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Europlanet Annual Report

2025

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Europlanet AISBL (Association Internationale Sans But Lucratif - 0800.634.634) is hosted by the Department of Planetary Atmospheres of the Royal Belgian Institute for Space Aeronomy (BIRA-IASB), Avenue Circulaire 3, B-1180 Brussels, Belgium.

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1. Executive Summary

In 2025, Europlanet celebrated its 20th birthday. Established through a series of projects funded by the European Commission between 2005 and 2024, Europlanet provides infrastructure and networks to support the planetary science community in Europe and around the world.

Today, Europlanet is a substantial, self-sustaining resource for the community, providing access to a suite of state-of-the-art planetary simulation and analysis facilities, virtual data tools and services and delivering measurable scientific, technological, educational and socioeconomic impacts. Its annual meeting, the Europlanet Science Congress (EPSC), is the largest gathering of the planetary community in Europe.

The creation in 2023 of the Europlanet Association Internationale Sans But Lucratif (AISBL), hosted by the Planetary Atmospheres Group of the Royal Belgian Institute for Space Aeronomy (BIRA-IASB), has provided a secure legal structure for the sustainability of Europlanet infrastructure, the Europlanet Society (established) 2018 and its activities, including its Regional Hubs and Europlanet Early Career (EPEC) Network.

The Europlanet Executive Office provides administrative and technical support for Europlanet's membership and structures, including management of its digital infrastructure, dissemination channels and events programme. Following a tendering exercise in the first part of 2025, the Executive Office is hosted by the University of Kent, UK, with technical support provided by ArkadIA in Italy.

All Europlanet's Regional Hubs, Committees and Working Groups have reported significant activity in 2025, in particular in the run-up to the hybrid joint meeting of EPSC with the American Astronomical Society's Division of Planetary Sciences (DPS), which is taking place in Helsinki and online from 7-12 September. EPSC-DPS20205 is expected to be the largest planetary conference held in Europe to date, with almost 2000 participants. Other Europlanet meetings held in 2025 include the Planetary and Geological Mapping (GMAP) Winter School in February, which had over 750 registered participants, the EPEC Annual Week conference for early careers in Berlin in May, Europlanet Teams Day, a new interactive format for community engagement, and workshops in Colombia.

At the Europlanet General Assembly in September 2024, the Europlanet membership approved a new category of organisational membership to provide a secure stream of funding for the most impactful services developed and optimised during twenty years of EC-funded Europlanet projects. Organisational subscriptions were launched in December 2024. The income from these memberships, alongside existing revenue sources from individual memberships and the settlement of the Europlanet Science Congress (EPSC), has enabled Europlanet to maintain its core mobility and access programmes, community services, training and career development programmes, which have benefited tens of thousands of researchers over the past two decades.

With both organisational and individual membership growing, Europlanet is building a secure foundation for the decades to come.

2. Aims

The purpose of Europlanet is to promote planetary sciences, planetary exploration and related fields for the benefit of the community, by encouraging the creation of new knowledge, by promoting education, by stimulating innovation and by enhancing accessibility and transparency.

The aims of Europlanet are:

- To allow the community of Europlanet stakeholders to speak with one voice to defend and represent its interests
- To promote coherence between policy and the research priorities of the European Union and the activities coordinated by the association.

3. Objectives

Europlanet works to achieve its goal by pursuing a series of activities, including:

- Supporting the planetary science community through the activities of Europlanet and its structures, including the Europlanet Science Congress (EPSC)
- Establishing strategic collaborations to support planetary science
- Developing and maintaining infrastructures to support planetary sciences.

The Europlanet Association International Sans But Lucratif (AISBL) provides the legal structure for the sustainability of Europlanet activities, including the Europlanet Society (established in 2018), and gives Europlanet a framework in which to:

- Provide clear ownership of the Europlanet brand and assets, including EPSC
- Directly participate as a beneficiary in EU-funded projects
- Join organisations as an independent entity
- Sign contracts with service providers
- Sign memoranda of understanding with other organisations
- Act as a stakeholder in ventures.

4. Organisational Framework

Europlanet is a membership organisation, open to individual and organisational members. Anyone with an active interest in planetary science (whether academic or industrial, professional or amateur) is welcome to join. For details of memberships, see Section 5.

Figure 1 gives an overview of the organisational structure of Europlanet, showing how the administrative bodies of Europlanet are drawn from the membership of the Association/Society, and how Europlanet relates to external organisations.

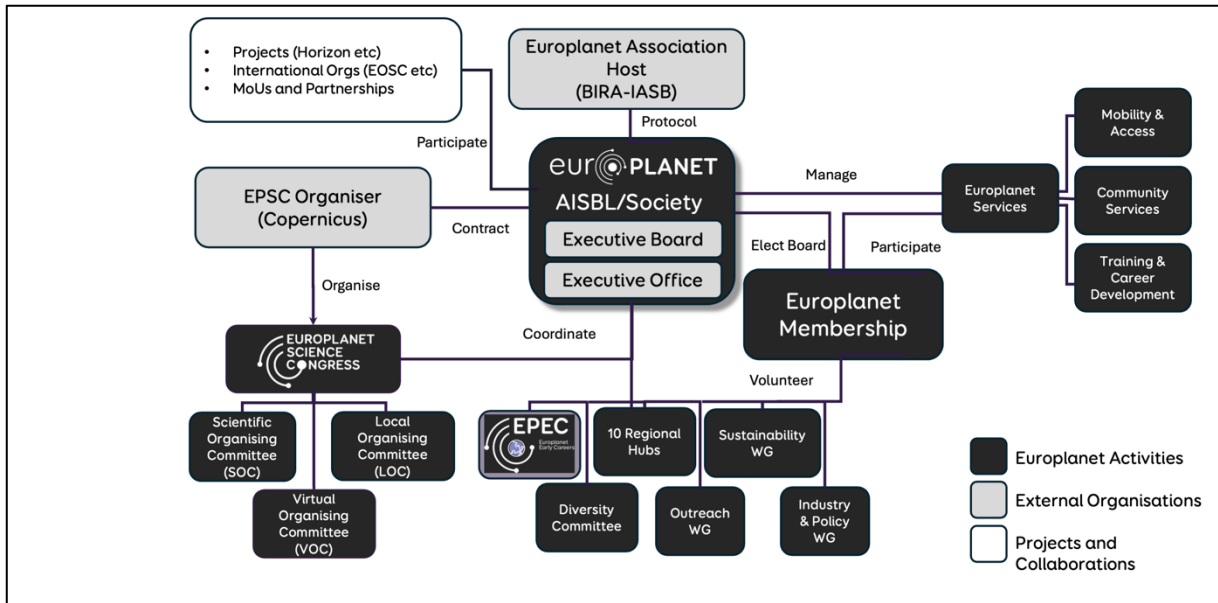


Figure 1: Organisational Structure of Europlanet

4.1. Europlanet Governance

Europlanet is governed by the statutes of Europlanet AISBL and the Europlanet Society constitution.

Europlanet AISBL is hosted by the Department of Planetary Atmospheres of the Royal Belgian Institute for Space Aeronomy (BIRA-IASB). The relationship and arrangements to facilitate and optimise the hosting and operation of the Europlanet Association by BIRA-IASB are set out in an administrative protocol.

The membership of the Europlanet Association/Society elects the Europlanet Executive Board. As the governing body of Europlanet, the Executive Board members are responsible for directing and controlling the affairs and property of Europlanet, including EPSC.

The Executive Board consists of five officers (the President, two Vice-Presidents, the Secretary and the Treasurer) and six other members who are elected for four years.

The membership of the Executive Board in July 2025 was as follows:

President	Ann Carine Vandaele	Belgium	(2023-2027)
Vice-President	Anita Heward	UK	(2024-2028)
Vice-President	Stavro Ivanovski	Italy	(2023-2027)
Treasurer	Didier Moreau	Belgium	(2021-2025)
Secretary	Edita Stonkute	Lithuania	(2023-2027)
Board Member	Julia de Leon	Spain	(2023-2027)
Board Member	Federica Duras	Italy	(2023-2025)
Board Member	Leigh Fletcher	UK	(2023-2025)
Board Member	Livia Giacomini	Italy	(2023-2027)
Board Member	Luca Montabone	France	(2023-2027)
Board Member	Melissa Mirino	Italy	(2023-2025)

Melissa Mirino, Federica Duras and Leigh Fletcher stepped down in 2025. The call for nominations for three members of the Europlanet Executive Board was opened on 07 July and closed on 01 August 2025, with the nominations passed to the Nominations Committee on 05 August. Members will vote in a ballot in August 2025, with the results of the election for the new Board Members announced during the Europlanet General Assembly (EGA) on Tuesday, 09 September 2025 at the EPSC-DPS Joint Meeting 2025, held in Helsinki and online. A motion at the EGA will also propose extending the term of Didier Moreau as Treasurer for up to two years. The election for an Incoming Treasurer will then be held in 2026, alongside the election for the President-Elect, to ensure a smooth handover.

The five Officers of the Europlanet Executive Board have the additional legal responsibility of acting as the governing body of the AISBL:

President	Ann Carine Vandaele	(elected 2023)
Vice-President	Anita Heward	(elected 2024)
Vice-President	Stavro Ivanovski	(elected 2023)
Treasurer	Didier Moreau	(elected 2021)
Secretary	Edita Stonkute	(elected 2023)

The next elections for Executive Board positions will be:

- Incoming Treasurer (2026)
- President-Elect (2026)

4.2. Europlanet Executive Office

The Europlanet Executive Office conducts the day-to-day activities, overall administration and financial management of Europlanet and EPSC. The Executive Office carries out its responsibilities under the overall direction of the Europlanet Executive Board.

The Executive Office is led by the University of Kent, UK, with technical support provided by ArkadIA, Italy, and financial management led by the Treasurer at IASB-BIRA. From 01 August 2024 until 31 October 2025, costs for the Executive Office Coordinator have been supported by the University of Kent through funding from the European Union’s Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 101082738. Following an open call to host the Executive Office in spring 2025, an agreement for ongoing support was reached with the University of Kent, ArkadIA and a freelance science communication team, with all costs supported from Europlanet’s annual budget. For details of the activities of the Executive Office, see Section 6.2.

5. Membership

As of **09 August 2025**, the Europlanet Society has **475** individual associate members and **14** Organisational Members.

Members of Europlanet must:

- Pay the annual membership fee
- Abide by the Statutes, Constitution, Code of Conduct and decisions made by the governing bodies of the organisation
- Notify the Secretary of any changes concerning their status that affect the conditions of their admission.

5.1. Full Members

The Officers elected by the General Assembly serve as Full Members of the Europlanet Association and are responsible for supervising and providing a point of connection to the activities and structures of Europlanet.

