



Latvian Astronomical Society

Astronomy in Europe:
An Evolving Collaboration
Leiden, January 22, 2008



General information

- Latvian Astronomical Society (Latvijas Astronomijas biedrība, LAB) is the successor of the Riga branch of the Astronomic and Geodetic Society of the Soviet Union (USSR), which was founded in 1947 and united both professional and amateur astronomers.
- LAB was founded in 1993.
- Currently LAB unites 60 members.
- There are 30 professional astronomers in Latvia.



Links with other institutions

- Institute of Astronomy, University of Latvia
- Ventspils International Radioastronomy Centre, Ventspils University College
- Daugavpils University
- Riga Technical University
- Astronomical Development Foundation, privately funded organisation



Activities and public outreach

- Monthly seminars on professional research and amateur activities.
- Organisation of summer star parties.
- Support to the primary and secondary education programs, organisation of school Olympiads in astronomy.
- Maintenance of LAB website www.lab.lv.
- Press releases and publications in periodical “Zvaigžņotā Debess” (The Starry Sky).
- Medal named after Jānis Ikaunieks, a famous Latvian astronomer.



Links with other astronomical societies

- European Astronomical Society (EAS)
- Eurasian Astronomical Society (EAAS)
- International Astronomical Union (IAU)
- Ciel & Espace (Les Nuits des étoiles)



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Key tasks

- Distribution of astronomic information
- Making astronomy available for everybody
- Preparation for International Year of Astronomy 2009





Q & A ?