

1st Italian Space Agency workshop on Astrobiology: the Italian roadmap for the next decade

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FOREWORD

The 1st Italian Space Agency workshop on Astrobiology was held at the Italian Space Agency in Rome on October 27th – 29th 2020.

The workshop was organized with the intent to map the current capabilities of the Italian scientific community in the Astrobiology field. Indeed, the workshop has been the first step of a process that will lead to the definition of a national long-term roadmap to optimize the Italian contribution to the international activities and programs in the next decade of research, exploration and discoveries in the field of Astrobiology. Astrobiology is by definition a multidisciplinary field and the intention is to create a common platform for the scientific communities working on different topics in order to create synergies and identify future opportunities for joint activities. To this end, the workshop hosted contributions by Italian scientist from the following areas:

- Italian Space Agency activities relevant for Astrobiology
- Extremophiles and extreme environments
- Prebiotic chemistry
- Experiments in Low Earth Orbit (LEO)
- Astrobiology beyond the Solar System
- Solar System sciences & Exploration
- Extraterrestrial and analog materials

The final goal of the workshop has been to build an interdisciplinary Italian community of scientists prepared to enter a new era of discoveries and to be ready for the future challenges in the space research and exploration.

In this volume there is a collection of topics that have been presented and discussed during the workshop.

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