

Short description written by each ESR and ER

Project acronym: **ELSA**
Project ID (6 digits): **033481**
Project Participant: **Departament d'Astronomia i Meteorologia, Facultat de Física, Universitat de Barcelona**

You			Your stay in the network				
NAME, first name	Nationality	Previous place of work/education	Start date	Duration (months)	Category ESR/ER	Place	Country
Czekaj, Maria Anna	Polish	UAM, Poznan, Poland	1.09.2008	25	ESR	Barcelona	Spain

Between 2003 and 2008 I was studying Astronomy at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. During my studies I took part in university trainings at the Astronomical Observatory of the Mikołaj Kopernik University in Piwnice near Toruń. Together with my colleagues I organized and took part in the scientific expedition dedicated to observe total solar eclipse in Turkey (29th of March 2006). In the academic year 2006-2007 I was continuing my education at two universities in Amsterdam, namely Vrije University and Universiteit van Amsterdam according to Socrates-Erasmus exchange program. While studying there I participated in the Observation Project. My group took the observations of three comets at the Observatorio del Roque de los Muchachos in La Palma, Canary Islands (Spain). The goal of our research was to determine physical properties of cometary dust from light scattering. I graduated from Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań with master's degree in Astronomy in the end of June 2008. The topic of my master thesis was chosen to use and improve my programming skills. Determining the influence of the YORP effect on asteroids dynamics has been investigated. Two months after receiving my diploma I became ELSA Early Stage Researcher and began my PhD studies at Universitat de Barcelona. My aim is to investigate the kinematics and dynamics of the Milky Way in order to implement it in the Besançon Galaxy Model. There are three supervisors of my project, Francesca Figueras, Annie Robin and Xavier Luri. In the very beginning I participated in the ELSA Workshop on Software Engineering and Numerics (1-5 September 2008) in Barcelona. In October I went for two weeks to Besançon to meet in person and start cooperation with Annie Robin. During the last four months I attended some courses given at the UB in order to extend my knowledge about our galaxy. My first experiences are very positive. I found the atmosphere of the Departament d'Astronomia i Meteorologia of UB very creative and friendly. Cooperation with the people from the faculty let me acclimatize very fast. In the next level of my research I would like to extend my cooperation with other participants.