolution
within the context of
cosmic evolution

Key Objective 1

To assess the elemental and chemical picture of protoplanetary stellar disks

Key Objective 2

To better understand our Solar System: Planet formation, dynamical evolution and water/organics delivery to the Earth and to the other planets/satellites

Research Topic 1

Origin and Evolution of Planetary Systems

Key Objective 3

To better understand the diversity of exoplanetary systems and the development of habitable environments

Key Objective 1 To assess the elemental and chemical picture of protoplanetary stellar disks

Subobjective 1. To understand the metallicity of stars

Subobjective 2. To improve chemical models of protoplanetary disc formation and evolution

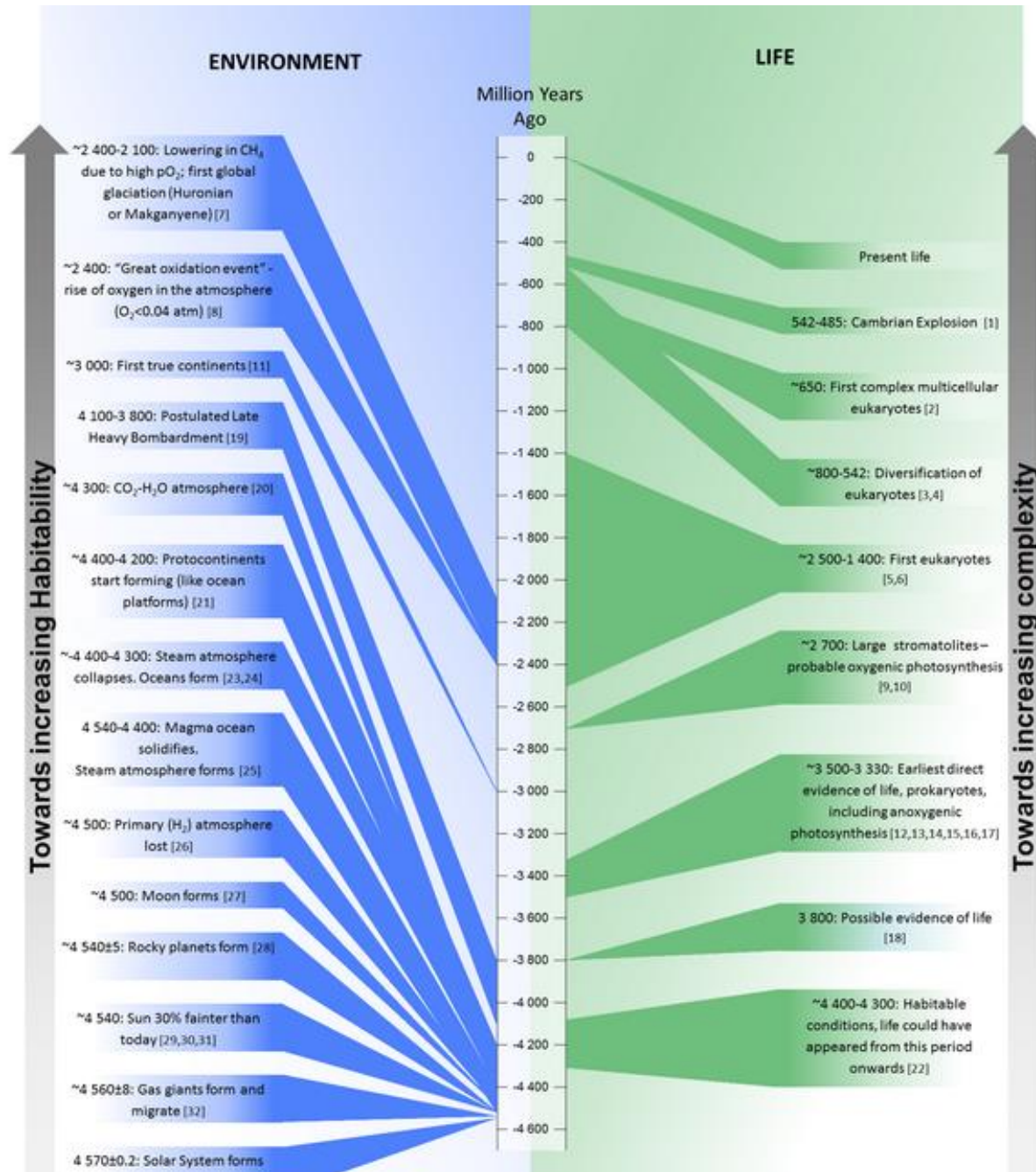
Sub-objective 3. To improve our understanding of the evolution of circumstellar discs, in relation to their host stars