The current Full Members are:

- Ann Carine Vandaele
- Stavro Ivanovski
- Edita Stonkute
- Didier Moreau
- Anita Heward.

5.2. Associate Members

Associate Members of the Europlanet Association (AISBL) comprise the membership of the Europlanet Society, which includes the following categories:

- Individual Members
- Student Members
- Honorary Members
- Organisational Members.

Organisational Memberships were introduced in December 2024. Organisations joining Europlanet have the opportunity to participate in cutting-edge science linked to current and upcoming planetary missions, share facilities and services with an international user community, provide strategic input to help shape policy relevant to planetary research and exploration, and develop collaborations with global partners. Membership costs are tiered, with reduced rates available for organisations and researchers in Under-Represented States (See Section 7). Organisational members are entitled to one vote the General Assembly.

5.3. Membership of External Organisations and Agreements

As of May 2025, in a step towards developing strategic collaborations, Europlanet joined the European Astronomical Society (EAS) as an Organisational Affiliate Member and became an Observer member of the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC).

In 2024, Europlanet and the American Astronomical Society's Division of DPS signed a Memorandum of Understanding that formalises their joint endeavours for the advancement of planetary science and sets out shared benefits for the members of both societies.

6. Activities of Europlanet

6.1. Legal Obligations Europlanet AISBL

Europlanet has maintained a registered office at BIRA-IASB, a webpage and a bank account, and filed its annual accounts and tax return in line with its obligations under Belgian law and as set out in the statutes of the AISBL.

6.2. Activities of the Executive Office

The Europlanet Executive Office has conducted day-to-day activities relating to the management and administration of Europlanet and EPSC, including administrative support, communications, membership coordination and technical support. [A detailed breakdown of the remit of Europlanet's Executive Office can be found here.](#)

The primary contacts for the Europlanet Executive Office are:

Callum Piper - Europlanet Membership Coordinator: europa@europa.org

Francesco Aloisi - Europlanet Membership and Technical Support:
membership@europa.org

6.2.1. Hosting of the Executive Office

An invitation to Tender for the Executive Office was issued in March-April 2025, with the scope of the Executive Office broken down into four core modules (membership, administration, dissemination and technical) and an extended communications module. Although three organisations expressed interest in responding, actual proposals were only received from the existing providers. Proposals from ArkadIA for the technical modules and from the freelance communications team to supply social media and communications support were accepted; a renewed contract with the University of Kent to supply the core membership, administration and dissemination modules is currently under negotiation, with a proposed start date of 01/11/2025, when the current contract expires.

6.2.2. Membership Support

The Executive Office provided support, overall coordination and a point of contact for Europlanet's members and its membership bodies (Executive Board, Committees, Working Groups, Regional Hubs). Over the past 12 months, the Executive Office team at the University of Kent and ArkadIA has invested significant effort in transferring and reorganising Europlanet's underlying digital infrastructure following the handover of activities from the European Science Foundation (ESF), which managed the Executive Office from 2018-July 2024. These activities include:

- The creation of a new Google Workspace and Drive, with areas that provide the accessibility needed to support an active community of users, as well as secure areas for the storage of confidential and sensitive information.

- The transfer of the Europlanet main website to the europlanet.org domain and the consolidation of Europlanet email addresses under europlanet.org.
- Restructuring of the main Europlanet website and membership website to improve navigation to current activities, whilst ensuring that contractual information on completed programmes (e.g. the Europlanet 2024 RI project) is properly archived and remains accessible.
- Upgrades to Europlanet’s Customer Relations Management (CRM) system to improve performance and compatibility with the membership website interface.

6.2.3. Representation at Meetings and Conferences

Europlanet has been represented at a number of meetings and conferences relevant to planetary science, astronomy and research infrastructures. These include:

17-18 September 2024: *Distributed Research Infrastructures (DRI) Workshop, Budapest, Hungary (Audience: Research Infrastructures, Policy Makers. ~40 pax)*

29-30 May 2025: *Fantasy Basel, Switzerland (Audience: General Public. ~97K pax, ~10K interactions with Europlanet)*

09-11 June 2025: *DRI Workshop / ESFRI Stakeholders Forum, Krakow, Poland (Audience: Research Infrastructures, Policy Makers. ~40 pax (DRI) / ~150 pax (ESFRI Stakeholders))*

23-27 June 2025: *European Astronomical Society (EAS) Annual Meeting (exhibitor) (Audience: Astronomy Community, Policy Makers. ~2000 pax)*

16-17 July 2025: *UK Space Conference (exhibitor) (Audience: Space Industry, Astronomy Community, Policy Makers. ~1000 pax).*

6.2.4. Communications

6.2.4.1. Newsletters

The Europlanet Executive Office has issued monthly newsletters with updates on activities, opportunities and events of interest to the planetary community. Through the CRM, the Executive Office and Committee Chairs have also been able to send targeted information to groups within the Europlanet membership, including early careers, Regional Hubs and members signed up to specialist interest mailing lists (e.g. diversity, outreach).

6.2.4.2. Webinars

Europlanet runs a series of webinars for members that are coordinated by the Executive Office and the Communications Team. In addition, quarterly webinars are co-organised with the ESA JUICE Science Team. Over the past reporting period, webinars on the following topics have been hosted:

24/09/2024: *"It's Alive!" Astrobiology and Planetary Science in Science Fiction*

27/09/2024: *The JUICE Lunar Earth Flyby*

06/12/2024: *JUICE and SMILE*

11/12/2024: *Transit of Venus 2012: Past and Present*

28/01/2025: *Mauve: UV Spectroscopy of Stars*

28/02/2025: *Studying Jupiter with JUICE-MAJIS and Ground-Based Instrumentation*
04/03/2025: *Open Planetary Science*
25/03/2025: *Moving Towards In-Situ Resource Utilisation (ISRU)*
15/04/2025: *The Surprisingly Fun Diversity Talk You Actually Want to Attend*
28/04/2025: *Couplings in the Jovian System: What We Expect to Find With JUICE*
27/05/2025: *Europa Clipper and JUICE: Potential for Scientific Synergies*
04/06/2025: *China's Planetary Exploration Programme and Implications for Europe*
24/06/2025: *Planetary Defence*
10/07/2025: *Opportunities for International Researchers*

6.2.4.3. Europlanet Discord

The [Europlanet Discord](#) server connects members of Europlanet and helps them keep up to date with community news, events, job opportunities. The server is designed with a variety of channels to facilitate discussions and interactions, including text channels, discussion forums and voice channels. As of 09 August 2025, Europlanet's Discord server has 378 members.

Weekly Hangouts on Discord. Weekly get-togethers for members (currently every Friday at 15.00 CEST) are held in the lo voice channel on the Europlanet Discord server to catch up on Europlanet activities in a comfortable, informal setting.

6.2.4.4. Europlanet Magazine

The Europlanet Magazine (first issue published in June 2021) aims to highlight the range of activities by Europlanet and the wider planetary community. In 2025, one issue has been published online, with print copies distributed at the EPSC-DPS2025 Joint Meeting. Issue 8 has a focus on industry engagement, with a series of articles contributed by companies and individuals with experience in knowledge transfer and industry-academia collaborations.

6.2.5. Europlanet 2024 Research Infrastructure Project

Although the Europlanet 2024 Research Infrastructure (RI) project finished on 31 July 2024, work to submit all the technical and financial reports has been ongoing over the last 12 months. The Executive Office has continued to support the project Coordinator, Work Package leads and Beneficiaries in responding to requests for additional information from auditors and the European Commission (EC). A letter confirming acceptance of the project outcomes and deliverables was received on 25 March 2025, but further requests for information on the financial and technical aspects have been made over the spring and summer. The final payment is expected to be made before the end of 2025.

6.3. Europlanet Services

6.3.1. Transnational Access

Europlanet's Transnational Access (TA) programme enables researchers to visit facilities that offer simulation and analysis capabilities relevant to planetary science. The TA programme was a flagship part of the EC-funded Europlanet 2024 RI project, with evaluation showing long-lasting impacts, including ongoing collaborations between visitors and hosts following 90% of visits. From February to July 2025, Europlanet ran a pilot

for a sustainable TA programme that it could operate annually, independently of external funding sources (EC grants).

Sixteen applications from researchers in ten countries were received in the pilot call, which were peer reviewed by an independent panel. Five visits to facilities were approved and undertaken between May and July 2025. The successful applications were:

- **AU Planetary Environment Facility, Aarhus University, Denmark.**
 - 25-EPN-P-3: Experimental Characterisation and Model Validation of a Tumbleweed Rover under simulated Mars Surface Environment. PI: J Kingsnorth, Team Tumbleweed, Netherlands.
- **Atomki ECRIS Laboratory: Atomki-Queen’s University Ice Laboratory for Astrochemistry (AQUILA), HUN-REN Atomki, Debrecen, Hungary.**
 - 25-EPN-P-5: Implantation of water ions in Titan’s aerosol analogues. PI: V Vuitton, IPAG/CNRS/UGA, France.
- **Carbon-14 Dating AMS Laboratory, Isotoptech, Debrecen, Hungary.**
 - 25-EPN-P-10: Biogeochemical and Sedimentological characterisation of the Makgadikgadi playa lake deposits. PI: T Kahsay, BIUST, Botswana.
- **Electron Induced Fluorescence Laboratory, Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia.**
 - 25-EPN-P-12: Unveiling Sulfur Chemistry in Cometary Atmospheres: Electron-Impact Cross Sections of CS₂ for Accurate Abundance Measurements. PI: D Bodewits, Auburn University, USA.
- **Atomic Level Electronic Structure STEM, Korean Basic Science Institute (KBSI), Korea.**
 - 25-EPN-P-16: Nanoscale preservation of organic materials in Mars-analogue lakeshore carbonates: implications for Perseverance and Mars Sample Return. PI: K Hickman-Lewis, NHM, London, UK.

A report on the TA pilot programme will be presented at the EPSC-DPS2025 Joint Meeting in Helsinki.

Further facilities that participated in the Europlanet 2024 RI TA Access Programme, as well as new facilities, are now being invited to join the first full annual call, which will be launched in the autumn of 2025, with visits taking place in 2026.

6.3.2. Europlanet Telescope Network

The Europlanet Telescope Network unites a network of medium and small telescopes to facilitate and coordinate observations related to different planetary science topics. The Europlanet Telescope Network currently comprises 21 observatories with 32 telescopes in 16 countries.

During 2025, funded calls for observation proposals have been closed. However, observers may contact the participating observatories to ask to conduct observations, with the majority of the network observatories providing observing time free of charge for collaborative projects.

