

UC41 Recommendations

The UC has collected the users' opinions about several topics and in general regarding their experience in interacting with ESO. The UC is glad to report a high level of satisfaction of the community. The UC recommends ESO:

UC41.R.01: to continue putting a high priority on the development, support, and improvement of **pipelines**. Pipelines are still one of the main concerns of ESO users. Some specific recommendations based on the UC poll are listed here:

- to improve documentation on pipelines, including on the recipe parameters in GASGANO & Reflex, and on the installation procedures;
- to explore how to make bug reports (issue tracker) on ESO pipelines available to the community;
- to provide information on the update frequency of pipeline, and to consider updating the pipelines faster following identified issues;
- to provide working optimal extraction for pipelines and all ADPs for all spectroscopic instruments (and XSHOOTER in particular), especially in the case of faint sources;
- to bring the SPHERE pipeline up to the same quality and usability as for the others;
- to use Gaia as a reference catalog when an astrometric solution is calculated.

UC41.R.02: to continue improving transparency by publicizing the following information:

- Phase 1 & 2 roadmap;
- results of the study on the expected OB success rate vs. length (depending on seeing constraint);
- results of the study on the VM technical downtime;
- development of the eavesdropping mode (including as a means to assist less experienced visitor astronomers).

UC41.R.03: to accelerate the delivery of the new Phase 1 preparation tool.

There are constant and repetitive complaints from the users, and currently it is envisaged for delivery in 2020-21.

UC41.R.04 (ALMA-specific):

- to allow the ARC nodes to update the Scheduling Blocks during Phase 2, including target coordinates;
- to improve/speed up the ticketing process;
- to remove the "suggestions for improvement" from the consensus report of the ALMA TAC;
- to homogenize the level of data products distributed to the users (e.g., produce continuum subtracted maps of the whole band of each individual SPW);
- to not break ALMA polarization observations to <3 hours blocks because calibrators are variable and it may be difficult to combine the observations.

UC41.R.05: to promote the use and highlight the benefits of VM; to consider funding a 2nd visitor astronomer if (s)he is a student.

UC41.R.06: to continue

- participating in country-led workshops on how to prepare ESO proposals;
- holding regular workshops/schools on data reduction, and providing **remote** connection as well as access to the tutorial sessions in online videos;
- developing video tutorials, cookbooks, etc.

UC41.R.07: to explore how to make OBs public after the observations are publicly available; to explore how to make example OBs available for various science cases that beginners can grab to prepare their own.

UC41.R.08: to allow for multi-cycle ToO proposals, and to consider allowing Large programs to include ToO targets.

UC41.R.09: to clarify the timing and scheduling of the decision process for carrying-over A-ranked proposals; to clarify the fact that **all** non-completed A-ranked proposals are carried over **by default**.

UC41.R.10: to calibrate the Z and Y bands of VIRCAM independently of 2MASS; to characterize all near-infrared imaging filters across ESO instruments and provide color terms for them.

UC41.R.11: Miscellaneous

- to send email notifications by default to PIs about the observation of their run(s);
- to provide suggestions to users about improving the technical side of their proposals, once they prepare Phase 2;
- to provide a wired connection for laptops at Paranal: to easily get large data sets on observers machines for analysis and bringing home;
- to offer FORS2 with the blue CCD in service mode;
- to make it an option with FPOSS fibre priorities that some fibres **must** be assigned a fibre;
- to offer direct trips to the mountain if users request it, and if it is possible within the current ESO transport scheduling;
- to clarify/publicize the policy regarding charging users using the bus to go to La Silla for technical work on PI instruments/telescopes;
- to provide the UC a list of all active ESO users (from member states) to enlarge the poll participation.