AstroMundus

Erasmus+: Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree in Astronomy & Astrophysics: Cycle 1 Project Summary

The AstroMundus programme has completed the first cycle of 5 course editions and is now running the second cycle comprising 3 course editions, for a total of 8 editions that will be completed by October 2019. In the first cycle, applications arrived from 83 different countries; 19% of applicants were females. Despite the lower percentage of female applicants, a better gender balance was reached among enrolled students. A good geographical balance was maintained, too. A total of 78 students (28 females, 50 males) from 43 different countries were enrolled in the first 5 course editions. Most participants (64 students) were financially supported through either full or partial Erasmus Mundus scholarships.

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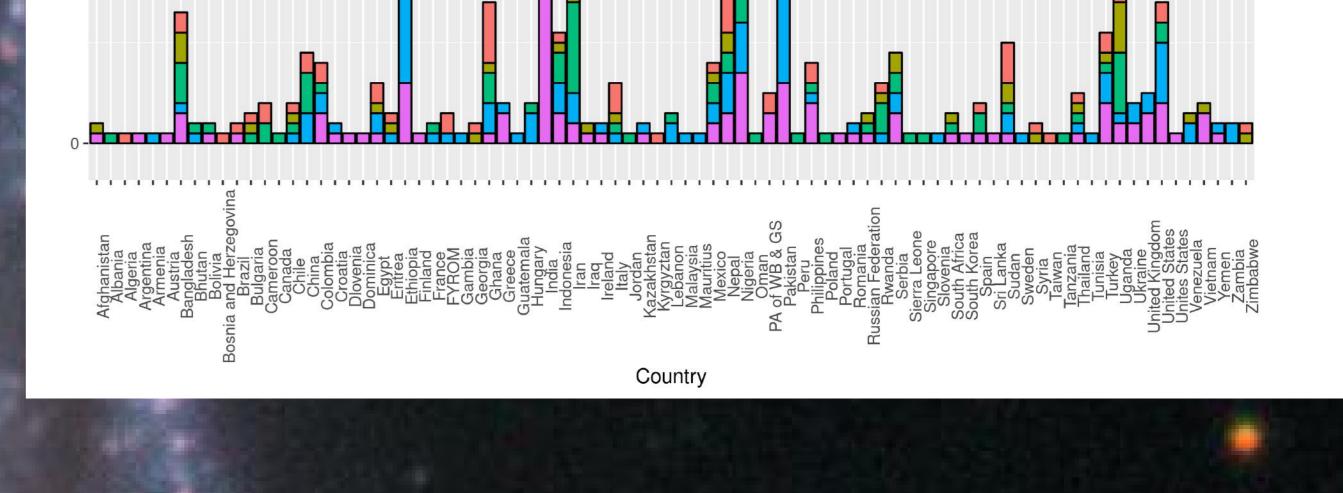
AstroMundus Applicants & Students - Editions 1 to 5

	Edition 1	Edition 2	Edition 3	Edition 4	Edition 5	Total	
lo. of applicants	112	76	125	138	105	556	
EMMC student scholarship nolders enrolled in the ategory A/Partner Country	13	8	9	8	7	45	
EMMC student scholarship holders enrolled in the category B/ Programme Country	6	2	4	4	3	19	
Students from Partner Countries enrolled as self-			2	1		Ο	

