

## THE PROAM INCENTIVE MUTLI-YEAR ACTION

V. Robert<sup>1,2</sup>, C. Neiner<sup>3</sup> and F. Taris<sup>4</sup>

**Abstract.** The ProAm Incentive Mutli-Year Action (IMYA) of the Paris Observatory manages scientific actions in the framework of Professional-Amateurs collaborations. The goal is to promote collaborations between professional and amateur astronomers on any astronomical topic and with any technique. The 2024 budget of the ProAm IMYA is of 25.000 euros and covers travels of Paris Observatory members, short-term invitations of professional or amateur astronomers, work meetings, material and internships. We will present details and progress 3 years of activity of the Action. We will also open the discussion for ideas for the ProAm IMYA to continue.

Keywords: ProAm, Collaboration

### 1 Introduction

The ProAm Incentive Mutli-Year Action (IMYA) of the Paris Observatory manages scientific actions in the framework of Professional-Amateurs collaborations. The goal is to promote collaborations between professional and amateur astronomers on any astronomical topic and with any technique.

We had first discussions about a ProAm Action with the Paris Observatory in 2017, but we had to wait the Observatory actions reorganization in 2021 for the IMYA to be accepted. In this framework, we exposed the context, in particular the time pressure for the professional telescopes, the number of nights materially allocated, the delays between requests and observations, and the cost. We then exposed as a conclusion that numbers of professional projects need regular observations, a great responsiveness, and a particular spatial distribution for peculiar events. Thus, professional activities alone cannot meet the real needs anymore.

On a first hand, some astronomers already worked with amateurs for different scientific projects : the BeSS database, mutual phenomena campaigns, Lucky Star... but each one with specific non-professional teams without any communication or information sharing between them. On the other hand, other projects were developing and it would have been more efficient that they could benefit from an experience with amateurs and a better communication sharing or organization.

### 2 Activities of the ProAm Incentive Mutli-Year Action

The ProAm Incentive Mutli-Year Action (IMYA) of the Paris Observatory has been accepted in 2021 and is based on the statutory missions of the Observatory:

- Professional and non-professional astronomers are gathered for scientific projects.
- Professional astronomers contribute to the training of amateurs with missions, dedicated seminars and annual schools.

---

<sup>1</sup> IMCCE, Observatoire de Paris, PSL Research University, CNRS UMR 8028, Sorbonne Universités, UPMC, Univ. Lille 1, 77 avenue Denfert- Rochereau, 75014 Paris, France

<sup>2</sup> Institut Polytechnique des Sciences Avancées IPSA, 63 bis Boulevard de Brandebourg, 94200 Ivry-sur-Seine, France

<sup>3</sup> LESIA, Observatoire de Paris, PSL Research University, CNRS UMR 8109, Sorbonne Universités, Université de Paris, 5 place Jules Janssen, 92195 Meudon, France

<sup>4</sup> SYRTE, Observatoire de Paris, PSL Research University, CNRS UMR 8630, Sorbonne Universités, LNE, 61 avenue de l'Observatoire 75014 Paris, France

- Amateurs support the professional astronomers for their projects, allowing to share mutual results.

For its management, the IMYA had a budget for the 2022-2024 period. We speak of 75 k€ that have been allocated over the 3-year period through Calls. 15 projects have been funded to organize amateur and professional astronomers around scientific programs: 2SPOT (<https://2spot.org/FR/>), RAPAS in the framework of the Gaia mission (<https://gaiafunso.imcce.fr>), Vigie Ciel Fripon program (<https://www.vigie-ciel.org>)...

The desired effect was essentially structuring via a common synergy. First, we looked for a better communication in destination to the non-professional astronomers to increase the efficiency of current and future collaborations. Second, we worked to federate the different communities of amateurs around projects of the Observatory. Our final objective was to organize and give an official framework to ProAm collaborations within the Paris Observatory over 3 years, and then to see the terms of a “renewal” on a larger scale.

### 3 Propositions

We open the discussion for ideas for the ProAm IMYA using 4 propositions:

- (Collaborative) The IMYA is still developing a website dedicated to the Action, allowing to gather all information about collaborative OBSPM programs, their needs, their actors.
- (Technical) The IMYA created a unique diffusion list of all amateurs involved in proam collaborations, allowing new scientific programs to directly reach an existing and experienced community.
- Funding of collaborations with annual Call.
- Organization of biannual schools with working stations and/or annual workshops to train beginner observers and discuss proam projects.

The Paris Observatory has been the first one in France to consider the question and to allocate budgets. That being said, the Action is finishing and even we have faced a great interest from both the non-professional community and the professional astronomers, we look for different ways for our activities to continue. The key is that we need such an Action to organize and gather the communities, furthermore on a larger scale since we there only deal with OBSPM projects. New propositions will be published by the end of 2024 to maintain the activities of the Action.