Sub-objective 4. To determine the chemical history of key molecules (such as water, oxygen) in the evolution from molecular clouds to star-planet(s) system

Sub-objective 5. To interconnect chemistry with disc hydrodynamics and structure

Key Objective 2 To better understand our Solar System: Planet formation, dynamical evolution and water/organics delivery to the Earth and to the other planets/satellites

- Sub-objective 1. To better understand the transition from planetesimals to planets and satellites (end to end)*
- Sub-objective 2. To better understand the dynamical evolution of the “young” Solar System*
- Sub-objective 3. To improve models on conditions for survival and/or generation of essential molecules during impacts*
- Sub-objective 4. To identify dynamical processes that can redistribute essential material throughout a system*
- Sub-objective 5. To better understand the effects of post-formation bombardment episodes on Earth and other planetary bodies generally assumed to have been important for the development of life*
- Sub-objective 6. To better define the timeline of the formation of the Solar System and water/organic delivery on Earth*
- Sub-objective 7. To interpret the temporal link between Solar System evolution and the rise of life on Earth*



Research Topic 1
Origin and Evolution of Planetary Systems

To interpret the temporal link between Solar System evolution and the rise of life on Earth

Key Objective 3 To better understand the diversity of exoplanetary systems and the development of habitable environments

Sub-objective 1. To better understand the dynamical mechanisms that lead to the observed diversity of exoplanet architecture, and assess how they affect habitability

Sub-objective 2. To identify biomarkers and promising methods of detection

Sub-objective 3. To find out how the study of exoplanets can help to fill the gaps in our understanding of the formation of our own Solar System

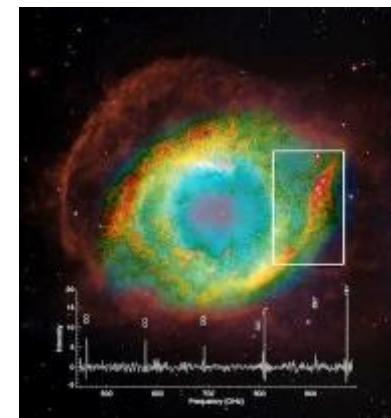
Observations with telescopes



From ground: ALMA (ESO)
(Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array)
since 2011



From space:
Herschel (ESA) at L2 point
(Infrared-Telescope:
from far-IR to submillimeter
wavelengths) Launch 2009



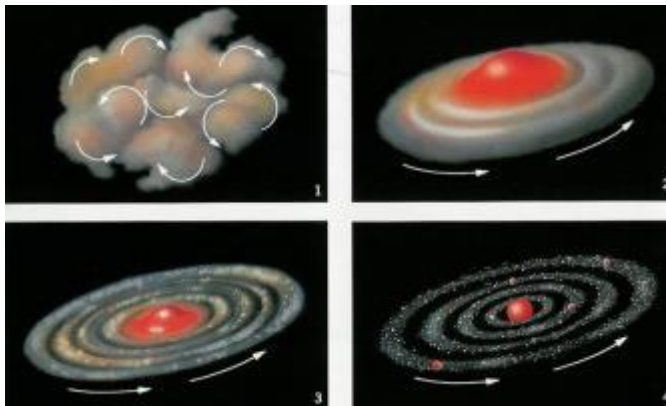
*Detection of OH⁺ as
precursor of water in
dying stars*

