

UC45 Recommendations

The UC, on behalf of the community, thanks ESO for enabling the 45th UC Meeting in a remote connection format. The UC also thanks ESO for following up on last year's recommendations. The new list of recommendations is based on feedback from users and the discussions during the online meeting (UC only and jointly with ESO).

The recommendations are grouped into topics within which they are listed in order of priority.

General:

UC45.R01: We thank ESO for the timely and clear communication over the past year, and we encourage ESO to keep informing and using the UC to collect user-based reactions in case of important decisions (e.g., cancelling the Call for Proposals or impactful COVID-induced decisions) that will affect many users.

UC45.R02: Share a roadmap for the implementation of the Distributed Peer Review (DPR) of LPO proposals with the users community, including relevant rules and outcome (e.g. eligible reviewer criteria, planned monitoring, quality control of reports, homogeneity of grades per proposal, etc.). Make public the outcome of the first ALMA DPR via, e.g., Newsletters, The Messenger.

Operations, Data, Pipelines:

UC45.R03: Pursue Phase 3 implementation (i.e., encourage external teams, like instrument GTO consortia and individual PIs, to deliver Phase 3 materials), in particular including calibrated VLTI data (e.g. GRAVITY, MATISSE) as provided by consortia or expert centers.

UC45.R04: Collect and maintain links to external resources provided by the community/data centers that complement the ESO tools. One suggestion is to give access to these external resources using the new Deskpro support system.

UC45.R05: Start the development of a remote (cloud)-based reduction with existing, up-to-date ESO pipelines (as a long-term goal when handling heavy datasets may become common with the next generation of instruments and VLTI). This could be planned as part of the new ESO Data Processing System (EDPS) infrastructure.

UC45.R06: Continue to develop implementations of “*i*) Telluric correction, *ii*) Sky subtraction, *iii*) Optimal spectral extraction, *iv*) Coadding 1D and 2D (echelle) spectra, and *v*) Absolute flux calibration” in order to get them available for all VLT instruments (to follow-up on recommendation UC44.R08). Clarify in the documentation how the barycentric correction is implemented (or not) in the data products.

UC45.R07: Send automatic email with the new “Call for Proposals” to users from recent period(s).

VLT-I:

General context: The difficulty of using VLT-I—and the nature of the available support—is a clear problem for the users. While the complexity and scale of the issue implies that it would ideally be addressed at a strategic level that transcends the UC mandate, the recommendations below may be handled in the current framework and help mitigate some of the difficulties that the users are facing.

UC45.R08: Users are concerned that VLT-I is only for expert users. We encourage ESO to continue and even increase their efforts (e.g., increase number of VLT-I related workshops, publicize VLT-I capabilities within relevant ESO workshops such as ALMA workshops, High angular resolution workshops, etc.) to help more users to get involved in VLT-I to broaden the VLT-I user community, and engage a larger number of astronomers from within ESO member states.

UC45.R09: Encourage ESO to maximize their efforts to collaborate, coordinate, and provide support to the VLT-I Expertise Centers to develop tools for interferometry analysis needed for data interpretation.

UC45.R10: Consider mitigating strategies to support users in case national Expertise Centers lose funding on the short- or midterm.