



AstroFlt

Astronomy Fellowship in Italy

FP-7 *Grant Agreement n. 267251*

G. Micela
Scientific Coordinator



INAF co-funded programme to promote the international mobility of young astronomers (at post-doc level) in the field of Astrophysics

- Two actions:
 - Incoming Mobility – for non-resident in Italy
 - Re-integration – for italian having worked in a third country for at least 3 years



- A total duration of 48 months starting from Nov 1st 2011
- Two calls for seven 2-year fellowships each (November 2011 – October 2012)
- the first fellowships started Dec. 1st 2012
- Today all the 14 fellowships are started

- A Board: supervision of the correct implementation of the program
 - *P. Malaguti, (delegated by INAF Scientific Director)*
 - *C. Guccione (administrative expert)*
 - *G. Micela (scientific coordinator)*
 - *F. Palla (scientific expert)*
- INAF International Relation office: Financial and Administrative management
 - *A. Scaffidi (responsible)*
 - *C. Guccione*
 - *G. Maracchia*
- Scientific supervision
 - *Individual local supervisor – One for each fellow*



The fellow can freely choose the subject of her/him Project and the INAF research host

The projects fit with INAF research activities:

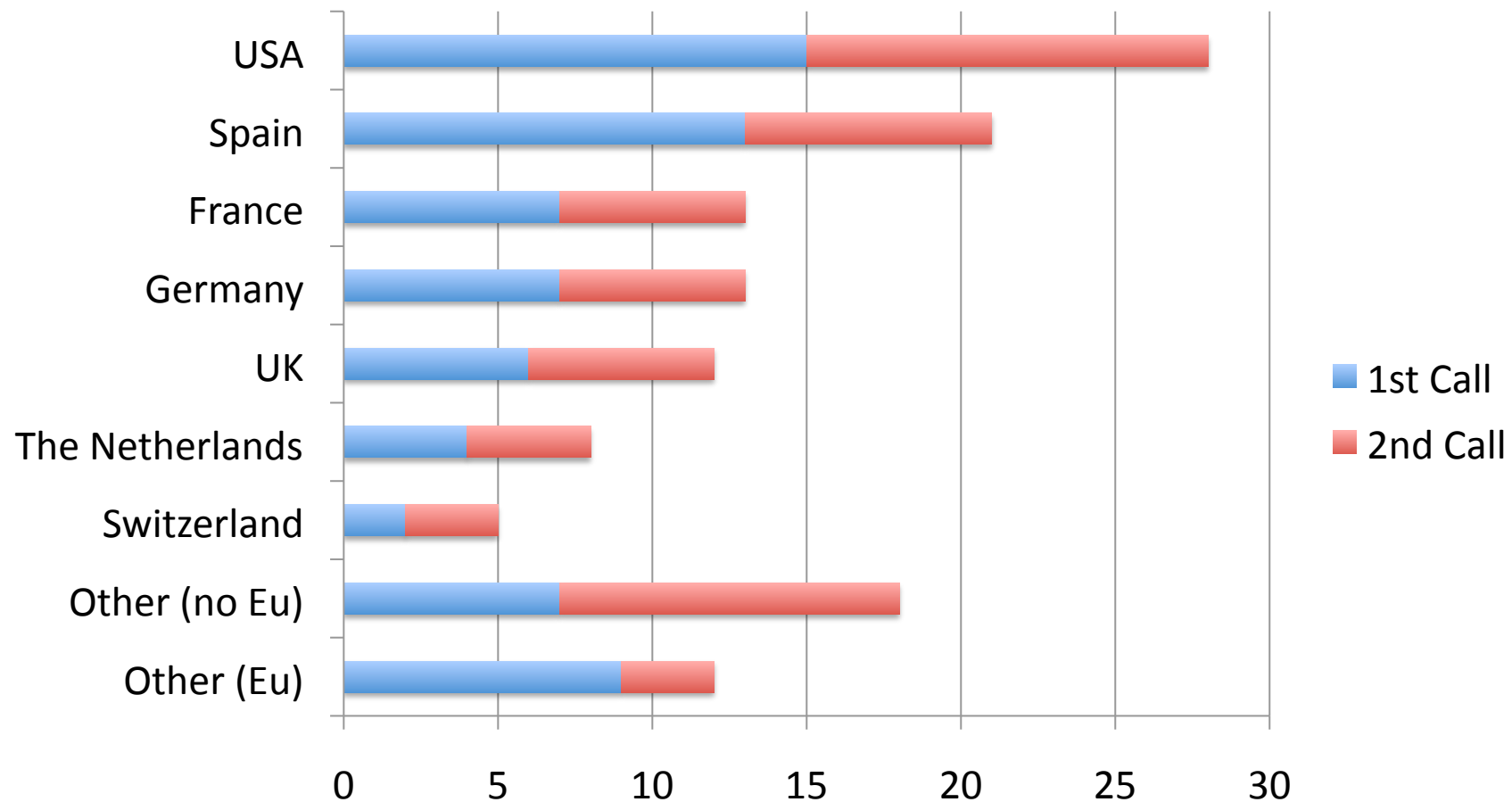
- 1) Galaxies and Cosmology
- 2) Stars, Stellar Populations and Interstellar medium
- 3) Sun and Solar System
- 4) Relativistic and Particle Astrophysics
- 5) Advanced Technology and Instruments