Laboratory experiments



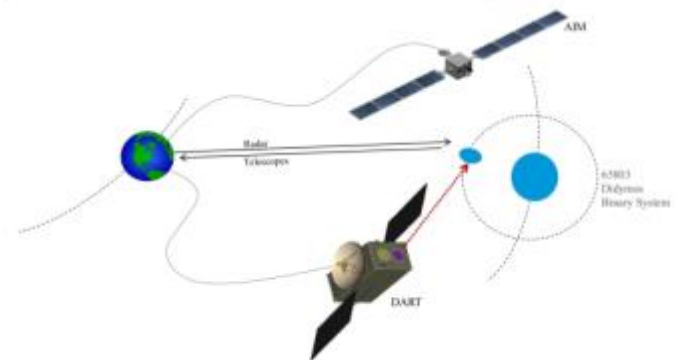
Hypervelocity -Impacts
(light gas gun (LGG) University Kent (UK))

Modelling



Credit: Monica Grady

Exploring the beginning of our Solar System



Asteroid Impact Mission (AIM) (ESA)
Launch 2020



AstRoMap Roadmap

Research Topic 1
Origin and
Evolution
of Planetary
Systems

KO 1: To assess the elemental & chemical picture of protoplanetary stellar discs

Observations from ground

ALMA, NOEMA, E-ELT

PSN, complex molecules PSN, complex molecules

Observations from space

Herschel

JWST, PLATO2.0

Spectra, Model validation

PSN

Modelling

3D disc modelling

KO 2: To better understand our Solar System: Planet formation, dynamical evolution and water/organics delivery to the Earth and to the other planets/satellites

Laboratory studies

Impact research facility (e.g. EMI, U Kent)

Impact studies: Generation/survival of organics

Space missions

AIM/AIDA

Sample return & sample curation facility

Asteroid impact Asteroid, comet, main belt transition objects

Modelling

Robust theory of Solar System formation, Advanced formation models

Timeline, Origin of water/organics on Earth

KO3: To better understand diversity of exoplanetary systems & habitable environments development

Space missions

JWST, CHEOPS, PLATO 2.0,

Specification of exoplanets, Candidate list of habitable exoplanets

Modelling

Planet formation in diverse stellar environments

Diversity of exosystems

Year

2015

2025

2035

Key Objective 1

To promote our understanding of the diversity and the complexity of abiotic organics

Key Objective 2

To better understand the molecular evolution of abiotic organics present in Solar System objects, including the early Earth, under the combined role of several physical agents

Research Topic 2

Origins of Organic Compounds in Space

Key Objective 3

To understand the role of spontaneous inorganic (organic) self-organisation processes in molecular evolution

Key Objective 1 . To promote our understanding of the diversity and the complexity of abiotic organics

Subobjective 1 . To study the mechanisms for the formation of organics and their evolution under space conditions

Subobjective 2 . To better understand the role of catalysts in the formation processes of organics

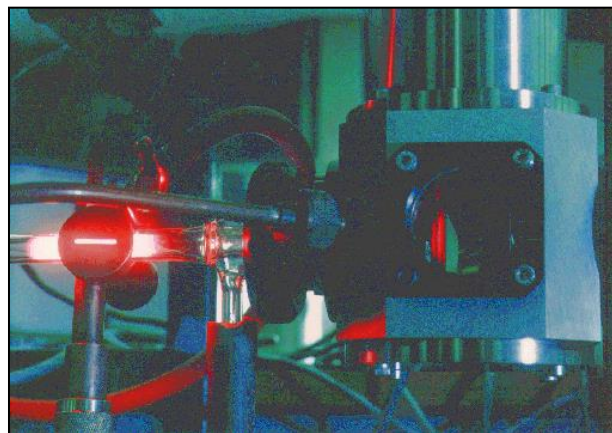
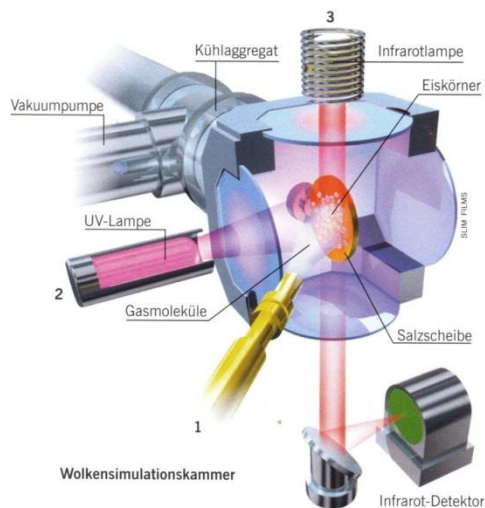
Key Objective 2 . To better understand the molecular evolution of abiotic organics present in Solar System objects, including early Earth, under the combined role of physical agents such as thermal variations, high energy particles, photons, and solar wind irradiation

