

VANDELS: A deep VIMOS survey of the CANDELS FieldsL. Pentericci¹¹ *INAF-Osservatorio Astronomico di Roma***Abstract**

VANDELS will be a uniquely *deep* VLT spectroscopic survey of high-redshift galaxies, designed to exploit the multi-wavelength imaging and near-IR grism spectroscopy available in the CANDELS fields. The aim of this project is to move beyond redshift acquisition, obtaining spectra with high enough signal-to-noise to derive metallicities and velocity offsets from absorption and emission lines, allowing a detailed investigation of the physics of galaxies in the early Universe. Using integration times of $20 < t_{int} < 80$ hours, we will target: *a)* $2.5 < z < 5.5$ star-forming galaxies with $H_{AB} \leq 24$ ($I_{AB} \leq 25$), *b)* $H_{AB} < 22.5$ passive galaxies at $1.5 < z < 2.5$; *c)* fainter ($H_{AB} \leq 27$) star-forming galaxies at $3.0 < z < 7.0$ and *d)* X-ray/radio selected AGN. Our strategy will deliver ≥ 4600 high signal-to-noise spectra within an area of $\simeq 0.5 \text{ deg}^2$. Combining the proposed VIMOS spectroscopy with the best optical+nearIR+Spitzer imaging will produce a unique legacy dataset, capable of unveiling the physical processes underpinning high-redshift galaxy evolution. I will present the outline of the survey and the first results from the first (test) observational runs.