Discussions with similar telescope networks, including the Opticon Alliance and the European Astronomical Association of Small Telescopes (EASST), have been ongoing

over the past 12 months. In August 2025, a preliminary agreement was reached with the Opticon Alliance and EASST to join forces, offering a single point of coordinated access to all the telescope facilities in the networks, and paving the way for sustainable funded calls and training programmes. A consortium agreement between Europlanet, the Opticon Alliance and EASST (and any other networks wishing to participate) and implementation plan will be defined over the autumn of 2025, with calls issued from 2026 onwards. Europlanet will provisionally contribute support for membership and administration of the joint telescope network through its Executive Office.

6.3.3. Europlanet Expert Exchanges

Europlanet's Expert Exchange Programme aims to support the mobilisation of the planetary community to share expertise and best practice and to prepare new facilities and services for integration into Europlanet's research infrastructure. The programme provides funding for short visits (up to one week). No calls have been issued during the reporting period, but the importance of the programme has been highlighted by Regional Hubs and members during the Europlanet Teams Day and other meetings. A new call is planned for the end of 2025 or beginning of 2026, funded through organisational membership fees.

6.4. Europlanet Community Support

Europlanet supports the planetary science community through a range of programmes to provide funding, recognition and professional development.

6.4.1. Europlanet Committee Funding Scheme

The Europlanet Committee Funding Scheme aims to provide targeted support and seed-funding for the community through proposals submitted via its Committees, Early Career network and Regional Hubs. The scope of the funding scheme is deliberately broad to enable the community to propose diverse and innovative projects for funding of between €1000 and €5000. A call was launched on 10 February with a closing date of 14 March 2025. Twenty proposals were submitted and six projects were approved in the 2025 round, at a total value of €27,957:

- **French Hub proposal:** Lights, Camera, Early-Career Scientists in Action! (€3,500)
This series of six 60-second videos highlights early-career scientists through an 'elevator-pitch' describing their research and another short film in which they share their experiences. Participants received training in on-camera presence and effective communication.
- **Ireland-UK Hub proposal:** Open University Crew Mission to Mars Desert Research Station (MDRS), Utah (€5000)
A group of early-career researchers from the Open University have been funded to become analogue astronauts for two weeks as part of the Mars Desert Research Station (MDRS) crew mission in late Autumn 2025.
- **Ireland-UK Hub proposal:** Defining wet-dry cycles and the impact of desiccation in temporal Mars analogue environments (€4457)
This collaboration by an international team of researchers, from Spain, Turkey, Bulgaria and the UK will sample small, seasonal lagoons in Toledo that are chemical

analogues for Noachian Mars and potentially undergoing desiccation. The sampling will allow the team to study the potential causes of desiccation and further understanding of the desiccation on Mars. As well as a planned publication, results will be disseminated through a series of videos, particularly targeting early-career scientists in Turkey, and a Café Scientifique in Madrid in November.

- **Northern Hub proposal:** Survivors of the Extreme: Tardigrades and the Quest for Extraterrestrial Life (€5000)
A workshop and field trip, held in September 2025 at the Molėtai Astronomical Observatory in Lithuania, will provide an introduction to the fascinating world of tardigrades. Through a combination of lectures and hands-on activities, participants will explore the biology of these microorganisms, known for their ability to survive extreme conditions, and discuss their role in astrobiological research and the search for extraterrestrial life. 20 students from Lithuania and across Europe will participate in person, with an unlimited number of participants able to join the workshop online.
- **Northern Hub proposal:** Mercury Laboratory Workshop 2025 (€5000)
Europlanet funding is supporting a workshop for the Mercury Laboratory Community, which consists of researchers working with experiments linked to the planet Mercury and to the ESA/JAXA BepiColombo mission. The workshop, which will take place in Helsinki from 15-17 September 2025 (the week following EPSC-DPS2025), will involve multiple planetary science laboratories and support European collaboration and the development of international links with the US and Japan.
- **Spain-Portugal Hub proposal:** Iberian Planetary Science & Solar System Exploration Congress (€5000)
Europlanet funding supported the organisation of the VIII Iberian Planetary Science & Solar System Exploration Congress (CPESS-8), which took place in Malaga from 26-30 May 2025. The congress was organised by the Spain-Portugal Hub of Europlanet in collaboration with University of Malaga. Along with discussions on the status of planetary sciences in Spain and Portugal, the meeting focused on opportunities for scientific, technological and industrial collaborations at an international level, in particular with Latin America.

6.4.2. Bursaries

Europlanet provides bursaries for attendance at EPSC to support members of the community who may be disadvantaged in terms of financial resources. The bursaries cover:

- A refund of the abstract processing fee
- A waiver for the registration fee
- Payment of administration costs by the conference organiser, Copernicus
- A capped travel grant
- In exceptional cases, upfront payment of accommodation costs (Bursary Plus)

EPSC-DPS2025: In 2025, for the EPSC-DPS Joint Meeting, Europlanet approved funding for 98 bursaries at a maximum value of €44,700. In addition, ESA provided funding for 3 bursaries and the DPS supported 35 travel grants through The Hartmann Student Travel Grant (15) and Underrepresented Minority (URM) Communities in Planetary Science Travel Grant (20) programmes.

Applications for Europlanet bursaries were integrated into the abstract submission process for the EPSC-DPS2025 Joint Meeting. This system is designed to help reduce some of the up-front payments made by the bursary recipients. The Europlanet bursaries for EPSC-DPS were open to participants with an individual membership of Europlanet, or who work for an organisational member of Europlanet. Participants could apply for bursaries under the following categories:

1. Early Career Professional and Student
2. Under-Represented State (European)
3. Under-Represented State (non-European) virtual participation
4. Bursary Plus (bursary + accommodation)
5. Amateur Astronomer
6. Outreach Provider/Teacher.

EPSC2024: The final settlement for EPSC2024 shows that Europlanet supported 128 bursaries at a total cost of €37,966.00 (€33,870.00 paid out in travel grants and refunded abstract processing fees, plus €4,096.00 in registration and onsite costs).

6.4.3. Prizes and Awards

Europlanet is undertaking an ongoing review of the prizes and awards it offers to support the community. Whilst prizes have historically been awarded at EPSC, including the Europlanet Prize for Public Engagement (2010 - present) and the Farinella Prize (2011-2024), they have only been open to certain sectors of the community (outreach providers or mid-career researchers in the topical scope of the Farinella award). The introduction of the Europlanet Medals in 2025 has enabled recognition of the contributions of by members of the community at all career stages, with the Mid-Career Prize taking up the legacy of the Farinella Prize.

Although the scientific Programme Groups of EPSC are covered in the Europlanet Medals, only the Outreach element of the ODAA (Outreach, Diversity and Amateur Astronomy) Programme group is currently covered by the Europlanet Prize for Public Engagement. A further scoping exercise will investigate and define award structures to recognise other kinds of community contributions (e.g. diversity, sustainability or infrastructure) as well as contributions by (or in collaboration with) amateur astronomers.

6.4.3.1. The Europlanet Medals

A new category of Europlanet award, the Europlanet Medals, were introduced in 2025 to honour outstanding contributions from individuals of three different scientific career-stages in planetary science. The scope of the award was defined by the Europlanet Medal Nominations Committee, whose membership in the initial year was drawn from the EPSC Committee, the Europlanet Executive Board and the former Farinella Prize Committee. In future, the Prize Committee will include the previous award winners.

One Europlanet Medal is awarded in each of the categories: Early-Career (up to seven years), Mid-Career (7-22 years) and Lifetime Achievement (more than 22 years), based on the scientific age of a researcher at time of submission.¹

¹ Calculated from the year of the last degree in scientific education (MSc, PhD) without counting time spent on leave (parental, health or time working primarily outside science).

Each Medal comes with a plaque and a registration waiver for the EPSC of the same year, where the recipient will be invited to give a medal lecture.

The Europlanet Mid-Career Medal will continue to honour the memory of Paolo Farinella, in whose name the Paolo Farinella Prize was awarded annually from 2011-2024. The final Farinella Prize was awarded to Ravit Helled, who received the award and gave a prize lecture at EPSC2024 in Berlin.

The call for nominations for the 2025 Europlanet Career Medals was launched on 14 March and closed on 15 April. A total of 15 nominations were received.

The winners of the inaugural Europlanet Career Medals are:

- Early Career Medal: Tim Lichtenberg
- Mid Career Medal: Benoit Carry
- Lifetime Achievement: Jean Schneider.

The medallists will deliver their lectures on Wednesday 10 September at the EPSC-DPS2025 Joint Meeting and a press release will be issued announcing the result.

6.4.3.2. Europlanet Prize for Public Engagement 2025

The Europlanet Prize for Public Engagement with Planetary Science is awarded to individuals or groups who have developed innovative and socially impactful practices in planetary science communication and education.

The call for nominations for the 2025 prize was launched on 13 June with a closing date of 18 July 2025. Six candidates were nominated from five countries (Chile, Colombia, Ireland, Portugal and UK). The nominations were evaluated by the Europlanet Outreach Jury, drawn from members of the Outreach Working Group and the outreach community.

The 2025 Europlanet Prize for Public Engagement was awarded to Red de Estudiantes Colombianos en Astronomía (RECA) Educación (<https://www.astroreca.org/en>), a Colombian non-profit network that brings together scientists and educators with the shared mission to bring science and astronomy, with a strong emphasis on planetary science, to schools and communities all over Colombia.

The 2025 prize consists of a cash award of €1,000, a registration waiver and a travel grant of €250 for the EPSC-DPS 2025 Joint Meeting in Helsinki, where a representative of RECA Educación will give a prize lecture during the Opening Ceremony.

No Europlanet Prize for Public Engagement was awarded in 2024. However, the Opening Ceremony of EPSC2024 in Berlin included the awards ceremony and prize lectures by the winners of the 2023 Europlanet Prize for Public Engagement (artist Daniela de Paulis and the science communicator, El Mehdi Essaidi), who could not attend the joint DPS-EPSC 2023 Joint Meeting in San Antonio, Texas.

6.4.3.3. EPSC-DPS Outstanding Poster Contest

EPSC-DPS2025. The EPSC-DPS Outstanding Poster Contest (OPC) 2025 is open to all BSc or MSc students, PhD candidates, as well as scientists who obtained their last degree after 1 January 2025. During the week of EPSC-DPS2025, posters will be evaluated by conference participants based on criteria of the relevance of the study, scientific accuracy and clarity of presentation

Each awardee will receive a registration waiver valid for either EPSC2026 or EPSC2027.

EPSC2024. The Outstanding Poster Competition at EPSC2024 in Berlin attracted 92 entries. Five winners were selected, representing each of the scientific programme groups. The winners each received a certificate and were offered free registration for the EPSC-DPS Joint Meeting 2025 in Helsinki, Finland.