Key Objective 3 . To understand the role of spontaneous inorganic (organic) self-organization processes in molecular evolution

Sub-objective 1 . To identify and structurally characterize novel spontaneous self-organized inorganic and organic systems

Sub-objective 2 . To determine the mechanism of spontaneous self-organized systems and their role in the prebiotic synthesis of biomolecules

Laboratory experiments



Space simulation chamber (Leiden Observatory, NL)

Space experiments



Exposure- and experimentation facility in Earth orbit
(EXPOSE-E of ESA on ISS)

KO 1: To promote our understanding of the diversity and the complexity of abiotic organics

Laboratory studies

Space simulation facilities

Abiotic synthesis of organics

Inventory of molecules produced in space

Space missions

EXPOSE in LEO

Advanced EXPOSE

Lunar EXPOSE laboratory

Abiotic synthesis in space

Self-organisation, self-catalysis of organics in space

KO 2: To better understand the molecular evolution of abiotic organics present in Solar System objects including the early Earth, under the combined role of physical agents

Laboratory studies

Planetary simulation facilities

Interaction of organics with ices/silicates

Laboratory studies

Sample curation facility

Meteorites, interplanetary dust, samples from return mission

KO 3: To understand the role of spontaneous inorganic (organic) self-organisation processes in molecular evolution

Space laboratories

Active EXPOSE in LEO

Lunar EXPOSE laboratory

Self-organisation in space

Kinetics of self-organisation /self-catalysis

Modelling

Mechanisms of spontaneous inorganic/organic self-organisation processes

Year

2015

2025

2035

Key Objective 1

To better characterise and understand the dynamic redox interactions of rock, water and carbon in their geological context on planets and moons

Key Objective 2

To better characterise and understand transition metals as electron sources and as catalysts in geo-organic chemistry

Research Topic 3

Rock-Water-Carbon Interactions, Organic Synthesis on Earth, and Steps to Life

Key Objective 3

To better characterise and understand carbon reduction in modern serpentinising hydrothermal vents

Key Objective 4

To better characterise and understand hydrothermal modification of carbon delivered to Earth from space

Key Objective 5

To better understand the role of molecular self-organisation, higher-order organisation, cellular organisation in the origin of life

Excursions

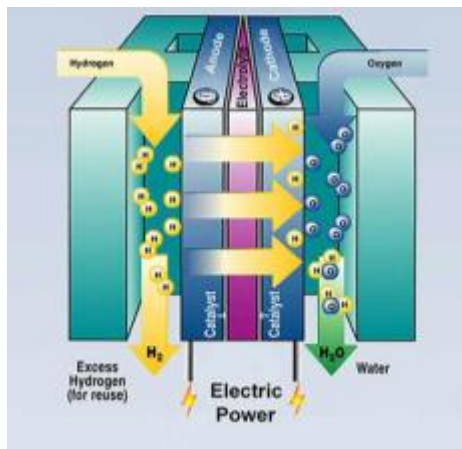


Black smoker
Water temperature up to 350°C



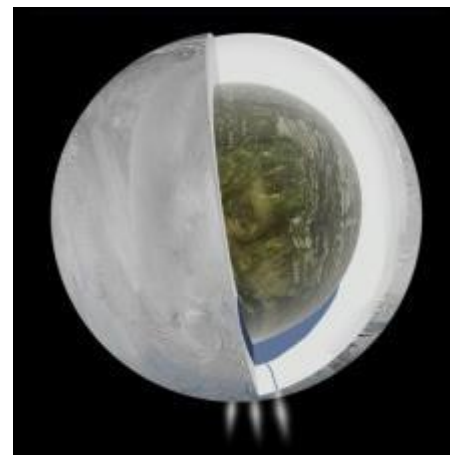
Lost city in Atlantik
Water temperature ~70°C

