

Promoting the use of astronomy as a tool for Portuguese-speaking countries and communities - PLOAD

MARTA FILIPA SIMÕES^{1,2}, JOANA MARQUES³,
VALENTE CUAMBE⁴, IVANILDA CABRAL⁵, VINICIUS
OLIVEIRA^{6,7} AND JOANA LATAS⁷

¹Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST), State Key Laboratory of Lunar and Planetary Sciences (SKLPlanets)

²Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST)

³Instituto de Astrofísica e Ciências do Espaço, Universidade de Coimbra

⁴Eduardo Mondlane University

⁵Cabo Verde University

⁶Universidade Federal do Pampa (UNIPAMPA)

⁷Núcleo Interativo de Astronomia e Inovação em Educação

Presenting Author: msimoes@must.edu.mo

The Portuguese Language Office of Astronomy for Development (PLOAD; <http://pload.org>) is a structure from the International Astronomical Union (IAU) that aims to contribute to the implementation of the IAU's Strategic Plan in Portuguese-speaking countries and communities. Outreach is one of the key actions of this structure, which is currently represented on four continents. PLOAD aims to raise awareness among Portuguese speakers around the world regarding the crucial role that Astronomy can play in the sustainable development of a country or region.

If at first PLOAD's actions were aimed at establishing itself in different countries and communities, seeking to launch collaboration protocols and defining a common denominator of values in the creation of its own agenda; currently, and in a markedly post-pandemic phase, the biggest challenge is its consolidation in plural contexts and cultures, based on intercultural dialogues united by the Portuguese language and the flagship of astronomy for development. There have been multiple paths with different starting points and execution conditions. For example, PLOAD has been seeking to act within the principles of equality in the access to quality education and the promotion of gender equity in the access to scientific careers. These, in particular contexts, can translate into political awareness of the absorption of scientists into the local economy; while in other contexts, the actions are centered on creating equal conditions for accessing or exercising leadership in scientific positions.

Along this path, the diversity of audiences has been a challenging aspect, which has given rise to

fruitful reflections on the adoption of differentiated strategies for common goals. In this sense, we are now introducing and contextualizing PLOAD, showing it as a network dedicated to Astronomy for Development and sharing the strategies and challenges of the outreach actions that have been implemented so far.

*Corresponding authors:
msimoes@must.edu.mo (Marta Filipa Simões),
joana.latas@nuclio.pt (Joana Latas).