Europlanet – Joining the European Planetary Research Information Service

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The "Europlanet Research Infrastructure - Europlanet RI", supported by the European Commission's Framework Program 7, aims at integrating major parts of the distributed European Planetary Research infrastructure with as diverse components as space exploration, ground-based observations, laboratory experiments and numerical model-ling teams. A central part of Europlanet RI is the "Integrated and Distributed Information Service" or Europlanet-IDIS which intends to provide easy Web-based access to information about scientists and teams working in related fields, observatories or laboratories with capabilities possibly beneficial to planetary research, modelling expertise useful for planetary science and observations from space-based, ground-based or laboratory measurements. As far as the type of data and their access methods allow, IDIS will provide Virtual Observatory (VO) like access to a variety of data from distributed sources and tools to compare and integrate this information to further data analysis and re-search.

IDIS itself is providing a platform for information and data sharing and for data mining. It is structured as a network of thematic nodes each concentrating on a sub-set of research areas in planetary sciences. But the most important elements of IDIS and the whole Europlanet RI are the single scientists, institutes, laboratories, observatories and mission project teams. Without them the whole effort would remain an empty shell. How can an interested individual or team join this activity and what are the benefits to be expected from the related effort? The poster gives detailed answers to these questions. Here some highlights:

1. Locate from the Europlanet web pages (addresses see below) the thematic node best related to the own field of expertise. This might be more than one.
2. Define which services you want to offer to the community: just the contact address, field of competence, off-line access to data on request or even on-line searchable access to data to be integrated into the VO features of IDIS? Any combination and many more alternatives are possible.
3. Contact the staff of the selected node(s) to go through the details
4. The node's expert team will evaluate the information to ensure that it is compliant with the minimum require-ments for Europlanet information providers like correct address, related field of competence, quality of data if any etc.
5. The new resource meta data (addresses, contents etc) will be added to the IDIS system including update of the search facilities
6. If data are offered for on-line access, the IDIS team will provide tools to generate a network-compatible generic interface. This one-time effort will make it possible to search the new data sets and combine them with related in-formation from other sources.

Benefits for the information provider:
- wide advertisement for the own resources and capabilities with increase in scientific references to the own activities and publications
- new co-operation possibilities with so far unknown teams. Team exchange might be financially supported by other segments of the Europlanet RI
- strong arguments for new funding applications

and many more aspects

List of contact web-sites:

Technical node for support and management aspects: http://www.europlanet-idis.fi/
Planetary Surfaces and Interiors node: http://europlanet.dlr.de/
Planetary Plasma node: http://europlanet-plasmanode.oeaw.ac.at/
Planetary Atmospheres node: http://idis.ipsl.jussieu.fr/
Virtual Observatory Paris Data Centre: http://vo.obspm.fr/
Small Bodies and Dust node: http://www.ifsi-roma.inaf.it/europlanet/