Structuring Inclusion:

A participatory framework for astronomy communication

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IAU Office for Astronomy Outreach

The Office for Astronomy Outreach (OAO) is the International Astronomical Union's central office for **global public engagement in astronomy.** **Hosted by the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ)** through an **international partnership with the IAU**, it develops strategic frameworks and international collaborations to strengthen inclusive and culturally informed astronomy communication.

The OAO coordinates the ***Communicating Astronomy with the Public*** **(CAP) Conference,** the only international meeting dedicated to astronomy communication, and oversees the peer-reviewed ***CAP Journal,*** which supports the advancement of research and professional practice in the field of astronomy communication.

01

Inclusion

In astronomy, we often say that knowledge is the shared heritage of humanity. But heritage must be lived, not merely declared.

We recognise that too many people, whether because of geography, income, language, disability, or historical exclusion, remain at the margins of scientific discovery.

Re-group and analice

During a recent restructuring within the IAU's working groups, a section of the *Astronomy for Equity and Inclusion Working Group* was divided into subgroups.

Our focus group formed, under the wing of the **Office for Astronomy Outreach,** with an international community of astronomers, educators, and science communicators committed to developing inclusive educational and communication practices, that recognise the diverse realities of the communities we work with.



Our community of practice

We function as a horizontal, volunteer-based community, organized into interconnected **circles,** each focused on a specific area of work.

A circle is a group of FG members who focus on a specific topic and commit time to it. People can participate in a circle to share their experience and learn from others on the topic



02

Why inclusion matters

Someone standing under the night sky in Ghana, in Chile, in Pakistan, in Japan, experiences the same stars that glow above the most advanced observatories on Earth.

Yet their pathways into astronomy differ wildly.

Our work begins with a simple truth: **a shared sky demands shared opportunity.** Every community deserves to participate in the wonder, questions, and knowledge that the cosmos inspires.