- TP - Terrestrial Planets
 - Nimisha Verma: EPSC2024-828 - Preliminary temperature analysis of the Region of Interest using MERTIS onboard BepiColombo for the upcoming Mercury's 5th Flyby
- OPS - Outer Planet Systems
 - Silvia Pagnoscin: EPSC2024-1021 - Rayleigh-Bénard convection in the subsurface ocean of Ganymede
- MITM - Missions, Instruments, Techniques & Modelling
 - Natalia Amanda Vergara Sassarini: EPSC2024-934 - Unsupervised classification of Mercury's surface to aid the reconstruction of explorative geological maps.
- Small Bodies - SB
 - Miguel R. Alarcon: EPSC2024-640 - AsteroidDB: The Asteroid Legacy Archive of the Canary Islands Observatories
- EXOA - Exoplanets, Origins of Planetary Systems and Astrobiology
 - Matteo Michielan: EPSC2024-1035 - Unveiling the Si⁺ chemistry in the Interstellar Medium: an ionic reaction pathway to SiS

6.4.4. Europlanet Community Services Feedback Survey

Europlanet launched a survey in May 2025 to ask members for feedback on its community services and to share their thoughts about additional services that Europlanet could offer in the short term (i.e. next year or two).

The survey supports a bottom-up approach for Europlanet to offer activities that can be led by volunteers. Proposals for additional activities or specific initiatives will be evaluated by the membership, and the most highly-ranked will be considered in the plan of activities of Europlanet for the coming years. The first results from the survey will be presented during the General Assembly at the EPSC-DPS Joint Meeting 2025 in Helsinki.

6.5. Europlanet Meetings

6.5.1. EPSC-DPS Joint Meeting 2025

The Europlanet Science Congress (EPSC, formerly the European Planetary Science Congress) is the annual meeting of the Europlanet community. First held in Berlin in 2006 and regularly attracting more than 1,200 participants, EPSC is the largest annual planetary science meeting in Europe. It covers the entire range of planetary sciences with an extensive mix of talks, workshops and poster sessions while providing a unique space for networking and exchange of experiences.

In 2025, EPSC will be held jointly with the annual meeting of the American Astronomical Society's Division of Planetary Sciences (DPS) at Finlandia Hall, Helsinki, Finland on 7-12 September 2025. The Division for Planetary Sciences (DPS) is the world's largest professional society of planetary scientists, representing their interests at all stages of their careers. EPSC-DPS2025 will be the fifth joint meeting with the DPS and the third held in Europe, following EPSC-DPS 2011 (Nantes, France), DPS-EPSC 2016 (Pasadena, California USA), EPSC-DPS 2019 (Geneva, Switzerland) and DPS-EPSC 2023 (San Antonio, Texas, USA).

A total of 1,900 abstracts were submitted for EPSC-DPS2025, across 74 scientific sessions, and almost 1,500 participants registered by the early bird deadline of 31 July. Around 2,000 on-site and virtual participants expected to attend the meeting, making it the biggest meeting on planetary science held in Europe to date.

6.5.2. Future EPSC Meetings

EPSC2026 will be hosted for the first time in the Netherlands at the Amare venue in The Hague from 6-11 September 2026. EPSC 2027 will be held at the Pierre Baudis Congress Centre in Toulouse, France, from 19-24 September 2027. EPSC2027 will take place in the same week as the 59th DPS meeting, which will be held in Providence, Rhode Island, with hybrid participation in elements of the two events proposed.

Calls for hosting future EPSC meetings (2028 and 2029) will be issued following the EPSC-DPS2025 Joint Meeting. Interested parties should contact the EPSC Executive Committee Chair.

6.5.3. EPEC Annual Week 2025

The Europlanet Early Career (EPEC) Annual Week is an opportunity for the EPEC community to better get to know each other and strengthen their connections with the international science community in a conference exclusively catered to early careers.

The 7th edition of EPEC Annual Week took place from 19-23 May 2025 at the German Aerospace Center (DLR) in Berlin. Organised by the EPEC Committee and the Local Organising Committee, the programme featured scientific talks and invited speakers, opportunities for participants to present their work, and group activities designed to foster networking, collaboration and scientific discussion across career stages.

The event brought together over 45 participants, including BSc and MSc students, PhD candidates, and scientists who earned their PhD within the past seven years. The event aimed to build confidence, enhance communication skills, and strengthen connections within the international early-career planetary science community. Participants had the opportunity to explore world-class laboratories at DLR, spend a day at one of the oldest planetariums and visit the Natural History Museum in Berlin. A highlight of the week was a joint event with the Geo.X network, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration across Earth and space sciences.

6.5.4. Europlanet GMAP Winter School

The 2025 edition of the GMAP Winter School took place from 10-14 February 2025, with additional asynchronous access available throughout February and March via the Streavent platform. The topic of the 2025 Winter School was '*Geologic Mapping in the Solar System: Mercury, Venus, the Moon, and Mars*'.

This free training event focused on planetary geological mapping, covering sessions on planetary data and coordinate systems, software tools for mapping and geological features of Venus, Mercury, the Moon and Mars. Over 750 participants registered.

The live online programme included daily seminars and guided mapping tasks for each planetary body, as well as opportunities for asynchronous interaction and self-paced learning. Registered attendees had access to Q&A support until 28 February 2025 and were eligible for a certificate upon completion of mapping tasks. All materials were made freely available after the school for continued self-study (without certification).

6.5.5. Europlanet Teams Day

Europlanet Teams Day, held virtually on 7 May 2025, was the first in a planned series of sessions to facilitate discussions around how the different bodies of Europlanet can coordinate their activities to best serve the planetary science community. The meeting comprised interactive group brainstorming activities, facilitated dialogues, and breakout discussions focusing on the Regional Hubs, Committees and Working Groups of Europlanet.

The meeting was attended by 47 participants (including six of the eleven members of the Executive Board) representing all the organisational bodies of Europlanet.

Overall, the first Europlanet Teams Day was successful in achieving its objectives and as a trial of the interactive format for the meeting. Participants remained engaged throughout, breakout discussions were productive and relationships were reinforced between the different bodies of Europlanet. A report on [Europlanet Teams Day](#) is available online.

The next Europlanet Teams Day is scheduled for 12 November 2025, with follow-up events taking place virtually 2-3 times per year.

6.5.6. Europlanet Workshop in Colombia

The first Europlanet Planetary Science Workshop in Colombia took place from 3-6 June 2025 at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia in Bogotá, as a hybrid event held both on-site and online. The workshop's programme featured a hybrid section, accessible to in-person and online participants, with introductory talks on planetary science, followed by presentations by Colombian and Latin American researchers on various related topics. The second part of the workshop consisted of practical sessions on using planetary surface data and mapping. Europlanet was also represented at a workshop on Astrochemistry and Astrobiology held at the Universidad del Valle, Cali, Colombia from 23-25 April 2025.

The success of the two workshops has led to preparatory work for the establishment of a Europlanet Regional Hub in Colombia.

6.6. Activities of the Europlanet Committees and Working Groups

The activities of Europlanet are organised through a series of Committees and Working Groups. These include:

- 10 Regional Hub Committees
- EPSC Executive Committee, Scientific Organising Committee (SOC), Local Organising Committee (LOC) and Virtual Organising Committee (VOC)
- Europlanet Diversity Committee
- The EPEC Committee and Working Groups
- Industry, Policy, Machine Learning, Future Research and Outreach Working Groups

Progress has been made over the past three years to regenerate committees and working groups that had lost membership during the pandemic. However, this remains an ongoing process, with several positions still vacant in some bodies.

All Europlanet members have the right to nominate themselves or be nominated to take on a vacant role in a committee or working group. The relevant committee or working group can appoint or elect the candidate accordingly. The appointment of Chairs of committees and working groups is formally approved by the Executive Board on the recommendation of the relevant committee or working group.

The Chairs of the Regional Hub Committees are currently:

Benelux Hub - Séverine Robert (BIRA-IASB)
Central Europe - Akos Kereszturi (Konkoly Observatory)
France - Susan Conway (CNRS LPG Nantes)
Germany - Vacant
Ireland and UK - Jack Wright (U. Leicester)
Italy Hub - Stavro Ivanovski (INAF)
Northern Hub - Harri Haukka (FMI)
Southeast Europe Hub - Vacant
Spain-Portugal Hub - Alejandro Cardesín Moinelo (ESA-ESAC)
Switzerland Hub - Thibaut Roger (University of Bern)

The Chairs of the Europlanet Committees and Working Groups are currently:

Diversity Committee - Arianna Piccialli (BIRA-IASB)

EPEC - Jessica Hogan (Open University)* and Nimisha Verma (DLR)

EPSC Executive Committee - Lena Noack (FU Berlin)* and Noah Jäggi (U Virginia)

EPSC-DPS2025 SOC - Stavro Ivanovski (INAF) and Akos Kereszturi (Konkoly Observatory)*

EPSC-DPS2025 VOC - Maarten Roos-Serote (Lightcurve Films), Kelsi Singer (SWRI)* and Jessica Noviello (NASA Goddard/UMBC)*

EPSC-DPS2025 LOC - Maria Genzer (FMI) and Antti Penttilä (U. Helsinki)

Industry/Policy Working Group - Luca Montabone (Paneureka), Didier Moreau (BIRA-IASB)

Outreach Working Group - Federica Duras (INAF) and Thibaut Roger (U. Bern)

Machine Learning Working Group - Stavro Ivanovski (INAF) and Nimisha Verma (DLR)

Future Research Working Group - Peter Mc Ardle (U. Manchester) and Hans Huybrighs (DIAS)

* Stepping down after EPSC-DPS2025 Meeting

6.6.1. Europlanet Regional Hub Activities

6.6.1.1. Benelux Hub

The Benelux Hub fosters collaboration and community engagement across Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg. Key developments over the last 12 months include:

Committee Continuity and Representation: Following the committee renewal in mid-2024, the Hub maintained balanced representation from all three countries. Monthly meetings were held to coordinate activities across the Hub, its subcommittees, and the Europlanet Executive Board. The Chair of the Hub will now rotate between Benelux representatives, with Dennis Harries of the Luxembourg Institute of Science & Technology (LIST) taking on the role for the next year from Séverine Robert of the Royal Belgian Institute for Space Aeronomy (BIRA-IASB).

Member Engagement Efforts: The Hub continues to explore new strategies to strengthen its role and relevance within the community, including through online meetings, early career networking events (see below), and coordinating submissions for the Europlanet Committee Funding Scheme. The Benelux hub industry officer has also been heavily involved in the organisation of the E-SPIN (Europlanet Space Innovation Night) event planned at the EPSC-DPS2025 Joint Meeting (see below).

Outreach and Diversity Initiatives: The Hub's Diversity Officer launched a poll to gather input on outreach activities.

