

EUROPEAN ARC
ALMA Regional Centre || Italian

WPs - Access and Knowledge Creation

Marcella Massardi

(INAF- IRA / Italian node of the European ARC)



Advanced European Network of E-infrastructures
for Astronomy with the SKA

*While developing the design of the ESDC, the AENEAS team is **analyzing existing products, technologies, services, best practices and standards and gather the user requirements.***

This will enhance the possibilities for the European scientists to exploit the SKA data, maximizing the impact of the telescope on the scientific production, together with fuelling innovation in networking, computing and storage technologies.

*WP5 is focused on the **interface between a distributed ESDC and a distributed body of end users** whose goal is the exploitation of SKA data for knowledge creation. WP5 is therefore studying the design of “user interaction models” that could be implemented for the ESDC.*

Task 5.1 Survey of existing user interaction models for large-scale radio astronomy facilities and integration of WP5 outputs into consolidated ESDC design study (responsible M. Massardi)

Task 5.2 Recommendations for the design of user interfaces for data discovery, access, and retrieval (responsible V. Galluzzi)

Task 5.3 Recommendations for the design of user interfaces for data processing, reprocessing, analysis, and visualization (responsible A. Costa)

Task 5.4 Integration with VO Interoperability Framework (responsible R. Smareglia)

Task 5.5 Recommendations for the resourcing of an ESDC user interaction model (responsible J. Brand)

Task 5.6 Recommendations for a plan of user community formation and knowledge distribution (responsible M. Massardi)

M0

M12

M18

M24

M34



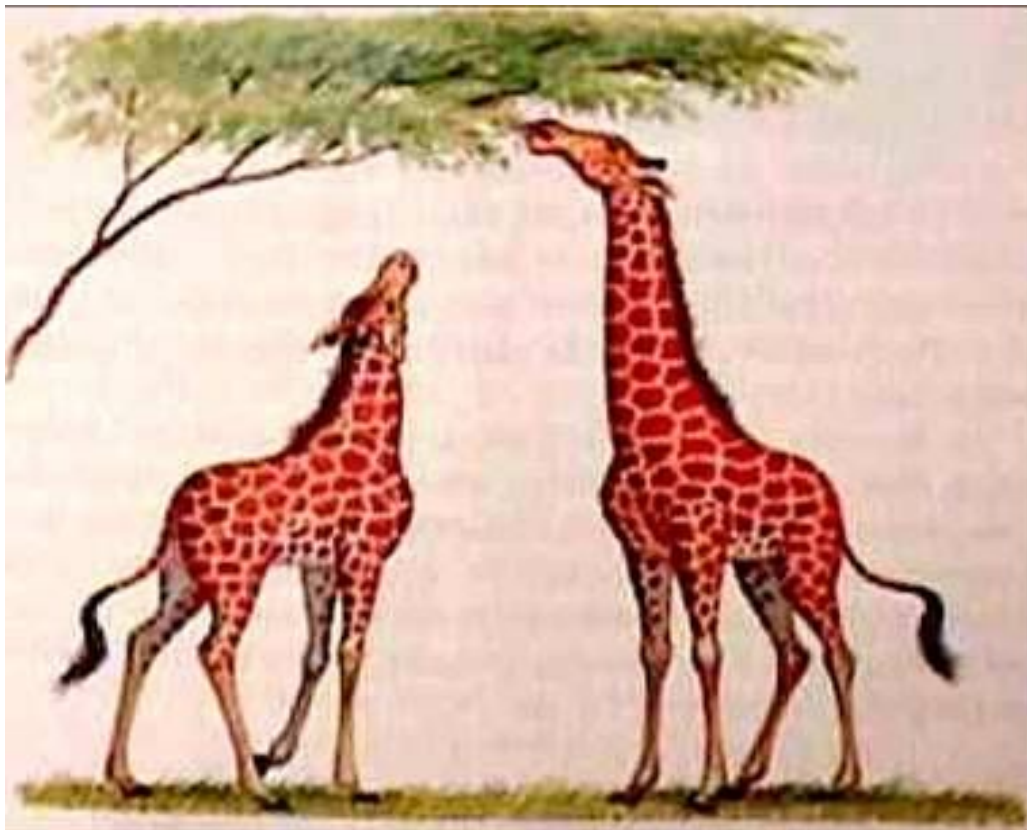
Learning from the past...

- 1) System needs**
(goals towards user&tel)
- 2) User definition**
(community/mentality)
- 3) Services provided**
(duties/activities/policy/limitations)
- 4) Accessibility**
(human interaction/interfaces)
- 5) Resources**
(personnel/tools/infrastructures)

*The ESRC is the interface,
access the archive,
offers the computation platform.
It must be trustworthy and
resilient.*

...suggesting new ideas

SKA IS AN EVOLUTIONARY JUMP!



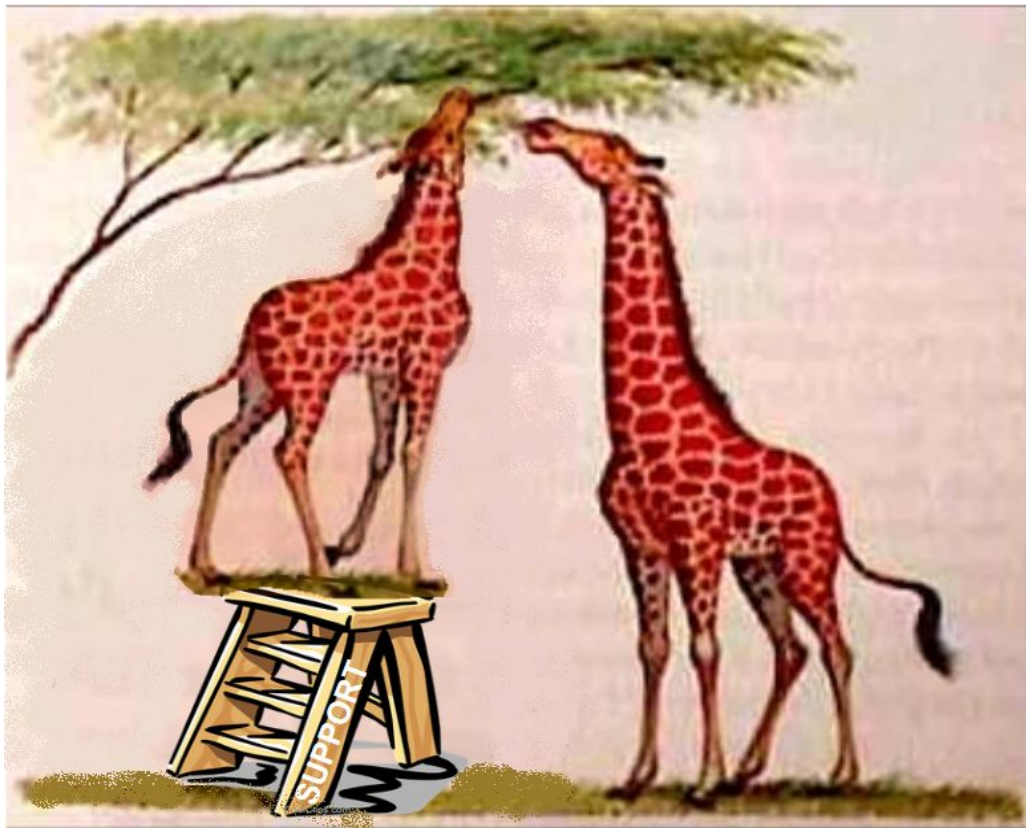
Only a restricted portion of users have the conditions/knowledge/skills to access the resources.

