



# Hellenic Astronomical Society (Hel.A.S.)

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## Some facts

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- ❑ The Hellenic Astronomical Society was established in 1993.
- ❑ Currently, it has about 200 members in Greece and abroad.

## First, the bad news

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- ❑ A significant number of its members are not “international players”. This is because
- ❑ 1) they work on old-fashioned topics of Astronomy,
- ❑ 2) they do not make any effort to work on something modern,
- ❑ 3) the young PhDs that they produce are bad copies of themselves.

## Then, the good news

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- ❑ The majority of the young (age < 40) members of the Hel.A.S. are “international players”.
- ❑ They have spent significant time abroad and they work on topics in frontier research.
- ❑ They are successful in their observing and funding proposals.
- ❑ A handful of them are leaders in their fields.
- ❑ It is for these last ones that I care the most!!!

# Research conditions

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- ❑ The research conditions have never been great in Greece.
- ❑ National funding has been rare, little, and unpredictable. Calls for proposals do not appear at predetermined times.
- ❑ The current economic situation has made things worse.
- ❑ The best researchers in Greece survive through competitive European Union grants.

# The President's proposals

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- ❑ As a Founding Member of the European Astronomical Society, I wholeheartedly support our President's ideas.
- ❑ In particular, I am excited at the possibility of having the first, stand-alone, EAS meeting in 2014.
- ❑ An additional reason, to the ones given by the President, is the following:

## Additional reason

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- ❑ As in the Hellenic Astronomical Society, in all National Astronomical Societies there are excellent “international players”.
- ❑ Stand-alone EAS meetings, as proposed by the President, will give the opportunity to these people to organize Symposia and thus enhance their visibility and recognition.
- ❑ We owe it to them!

THANKS