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Surveying the low-frequency sky

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The LOFAR International Telescope is an extremely powerful instrument to deeply survey the sky at very low frequencies. While a number of surveys at a range of frequencies and depths are still ongoing, they have already produced a lot of exciting scientific results addressing important issues in many areas of astronomy. In this talk, I will briefly discuss a number of issues including (i) survey design and its scientific drivers, (ii) the many breakthroughs in analysis methods that enabled the creation of high-quality maps, (iii) selected scientific highlights that illustrate the versatility of the surveys, and (iv) some lessons learned and possible directions for future surveys.