This limits the telescope outcome.

Community growing is slow.

Knowledge sharing is limited to those that already have the skills.

SKA IS AN EVOLUTIONARY JUMP!



SUPPORT and USER INTERFACES

allow the access to the resources

to a LARGER COMMUNITY

PROS TO THE TELESCOPE:

larger user base

= larger production

= bigger success

= faster development

PROS TO THE USERS:

larger user base

= better networking

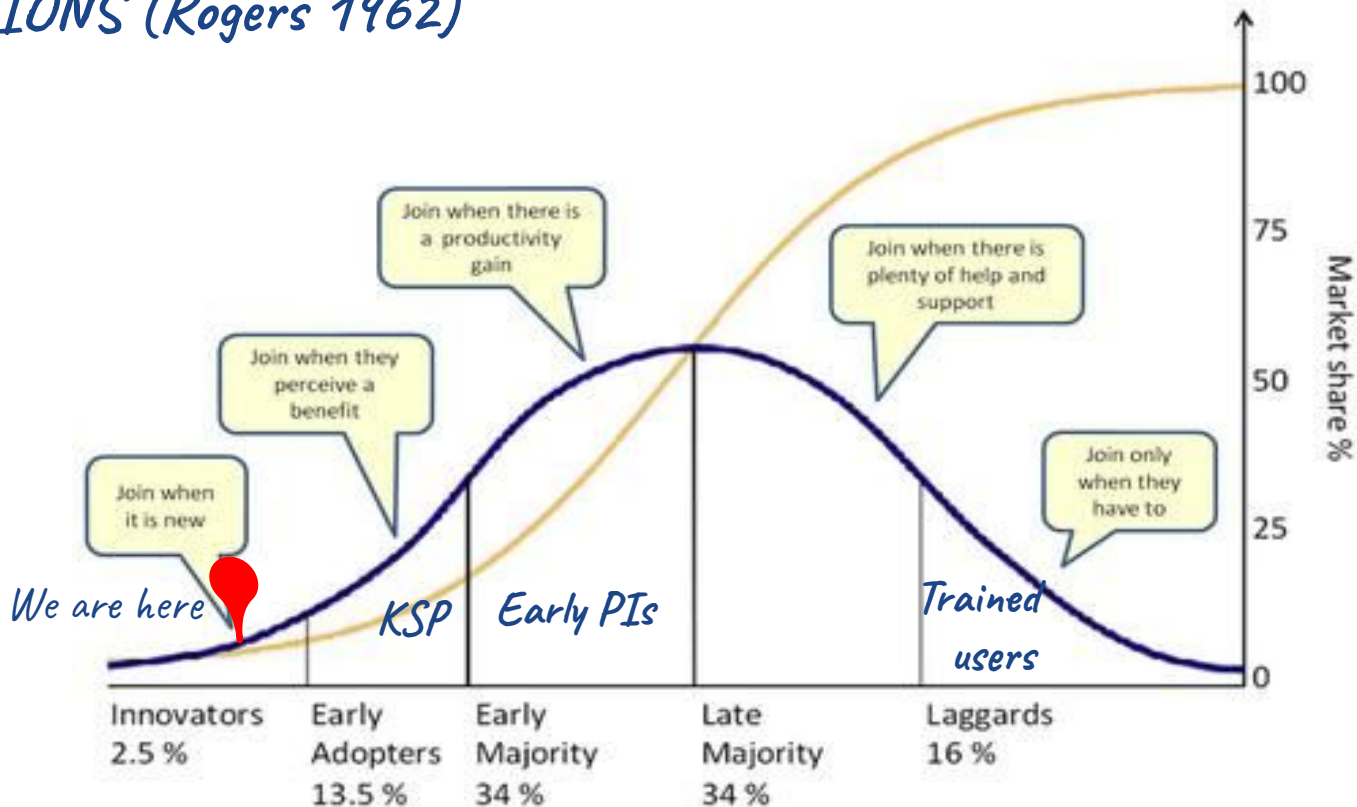
= easy persistence of knowledge

in time and space

= faster results

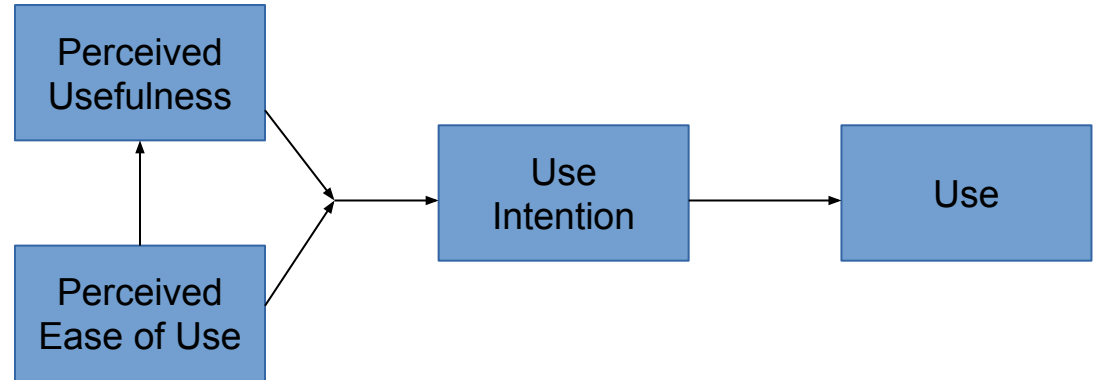
OF INNOVATIONS (Rogers 1962)