Laboratory experiments



Flow reactor

Space missions



Saturn's Moon Enceladus

KO 1: To better characterise and understand the dynamic redox – interactions of rock, water and carbon in their geological context

Laboratory studies

Vent simulation

Cont. flow reactor

Serpentinisation-dependent CO₂ reduction

Space missions

Enceladus fly-by

Enceladus *in situ* study

Study of extraterrestrial hydrothermal systems

KO 2: To better characterise and understand transition metals as electron sources and as catalysts in geo-organic chemistry

Laboratory studies

Vent simulation

Cont. flow reactor

Electron sources and catalysts on early Earth

KO 3: To better understand carbon reduction in modern serpentinising hydrothermal vents

Field studies

Serpentinisation sites (e.g Chimera, Lost city)

Serpentinisation-dependent CO₂ reduction

KO 4: To better understand hydrothermal modification of carbon delivered to Earth from space

Laboratory studies

Vent simulation / cont. Flow reactor

Processing of meteoritic carbon

KO 5: To better understand the role of molecular self-organisation, higher-order organisation, cellular organisation in the origin of life

Modelling

Autocatalytic networks / stochastic replicators

Bridging the gap between complex organic molecules and replicating cells

Year

2015

2025

2035

Key Objective 1

To expand our knowledge of the diversity, adaptability and boundary conditions of life on the Earth

Key Objective 2

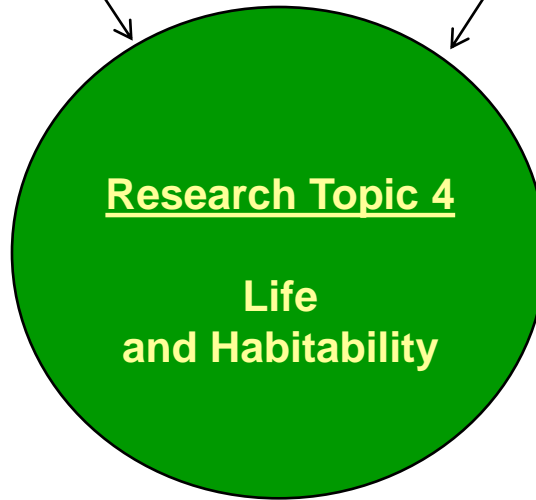
To expand our understanding of the general principles of life and habitability

Research Topic 4

Life
and Habitability

Key Objective 3

To assess the habitability of extra-terrestrial environments



Key Objective 1. To expand our knowledge of the diversity, adaptability, and boundary conditions of life on Earth

Subobjective 1. To explore the diversity of life on the Earth

Subobjective 2. To explore biological interactions and systems ecology

Key Objective 2. To expand our understanding of the general principles of life and habitability

Key Objective 3. To assess the habitability of extra-terrestrial environments

Sub-objective 1. To determine and investigate terrestrial analogues for putative extra-terrestrial habitats

Sub-objective 2. To determine the limits for growth and survival of life under simulated planetary conditions, in the laboratory and in space

Sub-objective 3. To explore the potential of synthetic biology for future exploratory mission

