

# Catch the Stars in the Net!? Eight Years of Experiences in Communicating Astronomy via New Technologies

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The authors describe their work and experiences gathered in the field of POE and Information, in Astronomy in the last 8 years, mainly but not only, through the Web.

Catch the stars in the Net! is a long term Project made up of many initiatives for nearly all types of possible users: young, students, amateurs, general public or simply "curious" people. All the initiatives are developed within a focus group on the field framework and then, after this experimental phase, are published and managed on the Web, in the main Web site.

On the Web server of the Project there are more than 33 astronomical self-consistent Web sites in Italian language; all of them are reachable from one "Web door" with the name "Prendi le Stelle nella Rete!" at the url: [www.lestelle.net](http://www.lestelle.net). We call it "Web door" because it doesn't want to be a simple Home Page neither a Web Portal but it has the function of presenting all the Web sites in a well structured way to facilitate their use by the different kind of users and for different purposes. Half of these 33 Web sites are in English and they are all reachable from the url [www.astro2000.org](http://www.astro2000.org) .

The Project was born and has developed in parallel with the New Technologies: from the first Web site, in 1997, to the weekly News Bulletin in Streaming Audio/Video, in 2000, to the last project with Wireless technology for an astrophysical e-learning programme, supported by the Industry, experienced this year at the primary and middle schools.

The main focus will be on the lessons learnt in this long adventure and on the future developments.