We cannot modify the curve, but shorten the time of the different phases



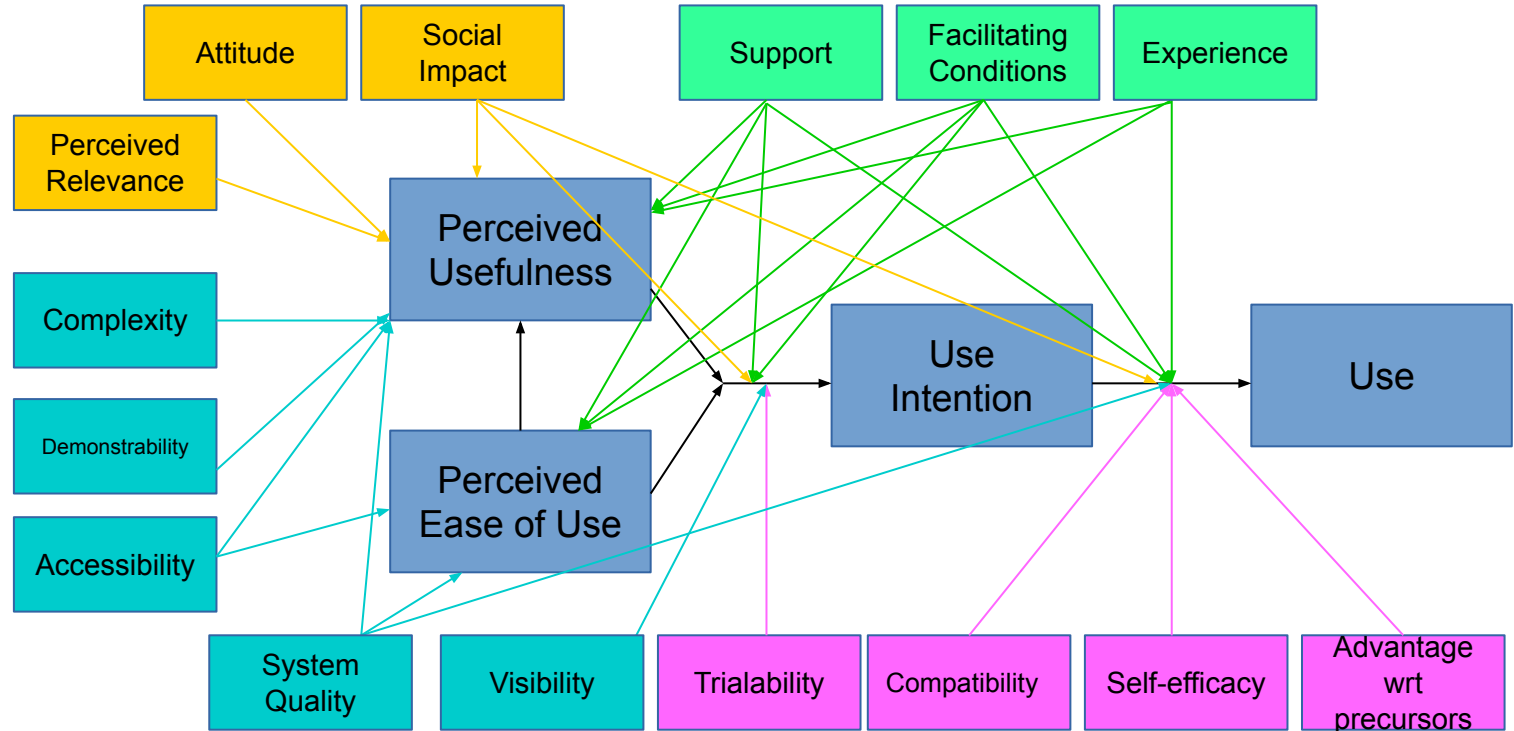
TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTANCE MODELS (Davis 1989 et al.)

Parameters that affect the acceptance of a new technology



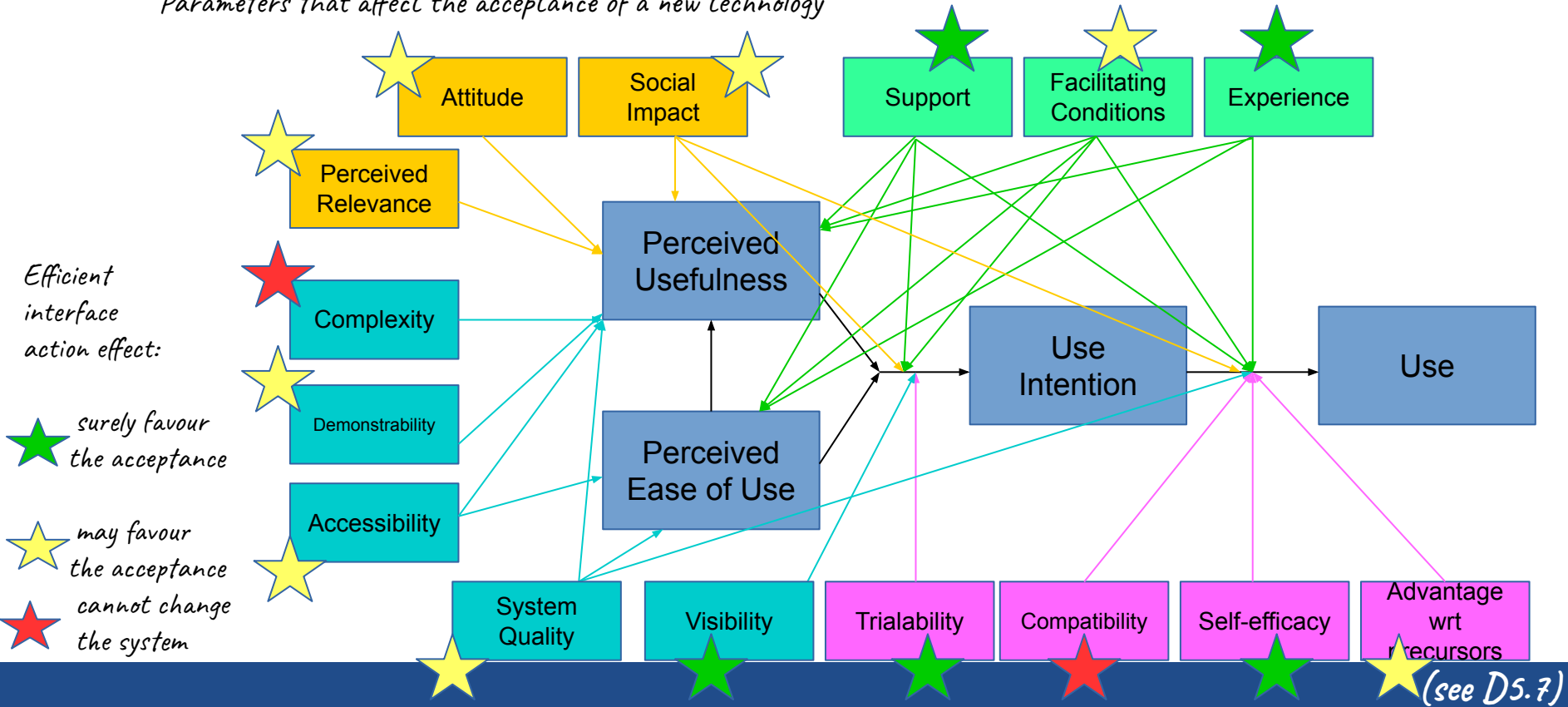
TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTANCE MODELS (Davis 1989 et al.)