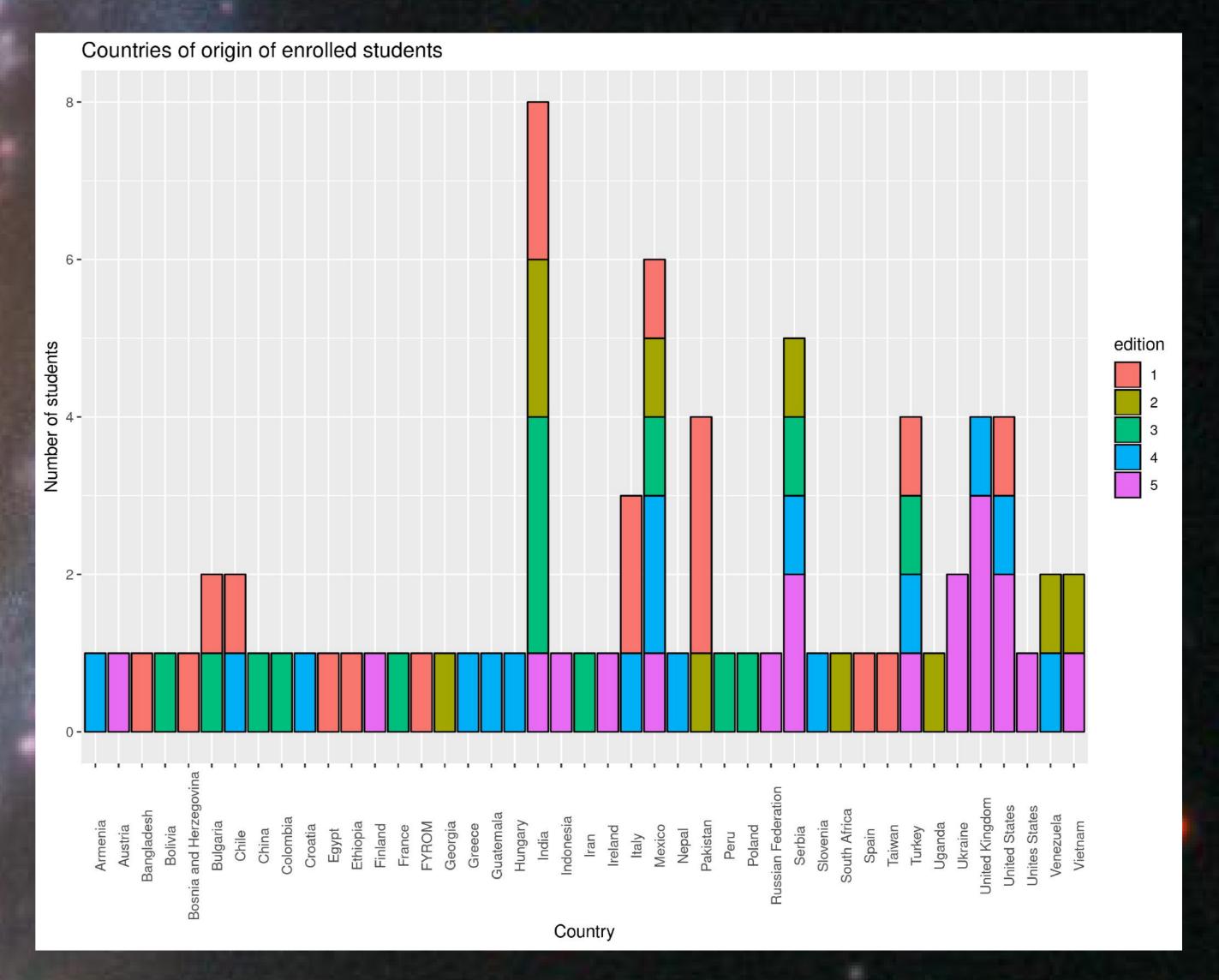
payers or with alternative scholarships	0	0	2	1	5	8
Students from Programme Countries enrolled as self- payers or with alternative scholarships	0	0	0	3	4	7
Successfully graduated students	16	10	14	14	19	73

Since its first edition, AstroMundus has been running a rich programme of scholar exchange, funded through Erasmus Mundus scholar grants. Additional scholar exchanges between EU institutions were funded by the Erasmus programme through bilateral agreements. The exchange of scholars within the Consortium strenghtened the collaboration and gave an important contribution to the organisation of the joint programme of studies. Also it facilitated the joint thesis supervision between Consortium universities.

Renowned experts invited from non-EU countries to hold course modules, give lectures and supervise short projects were an additional preciuos resource for the programme and further enhanced the networking opportunities of the students, in view of their future career. A similarly rich programme of guest scholars is being maintained during the second cycle of AstroMundus, as well.



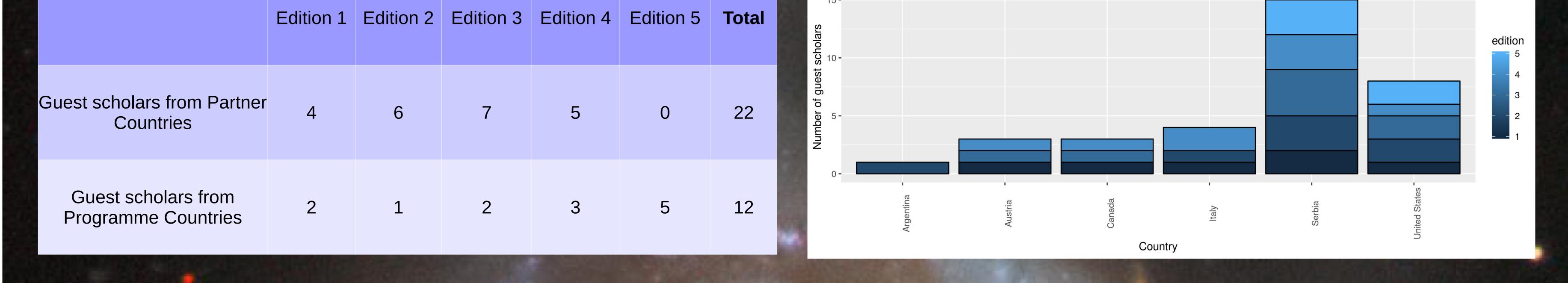
Countries of origin of enrolled students



