DIVISION C / COMMISSION 1 / WORKING GROUP
ASTRONOMY FOR EQUITY AND INCLUSION

CHAIR
Amelia Ortiz-Gil

VICE-CHAIR
Dominique Proust

TRIENNIAL REPORT 2015-2018

1. Main remarks in the 2015-2018 period

This WG on Astronomy for Equity, Inclusion and Diversity started in 2016. Since the beginning a large number of members and associated members have joined the WG, enriching it with their diverse expertise and backgrounds. New and exciting discussions and projects have arisen and will arise in the near future. It has also fostered new collaborations among the group members. All this activity was highlighted by the workshop Astronomy beyond the Common Senses that the WG organized in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, held in October 2016. It was a big success and we expect it is only the first of many to come. The WG website (http://sion.frm.utn.edu.ar/iau-inclusion/) is regularly updated with news and new contents thanks to the effort and dedication of Lina Canas (IAU OAO, Japan) and to Silvina Perez (ITeDA, Argentina). The WG is also present in social media (Facebook). Group members have produced new resources and activities which have been published on the WG website. We had discussions in the WG email list about activities and new resources coming from our members and from others, thus allowing for the exchange of information that is one of the main goals of the WG in order to build on previous experiences. The group hosted various discussions, for example, about the use of edible materials to talk about astronomy, new 3D resources that are becoming available and new documents with recommendations on how to improve the accessibility to astronomical data and resources. The WG helped in the elaboration of a selection of accessible activities for Astronomers without Borders (AWB) Global Astronomical Month (GAM) 2017. Each day of that month one of the activities was featured by the communications team of AWB. Several members of the WG are helping with the OAO Astronomy Translation Network project. The group is also assisting in the creation of the interactive exhibition for the next IAU General Assembly in Vienna, Inspiring Stars, with accessible and inclusive resources. We have been making good progress with the project of the astronomy sign language dictionary. The translations into Spanish and English of the original French dictionary by Dominique Proust et al. are already available at the WG website. Work is being done on a compilation of signs from many other languages, and a first list of 47 terms has also been published, as well as announced in an IAU press release. There is also an on-going collaboration with the AAS WAGD, in particular the elaboration of a document regarding journal accessibility. We consider that the triennium 2015-2018 has been very productive for this WG, particularly as it was newly created. Now it is a consolidated WG and we expect to be able to keep working in Astronomy for equity and inclusion during the next three years.

Amelia Ortiz-Gil