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TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTANCE MODELS (Davis 1989 et al.)

Parameters that affect the acceptance of a new technology



INGREDIENTS FOR A TELESCOPE INTERACTION MODEL

- Information
- Proposal
- Project tracking
- Archive
 - Data
 - Metadata
- Data Processing Software
- Data Handling Hardware
- One point gateway access
(with federated access)



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Expert people
with broad
variety of
capabilities
and access
to resources



Interface = Sharing Knowledge WITH/AMONG Users



- ★ *Observers are the proposers of new observations, single or coordinated in small groups or large collaborations. This category will evolve with the telescope development.*
- ★ *Archive Users/Data Scientists exploit the archive product content for their own purposes. This class might partially overlap with the previous, and is potentially the largest, depending on the accessibility of the archive.*
- ★ *Software Engineers includes developers of software and tools. Might belong also to the above classes, but are mostly interested in technical details.*

The Atacama Large Telescope Array (ALMA) is:

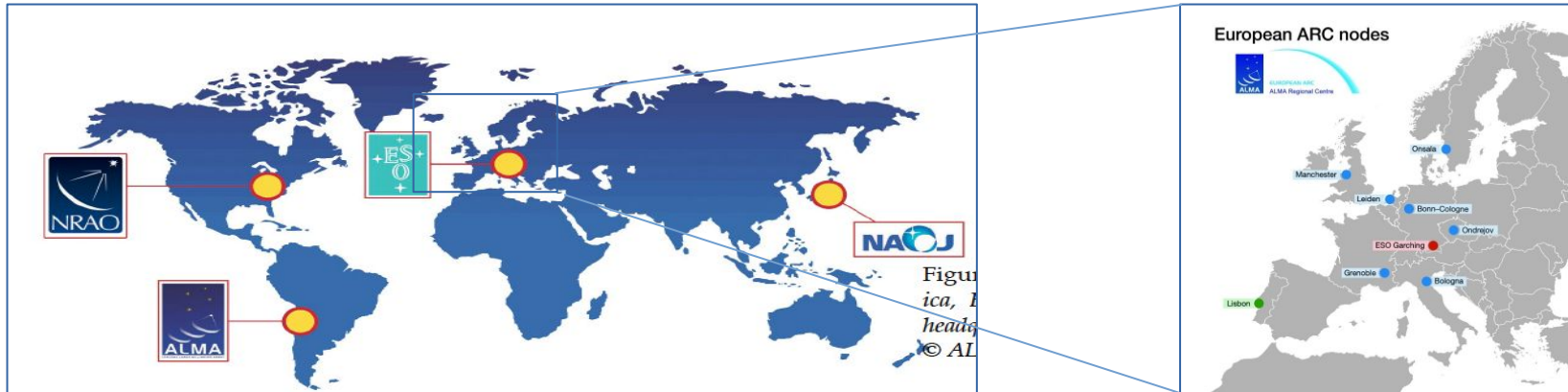
- a telescope matching the capabilities of 2 arrays, single dishes and phased for VLBI operating at ~5000m on the Chilean Andes*
- the first case of calibrated and raw data and images in a radio-astronomical archive*
- the first example of global collaboration and support network for a ground based telescope*



The ALMA Regional Centre Experience

The ALMA Regional Centre in its first 8yrs of activity has been:

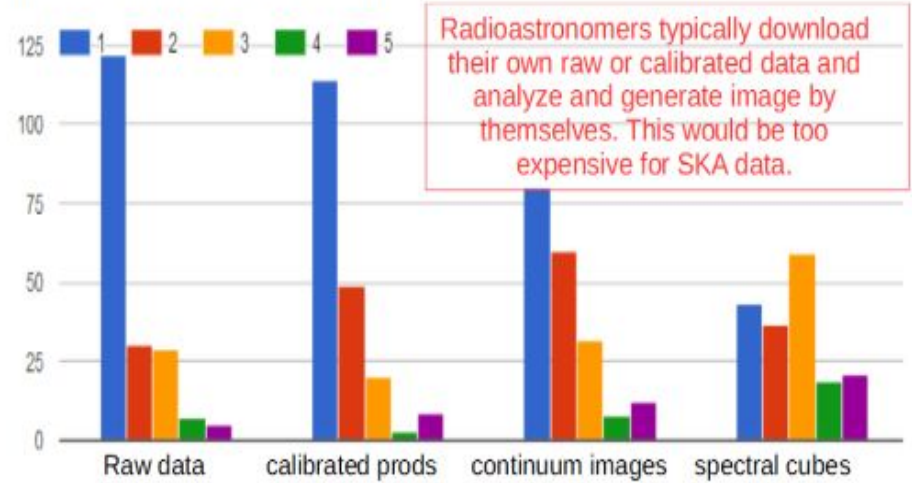
- a new approach/interface towards a new telescope*
- a reference point for users of any level of career and expertise*
- a support for improving the observations and the archive usage while the telescope was evolving*
- a distributor of knowledge, exploiting the capillarity of the network*



