

# TUIMP: The Universe In My Pocket

Grażyna Stasińska 

LUTH, Observatoire de Paris, PSL, CNRS 92190 Meudon, France  
email: [grazyna.stasinska@obspm.fr](mailto:grazyna.stasinska@obspm.fr)

**Abstract.** TUIMP is an outreach and educational project providing astronomical booklets that can be folded from one single sheet of paper. The booklets are written by professional astronomers and are intended for a broad audience. They can be downloaded for free from [www.tuimp.org](http://www.tuimp.org) and used in classrooms, planetariums and in astronomy festivals. Presently they are available in 11 languages. Participation for writing new booklets or translating in any language is very welcome.

**Keywords.** Education and Outreach in Astronomy

---

## 1. Introduction

TUIMP, The Universe In My Pocket, is an outreach and educational project which started a few years ago. Its aim is to produce 16-page astronomy booklets that can be folded from just one sheet of paper. The booklets are designed for a broad audience: ‘children from 9 to 99 years old curious about astronomy’ as announced in our site. They can be downloaded for free from our webpage [www.tuimp.org](http://www.tuimp.org) and used in schools, in planetariums or astronomy festivals. Each booklet ends with a small quiz that the reader can answer using the information contained in the booklet.

The project does not require any funding as all the participants give their time for free. One of its important characteristics is that it is truly international, as the authors of booklets originate from many countries. More importantly, the booklets are open to translation in any language. Figure 1 shows the folding of several booklets in Portuguese. Figure 2 shows a folded booklet in Polish.

## 2. Project evolution

Since its first presentation by Stasińska (2018), the TUIMP project has evolved considerably. Fifteen titles have already been published and others are in preparation. They go from purely descriptive such as “The nebular universe” or “The solar system” to more didactic ones such as “The sizes of celestial bodies” or “We come from the stars”. Concepts such as spectroscopy, nucleosynthesis, or photoionization are introduced in a simple language. Sociological and historical aspects are not forgotten, such as the design of constellations in different cultures or the discovery of the ‘guest star’ in 1054 not only by Chinese astronomers but also in Europe, Arabia and Japan.

TUIMP booklets are presently available in eleven languages: Albanian, Arabic, Armenian, English, French, Greek, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish. They are used in schools at various levels in different countries, as a support or a complement of physics or astronomy classes. The success is largest in Albania and Arabic countries, which do not benefit from a large corpus of astronomical literature in their own language. In Poland and France astronomical magazines include each month one page



**Figure 1.** Making booklets in Brazil.



**Figure 2.** A finished booklet in Polish.

with a TUIMP booklet to cut out and fold up by their readers, allowing a larger dissemination of the TUIMP project not only among amateur astronomers but also among educators.

While the TUIMP project was initiated by a small group of friends residing in different continents, it has expanded not only through a ‘friends of friends’ process but also thanks to the internet. For example, translations in Arabic language are done collaboratively by members of the Sirius Astronomy Association based in Constantine (Algeria) who contacted us on our site. This opened the way for TUIMP in Northern Africa and countries from the Middle East. In this case, even the translating activity itself has an educational aspect and could well be transposed to other countries.

### 3. The future

One of the important aims of the TUIMP project is to offer free outreach resources for populations that do not have an easy access to culture and education either because of language issues or because of their economical situation.

We are still far from reaching this goal. One obvious reason is that we are not able to reach these populations through internet precisely because of language issues. This is why the help of the international astronomical community is so important.

We openheartedly invite astronomers from all countries to join us for translating TUIMP booklets in their own language, especially in African or Asian languages but also in languages spoken by different communities in America. The small volume of each booklet ensures that the amount of work involved is not too heavy. Each collection of booklets in a given language can grow at its own pace.

### **Reference**

Stasińska G., 2018, 'TUIMP: The Universe in My Pocket. Free Astronomy Booklets in All Languages', in 'Proceedings of the International Conference CAP2018', p.388, <https://www.communicatingastronomy.org/cap2018news/> or [arXiv:1806.02671](https://arxiv.org/abs/1806.02671)