

Benefits for EAS Members

EAS Council
November 2018

The European Astronomy Society (EAS) has been very active in the last years in the service of its individual members. It is worth summarising the benefits that result from this activity.

- The EAS has the aim to strengthen European society, and to represent professional astronomers at a European supra-national level.
- The EAS publishes an e-Newsletter three times per year and sends additional e-mail communications to its members. This information pertains to the community at large.
- The EAS has developed and keeps a web site providing Society's information, informations on prizes, members, jobs etc. The site is well maintained, its content is regularly updated.
- The Society runs a job market information webpage available *free of charge*. The job market resides on the EAS web pages. It is regularly maintained. The society is taking steps to further the links between astronomers and potential employers outside the academic circles.
- The Society maintains a database of its membership, available on the web for EAS members (only limited information is provided, and only via login). The EAS Office sends invoices regularly to individual members and keeps its books in good order.
- The EAS awards yearly the prestigious Tycho Brahe prize, which becomes a medal in 2019, in recognition of the development or exploitation of European instruments or major discoveries based largely on such instruments.
- The Society awards yearly the Lodewijk Woltjer lecture to outstanding scientists.
- The EAS awards yearly three MERAC prizes to young European astronomers. The prizes are linked with well-endowed fellowships. They alternate between Best Early Career Researcher Prizes on odd years and Best Doctoral Thesis Prizes on even years.
- Individual members participate in the election of Council, they may nominate candidates for the MERAC prizes and Tycho medal, and they have a right to vote at the General Assemblies of the Society.
- Most national astronomical societies in Europe are affiliated with the EAS. Starting in 2019, their professional astronomers and non-professionals deeply involved in promoting astronomy can join the EAS for free, with the same rights as individual members.
- The Society maintains close working relationships with its Affiliated societies, and organises twice-yearly meetings where society representatives meet with EAS, exchange impressions, share good practice, and develop closer collaboration.

- The Society offers several categories of Organisational membership for public or private entities playing an important role in European astronomy.
- The EAS, in collaboration with a number of Affiliated societies, has established a lobbying presence in Brussels.
- The EAS is the most important independent scientific society in our field. It maintains very close links to the main international organisations and collaborations in astronomy and space science, such as ESA, ESO, ASTRONET, or RADIONET, as well as to private partners who are organisational members, but is and will always remain independent of them.
- The EAS holds every year its week-long meeting, the European Week of Astronomy and Space Science (EWASS). These meetings bring together the European community, they include several symposia, special sessions, lunch sessions, and plenary events with, inter alia, the prize lectures.
- The EAS awards yearly a number of grants to young scientists to attend the EWASS events.
- The EAS has established a procedure to develop position papers and to have the positions validated by the EAS members. Reports were already published on "Astronomy from space", "Exploring the road to Open Access Publishing", "Ethics Statement and Guidelines for Good Practice". Other subjects are being considered.
- The EAS has established working relationships with the European Physical Society.
- Together with Leiden University, the EAS has launched in 2018 the European Regional Office of Astronomy for Development, under the auspices of the International Astronomical Union.