

Leuven, 16 May 2007.

To the Scientific Committee of CoRoT.

Re: HELAS funding for CoRoT activities.

Dear colleagues,

as you are well aware, an FP6 Coordination Action in Helio- and Asteroseismology has been approved and is running since 1 April 2006. In my authority of Chair of the Work Package Asteroseismology, I am happy to inform you that one of the four main HELAS symposia will be the CoRoT symposium to be organised in October 2008 at Paris Observatory. I have suggested this option in the HELAS Board rather than to organise a separate big asteroseismology meeting in Leuven. A budget of 25,000 Euro has been reserved as HELAS support for the organisation of the CoRoT symposium at the Leuven bank account of HELAS. We will have to respect particular EU rules to spend this money. I will have to report as end responsible to the EU, within the timeframe spelled out in the Description of Work of HELAS. I count on your collaboration to do this in the most efficient way and I look forward to the collaboration.

We are presently developing a software tool to perform mode identification of kappa-driven oscillators from multicolour photometry and/or high-resolution spectroscopy, following a brief discussion at CW9 on what the CoRoT community regarded as priority. This package will be made available worldwide in the spring of 2008. Depending on the interest of the community, a tutorial on its usage may be organised in Leuven. The package is used in Leuven to exploit the ground-based spectroscopy of the CoRoT targets to identify the dominant modes from the Large Programmes at La Silla, OHP, Calar Alto.

The website of HELAS has finally become operational: <http://www.helas-eu.org>

I invite you all to register there as a scientist participating in HELAS. This is important for the future, because, as you know, asteroseismologists are underrepresented within HELAS which is dominantly led by helioseismologists (who took the initiative to apply for the funding). I remind you that several of us applied at the EU before to get funding for asteroseismology, but the scope of this topic and community was considered to be too limited. Therefore, I believe we have to continue in the current constellation but I would like to see much more activity of asteroseismologists within HELAS. A good start to help me achieve that, is to register and become an active participant of HELAS through the website. We have two years as asteroseismology community to make ourselves more visible within HELAS and add material (press releases, papers, discussions, vacancies) to HELAS, before we re-apply for funding. It is the only way for me to convince the helioseismologists that we need to put more emphasis on the seismology of stars.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, I would like to draw your attention to the availability of HELAS funding and support to participate at meetings, and to organise splinter meetings during the already fixed HELAS workshops and symposia. You can find the list of HELAS meetings on the website, as well as the

documentation on what you need to do to apply for such funding. I believe this is an opportunity for the CoRoT Co-Is to organise short meetings within their teams before or after the HELAS workshops (we cannot fund separate meetings due to the EU rules) to discuss the exploitation of the CoRoT data. It has become clear the past year that the helioseismologists are far better in applying for such HELAS support for their meetings, while I believe we have many more things to do than they the coming two years.

With this short report on the HELAS activities and opportunities, I wish you a fruitful Scientific Committee meeting.

Best regards,

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Chairwoman HELAS NA5: Asteroseismology