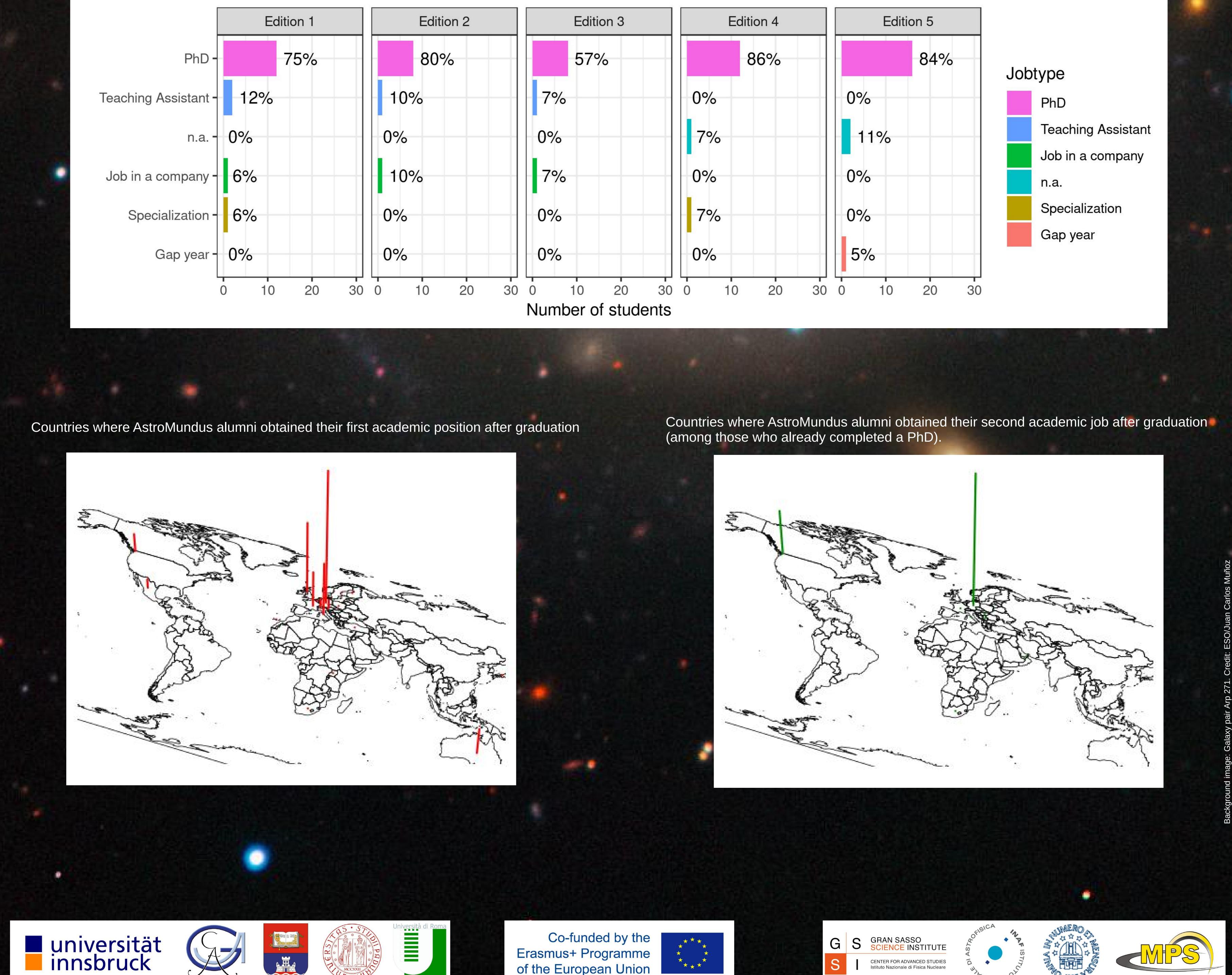
AstroMundus Guest Scholars – Editions 1 to 5

Countries of origin of guest scholar

Countries of origin of guest scholars



The vast majority of AstroMundus graduates opted for an academic career, at least for the first few years after graduation. Students from each course edition were very successful in pursuing their goal and were accepted within PhD programmes in various prestigious institutions across the world. A higher fraction of students decided to proceed with the next step of their career in Europe. In total, about 90% of successfully graduated students remained in academia, mostly as PhD students and in some cases as teaching assistants. At the present, some of the students have already completed the PhD and are continuing their scientific research at post-doctoral level, again mostly in Europe, but also in the USA and in some cases in South Africa, within the Square Kilometre Array facilities. To our knowledge, at least one alumnus, despite having been offered attractive post-doctoral positions, decided for a career switch and quickly landed a job in a Dutch company, whre he puts to fruition a large set of transversal skills acquired during the Master and doctoral studies.



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