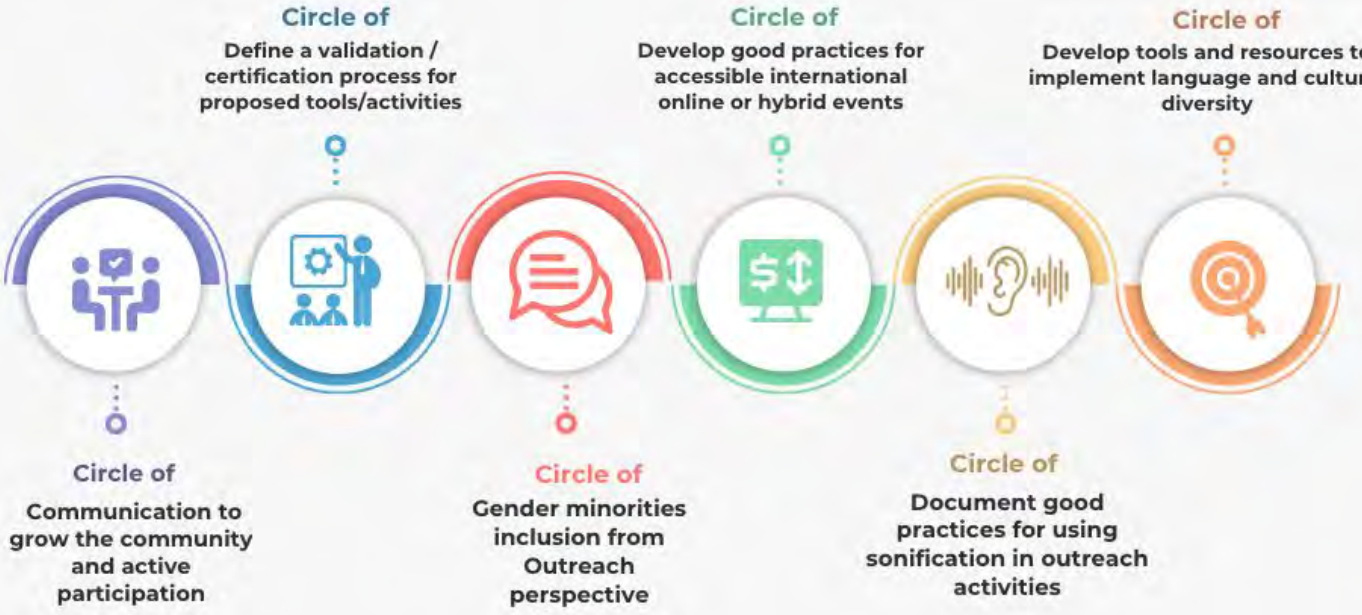


03
A participatory framework for astronomy communication

We believe inclusive astronomy is not built by individuals acting alone, but by **communities who learn with and from one another.** That is why we focus on cultivating networks of practice, **circles of people** who exchange **ideas, test methods, question assumptions, and create resources together.**

Circular structure

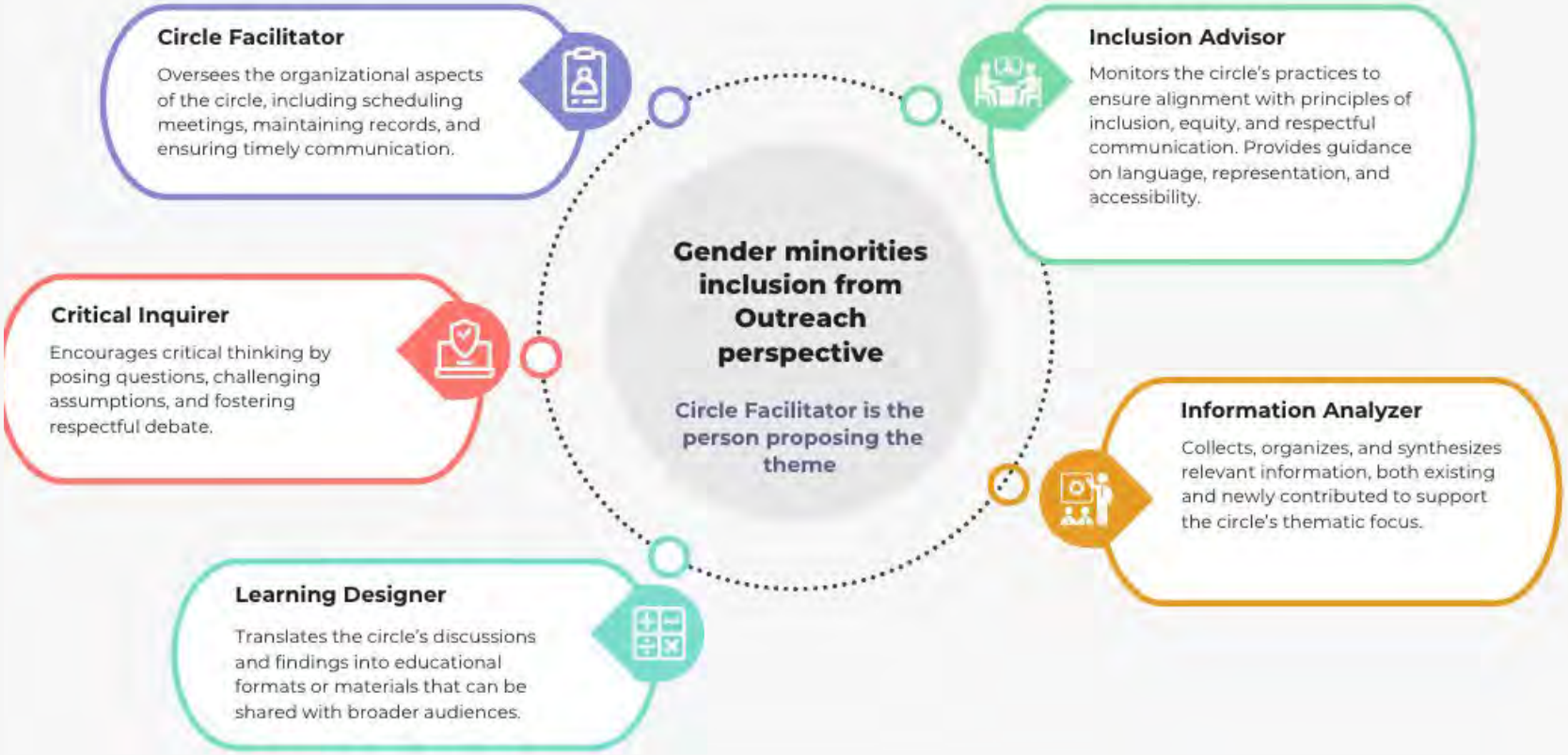
To support this transformation, we designed a new framework grounded in collaboration, decentralisation, and mutual care. Our structure is composed of interconnected circles, each one dedicated to a specific theme in inclusive communication.