Support for Early-Career Scientists: The Belgian Early-Career Officer played a key role in organising the first Early Career Networking Day. While this inaugural event was open only to Benelux Hub members, there are plans to expand it to an international audience in future editions.

Digital Presence: The [Benelux Hub's website](#) was renewed and now features a dedicated section listing space-sector industries active in the region.

6.6.1.2. Central Europe Hub

The Central Europe Hub (CEH) fosters scientific collaboration, research, and outreach across the region, with notable progress in meetings, joint research, and public engagement during the reporting period.

Committee Membership: Akos Kereszturi (DSc) has taken up the role of Chair of the Europlanet Central Europe Hub, with objectives of supporting planetary science communities and activities in eastern Europe, in particular by highlighting funding opportunities and establishing connections with institutes in western Europe and with the European Space Agency. He follows Andrea Opitz as the Central Europe Hub Chair.

Scientific Research Collaboration: CEH members contributed to several high-impact scientific initiatives:

- A collaborative article based on the LUGO mission proposal was accepted for publication in *Acta Astronautica* (2025), featuring authors from the Czech Republic, Poland, and Hungary.
- A joint paper on mapping Irregular Mare Patches, authored by CEH scientists, was published in *Icarus*.
- CEH members contributed to the LUMI mission proposal submitted to ESA's small mission call.
- The AQUILA and ECRIS facilities developed under the Europlanet 2024 Research Infrastructure project at Atomki, the Hungarian Institute for Nuclear Research, have been included in a major national grant from the Hungarian Scientific Research Fund (OTKA).
- Facilities at Atomki, Comenius University and Isotoptech Zrt participated in the Europlanet Pilot Transnational Access Programme.

Educational Activities: CEH members contributed to planetary science education through Europlanet-themed lectures delivered as part of the Planetology MSc course at ELTE University in Hungary.

Outreach and Public Engagement: The Hub maintained a strong outreach presence across the region:

- Multiple radio and television interviews were conducted in Hungary, including appearances on Bézs Radio, Trend FM, RTL Klub, TV2, and Patria Radio.
- Outreach talks were held in Hungary (6 events) and Czechia (~40 events), covering topics such as asteroid impacts, meteor showers, Mars missions, astrobiology, and volcanism across the Solar System.
- Career orientation sessions were delivered at secondary schools in Hungary (5 events) and Czechia (4 events).
- The LUGO mission proposal, developed through CEH collaboration, was featured in *Universe Today*, highlighting its scientific significance and regional cooperation.

- CEH members contributed to the EPSC2024 outreach session, “Communicating Planetary Science in the 21st Century,” reflecting the Hub’s commitment to science communication.
- Petr Brož played a prominent role in promoting planetary science in the Czech Republic through major media appearances in early 2025. Highlights include his participation in Výborná Show - Windows to the Universe (Česká televize, 13 February), Dobré ráno (26 February), and Snídaně s Novou (March), where he presented the Almanac of Geoscience Experiments.

6.6.1.3. France Hub

Activities by the France Hub have a strong focus on national scientific collaboration and support for early-career researchers.

Funding Scheme Proposals: The France Hub supported a successful proposal through the Europlanet Society Committee Funding Scheme. ‘Lights, Camera, Early Careers in Action’ has created a series of videos highlighting the research of early careers and also provided science communication training (see [Section 6.4.1](#) for full details).

The French Hub also reported on outcomes of PlanetoExoBio2024, the first French national conference on Planetary Science and Astrobiology, which was held in Nantes from 1-5 July 2024 and attracted over 150 participants from across France and significant media attention at a local and regional level. The Hub organised two workshops during the conference with support from the 2024 round of the Europlanet Committee Funding Scheme, which also enabled travel grants for early-careers to attend the meeting. Attended by over 35 participants, the sessions featured six panellists who shared insights into diverse professional trajectories and alternative career paths for early-career researchers.

Committee Updates: The Hub committee met in February 2025. Since the previous meeting in April 2024, Jérémie Lasue has joined the committee as a representative of the National Planetary Science Programme (PNP). He will also serve as a liaison with the Local Organising Committee for EPSC 2026 in Toulouse. The Diversity Officer stepped down during the period, and efforts are underway to appoint a successor.

Communication and Outreach: The Hub continues to disseminate Europlanet announcements through the national PNP email distribution list, ensuring broad visibility of opportunities and activities within the French planetary science community.

6.6.1.4. Germany Hub

With both EPSC2024 and EPEC Annual Week 2025 hosted in Berlin, German Hub activities over the last year have been focused around Europlanet events.

Committee Updates: The German Hub met at EPSC2024 and subsequently organised a series of virtual monthly meetings, advertised to members and through the Europlanet monthly newsletter. The Hub Chair, Carlos Brandt, stepped down in the spring of 2025.

Recruitment for a new chair is underway. Nimisha Verma has taken on Co-Chair roles in both EPEC and the Machine Learning Working Group.

The formation of the German Society for Planetary Research in May 2025 will offer new opportunities for collaboration between the German planetary community and the Europlanet Germany Hub.

Early Careers: EPEC Annual Week took place at DLR in May 2025. Members of the German Hub led the Local Organising Committee and coordinated visits and social events around the scientific programme (see [Section 6.5.2](#) for details).

Communication and Outreach: The Europlanet German Hub helped organise the “Planets in Your Hands” exhibition during EPSC2024 in Berlin, Germany. The exhibition was well received and sparked a lot of discussions, giving participants a chance to experience different planets using wind, light, heat (for Mercury and Venus), and textured surfaces representing planetary terrain. Following EPSC2024, the exhibition was put on public display from 17-22 September 2024 at the Zeiss-Großplanetarium in north Berlin, a major visitor attraction that had 357,060 visitors in 2024.

6.6.1.5. Ireland & UK Hub

The Ireland-UK Hub is committed to fostering collaboration between researchers in the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom.

Committee Meetings: The Committee has met online in June 2025, as well as participating in Europlanet Teams Day and the Regional Hub Catch-ups.

Committee Membership: Several changes in committee membership occurred during the reporting period. Jack Wright transitioned from Secretary to Chair, succeeding Steve Miller. Joe McNeil joined as Hub Website Officer, and Niamh Shaw was appointed Outreach Officer for Ireland.

Funding Scheme Proposals: In 2025, the Hub supported two successful proposals through the Europlanet Society Committee Funding Scheme, including support for an early-career team to participate in a Mars Desert Research Station (MDRS) analogue astronaut mission, and for an international team to visit seasonal lagoons in Spain (see [Section 6.4.1](#) for full details). These initiatives reflect the Hub’s ongoing commitment to supporting early-career researchers and advancing planetary science through innovative, hands-on experiences.

Collaboration Fund: The Ireland-UK Hub has scoped out a scheme for using its discretionary fund to award up to €1,000 to support a researcher’s travel and associated costs for a research visit from the UK to ROI, or vice versa. The goal with this scheme is to help build lasting partnerships, encourage knowledge exchange, and strengthen cross-border research in planetary science and related fields.

6.6.1.6. Italy Hub

The Italy Hub has been active in contributing to the Europlanet and the planetary science communities, in particular through organisational and outreach efforts.

Active Participation in Europlanet Initiatives: Italian Hub members have participated in Europlanet initiatives throughout 2025, including Europlanet Teams Day, preparations for the EPSC-DPS2025 Meeting and the Hubs' monthly meetings.

Leadership: The Hub Chair, Stavro Ivanovski, also serves as Vice President, Co-Chair of the EPSC-DPS SOC and the Machine Learning Working Group, established at EPSC2024. Federica Duras and Livia Giacomini serve on the Europlanet Executive Board. Federica Duras is also Co-Chairs of the Outreach Working Group.

Early Career Involvement: Lorenzo Biasiotti has been appointed as the Italian Hub's Early Career Officer. Stavro Ivanovski represented the Europlanet Board and delivered a presentation at the 7th EPEC Annual Week meeting held in Berlin in May 2025.

Industry and Diversity Initiatives: The Italian Hub has appointed Giovanni Poggiali as Diversity Officer. Discussions are in progress to assign the Industry Officer role to a collaborator from the Italian Space Agency, which will bolster the Hub's activities within Italy's space exploration industry.

Contributions to National Space Initiatives: Italy Hub members, including Stavro Ivanovski and Vice-Chair Alice Lucchetti, are active participants in the preparation of the 10-year Roadmap and Future Topics for the "Sun and Solar System" of the Italian Space Agency. This roadmap, expected to be published in 2025, is a key effort in shaping Italy's future in planetary science.

Outreach and Education: The Hub has contributed to the Outreach Working Group and led discussions on a collaboration with Daniela de Paulis on her experimental poetry and astronomy project, One Million Poems.

National Presence: Posters on Europlanet and the Planetary Science Wiki Edit-a-thon were presented at the XX National Congress of the Italian Society of Planetary Science. Stavro Ivanovski presented Europlanet at the INAF Sun and Solar System Research Committee meetings, where the committee endorsed stronger collaboration between INAF planetologists and the Europlanet community.

Improvement of Funding Communication: Six submissions were made by the Italian Hub to the Europlanet Committee Funding Scheme. While none of these were successful (although some applicants were encouraged to resubmit to the upcoming Transnational Access and Expert Exchange programmes) it demonstrated success in efforts to improve communication about funding opportunities and to engage more Italian planetary scientists in Hub activities.

Membership: Following sustained efforts by the Italian Hub, INAF (Istituto Nazionale di Astrofisica) has joined Europlanet as an Organisational Member, marking a significant step in consolidating Italy's contribution to European planetary science collaboration.

6.6.1.7. Northern Europe Hub

The Northern Europe Hub has continued to strengthen regional collaboration and contribute to Europlanet's broader mission through strategic meetings, successful funding initiatives, and preparations for upcoming international events.

Preparations for EPSC-DPS2025: During the Europlanet Science Congress (EPSC) 2024, Hub members convened to discuss future directions and set objectives for the coming year. This meeting played a key role in shaping the Hub's activities and fostering collaboration in preparation for the EPSC-DPS Joint Meeting 2025 in Helsinki. The Finnish Meteorological Institute and the University of Helsinki, both active members of the Hub, are leading the Local Organising Committee (LOC) for the event and hosted a site visit from Copernicus and the EPSC Committee in February 2025.

Funding Success: In 2025, the Hub submitted two proposals to the Europlanet Committee Funding Scheme, both of which were approved. The funding will support two events held in September 2025, including an astrobiology workshop in Lithuania focused on Tardigrades, and the 2025 edition of the Mercury Laboratory Workshop in Finland. (see [Section 6.4.1](#) for more details).

Community Engagement and Planning: Hub members participated in the Europlanet Teams Day and EPSC Committee Meetings to exchange insights, collaborate on ongoing projects, and plan future initiatives, ensuring continued momentum and engagement across the region.