Sub-objective 4. To provide basic data for planetary protection efforts

Field campaigns



Southern-Viktoria Land,
Antarctica



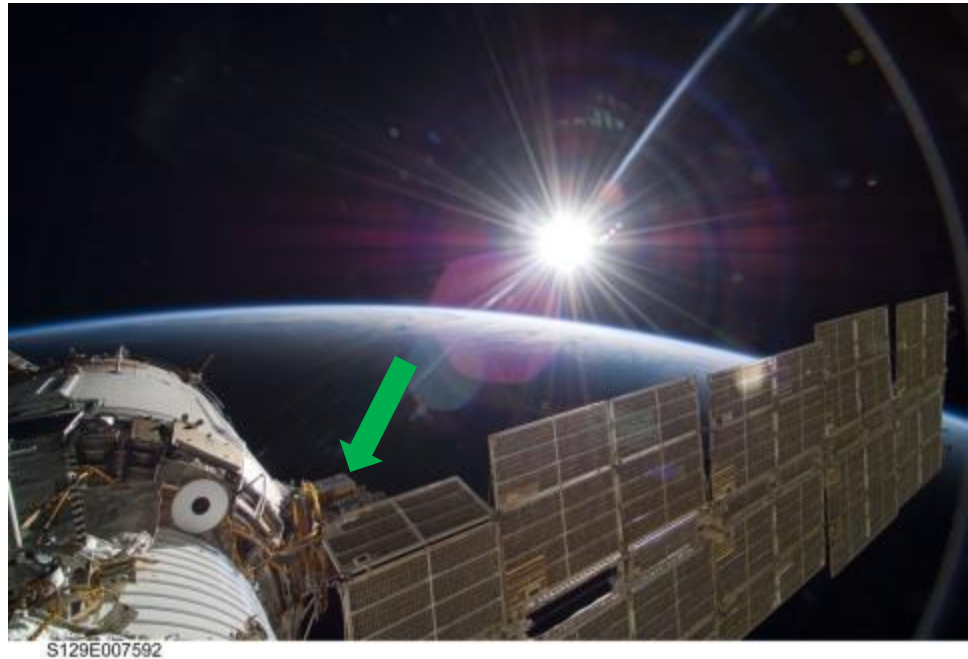
Mars-Analogue Sites: Rio Tinto, Spain

Laboratory experiments



Simulation-chamber for the environmental conditions of space or planets (e.g. Mars) (PSI at DLR, Köln)

Space experiments



EXPOSE-R on ISS

KO 1: To expand our knowledge of the diversity, adaptability and boundary conditions of life on the Earth

Field studies

Campaigns to extreme ecosystems

System ecology / Biotechnology applications

Laboratory studies

„omics“ approach of complex geo-biological systems

Deeper understanding of the boundary conditions of life

KO 2: To expand our understanding of the general principles of life and habitability