Approachable
Obtainable

Roles within each circle



Assign roles

Members will begin taking on their roles, gathering information, and developing clear ideas and documents related to the topic.

Time table

Together, they should create a simple timeline and set **2 basic goals:**

- First Goal – **MVP (Minimum Viable Product)**
- Final Goal – **Usable Product**

Any member can suggest idea

Process for each circle begins with one or two coordinators who **propose a topic and present their idea to all participant**s.

Share with Everyone

Share progress and outcomes with the broader group.

04
Accessible

Our purpose is to support the strategic and operational aspects of the community, ensuring that its growth remains aligned with principles of inclusion, equity, and accessibility. But most important, **should follow the main goal of the focus group: Make it happen**


Hans-on activities,
with real goals

Active circles

01

CIRCLE 1:
Use of ***Sonification*** for science engagement

02

CIRCLE 2:
Develop good practices for accessible **international online hybrid events**

03

CIRCLE 4:
Language and culture discrimination awareness

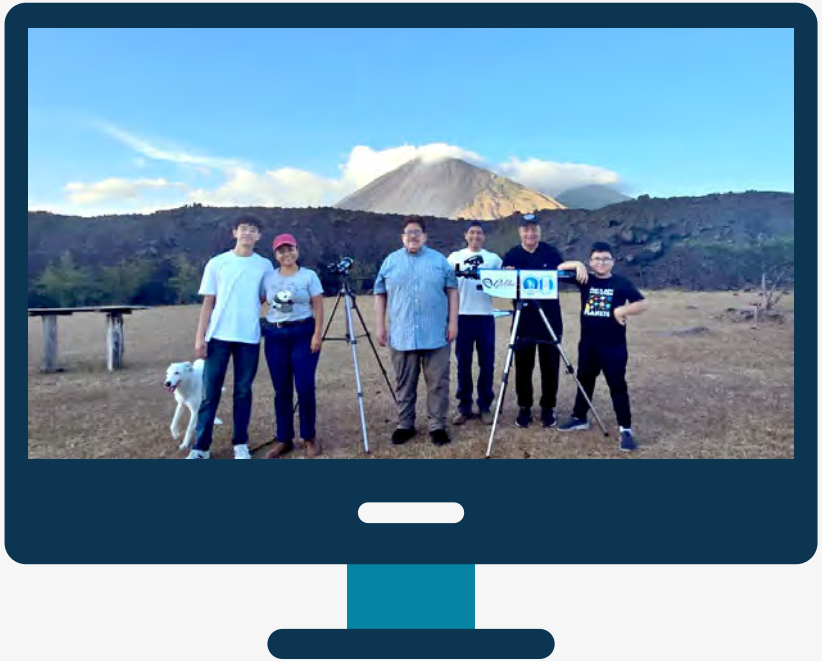
04

CIRCLE 3: Exchanging **practitioner-developed tools** and educational activities

Challenges we continue to Face

Change is rarely welcomed. Many communities resist new structures, even when they offer growth and collective strength.

And **sustaining participation**, keeping the spark alive beyond the first idea, is a challenge we face daily.



05
Our goal:

A community where each circle can operate autonomously, create meaningful resources, and support astronomy communicators worldwide.

Thank you!

Do you have any questions?

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