



Overview of the PITHIA-NRF TNA Programme

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PITHIA-NRF

- **Plasmasphere Ionosphere Thermosphere Integrated Research Environment and Access services: a Network of Research Facilities**
- Project funded by the European Commission's Horizon 2020 Programme, running 2021–2025
- **Collaborative project** between operators of **near-Earth space instruments and models**
 - EISCAT, LOFAR, ionosondes/digisondes, GNSS receivers, Doppler sounding systems, riometers, VLF receivers...
- Goal is to form a **distributed network of integrated observation facilities**
 - Turning the set of scattered instrumentation into one Research Infrastructure



Aspects of PITHIA-NRF

- **Trans-National Access (TNA)** activities to broaden and integrate the user community
- **PITHIA e-Science Centre**
- **Training** on how to use the facilities and the tools
- **Innovation platform** for cooperation between stakeholders and setting standards for future collaboration



Trans-National Access

• From Horizon 2020 - Work Programme 2018-2020:

- To provide 'free of charge' trans-national access to researchers or research teams including from industry to one or more infrastructures among those operated by participants. These access activities should be implemented in a coordinated way such as to improve the overall services available to the research community. Access may be made available to external users, either in person ('hands-on') or through the provision of remote scientific services, such as the provision of reference materials or samples, the performance of sample analysis or sample deposition.
- The research infrastructures shall publicise widely the access offered under the grant agreement to ensure that researchers who might wish to have access to the infrastructure are made aware of the possibilities open to them. To this extent, the research infrastructures are also invited to exploit the proper feature put in place by the EURAXESS platform to highlight the research job/hosting related to a position/project within a Research Infrastructure. The research infrastructures shall promote equal opportunities in advertising the access and take into account the gender issues when defining the support provided to visitors. They shall maintain appropriate documentation to support and justify the amount of access reported. This documentation shall include records of the names, nationalities, and home institutions of the users within the research teams, as well as the nature and quantity of access provided to them. To this extent a unit of access to the infrastructure shall be identified and precisely defined in the Grant Agreement.
- The selection of researchers or research teams shall be carried out through an independent peer-review evaluation of their research projects. The research team, or its majority, must work in countries other than the country(ies) where the infrastructure is located (when the infrastructure is composed of several research facilities, operated by different legal entities, this condition shall apply to each facility) except in the case of a distributed set of resources or facilities offering remote access to the same services or when access is provided by an International organisation, the Joint Research Centre (JRC), an ERIC or similar legal entities. User teams where all or the majority of users works in third countries can be supported as far as the cumulative access provided to them is below 20% of the total amount of units of access provided under the grant. In exceptional and well justified cases a higher percentage of access to third-country user teams can be foreseen in the Grant Agreement. Only research teams, including industrial users, which are entitled to disseminate the knowledge they have generated under the project are eligible to benefit from research services to the infrastructure under the grant agreement. Exception to this condition is foreseen when users work for SMEs. The duration of stay at a research infrastructure shall normally be limited to three months, unless otherwise provided for in the Grant Agreement.
- EU financial support to trans-national access will cover the *access costs* incurred by the access provider for the provision of access to the selected researchers as well as the travel and subsistence incurred to support the visits to the infrastructure of these researchers.
- The *access costs* charged to the grant will never include capital investments while they may cover the running costs of the infrastructure as well as the cost for the logistical, technological and scientific support to users' access, including costs for ad-hoc training needed by users to use the infrastructure and for preparatory and closing activities that may be necessary to carry out users' work on the infrastructure.