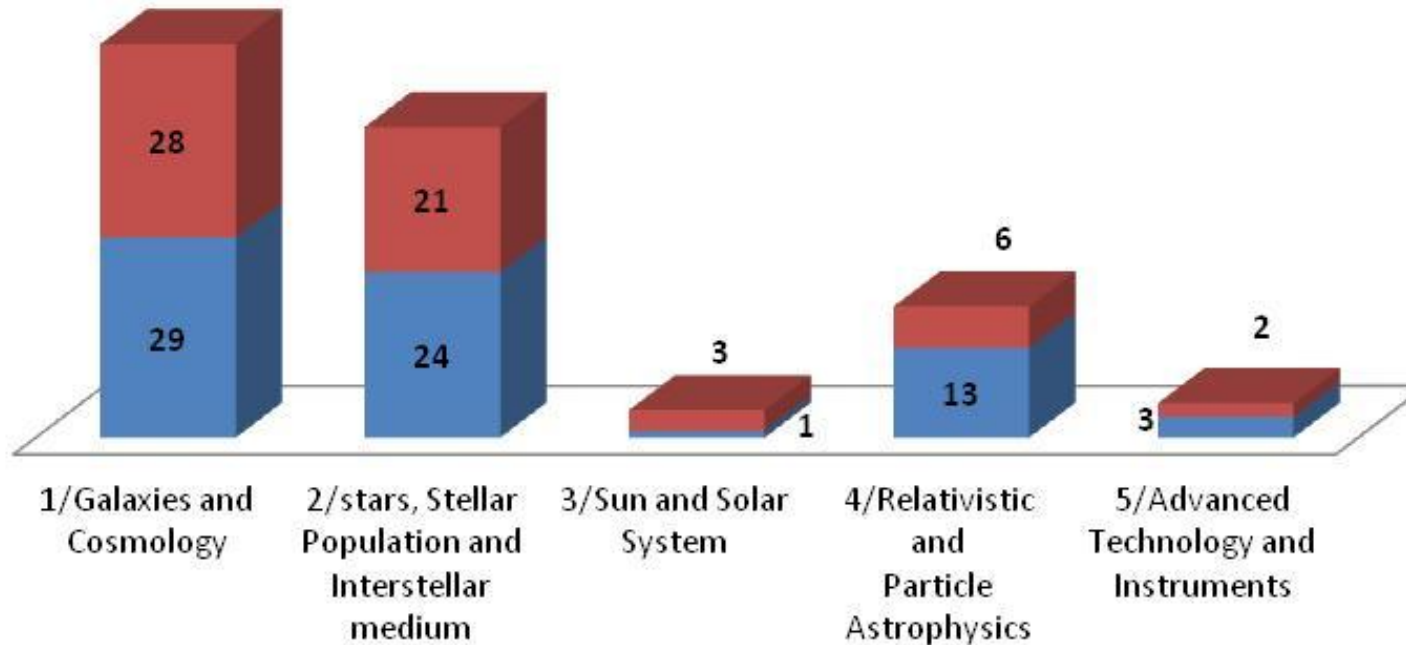
130 Applications in two calls



- 1st call (1/12/2011) : 70 applications
- 2nd call (15/10/2012): 60 applications
- Numbers comparable with the total number of non-permanent staff positions of INAF and about 30% of the number of post-doc in INAF.
- Applications were received from over 20 countries, from all continents.

