
WP 5 Deliverable N. 5.1

First Annual Report

covering the March 2nd 2020 - March 1st 2021 period

Project acronym:
AHEAD2020

Project Title:
Integrated Activities for the High Energy Astrophysics Domain

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Explanation of the work carried out within the WP

The Transnational Access (TA1) devoted to access to experimental facilities is handled in the WP5. The WP activities are conceptually organized in two tasks: 1) the management activities under the responsibility of WP coordinator supported by his team; 2) the facility accesses (visits) that are under the responsibility of facility owners. To improve the overall efficiency AHEAD2020 has decided that the WP 5 coordinator will also be, “ex-officio”, the chairperson of the TA1 proposal selection committee, hence the selection procedures is/will be part of the overall management activities.

Due to the adverse effects of the COVID-19 outbreak during the reference period only part of the originally planned management activities has been performed but new additional unforeseen activities have been necessary, in particular in discussing on the possible implementation of the TNA with the constraints imposed by the outbreak as well as in a trade-off analysis of rescheduling the originally planned activities as part of the rescheduling of the entire set of AHEAD2020 program. Notwithstanding the outbreak adverse effect the WEB site for TA1 has been put on-line with all the relevant information in due time and it is ready for accepting and handling the guest team proposals. The TA1 AO has been opened on January 2021 at the same time of the first call for AHEAD2020 TA2 and TA3. The WP5 leader has also participated to all the regularly organized management meetings (all performed remotely by teleconferences).

Most of the activity during the first semester of the reference period has been concentrated on the setting up of the TA1 WEB page an activity that has been performed by people at INAF-OAPA in close coordination with the Project team at INAF-IAPS and that has seen the involvement of 3 people covering all the various aspects (ITC, Web Design, Content Production, etc.).

At the date of the writing of this report the TA1 has received three (3) proposal by 3 guest teams. All proposals are eligible according to the grant agreement rules and have been already sent to the panel for the their evaluation. In summary overall the proposals ask to access two installations: BABE (in Italy) for about 20 working days and the Shaker 200 N at CSL (Belgium) for 5 working days. One of the proposing team is unrelated to AHEAD, the other two proposing teams includes people involved with AHEAD. The PI of one of those latter teams works for a high-tech SME.

Status of Milestones & Deliverables

All the planned WP 5 deliverables and milestones during the reference period have been achieved, most notably the opening, in due time, of the TA1 Web page that can either be accessed directly (<http://ahead.astropa.inaf.it>) or through a link to the AHEAD2020 main page (<http://ahead.iaps.inaf.it>). The present report is the deliverable 5.1.

Dissemination & communication activities

The dedicated WEB page has been opened and it contains all the relevant information for the TA1. On the other hand the COVID-19 outbreak has forced us to postpone by several months the opening of calls that has occurred on the January 2021; notwithstanding the difficulties due to the Covid19 outbreak the dissemination has been quite effective. It has been based on the use of a large email list handled by the AHEAD2020 project as well as on the internal mailing lists and other form of contacts handled by the facility owners that have acted on request of the WP5 coordinator. Overall several thousands of contact have been reached. The figure below provides a summary of the number of daily visitors and visits to the TA1 call web page since the opening of the AO and shows evidence of the effectiveness of the dissemination.

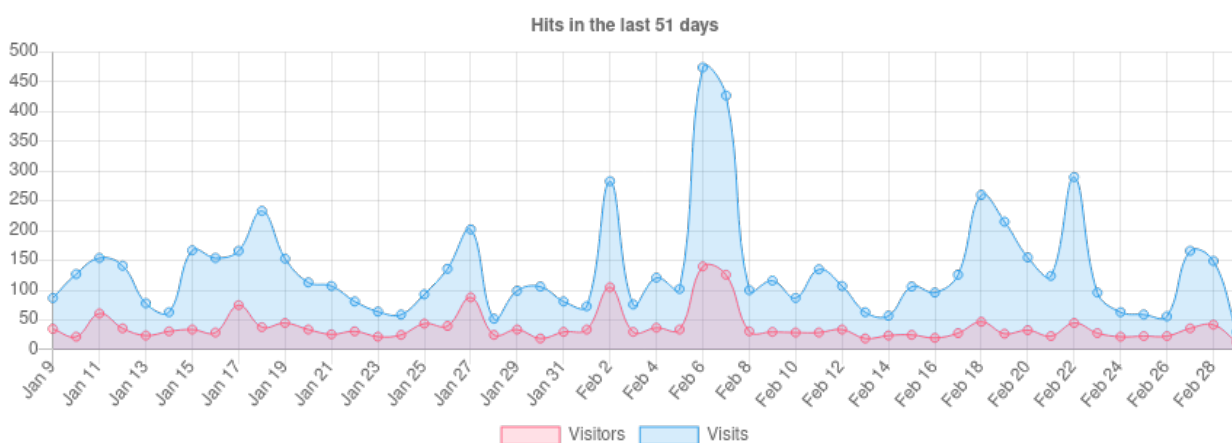


Figure 1: A summary plot of the number of visits and visitors to the TA1 Web page since the opening of the AO.

In the last 30 days (i.e. starting Jan 29) the TA1 web page has had 1186 visitors and 4399 visits.

Deviations and non-compliances

As already pointed out due to the strong adverse impact of the COVID-19 outbreak it has been essentially impossible to maintain the original scheduling for the date of call opening that has been postponed till January 2021. In the meantime AHEAD2020 has asked the EU for a no-cost extension of project of 9 months in order to be able to accomplish the activities originally proposed and planned.