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## Women in Astronomy in Belgium

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We are attempting to gather all information available to study the question of the representation of women in astronomy in Belgium, which is not a straightforward task.

In an early study, [1] analysed gender-specific statistics on the Belgian physicists. One of the difficulties they found was that Belgium keeps different statistics for the French-speaking and Flemish universities, and the career structure is different depending on the Communities.

As preliminary analysis, we investigated the percentage of women in the International Astronomical Union (IAU) registered in the database for Belgium [2]. The IAU is an international organization with participation from 68 countries that covers the main areas of astronomy, including planetary science. In 2021, 32 out of 144 Belgian members were female (22%). It is important to notice that not all astronomers in Belgium, and in particular not the younger generation where the percentage of female researchers is higher, are member of IAU. Therefore we expect these values to underestimate the true number of women in the field. In view of the fact that it is the same at the level of the funding bodies and, by construction, at the universities, Earth and Space Sciences will be considered together. We will present preliminary results of our study.

### References:

[1] Petra Rudolf, Vice-President, Christine Iserentant, Muriel Vander Donckt, Nathalie Balcaen, Peggy Fredrickx, Karen Janssens, and Griet Janssen, "Women in Physics in Belgium: Still a Long Way From Achieving Gender Equality", AIP Conference Proceedings 628, 131-132 (2002)  
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[2] <https://www.iau.org/administration/membership/individual/distribution/>