Laboratory studies

Synthetic biology

Evolution & adaptation to extreme environments

Modelling

Origin and evolution of cell-based life

KO 3: To assess the habitability of extra-terrestrial environments

Space laboratories

EXPOSE in LEO

EXPOSE on nanosatellites

Lunar EXPOSE laboratory

Lithopanspermia, planetary protection, habitability of planets or moons

Laboratory studies

Space and Planetary simulation facilities

Lithopanspermia, planetary protection, habitability

Field studies

Campaigns to Mars analogue sites

Putative habitable sites on Mars

Space missions

Sample return & sample curation facility

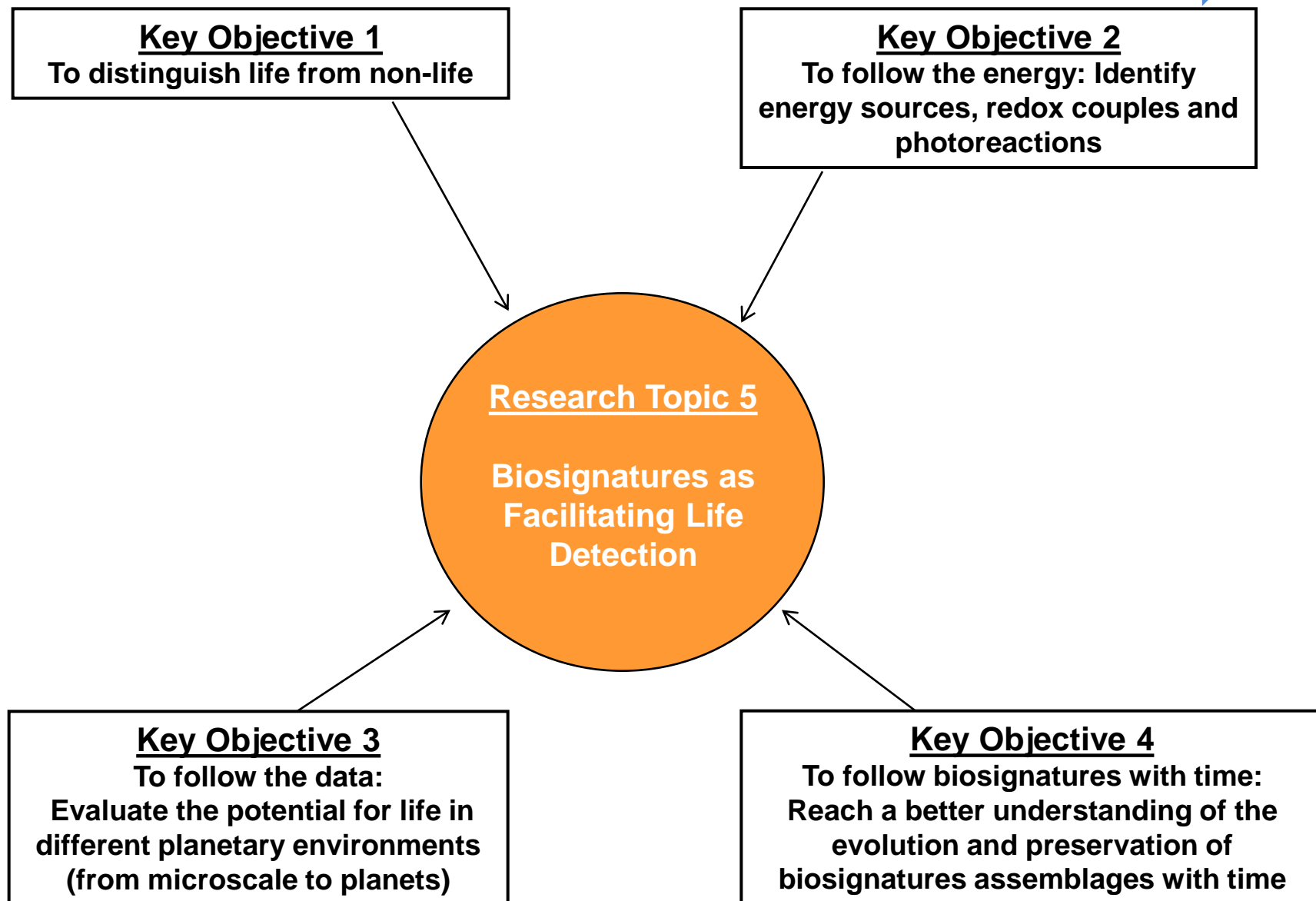
Mars, Europa, Enceladus

Year

2015

2025

2035



Key Objective 1 To distinguish life from non-life

Subobjective 1. Biological context

Subobjective 2. Environmental context

Sub-objective 3. In situ science

Key Objective 2. To follow the energy: Identify energy sources, redox couples, and photoreactions

Sub-objective 1. Geological and mineralogical context

Sub-objective 2. Atmosphere context

Key Objective 3. To follow the data: Evaluate the potential for life in different planetary environments (from microscale to planets)

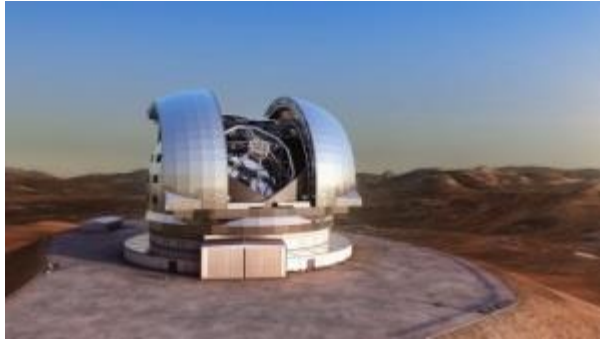
Sub-objective 1. Super-Earths – role of atmospheric composition

Sub-objective 2. Super-Earths orbiting cooler stars (M-dwarfs and K-dwarfs)

Sub-objective 3. Co-locate stratigraphy images with the spectral data

Key Objective 4. To follow biosignatures with time: Reach a better understanding of the evolution and preservation of biosignatures assemblages with time

Observations with telescopes



From ground:
E-ELT (ESO), Start 2024



From space:
PLATO 2.0 (ESA), Launch 2024

Space missions



ExoMars (ESA-Roscosmos)



JUICE (ESA)
Launch 2022

KO 1: To distinguish life from non-life

Advanced detection technologies

High resolution methods (remote & *in situ*)
Biosignature identification

Modelling

Signal / environment characterization
Characteristics of life vs. non-life signals

KO 2: To follow the energy: Identify energy sources, redox couples and photoreactions

Field & laboratory studies

Redox couples in terrestrial environments
List of ancient/modern metabolic redox couples