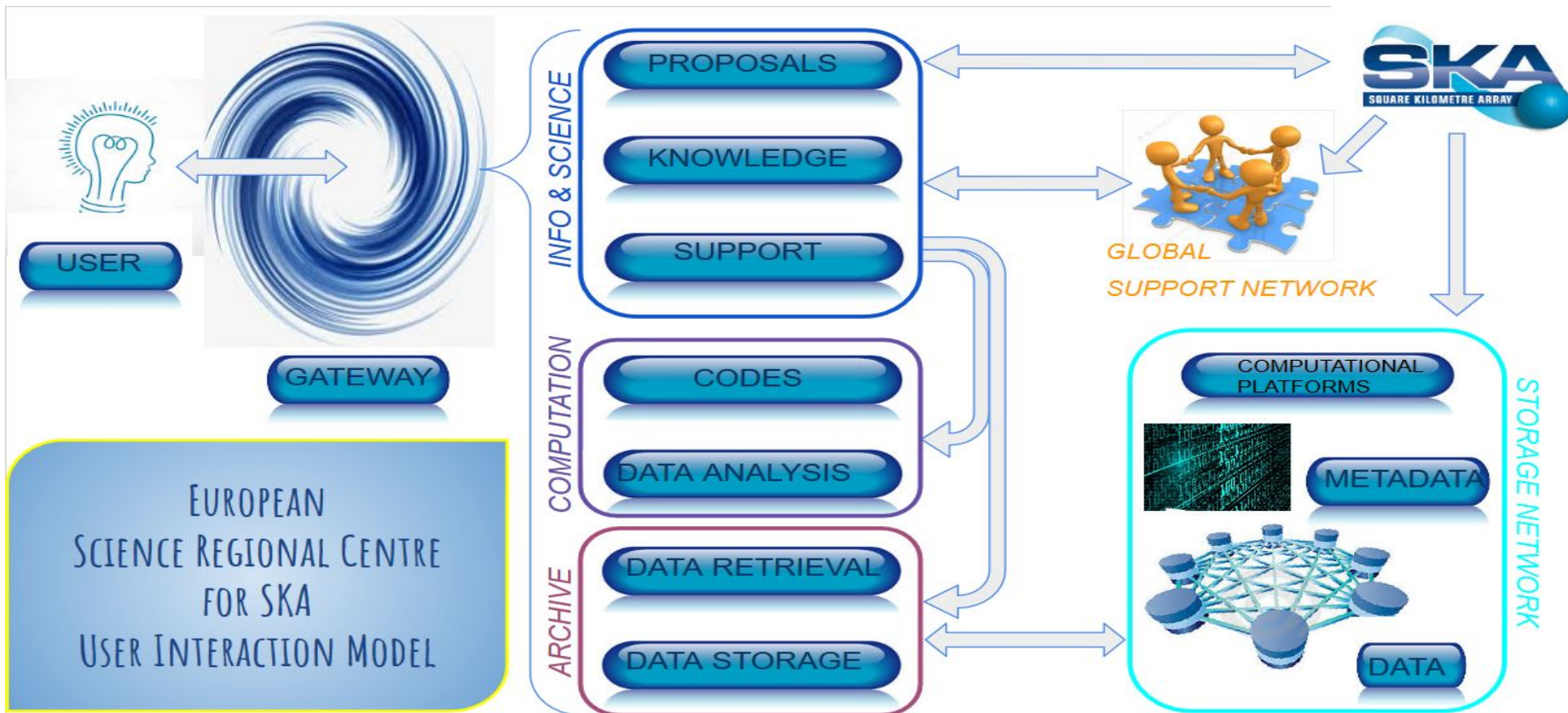
USER NEEDS AND HABITS SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

- DATA SIZE → STORAGE
- TRANSFER
- COMPUTATION
- TIME
- VARIOUS DATA AND PRODUCT FORMAT
(e.g. observatory vs advanced products)

What would user like to find in a facility archive (1=necessary, 5=useless)?



*A Regional Centre IS the interface, accesses the archive,
offers the computational platforms, grows the community.
Must be trustworthy, up-to-date, resilient.
An efficient Regional Centre IS A RESOURCE FOR THE USERS*

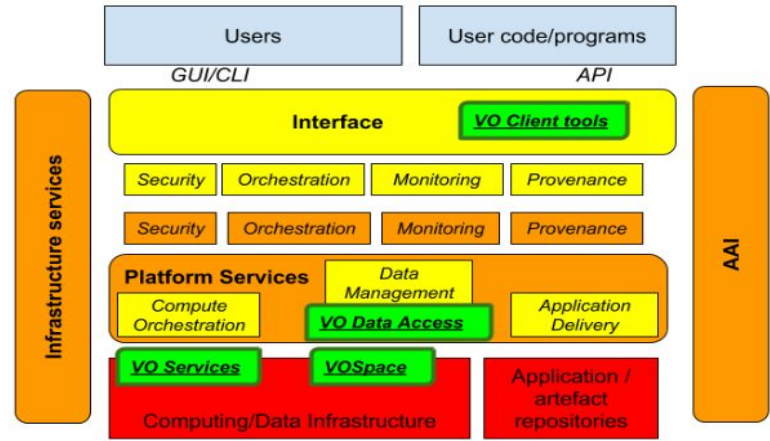
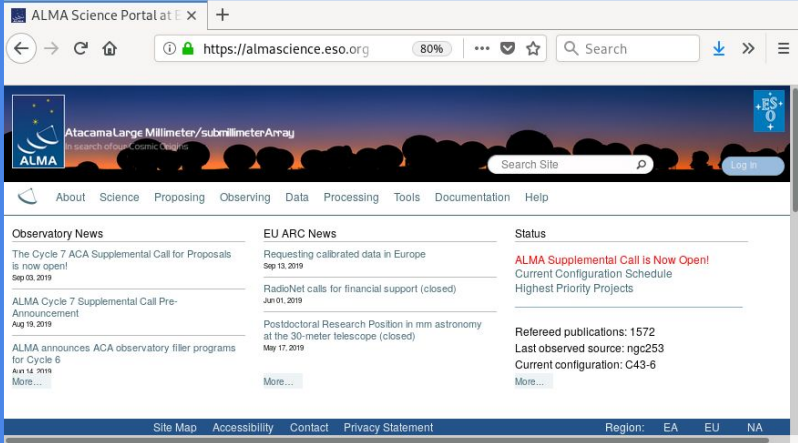
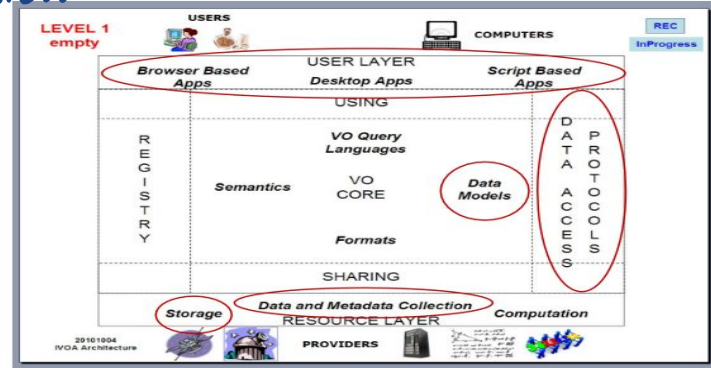




Recommendations on data analysis and visualization

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The GATEWAY is a one-stop shop for the user with easy access to all the resources



(see the talk by Costa and D5.3)

