

European FRIPON Network, round table #1

After a presentation of each network, the goal of the discussion was to talk about what is important for each country and what could be done for the developpement of an European Network

1) Local network requierements

France

Curruntly 90 cameras installed over 100 and 22 radio stations. The FRIPON team is already understaffed, the extension of the network must be done carefully to maintain its effectiveness. European founds request to maintain the functioning of the network (network, hardware, storage). Think to extensions without including stations within the VPN.

Germany

Germans hoping that all Europe will be covered with same cameras, similar data state. Hoping for cooperation and data sharing for all countries, all data made public, especially for events. The goal is to cover Gemany

UK

Search for dedicated funding for developping software and replacing hardware (the network is made of 60 Watec analog cameras). They wish to improve their chance to recover meteorites. An idea could be to use the location of the « old » network mainly made with narrow angle cameras.

Romania

Actually 10 cameras work on an independant way but with the FRIPON technology (hardware and software). They wish to be more integrated in FRIPON network. They show the use of cameras to follow artificial satellites atmospheric re-entry using FreeTure in a continuous acquisition mode. They wish to integrate and develop the network in a collaboration, and need to develop scientific goals together for using such a network.

Italia

Impossible to have one single network for Europe as France is doing. We each have our own and federate at the level of data for example. That way we can handle boundaries and cooperation with a clear set of policies. Registry functions for each country on a National base. Collect metadata with the same structure, everybody talk the same language, that way one brain can handle everything. For example the camera from PicoTorinese can talk with that in Caussols. Not base the cooperation on a centralized system but on handling the information the same way and being able to talk. It is OK to use Italian cameras for sprites observations.

Austria

Currently one camera with radio working in Vienna but a goal of 10 cameras (similar to FRIPON configuration) to cover all the country. Hoping for cooperation and data sharing for all countries, all data made public, especially for events.

2) Discussion

several requirements emerge :

A) Camera « owners » want to have and acces to their data :

- Real type « long exposure » images
- Detections of the night on their camera
- Detections of major event on the whole network

B) Publicity on the network

- We must talk about objects accross boundaries to show that the whole machine is working, to search for European grants.
- We need to be able to talk to the geneal public and the people who give out the money

C) Start an other way to connect stations

- Make room for individuals not connected on the VPN. May be particularly useful in some countries, it would increase the density of the network.
- We need more man power to develop other types of use.
- Need to form local team to help for network instalation. Actually it needs 2/3 days to install a new camera.
- Need of a easy to use of FreeTure on windows.

D) New cameras

- It must be plug and play
- it must be cheaper with with integrated RaspberryPy or equivalent solutions.

E) Network installation

- private or public location ?
- Easier to convince private
- More reliable on public location
- Convice network engineer to install a PC as a black box (with no root password)

F) Data base

- Do we need one unique data base at the moment ? In the future when it will be huge, it may become necessary to split it but at the moment it should be kept together. In addition, the technicians should be able to impose their view on it in order to work as efficiently together.

G) Collaboration and conclusion

- We are not numerous enough in any of the countries, we should work together.
- Should do together astrometry, photometry on a few collaborative events and put them forward

- How can we better cooperate on the things that are difficult and for which we are not numerous enough but several are competent around this table ?

- Use Github for the software.

- Need a manager for the project to make people work and contribute together.

- Create the community of people who actually want to work together.

- We want enthusiasts! It is better to have a camera that works in a place that is not the best than a camera that does not work in the best place!

Urgent need to find a meteorite !

Good evening !