

BINA/BIPASS STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

(Friday 30/08/2024, 09:00 UT)

PRESENT:

- MDB = Michaël De Becker (ULiège, Belgium)
- PDC = Peter De Cat (ROB, Belgium)
- SKG = Shashikiran Ganesh (PRL, India)
- SJ = Santosh Joshi (ARIES, India)
- LM = Laurent Mahy (ROB, Belgium)

ABBREVIATIONS:

- AI = Action item

(start at 09:00 UT)

1. END REPORT OF BINA-2

PDC prepared the draft of the Belgian version of the end report of BINA-2 and circulated it amongst the members of the BINA/BIPASS steering committee. It was partly based on the Indian version of the end report of BINA-2 that was submitted to DST by SJ. The remarks of LM were already included before the meeting. MDB has a few remarks that he will send to PDC by e-mail. The report was already due in Januari 2024 so we are already extremely late. A few more days of delay will not make any difference any more, but PDC aims to submit the report on 01/09/2024.

→ AI MDB: Send comments on end report of BINA-2 to PDC

→ AI PDC: Submit end report of BINA-2 asap

SJ suggested to make a similar type of report that includes both phases of BINA (BINA-1: 15/12/2014-15/12/2018; BINA-2: 01/01/2018-31/12/2023) and to make it publicly available on arXiv and/or the BINA website (see below) to increase the visibility of our network. Such a document would be useful as reference for future funding proposals.

→ AI PDC & SJ: Prepare end report of BINA (BINA-1 & BINA-2)

2. END DATE BIPASS

The current end dates of BIPASS are:

- 31/03/2025 in Belgium,
- 25/04/2026 in India.

To fully synchronise the end dates in both countries, an extension of 12 months is required at the Belgian side. It is not clear if that would be possible. The political situation in Belgium is uncertain as a new government is being formed and there are rumours that the budget for BELSPO will be reduced with 50%. Therefore, the application for an extension of BIPASS should be submitted asap.

→ AI LM: Apply for an extension of BIPASS (try for 12 months, and, if this is not possible, settle for 6 months)

3. VISITS UNDER BIPASS

In the BIPASS proposal, we have specified 5 scientific work packages. We should make sure that there is a balance in the use of work visits for these WPs. The current situation is as follows:

- (BIPASS/WP1) "Molecular production rates and their spatial distribution in cometary comae through spectroscopy"
 - 1 from India to Belgium (Aravind K)
 - 1 from Belgium to India (Said Hmiddouch),
- (BIPASS/WP2) "Nucleosynthesis of low- and intermediate-mass stars"
 - 1 from India to Belgium (Drisya Karinkuzhi)
- (BIPASS/WP3) "Fundamental parameters of stars in multiple systems"
- (BIPASS/WP4) "Stellar winds of massive stars"
- (BIPASS/WP5) "Dissemination and scientific communication"

Muhammed Riyas Ankara (UoC, India; PhD student of Drisya Karinkuzhi) agreed to visit Sophie Van Eck (ULB, Belgium) for one month for BIPASS/WP2. Thibault Merle (ROB/ULB, Belgium) has shown some interest for a visit to India for BIPASS/WP3, but there are no concrete plans.

→ AI LM & SKG: Contact partner institutes to find candidates for remaining BIPASS work visits

Note that Aravand K (PRL, India) will join the group of Emmanuel Jehin (ULiège, Belgium) as a post-doctoral fellow (1+1 year) with a similar type of funding as Bharti Arora, who will end her post-doc under the supervision of MDB in October.

4. 2-day BINA/BIPASS WORKSHOP

It has been suggested to organise a 2-day BINA/BIPASS workshop in India in December 2025/January 2026 by combining left-over BIPASS funding from work visits with external funding that we can apply for. Drisya Karinkuzhi (UoC, India) would agree to organise it in Kerala in the South of India. It is intended as a small workshop (max. 50 participants or less, depending on the size of the room) with participation on invitation only (active BINA and BIPASS members). To maximise the participation of Belgian colleagues, some of them could apply for travel funding at the FNRS (Wallonia + federal institutes) and the FWO (Flanders + federal institutes).

→ AI PDC & LM & MDB: check requirements and deadlines for travel money from FNRS/FWO for participation in conferences

5. BINA WEBSITE

In 2021, when we were preparing the BIPASS proposal, we decided to prepare an official BINA homepage, hosted by the ROB, with the following structure:

- INTRODUCTION: logo, scope of the network
- PARTNERS: short introduction partner institutes with scientific focus, instrumentation & contact information
- INSTRUMENTATION: available instrumentation through the network (Indo-Belgian telescopes and other telescopes of interest, satellites) with concise overview of important specifications, how to apply for observation time (e.g. typical deadlines, link to forms or online proposal tools; if applicable)
- FUNDING: list of funded proposals and reports (e.g. BINA-1, BINA-2)
- ACTIVITIES: overview of network activities including workshops/conferences, working visits (certainly those funded by projects) and seminars (cf. idea of starting a series of BINA seminars)
- PROJECTS: description joint scientific projects with contact information of PI, list of collaborators
- PUBLICATIONS: joint scientific papers (with Indian/Belgian PI/co-I)
- CONTACT: contact details (e.g. from Santosh Joshi and Peter De Cat as original PI's of the project)

The website already exists (<https://bina.oma.be>) but it was never completed. It was made with Drupal ("an open source platform for building amazing digital experiences"). However, in the meantime, a new version of Drupal appeared which will make it impossible to continue with the current version of the BINA website.

SJ will have a student (starting on 01/12/2024 and staying for a few months) that is very good in making websites. We can ask him to make a new website for BINA with a similar structure. To be efficient, we should make sure that all the relevant information is available by the end of this year.

→ AI All: Assemble relevant information for BINA website asap and send it to SJ.

6. OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

SJ suggests to request particularly from members who have used BINA/BIPASS travel funds to give hands-on online lectures that are useful to help master and PhD students in their research. During the summer, he tried this concept by organising a series of lectures about photometry for Indian students. It was successful and resulted in a few collaborations for master student projects.

From the Belgian side, it will be difficult to attract master students. We expect that it would be more useful for PhD students who could earn points for their training by following such a series of lectures. We will invite Katrien Kolenberg to contribute in the further development of the concept and the organisation.

→ AI SJ: Invite Katrien Kolenberg to contribute to development/organisation lecture series for students

7. GENERAL ONLINE MEETING BINA/BIPASS MEMBERS

We should organise a general online meeting for BINA/BIPASS members to:

1. fix the remaining activities for BIPASS (this could be a part of the meeting with the CoI's of BIPASS only),
2. discuss the plans for the future of BINA,
3. start the organisation of series of lectures/seminars.

All the BIPASS and BINA CoI's should be invited to attend this meeting.

→ AI SKG & LM: organise an online BINA/BIPASS meeting in the "near future"

(end at 10:30 UT)

NEXT MEETING:

To be decided.