



MW-Gaia WG5 Workshop

Bringing the Milky Way to schools

online, 2nd-4th June 2021

The workshop [Bringing the Milky Way to schools](#) took place virtually hosted by Instituto de Astrofísica e Ciências do Espaço (Porto, Portugal) and Vilnius University (Lithuania), from 2nd to 4th June 2021.

This was the first workshop of the Working Group 5 of the MW-Gaia COST Action CA. The submission of talks and poster presentations on all topics was encouraged. We also encouraged posters from schools, astronomy clubs or astronomy enthusiasts to tell the success story of educational activities. Two poster prizes were issued to the best poster and the best poster from school.

A main channel in Zoom was defined for plenary sessions and breakout channels for additional focussed discussions and meetings. Slack Channels were set up for dedicated chats.

MW-GAIA: BRINGING THE MILKY WAY TO SCHOOLS 2021

JUNE 2-4 2021

TOPICS COVERED

- The Milky Way as a Galaxy: the science and research background
- Dissemination of the GAIA science
- Bringing the research closer to the public
- Teaching the Milky Way in schools
- How to make teaching and science communication more inclusive

Deadline for abstract submission: 14 May 2021
Deadline for registrations: 1 June 2021

COST ACTION CA-18104 HOSTED BY
INSTITUTO DE ASTROFÍSICA E CIÊNCIAS DO ESPAÇO (PORTO, PT)
VILNIUS UNIVERSITY (VILNIUS, LT)

ORGANIZERS

Universidade do Porto
Centro Ciência Viva

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Vilnius University

Scientific motivation of the workshop

MW-GAIA main purpose is to provide a better understanding of the Galaxy, its stars and planets, to enhance the potential of the community in its scientific exploitation of the observations of more than a billion stars with the European Space Agency's *Gaia* satellite, and to enhance the development of the next steps in astrometry and space astrometry missions.

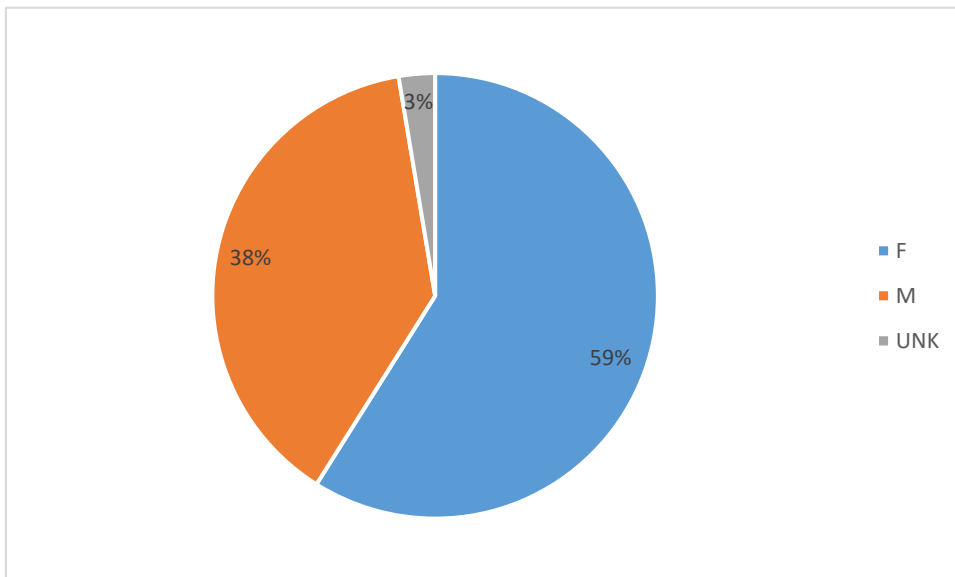
During this three-day workshop we brought together the research, the teaching and the science communication communities. This was done by presenting the work that has been done throughout the years on the exploration of our Milky Way, but also the attempts of turning this knowledge into useful and powerful tools for teaching, astronomy outreach and communicating science in general.

This workshop fits the Action by aiming to leave a significant legacy, creating a dynamic and vibrant network of researchers with expertise in the study of the Milky Way and teachers that aim to make their classrooms more engaging by using the Milky Way as a learning tool. The participation in this workshop aims to be inclusive, irrespective of gender or location.

Topics Covered

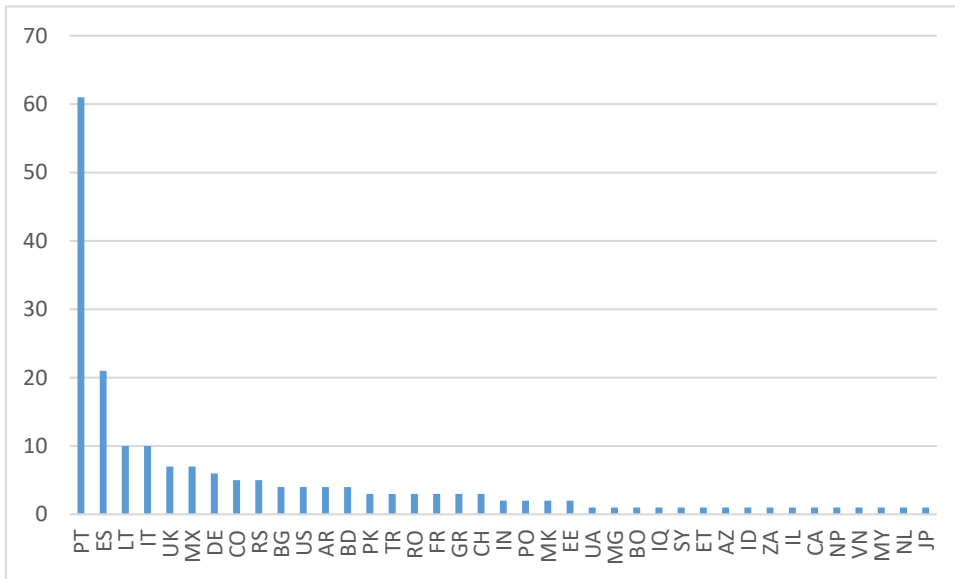
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The workshop in numbers



The workshop was attended virtually by 190 researchers, 59% of them female (3% unknown).

The SOC and LOC had a 100% (6 out of 6) and a 20% of female researchers (1 out of 5).



There were researchers from all continents and 39 different countries: Europe (mostly PT), the Americas (United States, Mexico, Argentina, Colombia, Canada), Middle East (Syria, Iraq) Asia (Bangladesh, Pakistan, Japan, India, Azerbaijan, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia), Africa (South Africa, Ethiopia, Madagascar).

There were 32 presentations. 14% of the female participants presented something while 22% of male participants did. There were 6 Invited talks (67% female), 13 Contributed talks (46% female) and 13 Posters (46% female).

Report prepared by Lola Balaguer-Núñez.