Distribution of country of origin





- Appointment of a selection committee (one for each call) as in Annex I (balanced in gender and country of origin)
- Individual remote evaluation
- Management of conflicts of interest
- Final face-to-face consensus meeting
- Final qualified ranked list for each action
- Summary report to each candidate



- Annual national meeting
- International meeting participation
- Seminars
- Papers on proceeding and international peer reviewed journals
- Participation to the communication and educational activities of the institute
- Italian course (for the foreign fellows)

- The AstroFit Web site (www.astrofit.inaf.it) is an important tool to manage the programme
- Presentation of the program
- Advertisement of the calls
- Instructions, information, forms, submission rules, call outcomes
- FAQs, Helpdesk
- Events
- Fellow activities and scientific results

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www.astrofit.inaf.it

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AstroFit - Astronomy Fellowships in Italy

AstroFit is a co-funded project by the [Marie Curie Actions](#) of the [Seventh Framework Programme](#) of the European Commission (FP7) and [INAF](#), the Italian National Institute for Astrophysics.

AstroFit aims at recruiting talented and experienced researchers that have carried out research in other countries. Incoming and Re-Integration mobility are supported. AstroFit offers the chance to gain experience at *INAF* structures for a period of two years in the following sectors: *galaxies and cosmology*; *stars, stellar population and interstellar medium*; *sun and solar system*; *relativistic and particle astrophysics*; *advanced technology and instrumentation*.

AstroFit supports career development plans, with training provided also for non-scientific and complementary skills.

Read more...

INAF - Istituto Nazionale di Astrofisica

The [National Institute for Astrophysics](#) (**Istituto Nazionale di Astrofisica – INAF**) is the Italian public research organization that promotes, performs and coordinates astrophysics and astronomy research in Italy and cooperates with universities and other national and international organizations. [INAF](#) has approximately 1000 permanent staff, about 600 are researchers, plus more than 500 postdoctoral, graduate students, fellows and collaborators are involved in [INAF](#) research activities.

[INAF](#) is articulated into [17 research structures](#) distributed all over the country, plus a number of [observing](#)

News

2nd call RESULTS

Read more...

1st fellows' Annual meeting

The 1st AstroFit fellows' Annual meeting will take place in Bologna during the **57th meeting of the Italian Astronomical Society (SAIt)** on May 9th 2013.

2nd call: 60 applications received

Read more...

1st Call RESULTS

Read more...

- The two foreseen calls have been issued and all the fellowships have started
- The number and quality of applications was higher than expected

From the final report of the second selection committee **(Rome 23/04/2013):**

The pannellists were impressed by the spread of the topics proposed, and the high quality of the projects submitted. The candidates are a mix of italian and international scientists. Many of them have several years of postdoctoral experience and a remarkable CV. The panel has regretted to hear that this initiative will not be repeated regularly, this scheme is a clearly successful path to attract more young talented scientists in Italy. Moreover, should a similar initiative be reconsidered in the future, the panel advises to consider three rather than two years for the fellowship.

- A new unsuccessful 2013 AstroFlt II proposal was submitted
- We will apply again at the next opportunity but, even in case of success, a temporal gap will occur
- INAF should cover, at least partially, such gap with own resources.

- **Successful initiative: many qualified applications**
 - **BUT**
- *Fellows on diverse topics and abroad in Italy*
- *What is the added value of a European Co-funded action?*
-
- *The action is significantly co-funded by INAF and requires a significant effort for management (much more than 14 individual fellows).*
- **Is it worth to repeat the experiment?**

