

# The Astrobiology Lecture Course Network ABC-Net

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## Introduction:

ABC-Net (Astrobiology Lecture Course Network) is a European live tele-teaching programme connecting several universities. It is scientifically coordinated by the European Astrobiology Network Association (EANA) (<http://eana-net.eu/>) and technically managed by the Education Office of the European Space Agency ESA. It was created in 2005 and provides biannually a full course in astrobiology to registered university students.

## Rationale:

Because of the multidisciplinary character of astrobiology the full expertise in astrobiology is not always available at a single university thereby rendering it

difficult to organize a comprehensive course in astrobiology:

⇒ Consortium of 5 European Universities together with the European Space Agency:

⇒ Astrobiology Lecture Course Network: ABC-Net

- Pilot study 2005/2006
- Part of the university lecture plan
- Connected to European credit point system

## Implementation:

This ABC-Net was conducted in cooperation with the European Space Agency and its Erasmus Center from which the lectures were broadcasted, recorded, and posted on the ESA website. Any student interested in Astrobiology could subscribe to the Astrobiology

Lecture Course Network. In **2012/2013**, for example, the 18 lectures provided corresponded to 2 ECTS (European Credits Transfer System). 20 meetings (2 lectures per meeting, 45 min lecture + 30 min questions-answers) were broadcast to 9 centers. Use of previously recorded lectures to complement the programme



**Conclusions and Outlook:** ABC-Net, the Annual Workshops of EANA and the creation of several national astrobiology societies (e.g. [2]) have contributed to build up an active and engaged astrobiology community in Europe, which has now developed a large number of geographically spread teaching initiatives [3]. A continuation of ABC-Net will certainly play an essential role in engaging the next generation of scientists in this exciting field of astrobiology.