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'free of charge' trans-national access to researchers or research teams
in a coordinated way

to one or more infrastructures

- The selection of researchers or research teams shall be carried out through an independent peer-review evaluation
must work in countries other than the country(ies) where the infrastructure is located

The research team

third countries can be supported

User teams where all or the majority of users works in

which are entitled to disseminate the knowledge they have generated under the project are eligible
The duration of stay

Only research teams

shall normally be limited to three months

- EU financial support
travel and subsistence

will cover the *access costs*

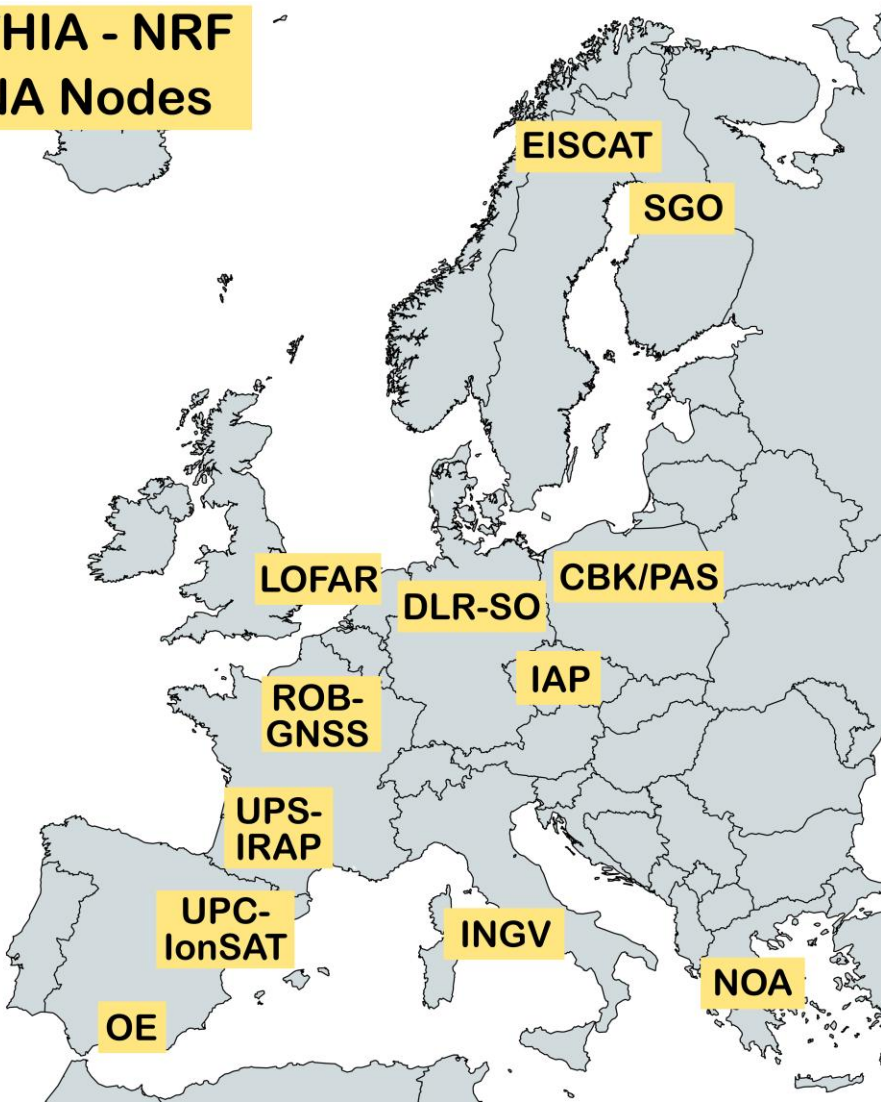
of these researchers.

