

## **APPEAL FOR THE SALVATION OF ROZHEN NATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY**

Bulgaria looks to the Universe through Rozhen National Astronomical Observatory (NAO). NAO is the centre of astronomical research and training in Bulgaria. Every clear night the telescopes of the Observatory point toward the stellar sky to collect unique data of distant galaxies, fanciful comets, flare stars, and planets around other "suns". Here the astronomers carry out their studies and the scientific publications thereof are highly appreciated by the international astronomical society. This is the place where the students in astronomy reveal the essence of modern practical astrophysics for the first time. A great number of inquisitive pupils and thousands of visitors have the chance to touch the magic called "Universe" here all year round. And this pattern is already ongoing for thirty years.

Nowadays, after the latest cut of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences budget, the expenditure of NAO is not covered at all. This temple of science and education is threatened by liquidation. That is why we, the friends of astronomy, protest against the continuous decrease of science funding in Bulgaria. Let us save the National Astronomical Observatory!

We appeal to the Council of Ministers to ensure earmarked funds for the survival of the National Astronomical Observatory!

**Petition link:** <http://bgpetition.com/ROZHEN-NATIONAL-ASTRONOMICAL-OBSERVATORY-BULGARIA/index.html>