Recommendations on data archive and retrieval

The **ARCHIVE INTERFACE** should

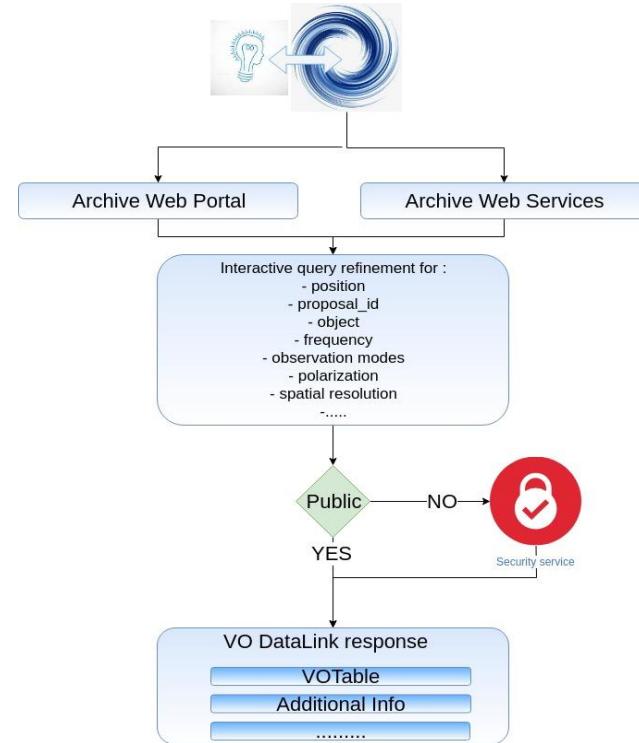
- be single, uniform, intuitive and multi-mask
- be able to handle a list of search keywords, and scriptable
- allow the extraction of portions of datasets
- VO compliant

METADATA should be

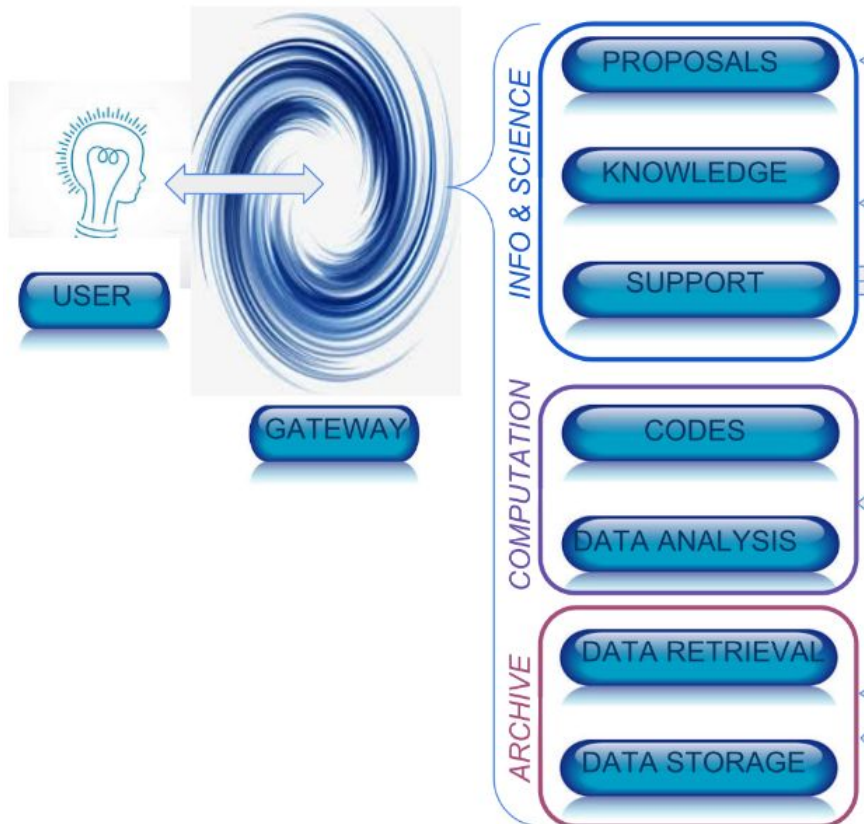
- properly defined across the whole product workflow
- well documented for any user to access them

A **GOOD DATA FORMAT** should:

- be explicitly versioned (open, well documented, maintained);
- be self-describing;
- be instrument-independent;
- support parallelization;
- support streaming features with multiple data representation;
- be fine for storage and processing and allow portioning;
- be standardized.



(see the talk by Galluzzi, D5.3, D5.5 and Archive survey and Metadata reports)



COMMON USER'S REQUESTS:

- Submitting proposals
- Accessing info about telescope
Observations and
Procedures
- Interacting with human support
- Direct access to archive (with limitations)
- Direct access to computational Platforms
(with limitations)
- Request of advanced products
 - exploiting existing code
 - using user-provided code

Given the SKA size, platforms and archives will be continentally (and hopefully world-wide) distributed



*SKA ARCHIVE NETWORK: Hosts the telescope products
World-wide distributed*

*ADVANCED PRODUCTS REPOSITORY:
Hosts the products generated by
SRC with distributed codes
Content is quality assured*

*CODES REPOSITORY: Hosts the pipelines and the SW
Used/ingested by the SRC
Content is quality assured*



REQUEST FOR ADVANCED PRODUCTS

SRC resources should be assigned through dedicated calls

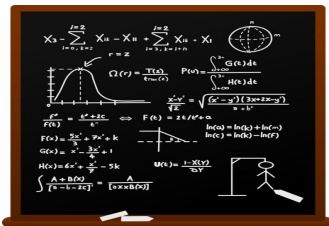
GENERAL
REQUEST



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RESPONSIBLE



COMPUTATION

- CODES
- QUESTION
- RESPONSE
- DATA

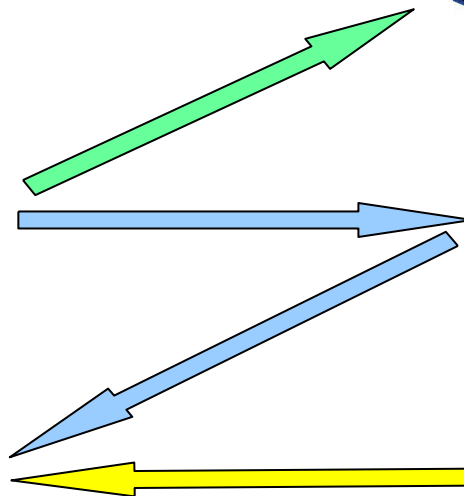
ADVANCED
PRODUCT
REPOSITORY



CODE
REPOSITORY



ARCHIVE





Archive manager: looks after content of archive; storage, accessibility of the data

Database administrator: takes care of software, hardware, user accounts

System administrator: takes care of computer cluster, storage system, security; access to computing platforms

Archive operator: handles data requests, extracts data from archive; contact with PI

Software analysts: to install and manage data reduction/analysis programs; maintaining web interface and Helpdesk.