6.6.1.8. Spain & Portugal Hub

The Spain & Portugal Hub aims to play a dynamic role in promoting planetary science across the Iberian Peninsula and strengthening ties with the broader Ibero-American community through scientific events, outreach and strategic partnerships.

Scientific Events and Collaboration: The Hub co-organised the VIII Iberian Congress on Planetary Sciences and Solar System Exploration (CPESS-8), held from 26-29 May 2025 in Málaga, Spain, with support from the Europlanet Committee Funding Scheme. The event featured strong participation from the Spanish Space Agency, the State Research Agency, and representatives from the space industry and technology development centres. Scientific sessions brought together planetary research groups from leading public institutions, reinforcing the Hub's commitment to fostering interdisciplinary collaboration.

Hub members were also involved in organising the 26th biannual astronomy convention of the Sabadell Astronomical Group, which took place from 14-16 March 2025. Opportunities to observe with the Europlanet Telescope Network were presented at the convention.

Ibero-American Engagement: The Hub continued to build on its strategic partnerships through the Ibero-American Space Agency Network and the Organization of Ibero-American States (OEI). Key activities included:

- An online webinar titled “Técnicas para Observar Asteroides” in May 2025, presented by René Duffard (IAA) and Paula Benavidez (University of Alicante), aimed at the Ibero-American community.
- A second webinar on In-Situ Resource Utilization (ISRU) in June 2025, in collaboration with the Spanish Aerospace Platform.

Recognition and Awards: The Hub continued its support for early-career researchers and amateur astronomers through a second edition of the Iberian Europlanet Awards, which recognised PhD and Master’s theses awarded in 2024:

- The Abraham Zacut Prize for best PhD Thesis was awarded to Eloy Peña Asensio (UAB/ICE) for his work on ‘*A Comprehensive Study of the Fireball Flux Over the Earth*’.
- The Pedro Nunes Prize for best Master’s thesis was awarded jointly to Yuri Damasceno (U. Porto) for his thesis on ‘*Atmospheric composition of the ultra-hot Jupiter WASP-178 b with ESPRESSO*’ and Rafael Silva (U. Lisbon) for his thesis on ‘*Titan’s Atmosphere Composition and Temporal Evolution using High-Resolution Spectroscopy, and its Interaction with the Surface using Atomistic Molecular Dynamics Simulations*’.

Community Engagement and Communication: The Hub maintained regular communication with the planetary science community in Spain and Portugal through its updated website and mailing list. The reorganised Hub structure has enabled more frequent meetings and broader participation from new members, ensuring continued momentum and inclusivity.

6.6.1.9. Switzerland Hub

The Europlanet Swiss Hub builds on synergies with the national network NCCR PlanetS and its planned successor, the Swiss Institute for Planetary Science (SIPS) association, to support the planetary community in Switzerland.

Committee Membership: The hub saw a change of leadership Thibaut Roger (University of Bern) taking on the role from Prof Sascha Quanz (ETH Zurich). The main objective of the year has been to build impetus into the Hub and gain members, with an end goal of rebuilding the Hub leadership team and filling all the vacant positions.

Communications: As part of initiatives to revitalise the Hub, a newsletter has been set up to disseminate announcements.

Community Funding Scheme: The Swiss Hub has used its discretionary funding of €1000 to support a funding scheme for the Swiss planetary community. Two calls were conducted, one to cover projects that had taken place in 2024, and one to cover upcoming projects in 2025. Three projects were selected, focusing on outreach in 2024 and science in 2025:

- Les étoiles du petit prince received 500€ from the 2024 call. This outreach initiative brought astronomy to communities in Morocco, following Saint-Exupéry’s journey in the Sahara desert, where he found inspiration for his celebrated book.
- Astronomy on Tap (AoT) Zürich received 350€ from the 2024 call for the organisation of two public events. AoT is a worldwide network that organises

public events, such as lectures and pub quizzes, in informal environments. Zurich is the third Swiss city to host an AoT chapter (created in September 2024).

- Parastoo Ghaznavi (U. Bern) received 650€ from the 2025 call to analyse and characterise potential meteorites collected in the Iranian deserts. First results show most are indeed meteorites, opening the range of possibilities for the meteorites community to collect more material in the field. A report is in preparation for submission to the Meteoritical Society.

Outreach: The Switzerland Hub members, under NCCR PlanetS flag (and with extra hands provided from the Europlanet Executive Office), had exhibits in the Space Area at Fantasy Basel in May 2025. The event attracted 97,000 participants, with at least 10,000 interacting with planetary scientists at the 200m² area of stands under the NCCR PlanetS flag. Switzerland Hub members also acted as scientific advisors for a special set of Solar System stamps issued by the Swiss Post Office.

6.6.1.10. South-East Europe Hub

The South-East Europe Hub works to strengthen collaboration and support outreach initiatives across the region.

Committee Updates: The Hub Chair, Nick Sergis, stepped down in the spring of 2025. Recruitment for a new chair is underway.

Outreach: The South East Europe Hub is creating a massive online open course (MOOC), led by the PeriAstron association, which builds on the successful 'SpaceGates Academy' outreach project. The MOOC will provide easy access to the knowledge accumulated through SpaceGates Academy and give structured and comprehensive training on the wide range of science communication practices. The work is funded through previous round of the Europlanet Committee Funding Scheme.

6.6.2. Europlanet Early Career Network

The Europlanet Early Career (EPEC) Network aims to forge a real community for early career planetary scientists and sustain a virtual and physical space where early careers can find connections with peers, develop soft leadership and communication skills, and build confidence to navigate through the starting stages of their careers.

Leadership Updates: Nimisha Verma was appointed as EPEC Co-Chair alongside Jessica Hogan, taking up the role from Melissa Mirino, who continued to represent early career interests as a Europlanet Board Member. Nimisha also led the organisation of the 2025 EPEC Annual Week. Following EPSC2024, Johanna Bürger stepped down as EPEC@EPSC Co-Chair and was succeeded by Aurélie Van den Neucker, who now co-leads EPEC@EPSC with Jules Bourdelle de Micas.

Updated Aims: Over the last year, EPEC has spent time re-evaluating its aims, updating its operations and rebuilding its community. EPEC's updated objectives are to:

- Highlight opportunities for early careers to advance in their career, e.g. through showcasing funding, fieldwork or employment opportunities, as well as through our events (e.g. Annual Week) and activities (e.g. Future Research).
- Enable early career scientists to develop their international connections with other members of the community at all career stages (e.g. through the EPSC Mentorship programme).
- Allow early careers to utilise EPEC as a launchpad by creating resources or investing in activities to facilitate early career development (e.g. diversity seminar series, podcasts, amateur astronomy etc).
- Explore collaborations with other early career networks to foster networking and increase visibility.
- Create a strong network of volunteers within EPEC to develop new activities and enable smooth transitions between different communities.

EPEC Annual Week: The 7th edition of the EPEC Annual Week (AW) took place at DLR, Berlin from 19 – 23 May 2025. The EPEC AW is a conference exclusively catered to early careers, and is an opportunity for participants to get to know each other and strengthen their connections with the international science community. The programme for EPEC AW 2025 consisted of talks from invited speakers on science, industry, the European Space Agency (ESA), missions and techniques. This year’s event brought together over 45 participants. For more detail, see [Section 6.5.3](#) and the [EPEC webpages](#).

EPSC-DPS2025 Activities: EPEC@EPSC-DPS2025 has planned a suite of activities for the upcoming joint meeting in Helsinki including:

- Mentoring at EPSC-DPS2025
- Communication 101 workshop
- EPSC-DPS2025 Ice Breaker
- EPEC General Assembly
- Speed Science-ing
- Academia - Industry Panel discussion
- ESA/NASA Panel discussion
- Science Flash
- EPEC Social Event

EPSC2024 Activities: EPEC played a central role in organising early career activities at EPSC2024 in Berlin. Led by EPEC@EPSC Co-Chairs Johanna Bürger and Jules Bourdelle de Micas, a team of six volunteers coordinated a record number of events, including:

- Mentoring@EPSC (34 participants). The Mentoring@EPSC programme successfully paired 18 mentors with 19 mentees, primarily MSc and PhD students. Promotion through Discord and social media helped boost participation, though feedback indicated a need for earlier outreach in future editions.
- AbGradEPEC Joint Event (approx. 33 participants). *The AbGradEPEC Joint Event*, held the day before EPSC at FU Berlin, featured 10 contributed talks and a masterclass session on ESA careers. The event attracted a diverse audience of BSc, MSc, and PhD students, with 66.7% attending an EPEC or AbGradE event for the first time. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the value of networking and career-focused sessions.

- EPEC Booth and Visibility. EPEC shared a booth with Europlanet in the EPSC2024 exhibition hall, serving as a central hub for early career engagement and maintaining visibility through banners, flyers and buttons. The booth facilitated in-person connections and volunteer recruitment for future EPEC activities.
- Other events organised by EPEC@EPSC2024 included:
 - The EPEC General Assembly (approx. 93 participants).
 - Science Flash (approx. 100 participants)
 - A Career Development Panel (approx. 65 participants)
 - The EPEC Social Event (approx. 140 participants).

6.6.3. Committee and Working Group Activities

6.6.3.1. Diversity Committee

The Diversity Committee is committed to promoting inclusivity and accessibility within the planetary science community, with a strong focus on activities surrounding EPSC2024 and preparations for EPSC-DPS2025.

Committee Updates: In early 2025, elections were held, with Solmaz Adeli appointed as Chair and Arianna Piccialli as Vice-Chair. The Committee has resumed regular meetings, now in collaboration with DPS colleagues, to prepare for EPSC-DPS2025 in Helsinki. Efforts are ongoing to fill vacant officer positions across several Hubs, with some recent successes in recruiting new representatives.

EPSC-DPS2025 Activities: The Diversity Committee has supported the EPSC-DPS Executive Committee by providing input for guidelines and the Code of Conduct for the meeting, and ensuring that childcare services, venue accessibility, gender-neutral toilets, and a silent room are available. Diversity Committee Members have convened a session in the EPSC-DPS2025 scientific programme, a roundtable splinter discussion on diversity and inclusion, as well as the Diversity Keynote Lecture, which will be given this year by Anne Liljeström (Ursa Astronomical Association).

Report on EPSC2024 Activities: Diversity Committee activities at EPSC2024 included a Diversity Keynote talk by Iris van Zelst, attended by over 90 conference participants, followed by a panel discussion featuring Iris van Zelst and Petr Brož. Committee members acted as conveners for two sessions in the ODAA (Outreach Diversity and Amateur Astronomy) Programme Group, as well as a roundtable discussion on diversity and inclusion. A training session on Bystander Intervention was supported by Diversity Committee funds and additional contributions from the EPSC2024 Committee and Europlanet.

