

# Astronomy and Community Development

A strategic alliance

**Salva Bará**

**salva.bara@usc.es**

Área de Óptica, Dept. Física Aplicada. Fac Física / E.U. Óptica e Optometría  
Universidade de Santiago de Compostela



Coping with old and emerging social challenges

A community-centered process

Improving the intensity and quality of neighbourhood interactions

Strengthening local community groups

Networking



yearly  
calendar

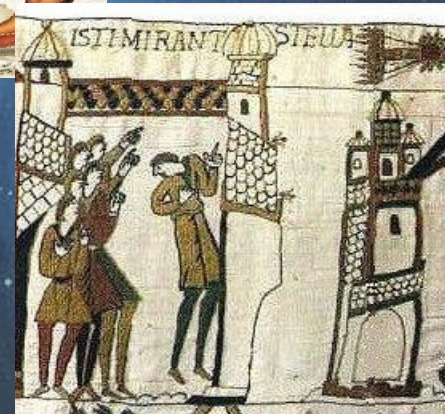


rulers'  
symbol



storytelling

decision  
making tool



The sky was a  
key factor  
structuring local  
communities'  
life

# The sky is (almost) lost...

It has nowadays little practical value of use

Light pollution made it disappear from the urban nightscape

Can we give it back to the core  
of everyday life...?

# Cooperating with local community networks

## A strategic alliance for Astronomy outreach activities



Our public has structure


A win-win approach for cooperation

# What can Astronomy offer to community development?



- Easy opportunities for people interaction
- Innovative approaches for public places use
- Reaching new people through highly appreciated activities
- Strengthening local associations
- A chance for cooperation and networking at the local level
- Addressing everyday life issues
- Developing a new environmental sensitivity
- New options for sustainable economical development (the night sky is in itself an asset!)

## What can community development offer to Astronomy?

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- A photograph of an astronomy event at night. In the foreground, a man in a green jacket is smiling while looking through a large black telescope mounted on a silver tripod. To his left, a young boy in a striped shirt is also looking through a telescope. In the background, several other people, including a woman and a child, are gathered around other telescopes. The scene is illuminated by warm streetlights, and the background shows a building with windows. The overall atmosphere is one of community engagement and public science.
- Wider reach to our activities
  - Permanence in time
  - Increasing the visibility of the scientific community
  - Getting wider support for science budget allocation
  - Social support for light pollution reduction initiatives

## How to do it....?

**Get active in your  
community**

**Break through the  
"experts' wall"**

**Adapt your rhythms**



## Some requirements to implement this approach

- Continued institutional support to scientists engaged in outreach activities
- Institutional commitment with local community associations
- Training people to communicate/share science in local community settings