Support astronomers: Assistance with extraction of scientific information. Competence in wide range of research interests required.

Administrative support

Minimum requirement: 11 FTE (to be filled by 15 people)

4 FTE in archive management; 2 software analysts; 4 astronomers; 1 administrative support
2 persons to share 1 FTE for support astronomer (to facilitate pursuing scientific interests and a career in research)

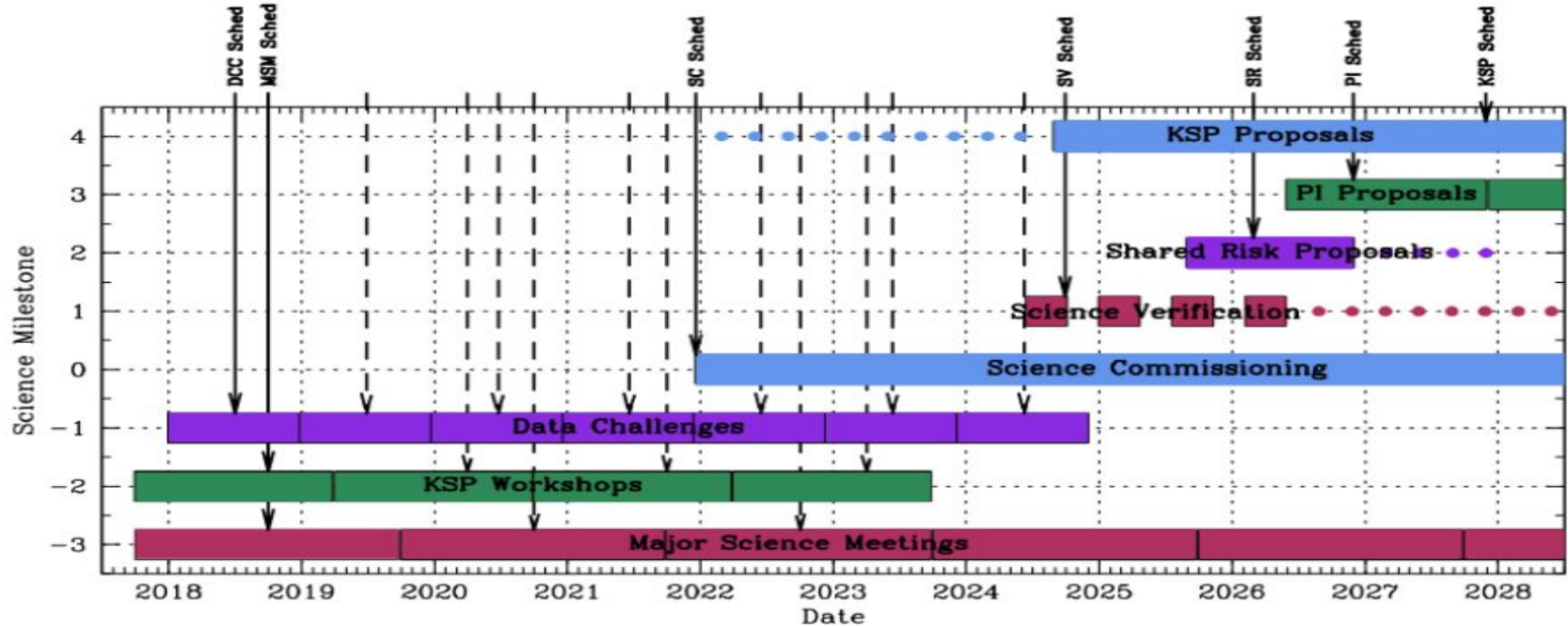


Fig. Timeline of Major SKA1 Science Milestones for an Assumed Availability Date of AA2 and AA4
([Science Planning Document \(Rev 02, 15/11/17\)](#))



A NEW APPROACH IS NECESSARY:

- *large collaborations (see the KSP)*
- *open access and knowledge sharing*
- *merging between data science and astronomy*
 - *common goals*
 - *metalanguage*
 - *broader perspectives*

-> New professional profiles are necessary to staff the Regional Centre and to maximize the impact of new generation of telescopes

-> The community needs to be formed and informed taking advantage of the telescope development



