

Stars Connect Us – Astronomy without borders

Project ID: SKHU/1902/4.1/050

Acronym: STARS CONNECT US

The Slovak Central Observatory is implementing the project Stars Connect Us – Astronomy without borders financed by the Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary Cooperation Programme. The project is financed by the European Regional Development Fund, co-financed by Slovakia and Hungary and from own sources. The total budget of the project is 391 020,00 EUR, the EFRD contribution is 332 367,00 EUR. The ERDF contribution of the Slovak Central Observatory is 59 466,00 EUR, while the Slovak national contribution is 10 494,00 EUR.

Project Partners:

TIT Komárom-Esztergom County Association (Observatory and Museum of Károly Posztócky),

Tata (HU, lead beneficiary, http://www.titkom.hu/tataicsillagda_muzeum.html)

Slovak Central Observatory, Hurbanovo (SK, beneficiary, <http://www.suh.sk>)



The project started on 1 January 2021 and finishes on 31 December 2022.

The overall objective of the project is to strengthen and further improve the long-term cooperation between the two most important observatories in the Komárom-Esztergom County and Nitra County cross-border region – the Observatory and Museum of Károly Posztócky in Tata owned by TIT Komárom-Esztergom County Association and the Slovak Central Observatory in Hurbanovo.

An important part of the project is to improve the scientific knowledge base of astronomy in a way that makes astronomy attractive to the general public.

Project activities:

There will be joint professional programs (workshops) organised focusing on educating colleagues from Hungary to perform solar and meteor observations. After these, specialized astronomical observations will be carried out in both locations.

A joint brochure with information on the history and present of both observatories will be published in a trilingual version (SK-HU-EN). In addition, a colouring book for children with astronomical themes will be published in HU and SK versions. In order to bring astronomy closer to the general public, promotional events will take place, including professional conferences and festivals (National Solar Physics Meeting, Astrofilm, History of science conference), knowledge and art competitions, excursions and other events.

To enrich the collections of both museums, replicas of historical devices will be made of the original versions that can be found in the Museum of Miklós Konkoly Thege in Hurbanovo and in the Museum of Károly Posztócky in Tata. The interactivity of both museums will be enhanced by the addition of QR codes to the exhibit labels, this way providing more detailed information about the exhibits.

The main benefits of the cooperation for the Slovak Central Observatory are the following:

- gaining additional data on solar and meteor observations for the database when weather conditions are not suitable in Hurbanovo,
- raising awareness of the history and present of our organization by involving the general public in our professional and competitive activities,
- increasing the interactivity of the museum exposition by adding QR codes to the descriptions of the exhibits.