

Astro-photography as an effective tool for Outreach and Education: IACTs in exposition

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Executive Summary

In this contribution we present the experience of a large exposition of astro-photography that we organized in Italy, in October 2020, as a very effective tool for outreach and education in astronomy and astrophysics. In fact, through the use of astronomical photographs, the science behind several phenomena can be communicated at different levels to a very diverse audience of all ages. We collected 54 images and we proposed a detailed scientific description for each of them, focusing on a specific related topic in astrophysics. All the explanations were provided during the guided-tours or with a free audio-guide available on a web platform that we developed on purpose, which is still available today. The feedback from the public was very positive and we recorded a large participation also in the side events (conferences and sky observations). We present the structure and the content of the exhibition, together with the complex process for organizing this event, starting from the selection of photographs by professional astrophotographers, scientific collaborations and astronomical observatories, both professional and amateur.