

ESF RESEARCH CONFERENCES

Rapporteur Report

Partnership:	ESF LFUI
Conference Title:	The Modern Era of Helio- and Asteroseismology
Dates:	20-25 May 2012
Chair:	Markus Roth, Kiepenheuer-Institut für Sonnenphysik, DE
Rapporteur:	Hough James, University of Glasgow, UK



General Comments

This was a very interesting, well-run conference where every effort had been made to accommodate participants with young families. The provision of daytime child care was a feature which was greatly welcomed.

Quality of Scientific Programme, Presentations and Discussion

The programme was very well balanced between theory and experiment with excellent presentations and posters. Discussion was well informed and lively and engaged a large proportion of the audience..

Informal Networking and Exchange; Atmosphere

There was much informal discussion at coffee and lunch breaks and in the evening, with excellent level of contact between the young researchers present and the speakers and older scientists. Atmosphere was one of friendly enthusiastic interaction and engagement.

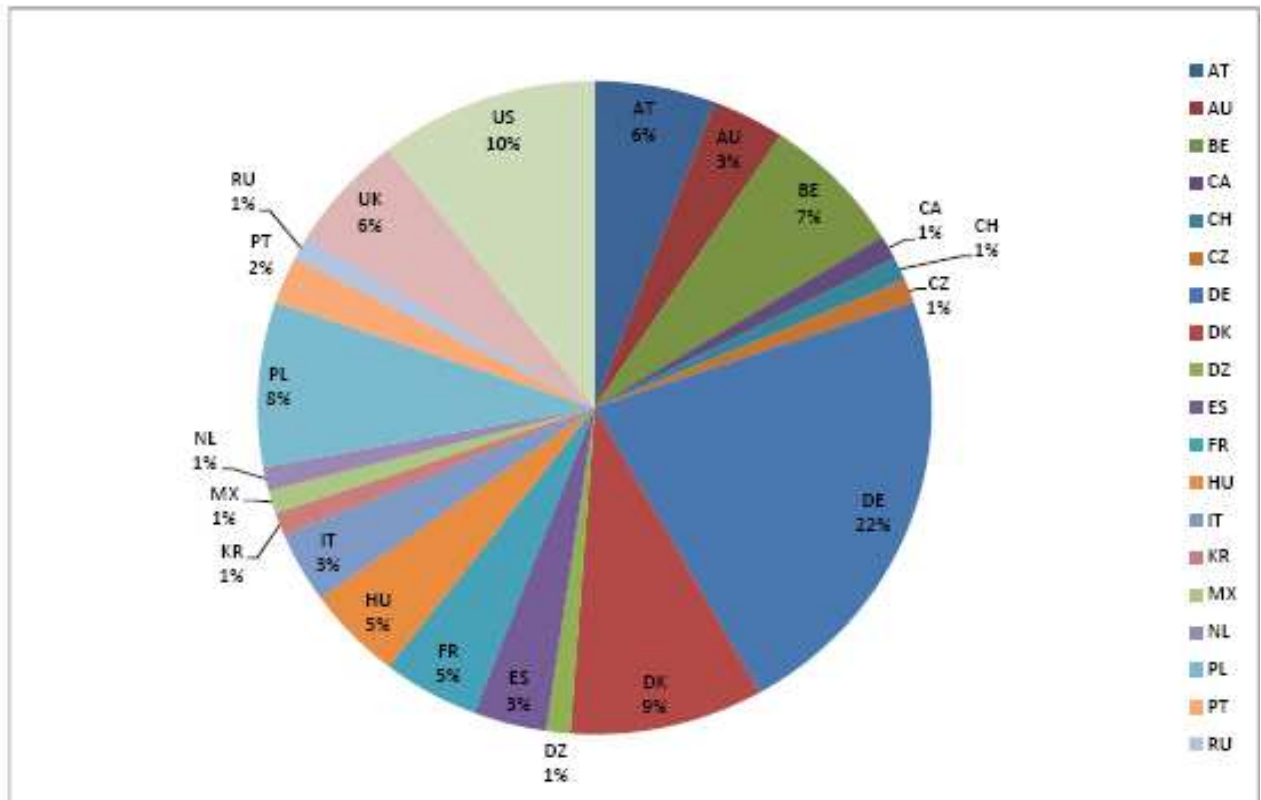
Statistics

There were 56 talks and 29 posters and 87 attendees including two administrators from ESF.

Genderwise, 28% were female: there were: 2 chairs – 1 male and 1 female, plus 14 invited speakers of which 10 were male and 4 female, plus 69 participants of which 50 were male and 19 female.

Agewise 36 % were 36 and over, and 64% were younger.

The widespread distribution of Counties from which the participants came is shown below.



AT: Austria; AU: Australia; BE: Belgium; CA: Canada; CH: Switzerland; CZ: Czech Republic; DE: Germany; DK: Denmark; DZ: Algeria; ES: Spain; FR: France; HU: Hungary; IT: Italy; KR: Korea; MX: Mexico; NL: Netherlands; PL: Poland; PT: Portugal; RU: Russia

Follow-up

There has been a lot of progress in the overall field as the techniques of helioseismology have been applied to asteroseismology.

A number of very significant points for the future stand out.

1. It is essential that the funding agencies maintain the present ground based networks such as Gong, Bison etc and do not always look for something new to fund, as years of continuous data are essential to the understanding of the physics.
2. Space missions such as Corot and Kepler have been invaluable for the development of asteroseismology and it is essential that this research area is considered in the design and downselection of future missions.
3. Modelling and experimental observation - of mode frequencies, mode spacing etc and of chemical abundances - are still a long way apart and much collaborative research is needed in this area.

This is an area which will benefit significantly from a greater level of networking and also from meetings of this type. Horizon 2020 is very likely to provide networking support in the future and it would be well worth having an ESF Research Conference again in two years time.

Organisation and Infrastructure

Organisation was excellent with the secretariat and local staff paying detailed attention to all issues. Infrastructure was also ideal for a conference of this type, with very well received catering, a reasonably priced bar and opportunities for hillwalking etc.

Summary & Overall Assessment

A very good example of a successful ESF conference where senior and early stage researchers were brought together in an

environment where they were able to interact in a seamless way. Collaborative opportunities for the future were identified as were the future priorities for infrastructure funding.

About ESF Research Conferences

The Scheme

This conference is part of the European Science Foundation's (ESF) Research Conferences Scheme. The Scheme aims to promote scientific excellence and frontier level research throughout Europe and the rest of the world. Conferences aim to provide leading scientists and other participants, including young researchers, with a platform to present their work, to discuss the most recent developments in their fields of research and to network.

Conference Format

The core activities should be based on lectures by invited speakers, who are leaders in their respective fields, followed by extensive discussion periods. An informal exchange of ideas, both inside and outside the lecture room, should be encouraged, and the number of sessions in the daily timetable should be limited in order to allow sufficient time for interaction between the participants. Time should be reserved for a 'Forward Look Plenary Discussion' about future developments in the field.

Participants can take all their meals together to encourage further contact and networking, which can be particularly beneficial to younger researchers who may be less outspoken in the formal lecture room setting. In order to gain optimum benefit from the conference, both the speakers and the participants are asked to stay for the whole duration.

Division of Tasks

The Conference Chair is responsible for ensuring the quality of the scientific programme through the selection and invitation of speakers, and through the selection of participants.

The ESF Conferences Unit is responsible for managing all the logistical aspects of the conference organisation, including the provision of an on-site secretariat.

Further information: www.esf.org/conferences