as well as the



The PITHIA-NRF TNA programme

PITHIA - NRF TNA Nodes

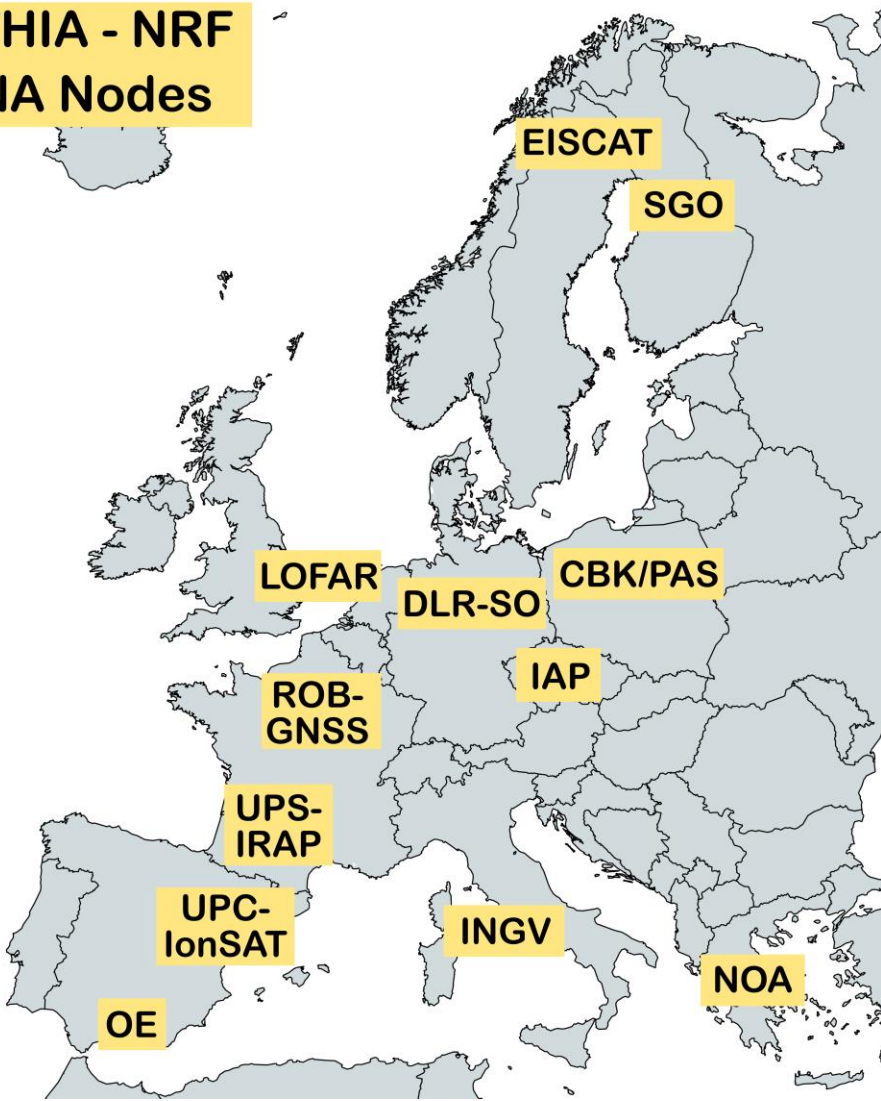


- Open for researchers, students and others to execute and carry out their own projects at a research facility connected to PITHIA-NRF
- Hands-on access to key experimental and data processing facilities for studies and modelling of physical processes acting in the Earth's plasmasphere, ionosphere and thermosphere
- Training and support from experts in the field
- Physical access or Remote access sessions for one work week
- Travel support and one week of accommodation
- Scientific support of the project



The TNA programme in numbers

**PITHIA - NRF
TNA Nodes**



- 12 Nodes (11 in practice)
- 8 TNA calls (2021–2025)
- 65 applications received
- 56 projects accepted to start
- 6 projects cancelled, the rest either finishing or finished



The schedule for today

09:30 – 09:45 This presentation

09:45 – 10:45 TNA users presentations (part 1, 4 presentations)

Coffee

11:15 – 12:30 TNA users presentations (part 2, 5 presentations)

Lunch

13:30 – 14:45 TNA users presentations (part 3, 5 presentations)

Coffee

15:00 – 17:00 Discussions, starting with presentation by Anna Belehaki