The central kiloparsec: Active Galactic Nuclei and their hosts

Ierapetra, Crete, Greece, June 4-6, 2008

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Sponsorship

The conference is part of the *Scientific Workshop Program* of the EU Consortium “RadioNet”. The meeting was supported by the Max-Planck-Institut für Radioastronomie and the Municipality of Ierapetra.

FOREWORD

The meeting in Ierapetra was the fifth in the series of scientific workshops organised and sponsored by the EU Consortium "RadioNet", an Integrated Infrastructure Initiative (I3), funded under the European Commission's Sixth Framework Programme (FP6). This workshop series is aimed at fostering scientific ties and cross-disciplinary collaboration between astrophysicists working in Europe and across the world.

The interplay between active galactic nuclei (AGN) and their galactic hosts is amongst the most important areas of astrophysical research, connecting the nuclear activity, galactic evolution and physics of large scale structures in the Universe. This research theme has benefited enormously from synergies between several different fields of astrophysics including high-resolution radio, optical, and X-ray observations, optical, NIR, and X-ray spectroscopy, and large broadband surveys of galaxies. The conference in Ierapetra capitalised on these synergies by providing a single forum for discussing all major constituents of AGN, from the extreme vicinity of the "central engines" powered by accretion onto supermassive black holes to stars, gas and dust within the central kiloparsec of their host galaxies. Such a mosaic of results coming from different avenues of study has provided a truly synthetic picture of the central regions of AGN – uncovering the underlying fundamental physical nature of the nuclear activity in galaxies and its relation to the Universe at large.

The meeting in Ierapetra brought together scientists from 53 different institutes in 19 countries across four different continents. The response to the first call for papers exceeded all expectations, with the total of over 110 contributions proposed for the scientific program. Limited initially to just 50 participants, we had been able in the end to increase the conference capacity to the total of 80 participants. This was made possible thanks to strong support of the municipality of Ierapetra which hosted the meeting in the community conference center and amassed a truly enthusiastic local response to this event. We would like to express our special gratitude to Ekaterini Angelaki, Evangelia Angelaki, Dimitris Samprovalakis, Maria Frangouli, and Rena Plagera for their invaluable volunteer work, help, and assistance with the organisation of the meeting.

Andrei Lobanov, Emmanouil Angelakis and Manel Perucho Pla