Planetary Wiki Edit-a-Thon: The Committee submitted a successful funding proposal to the King Baudouin Foundation to support the Planetary Wiki Edit-a-Thon. A poster was presented at EPSC2024, and the project has since progressed with professional training sessions led by Wikimedia Belgium during February to March 2025.

6.6.3.2. Outreach Working Group

The Outreach Working Group has been active over the past 12 months in coordinating and promoting public engagement initiatives within Europlanet, focusing particularly on EPSC-DPS2025 preparations, and developing outreach and educational collaborations.

Monthly Meetings: The Outreach Working Group has held regular (~every two months) meetings with members to coordinate activities and ensure smooth collaboration.

EPSC-DPS2025 Outreach: The Outreach Working Group has been involved in planning public engagement and educational activities for EPSC-DPS 2025, in collaboration with the DPS, the LOC in Helsinki, Lecturers Without Borders and Scientix. A call for volunteers to take part in EPSC-DPS2025 Goes Live for Schools resulted in 95 offers by scientists attending the meeting, who will be supported to go into schools in and around Helsinki to deliver lectures and workshops (either in person or online). The programme also includes 'Cosmic Interviews', during which female students of 16-19 years will come into the EPSC-DPS venue to chat informally with female conference participants in a closed splinter session. Three session proposals and 18 abstracts on education or public engagement topics were submitted for EPSC-DPS2025.

The Outreach Working Group is also collaborating with Daniela de Paulis, winner of the 2023 Europlanet Prize for Public Engagement, on her experimental poetry and astronomy project, "One Million Poems". The project aims to create transient conceptual and poetic synopsis by attributing a concept, a sentence or a word to celestial objects. At EPSC-DPS2025, as an early test of the concept, passers-by in the public areas and the conference exhibition will be asked to name celestial objects and create a dynamic daily canvas of the heavens.

EPSC2024 Outreach Outcomes: Outreach activities for EPSC2024 aimed to engage the broader community in planetary science. The fourth edition of the *#InspiredByOtherWorlds* arts contest invited schools and space enthusiasts of all ages to share their artworks and performances on the theme of 'Returning to Earth'. Entries were showcased during EPSC2024 in Berlin and a winner was selected from entries in December 2024. Despite the contest being open from March until the end of September 2024, there was a significant drop in the number of entries compared to previous years, and a 2025 edition of the contest has not been planned.

The 2024 edition of *EPSC Goes Live for Schools* took place over two weeks, with live events during the EPSC2024 meeting and online events held in the following days. 57 EPSC2024 participants volunteered their time during the conference and the programme reached about 200 students, who had the opportunity to talk in-person with planetary scientists from all over the world, learn more about science and ask for guidance in their future career paths. Stop-motion movies that students (especially the youngest age group of 9-11 year-olds) created with the help of a film artist were shown at the IAC conference in Milan in October 2024.

Outreach Newsletter: An outreach newsletter is distributed every 3-4 months to members of the outreach mailing list, providing updates on activities, opportunities and resources.

Outreach Prize and Funding: The Europlanet Prize for Public Engagement was launched in June 2025, with the winner (RECA Educación) selected by the end of July (see [Section 6.4.3.2](#) for details).

6.6.3.3. Policy and Industry Working Groups

The Policy and Industry Working Groups were formally active until the end of the EU-funded Europlanet 2024 Research Infrastructure project on 31 July 2024. Since then, the Europlanet Board has assumed interim governance of the Groups and initiated a restructuring process aimed at renewing their memberships, focus, scope, and activities. The overarching goal remains to strengthen collaboration between the planetary science community and the European industrial and policy sectors, as part of Europlanet’s broader commitment to long-term sustainability and impact.

Working Groups Updates: The process of reconstructing active Working Groups started with a meeting in November 2024 between members of the Europlanet Executive Board and former members of the Industry and Policy WGs. This first exchange focused on lessons learned, discussing what had worked well in the past and where improvements were needed.

The first virtual meeting of Industry and Policy Officers from the Europlanet Regional Hubs in the new phase was convened by members of the Executive Board and held on 6 March 2025. This meeting focused on defining clear objectives for the new Working Groups through a bottom-up approach. A task force of volunteers was established to collect input from the Hubs and recommend priorities. Key challenges identified included the need for clearer tasks for officers, stronger incentives for engagement, and more effective communication channels.

A follow-up discussion took place during the Europlanet Teams Day on 7 May 2025, which enabled broader participation and further alignment of priorities among the Hubs. Parallels were drawn with similar group structures in larger organisations such as the European Geosciences Union (EGU), and potential new activities were discussed. One proposal under consideration is the development of bidirectional exchanges between academia and industry, as well as between academia and policy institutions, following successful models adopted by EGU.

Europlanet Space Innovation Night (E-SPIN): E-SPIN has emerged as one of the flagship initiatives of joint Industry and Policy activity. The inaugural event at EPSC 2024 in Berlin, focused on the theme of SmallSats, attracted over 50 participants and highlighted the strong demand for structured dialogue between researchers, industry professionals, and policymakers. At EPSC-DPS 2025, [E-SPIN](#) will focus on “The Use of Machine Learning in Planetary Sciences: Opportunities, Challenges, and Risks”. The event will combine a moderated panel discussion with five invited experts from academia (including an early career researcher), space agencies (ESA and NASA), and local industry, followed by networking opportunities. A new, dedicated website supports the event with information and promotion.

6.6.3.4. Machine Learning Working Group

The Europlanet Machine Learning (ML) Working Group, launched in September 2024, has been active over the past 12 months in coordinating and promoting ML initiatives within planetary science, with a particular focus on collaborative research efforts and developing specialised ML applications.

Membership: The working group is led by Stavro Ivanovski and Nimisha Verma. As of May 2025, the Working Group has grown to 30 members, including both senior researchers and early career scientists. This reflects the strong interest and diverse expertise in ML applications across planetary science. For more information, see the [Europlanet ML Working Group webpage](#).

Membership of the ML Working Group is open to Europlanet members. Benefits include access to high-impact ML research, shared tools and facilities via the Europlanet ML Portal, opportunities to participate in future EC-funded ML proposals, and access to training, career development, and professional services.

Monthly Meetings: The ML Working Group initiated regular monthly meetings on the third Wednesday of each month from January 2025 onwards. These meetings provide a platform for members to present their current or published work, followed by Q&A sessions to foster discussion and collaboration. A schedule of upcoming talks and speakers is available on the [ML Working Group webpage](#).

EPSC2024 Kick-off and Strategic Goals: The Machine Learning Working Group held its kick-off meeting during EPSC2024 in Berlin in September 2024. The session focused on establishing the group's mission and engaging with Europlanet members and external collaborators. Key goals included creating a knowledge-sharing platform, forming sub-groups to expand on current research areas, and fostering new collaborative opportunities with potential funding sources.

Research Focus and Applications: Building on the achievements of the Europlanet 2024 RI project, the ML Working Group is advancing targeted ML research in planetary science. The group is developing methods and tools for:

- Planetary surface and subsurface mapping, mineralogy, geomorphology and geology
- Atmospheric modelling, climate analysis and planetary weather systems
- Studies of planetary system formation, exoplanets and astrobiology
- ML frameworks for data integration, fusion, visualisation and dissemination.

Large Language Models (e.g. ChatGPT) are also being explored as tools to support ML-driven planetary research.

Collaborations and Impact: The Working Group aims to bridge the gap between ML and planetary science by positioning academic institutions and industry stakeholders at the forefront of cutting-edge research. Through collaboration and knowledge exchange, the group aims to drive innovation and accelerate scientific discovery.

7. Financial Report

Europlanet AISBL is an international not-for-profit enterprise that is financed through:

- Community subscriptions:
 - Individual memberships
 - Institutional packages of individual memberships
 - Organisational memberships
- EPSC settlement:
 - Fees
 - Exhibition and sponsorship

The transfer of assets and administrative, legal and financial responsibilities from the European Science Foundation (ESF), which hosted the Europlanet Executive Office from 2018-2024, to Europlanet AISBL was finalised on 31 July 2024.

The completion of the transition of Europlanet to an international non-profit association marks a key milestone in the evolution of its governance and status. By becoming an AISBL, Europlanet now benefits from an independent and stable legal framework, adapted to its long-term ambitions, while strengthening its capacity to engage international partnerships, mobilise funding and offer structured services to its members.

7.1. Detailed Financial Breakdown

A full transfer of banking and accounting responsibility took place on 31 July 2024, with the handover from ESF to Europlanet AISBL, thus the finances for Europlanet are presented in this report in two semesters:

- First semester: 1 January - 31 July 2024
- Second Semester: 1 August - 31 December 2025

7.1.1. First Semester 2024 (ESF)

Income and expenses managed for Europlanet by the ESF during Semester 1 (01 January - 31 July 2024) are shown in Table 7.1 and 7.2 respectively. During this time, Executive Office costs were partly supported at the ESF and University of Kent through the Europlanet 2024 RI project with funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 871149.

Table 7.1: 2024 First Semester Income (ESF Bank Account)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Income source</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<i>January - July 2024</i>	<i>Membership First Semester</i>	€ 10,895.00
<i>January - July 2024</i>	<i>Institutional Packages First Semester</i>	€ 1,000.00
<i>July 2024</i>	<i>Refund Legal and Accounting Fees</i>	€ 200.33
<i>January 2024</i>	<i>Carry-over from 2023</i>	€ 56,109.53
	Total	€ 68,204.86

Table 7.2: 2024 First Semester Outgoings (ESF Bank Account)

<i>Expenses</i>	<i>2024 (To 31 July)</i>
<i>Travel</i>	€ 25.00
<i>Executive Office Staff Costs</i>	€ 7,046.13
<i>Website costs</i>	€ 1,597.40
<i>Resources</i>	€ 171.04
<i>Miscellaneous fees</i>	€ 513.31
<i>ESF retained funds</i>	€ 5,000.00
<i>Committee Funding Scheme</i>	€ 6,515.08
<i>Overheads</i>	€ 1,647.00
	Total
	€ 22,514.96

Balance of Europlanet accounts transferred from ESF

Income	€	68,204.86
Outgoings	€	(22,514.96)
Balance	€	45,689.90

7.1.2. Second Semester 2024 (Europlanet AISBL)

Income and expenses for Europlanet AISBL during Semester 2 (01 August - 31 December 2024) are shown in Table 7.3 and 7.4 respectively. The Executive Office operated at no cost to Europlanet during this period, as it was supported at the University of Kent with funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 101082738.

