

Xplora launch event: workshop and webcast

The European science education portal, Xplora, will be officially launched for schools at 10am on 13 October 2005 at Technopolis in Mechelen, Belgium.

Xplora (www.xplora.org) is the European gateway to science education. It is aimed at teachers, pupils, scientists, science communicators and science educators. It is supported by the PENCIL project, funded by the European Commission's Directorate General for Research as part of Science and Society.

The focus of the event is forensic science. A number of activities will be featured: a Mysterix film offering some science experiments with schools, a conference for the local public and the launch of the CERN webcast website "Beyond Einstein".

Classes from the Sancta Maria Institute, Kasterlee will take part in the event.

The event will be webcast from the Xplora site at 10am at www.xplora.org in QuickTime format.

Thanks to Apple Computer for supplying technical equipment for the event.

Mysterix Film

Mysterix is a "science truck" managed by Technopolis in which first year secondary education pupils can perform experiments focusing on geography, language, biology, physics, and electricity.

The Xplora portal will feature a short video of forensic science activities performed by pupils on the Mysterix truck. Pupils will decipher obscure characters, type the blood group of a little girl, try to identify some witnesses and more.

This video will be shown during the day and will then be available on the portal for other visitors at:

http://www.xplora.org/ww/en/pub/xplora/events/calendar/xplora_website_launch.htm

Forensic science workshop

Scientists from the National Institute for Criminalistics and Criminology (Nationaal Instituut voor Criminalistiek en Criminologie – NICC - Belgium) will explain forensic investigation using everyday life examples.

Mr De Veth, the NICC forensic liaison officer will explain what a forensic investigation exactly implies, which are the different phases of an investigation and will present a practical example about forensic evidence left by tools.

Mrs De Greef, forensic expert from the NICC Genetic Identification Laboratory, will present a second practical example of a trail of blood and Mr De Kinder, Head of the Ballistic Department, will offer another practical example about the comparison of two bullets.

The public will be able to ask speakers questions online. The presentation will be in English.

To pose questions, register as a member of the Xplora portal at <http://www.xplora.org/ww/en/pub/xplora/community/register.cfm>. and log on at 10am, then click "Chat".

CERN webcast website "Beyond Einstein"

CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research, - www.cern.ch - with ECSITE - www.ecsite.net - and the World Year of Physics International Steering Committee will launch the website to view a live webcast about Einstein's science in today's research and daily life.

This unprecedented 12 hour long live webcast is a closing event of the World Year of Physics 2005 and will take place on 1 December 2005, from 12:00 to midnight CET.

From CERN, a world tour will start, going to other physics laboratories and science museums connecting together all the time zones of the planet, from Europe to America, and Australia to Antarctica. Five main webcast platforms will interact during a 12 hour long live production to celebrate, discuss and explain Einstein's physics and beyond.

More about the website: <http://www.cern.ch/beyondeinstein>

More Details:

http://www.xplora.org/ww/en/pub/xplora/events/calendar/xplora_website_launch.htm

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About European Schoolnet

European Schoolnet (www.eun.org, www.europeanschoolnet.org) is a unique international partnership of 26 Ministries of Education developing learning for schools, teachers and pupils across Europe and beyond. We provide insight into the use of ICT (information and communications technology) in Europe for policy-makers and education professionals. This goal is achieved through communication and information exchange at all levels of school education using innovative technologies, and by acting as a gateway to national and regional school networks

About Technopolis

Technopolis (www.technopolis.be) is a permanent platform for science and technology in Flanders and has evolved from a non-profit organisation, the Flanders Technology International Foundation.
Technopolis examines ordinary things from an unusual line of approach and works its magic to make even the most complex scientific phenomena crystal-clear. This often offers astonishing results and stimulates the curiosity of the visitor. After all, science

starts with amazement. Technopolis means fun but it's not an amusement park: all interactive experiences serve first of all an educational purpose. Technopolis shows a lot but it's not an exhibition: visitors are no passive spectators but they are active participants.

To reach Technopolis: Technologielaan, 2800 Mechelen

About ECSITE

ECSITE (www.ecsite.net), the European Collaborative for Science, Industry and Technology Exhibitions, is a not-for-profit organisation representing science and technology centres and museums throughout Europe.

ECSITE aims to promote public understanding of science and technology by co-ordinating and improving the activities of science centers and museums, natural history museums, zoos and aquariums.