



Public Surveys Phase 2 Workshop

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ESO in the Survey Era

Observational Astronomy is going through a “survey era”

- SDSS, UKIDSS, Pan-STARRS, SkyMapper, LSST... all major investments in survey *systems* (from dedicated telescopes and instruments to data distribution)
- New science in a vast variety of fields serving broad communities

VISTA, VST Public Survey are ESO’s response to these new demands

- Science *and operations* driven by the community
- Dedicated surveys running simultaneously, rather than single survey strategy serving multiple applications
- Makes operations and tools more demanding, but builds upon VLT experience



Public Surveys as the next major step in operations

Organization...

- Creation of the Public Surveys Panel
- Creation of the ESO Survey Team

Policies and procedures...

- Special procedures for public survey review, merging, acceptance
- Survey management plans a core part of preparation and approval of surveys



Public Surveys as the next major step in operations

Tools...

- New concepts above OB level (scheduling containers)
- Major changes to P2PP,OT (moving to version 3.x)
- New observation preparation tools (SADT)
- New QC processes

Data publication...

- Major involvements of CASU, WFAU, AstroWise...
- Science-ready data specifications
- VO integration

Reviewing most of these aspects is the purpose of the next two days



Credit: Gerhard Hüdepohl

The VLT and VISTA

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Welcome!



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