Table 7.3: Second Semester Income

<i>Date</i>	<i>Income source</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<i>August - December 2024</i>	<i>Membership Second semester</i>	3,216.46 €
<i>September 2024</i>	<i>ESF transfer</i>	45,689.90 €
<i>December 2024</i>	<i>Copernicus Settlement for EPSC2024</i>	75,787.42 €
<i>December 2024</i>	<i>Foundation Roi Baudouin</i>	3,000.00 €
	Total	127,693.78 €

Figure 7.1: Pie Chart showing breakdown of Europlanet Second Semester 2024 Income

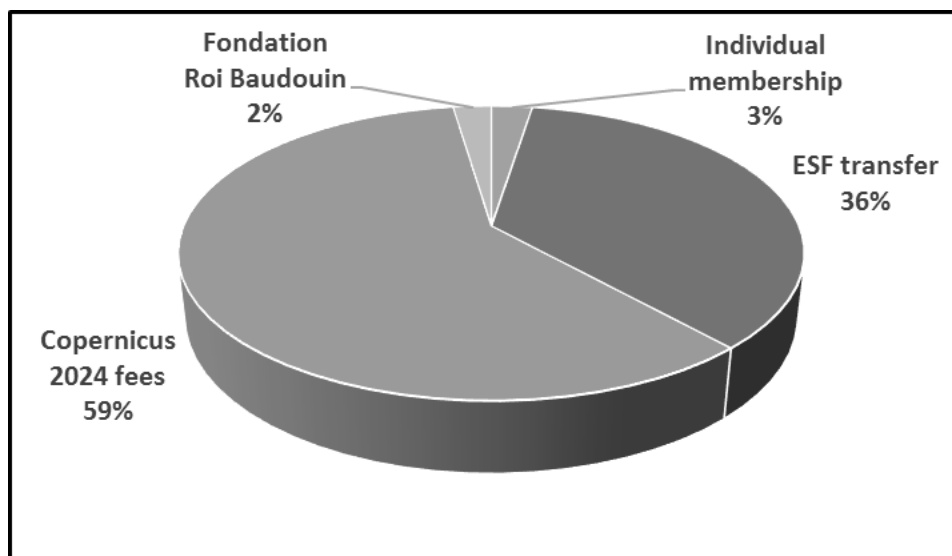
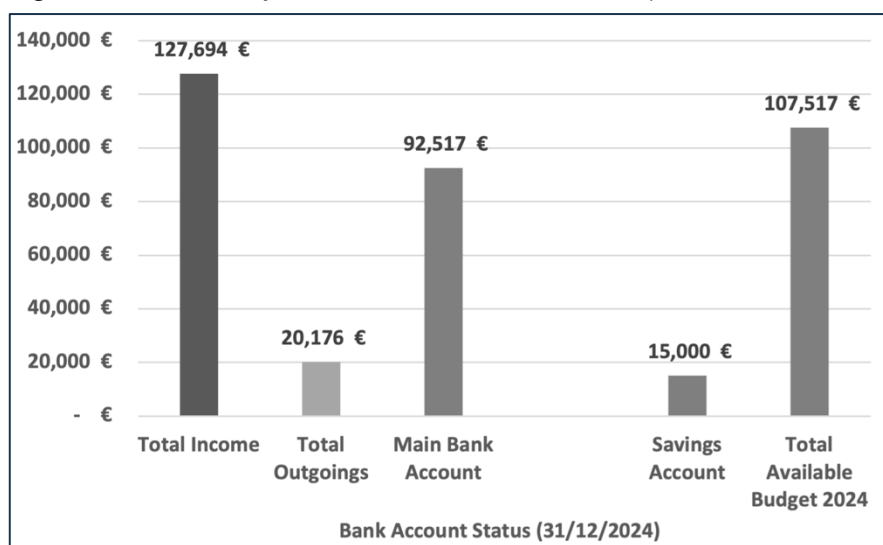


Table 7.4: Second Semester Outgoings

Expenses	Amount
Travel	2,884.44 €
Executive Office Staff Costs	-
Technical Support / ArkadIA	6,775.83 €
Website costs (domains and hosting)	1,022.95 €
Awards (Farinella)	1,500.00 €
Legal and accounting fees	1,1901.14 €
Committee Funding	4108.89 €
Hub Discretionary Funding	1,996.75 €
Total	20,176.48 €

Figure 7.5: Summary of Financial Status for Europlanet in Second Semester 2024



7.1.3. Financial Outlook for 2025 and 2026

The financial outlook for Europlanet in 2025 is positive. The support of grants in 2024 and 2025 have offset operational costs of the Executive Office during the transition from EC funding to a self-sustaining footing, and have allowed the AISBL to start to build up the reserve in its saving account that is required to protect against future losses (e.g. the cancellation of EPSC at short notice).

Funding brought in by the launch of organisational memberships (Table 7.5) in December 2024 has meant that Europlanet can continue to implement the core services, including the Transnational Access programme, that it has delivered to date with EC funding. With 14 organisations submitting applications to join, Europlanet is two thirds of the way towards reaching its target of 21 organisational members by the end of the first year.

Table 7.5: The Europlanet Organisational Membership Tiers

Category	Description	Cost
Tier 1	Large-scale Organisations (European and regional organisation)	€ 10,000.00
Tier 2	Institution	€ 2,500.00
Tier 3	Institution in Under-Represented State (URS)	€ 1,250.00
Tier 4	Amateur Society/Association	€ 500.00

The settlement from EPSC (funds transferred by the conference organiser, Copernicus, to Europlanet AISBL after tax), is a vital revenue stream for Europlanet’s operations. To support the community in the period following Covid-19, EPSC registration fees remained flat (i.e. with no increase) from 2022-2024. However, the actual costs associated with organising meetings (including energy, catering and venue staffing) have increased significantly over that period. The increase in registration costs for EPSC-DPS2025 reflects both the high costs of Helsinki and inflation, and will enable Europlanet to:

- Fund bursaries to a value of €44,700 to support early career researchers, students, researchers from under-represented countries, teachers and amateur astronomers attending the meeting.
- Secure funding for Europlanet’s day-to-day operations to support the community.
- Provide funding for the community through funding schemes and Committee discretionary funds in 2026.
- Secure the necessary reserve to protect Europlanet against losses.

Table 7.6 and Table 7.7 show the estimated income and expenditure for Europlanet in 2025.

Table 7.6: Estimated income for Europlanet in 2025

Revenue Source	Expected Income
Carry-over from 2024	107,517.30 €
Individual Memberships	15,000.00 €
Institutional Tier 1	20,000.00 €
Institutional Tier 2	30,000.00 €
Institutional Tier 3	6,250.00 €
Institutional Tier 4	1,000.00 €
EPSC Settlement	100,000.00 €
Total	279,767.30 €

Table 7.7: Budget for Europlanet Expenditure in 2025

Activity	Budget 2025
<i>Travel / Meetings</i>	9,000 €
<i>Staff / Arkadia</i>	12,000 €
<i>Staff / Executive Office</i>	12,000 €
<i>Subscriptions</i>	5,000 €
<i>Web - domains and hosting</i>	1,625 €
<i>Printing Costs</i>	2,000 €
<i>EOSC member fees</i>	2,000 €
<i>Legal cost</i>	1,000 €
<i>Other costs</i>	500 €
<i>Hubs funding</i>	14,000 €
<i>Committee Funding</i>	30,000 €
<i>EPEC Annual week</i>	15,000 €
<i>Awards</i>	1,500 €
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	1,000 €
<i>Facility Access Pilot</i>	9,000 €
<i>Expert Ex. Programme</i>	9,700 €
<i>Magazine</i>	7,000 €
<i>Communications Team</i>	7,500 €
<i>Mentoring</i>	5,000 €
<i>Evaluation</i>	2,500 €
<i>Winter School</i>	7,800 €
Balance	155,125 €

Table 7.8 and Table 7.9 show a provisional forecast for income and expenditure for Europlanet in 2026. These figures may be revised based on the final figures and membership numbers for 2025.

Table 7.8: Estimated income for Europlanet in 2026

Revenue Source	Expected Income
Carry-over from 2025	125,889 €
Individual Memberships	15,000.00 €
Institutional Tier 1	30,000.00 €
Institutional Tier 2	50,000.00 €
Institutional Tier 3	8,750.00 €
Institutional Tier 4	2,500.00 €
EPSC Settlement	100,000.00 €
Total	332,139.39 €

Table 7.9: Provisional Budget for Europlanet Expenditure in 2026

Activity	Budget 2026
<i>Travel / Meetings</i>	12,000 €
<i>Staff / ArkadIA</i>	19,152 €
<i>Staff / Executive Office</i>	63,109 €
<i>Subscriptions</i>	5,000 €
<i>Web - domains and hosting</i>	1,625 €
<i>Printing Costs</i>	2,000 €
<i>EOSC member fees</i>	2,000 €
<i>Legal cost</i>	1,000 €
<i>Other costs</i>	500 €
<i>Hubs funding</i>	14,000 €
<i>Committee Funding</i>	30,000 €
<i>EPEC Annual week</i>	15,000 €
<i>Awards</i>	1,500 €
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	1,000 €
<i>Facility Access Pilot</i>	19,500 €
<i>Expert Ex. Programme</i>	9,700 €
<i>Magazine</i>	7,000 €
<i>Communications Team</i>	18,000 €
<i>Mentoring</i>	5,000 €
<i>Evaluation</i>	2,500 €
<i>Winter School</i>	7,800 €
Balance	237,386 €

7.2. Future Planning

Europlanet is on track to meet its targets for Organisational Membership in 2025, with further institutions expected to join before the launch of the first Transnational Access Call in the autumn of 2025. The settlement from EPSC-DPS2025 should place Europlanet on a secure financial footing for the upcoming year.

However, Europlanet needs to consolidate and expand its potential income streams over the next five years to ensure long-term sustainability. As the association grows in scope and turnover, it will need to accrue sufficient and reliable funds to recruit an experienced Executive Team (Chief Executive Officer and Financial Officer), most likely on a part time basis, who can define and implement the vision for Europlanet operations over the next decade. Until sufficient funds are available, these roles are being undertaken by Board Members, but this is not a viable solution in the long term, given the size and complexity of the association.

In addition to growing membership, it is a priority to increase the income from EPSC through the exhibition and sponsorship. The provision of services by Europlanet is also being explored as a potential income stream, including providing administration for the Opticon Telescope Network and providing consultancy on evaluation and impact studies. The introduction of a modest registration fee for the GMAP Winter School is also planned.

Table 7.9: Organisational Membership Growth 2025-2029

Tier	Cost	2025	2026	2027	2028
Tier 1	€ 10K	2	3	4	5
Tier 2	€ 2.5K	12	15	20	25
Tier 2	€ 1.25K	5	7	10	12
Tier 3	€ 0.5K	2	5	7	10



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