KO 3: To follow the data: Evaluate the potential for life in different planetary environments

Observations from space

CHEOPS, JWST, PLATO 2.0

Age of rocky planets in habitable zones

Observations from ground

E-ELT

Atmospheric biosignatures from exoplanets

Solar system missions

ExoMars, JUICE, icy moons: fly-bys, landers, sample returns, curation

KO 4: To follow biosignatures with time

Field studies

Biosignatures on Earth: variation through geological times

Laboratory studies

Effects of environment on preservation of biosignatures

Year

2015

2025

2035

Horneck et al., *Astrobiology*, 16 (3) 201-243 (Special Issue)

Goal
Towards a better
understanding of Life,
its origin and evolution
within the context
of cosmic evolution



Research Topic 1
Origin and Evolution
of Planetary Systems

Research Topic 2
Origins of Organic
Compounds
in Space

Research Topic 3
Rock-Water-Carbon
Interactions, Organic
Synthesis on Earth,
and Steps to Life

Research Topic 4
Life and Habitability

Research Topic 5
Biosignatures as
Facilitating Life
Detection

AstRoMap Recommendations

- The AstRoMap Roadmap **should be adopted by the EU as challenge to enhance Europe's standing as an attractive partner** for international partnerships in space science and exploration.
- **The AstRoMap Roadmap should be realised** by supporting cross-disciplinary research groups along its five Research Topics
- This requires the **establishment of a pan-European astrobiology coordination platform or European virtual astrobiology institute** under the auspices of the EU, ESA or ESF.

AstRoMap Expectations

The AstRoMap Roadmap team is open for discussions with European and non-European organisations devoted to astrobiology

e.g. **NASA and its Astrobiology Strategy**

in order to foster international cooperation in this interdisciplinary field of astrobiology.

- Participants of the AstRoMap Topical Workshops – more than 50 experts:

Workshop on "Origin of organic compounds, steps to life "

- Cosmovici Cristiano (I); Danger Grégoire (F); Fox Stefan (D); Grenfell John-Lee (D); Guillemin Jean-Claude (F); Kee Terence P. (UK); Letho Harry (FIN); Letho Kirsi (FIN); Mason Nigel (UK); Ruiz-Mirazo Kepa (ES); Saladino Raffaele (I); Strasdeit Henry (D); Zaprudin Boris (FIN)

Workshop on "What are the physico-chemical boundary conditions for habitability?"

- Billi Daniela (I); Cockel Charles (UK); de Vera Jean-Pierre (D); Lee Natuschka M. (D); Leuko Stefan (D); Ori Gian Gabriele (I); Parro Victor (ES); Pearce David (UK); Prieto-Ballesteros Olga (ES); Tian Feng (CN)

Workshop on "What bio-signatures facilitate life detection?"

- Barbieri Roberto (I) ; FoucherFrédéric (F); Gómez-Elvira, Javier (ES); Grenfell Lee (D); Lepot Kevin (F); Leuko Stefan (D); Parro Victor (ES); Rodríguez Manfredi Jose Antonio (ES); Rull Fernando (ES); Tian Feng (CN)

Workshop on "Origin of the solar system, the astrobiology point of view"

- Billi Daniela (I); Famini Enrico (I); Macke Robert J. (I); Palomba Ernesto (I); Saladino Raffaele (I); Strazzulla Giovanni (I); Tsiganis Kleomenes (GR); Turrini Diego (I)

Participants of the AstRoMap integrating workshops – 12 experts with support from the AstRoMap Team:

- Grenfell Lee, DLR, Berlin (D), Harrison Jesse, Uni Edinburgh (UK), Lee Natuschka, Uni München (D), Leuko Stefan, DLR, Köln (D), Martin William, Uni Duesseldorf (D), Onofri Silvano, Uni Tuscia, Viterbo (I), Palumba Ernesto, INAF, Rom (I), Pilat-Lohningen Elke, Uni Wien (A), Rull Fernando, Uni Valladolid (ES), Saladino Raffaele, Uni Tuscia, Viterbo (I), Tsiganis Kleomenis, Uni Thessaloniki, (GR), Westall Frances, CNRS, Orleans (F)

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