



EURO-CARES:

Project Roadmap of a

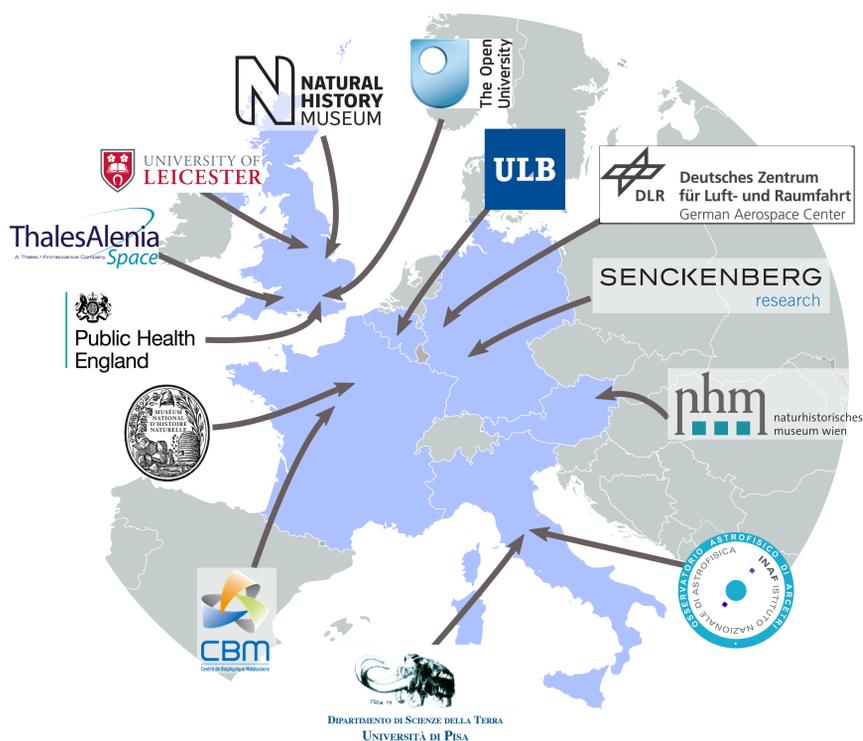
European Sample Curation Facility

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EUROpean Curation of Astromaterials Returneds from Exploration of Space (EURO-CARES) is a three-year (2015-2018) multinational project funded under the European Commission's Horizon2020 research scheme.

Thirteen competitive institutions are roadmapping a European Sample Curation Facility (ESCF) for the curation of samples from possible return missions to the Moon, asteroids and Mars.

Given the pristine nature of the samples and the Planetary Protection requirements for Mars samples (COSPAR Category V - Restricted Earth Return, see COSPAR PP Policy, 2011) the ESCF will combine high containment and ultraclean requirements. It will result in a highly specialised and unique facility. EURO-CARES is not country specific nor mission or target specific.



SAVE THE DATES!

Each Work Package is hosting an International Meeting in 2016.

- 13-15 April: WP3. NHM Vienna, Austria.
- 1-2 June: WP5. Frankfurt, Germany.
- 14-16 June: WP2. Florence, Italy.
- 13-14 October: WP4. Paris, France.



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Five technical Work Packages (WP)

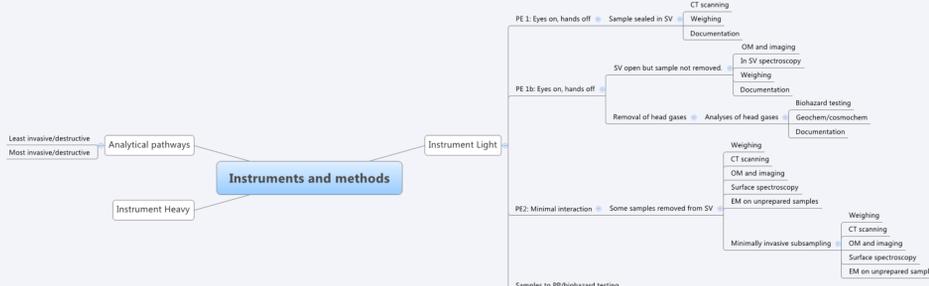
WP2 - Planetary Protection defines a plan to transport and curate samples, while minimising the risk of releasing a biohazardous extra-terrestrial agent to a legally acceptable and realistic level. It defines a Biohazard Assessment Protocol (BAP) to be conducted on TBD representative portion of the samples.



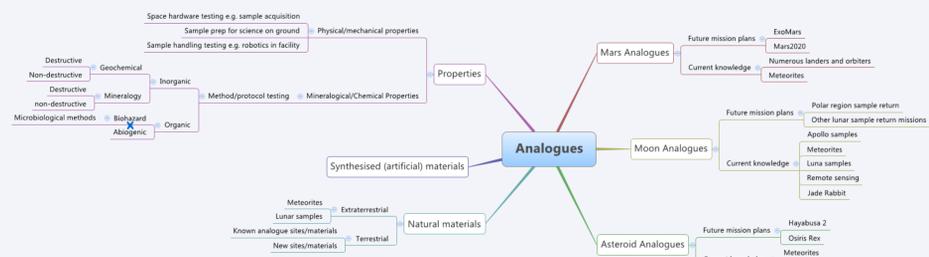
WP3 - Facilities and Infrastructure defines the requirements for a facility that receives, curates and stores extra-terrestrial samples while maintaining high levels of cleanliness and containment (if necessary).



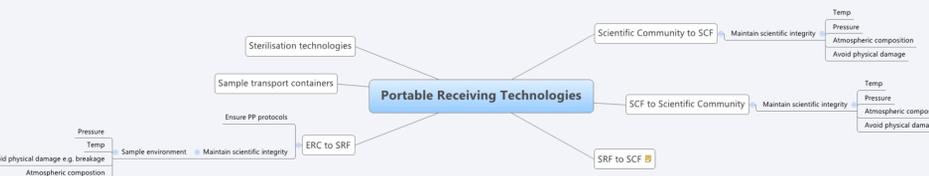
WP4 - Instruments and Methods determines the methodology of characterization of returned samples, and the instrument suite available at the ESCF.



WP5 - Analogue Samples defines a coherent and constantly evolving collection to be kept within the facility.



WP6 - Portable Receiving Technologies proposes methods for the recovery and transport of the samples from the landing site to the facility, and for a safe dissemination of the samples outside of the ESCF.



WP 8: Maximizing Impact is focused on a high impact public engagement plan. It is of major importance to keep an open communication with the policy makers and the large public, to avoid a bad public perception of potentially biohazardous extra-terrestrial samples (for more details, see Grady et al, poster #2358).



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