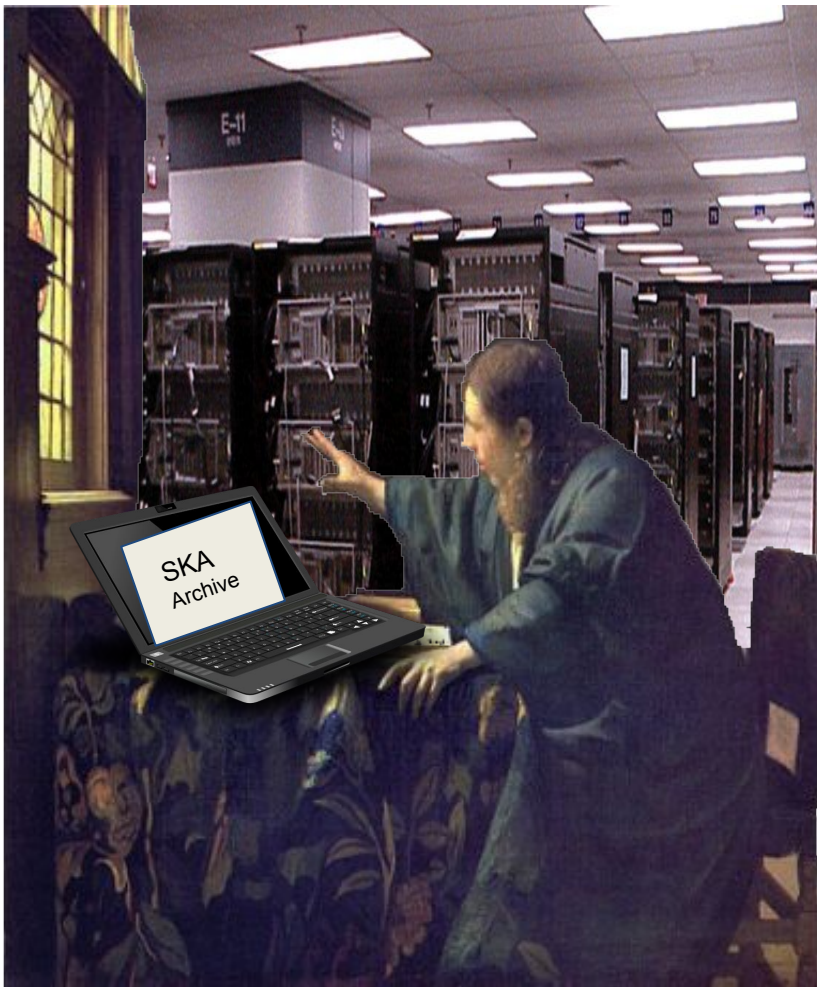
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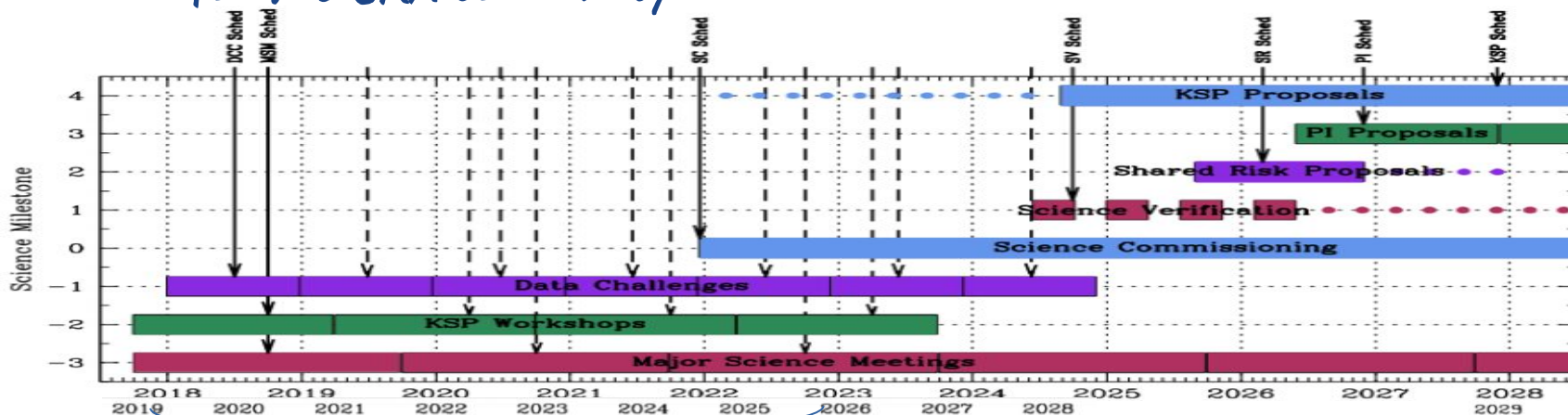
-> New professional profiles are necessary to staff the Regional Centre and to maximize the impact of new generation of telescopes

-> The community needs to be formed and informed taking advantage of the telescope development

(see Burkutean's talk)



A training plan for the SKA community



Cognitive

- acquiring the general overview and basic knowledge on the system capabilities (i.e. data structure and handling)
- building awareness on the gaps and issues

Practice

- dirty hands-on simulations, data from precursors and lately on SKA data
- test tools/interfaces and workflows

Active

- proposing as PIs
- mining the archive
- maintaining and distributing the knowledge

Training
phases:

(see D5.7 and SKA Data Challenge Workshop- Bologna 30 sep-2 oct 2019)



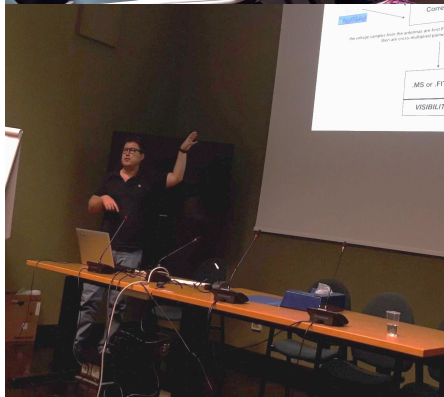
The SKA Data Challenge Workshop

Bologna 30 sep - 2 oct

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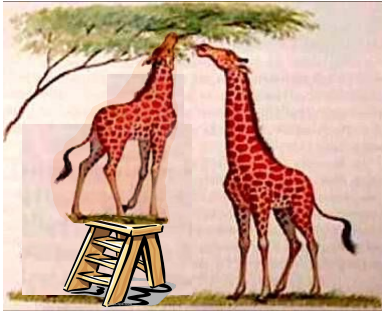


Organized in collaboration with the Italian SKA Board - INAF UTG II Radioastronomy



**Fostering the Astronomical
Community in Europe
towards the SKA**

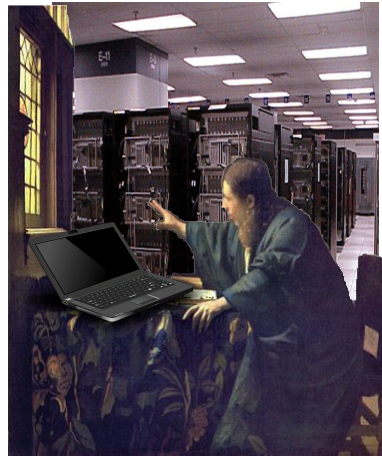
Conclusions



A Regional Centre IS the interface, accesses the archive, offers the computational platforms, grows the community.

Must be trustworthy, up-to-date, resilient.

Support and efficient interfaces allow a broader community to access the resources offered by SKA



Recommendations for a user support interface:

- 1) *System needs (goals towards user&tel)*
- 2) *User definition (community/mentality)*
- 3) *Services provided (duties/activities/policy/limitations)*
- 4) *Accessibility (human interaction/interfaces)*
- 5) *Resources (personnel/tools/infrastructures)*

Time is a resource that we could exploit testing on SKA-like data, building pipelines and tools, forming a new user approach and professional figures

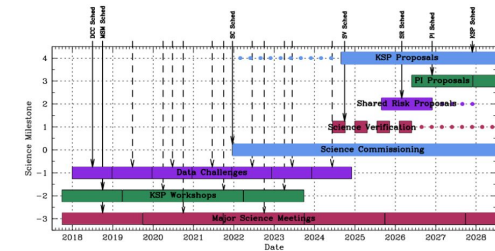
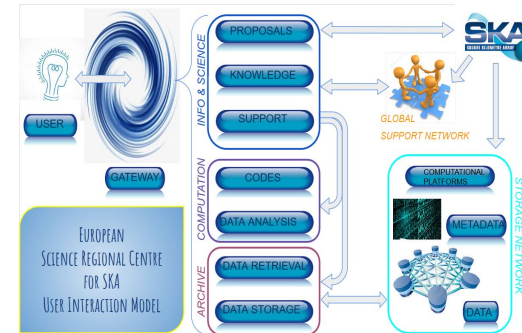


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