

UC39 Recommendations

The UC highly appreciates the positive interactions established with ESO. We record with satisfaction that many of our UC38 recommendations were followed, and a will to improve the service to the users is clearly perceptible.

The UC is running a poll to collect information, suggestions and of course criticisms from the ESO users since several years. Therefore, we are also glad to report that a large percentage of the users are very satisfied with ESO services, and the various specific comments we have received are typically presented with a constructive spirit.

With reference to the last ESO user polls and the exchanges and discussions that took place during the annual meeting, the UC recommends to ESO:

UC39.R.01: to continue providing video tutorials and cookbooks for all pipelines explaining the essential steps in the reductions so that beginners can easily accomplish the basic data reduction of any ESO instrument.

UC39.R.02: to keep manuals for all the instruments/pipelines and for the different modes of operations up-to-date and as complete as possible especially at times approaching proposal submission deadlines.

UC39.R.03: to provide detailed descriptions of the most relevant algorithms used in the pipelines and indicating that further information can be requested via the Helpdesk system.

UC39.R.04: to focus on making all user services available on MacOS.

UC39.R.05: that the Moon requirement specifications are consistent between the different tools used for proposal and observation preparation (ETC, Phase-1, and P2PP).

UC39.R.06: that the following aspects concerning the Phase-1 are considered:

- allow for upload of figures larger than 1 MB and in format other than pdf only, including .jpg and .png formats
- allow for an automatic notification of proposal submission for every co-I on a proposal
- allow for separating multiple observations by any amount of time, e.g. for HARPS, the time-critical macro does not allow to specify time intervals shorter than 3 nights
- allow for the re-submission of proposals until the deadline

UC39.R.07: that the following aspects of visitor mode observations are considered:

- inform the astronomers that sandwiches can be requested when working on a night shift at the residencia
- offer the possibility to meet an ESO astronomer in Santiago prior to observations at La Silla

UC39.R.08: to look into ways of increasing flexibility in La Silla observing runs to decrease amount of time spent not observing (e.g. private transportation).

UC39.R.09: to set up the Time Allocating WG as soon as possible, define the terms of reference and select members that also include UC representatives.

UC39.R.10: to continue involving the UC in the future work concerning ESO2020 and the anticipated bi-annual revision of the ESO scientific prioritisation report on the matters that directly affect the users (e.g. operations, archive services, and data products delivery) by inviting UC members to the respective working groups / scientific prioritisation panel.

UC39.R.11: to pay more attention to European ALMA outreach to assure that the role of ESO is widely recognised.

UC39.R.12: to ensure that the UC meetings reflect the broad range of ESO facilities and user community (e.g. ALMA).

UC39.R.13: to encourage ESO to further investigate how remote observing may impact and benefit users in the future, e.g. for observations at La Silla.

UC39.R.14: to continue and strengthen the effort on the science archive facilities (SAF), as archival research is becoming an increasingly important mode of astronomical research. Specifically UC recommends to focus on the following items:

- the documentation on processing steps and information on data that are excluded from processing,
- the implementation of a visualization tool to allow users to check the availability of data and permit them to decide if and what to download for further analysis
- the content validation, e.g. appropriate calibrations even if they go beyond the calibration plan should be applied
- the simplification of the querying interface allowing for different levels of querying and more flexibility
- the post processing and the production of added value data products, e.g. stacking and catalogues. ESO may offer support to users who would work with archival data. In particular, recognising useful data and in evaluating the priority projects that would have a large scientific impact.

UC39.R.15: to supports student's engagement with ESO, both by promoting/organizing archival workshops, and also allowing students as well as researchers with a limited observing experience to observe on ESO facilities especially in cases where they, financially supported by their host institutes, are associated to projects that originate from large and survey programs executed in service mode.