Welcome to the sixth issue of the Xplora newsletter!

The science teacher’s conference that Xplora, within the Pencil Project, is organising at CERN, will start on Thursday, 15 June 2006. The agenda and the workshops list are available on [www.xplora.org](http://www.xplora.org)! Xplora will also provide the Conference proceedings so…if you can’t be personally at CERN, you could read and download them from our Xplora portal soon!

Continuing the collaboration with TryScience.org, Xplora is now featuring a search tool which allows finding science museums and science centres all around the world! Just play with it!

On Xplora you can also read about the project that the Istituto e Museo di Storia della Scienza (IMSS), one of the Pencil pilot projects, is carrying out, developing informal learning activities and multimedia products in the history of science field.

If you would like to be featured in our newsletter, or send us a contribution - just get in touch:
[laura.massoli@eun.org](mailto:laura.massoli@eun.org)

All the best,

Laura Massoli
Xplora Web Editor

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XPLORA AT A GLANCE

Xplora Science teachers Conference - an event within the PENCIL project

On 15 June 2006 the science teacher’s conference at CERN, organized by Xplora within the Pencil Project, will start. The science agenda, which we are proposing is really exciting and inspiring for your activities at school! The main conference topics are related to International science teaching approaches, ICT in science education, Researchers in School and Informal learning in science. Workshops, with practical activities for teachers, will give an opportunity of learning by doing about several science activities and tools, such as: using
Xplora DVD Knoppix for science, Moodle courses in science, Grid computing, web experiments and more.

During the Conference, the SkyWatch 2006 award Ceremony will be held. Xplora will produce the conference proceedings and they will be available on the Xplora portal and downloadable for free! Have a look at our portal and wait for it!
www.xplora.org

The Science Teachers Conference organization committee thanks CERN, the Pencil Project, the European Commission, the Maths for More project, Siemens, the Connect project, Intel Education and IBM for supporting and sponsoring the Conference.

Call for participation: teachers and schools for testing science activities
After summer 2006, the Xplora project will start an evaluation of science activities, carried out in different science centres all around Europe. We are now looking for teachers and schools who volunteered in taking part in this initiative. If you would like to know more about it, contact Karl Sarnow (karl.sarnow@eun.org).

MEGALAB

Colourful Chemistry
The “Emil Racovita” Secondary School in Galatzi, Romania has carried out a laboratory chemistry activity on acid-base indicators. Aura Cozmaciuc, the chemistry teacher, and her 16 and 17 year-old students have used the Heureka colourful activity available both on the Xplora portal and on the Xplora Knoppix DVD. The main aim of the activity was to familiarise students with the acid-base indicators and to let them understand the importance of these indicators in featuring the environment. Available on Xplora the full description and the lesson plan as well.

Sunset Project: European schools work together
The Sunset project, launched by Xplora, is continuing working fine! The project invites schools to take pictures of their local sunset and write down the time, location and direction of the observation. These data could be inserted into a database. A website has been developed, where schools and teachers
can submit news, communicate and access the database. On Xplora, there is also an active teacher community which is dealing with the sunset project!

More about the sunset database project:
http://sunset.issueproject.net

Join the Xplora community – register at:

LIBRARY

Science education resources
Are you looking for interactive activities, science websites, articles or educational databases for your lessons? Xplora offers you an online resources database for science teaching and learning at:

Recently the following items were added:
-“Animations in Science”: animations, movies and interactive tutorial links covering several science topics, from chemistry to microbiology.
http://nccsc.k12.in.us/rhamilto/animations.htm

-“Viperlib”: it is a web-based resource library of images and presentation material illuminating the study of visual perception. All images are given freely by the vision research community and are available for educational, non-profit use only.
http://viperlib.york.ac.uk/?swf=true

“Keeping warm”: this activity, from the BBC Science clips website, helps to investigate the use of different materials for insulation.
http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/scienceclips/ages/8_9/keeping_warm.shtml

“High school Chemistry”: this is a website for studying pH in chemistry, created by Romanian students and teachers. They deal with a various range of topics such as water pollution and the human body. Suggestions and contributions are welcomed.
http://www.highschoolchemistry.150m.com

“Geometry Step-by-Step”: from the Land of the Incas, this resource provides an eclectic mix of sound, science, and Incan history in order to raise students’ interest in Euclidean geometry. Visitors will find geometry problems,
proofs, quizzes, puzzles, quotations, visual displays, lost Incas cities and more.


**Find science centres and science museums on Tryscience.org**
Science centres and museums are unique resources for informal learning. There are more than 600 science centres and museums around the world where you can try science yourself. The Tryscience.org portal features an easy-to-use search tool for discovering science centres all around the world!  

More about TryScience.org, an Xplora content partner  
http://www.xplora.org/ww/en/pub/xplora/content_partners.htm

**Highlight on grid computing**
There is a need for faster and more powerful computers in some topics, like climate research, as researchers are under time pressure. They would like, for example, to present a working climate model before the reality takes over and there is no chance any more to react on the results of predictions from the model. In this article Karl Sarnow, Xplora portal manager, says us more about Grid Computing.  

Visit the Xplora science education library at:  

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**PRACTICE**

**Skype…even for children**
Linda Giannini, one of the Xplora teachers, is a nursery school teacher and an educational researcher. In this article she tells us more about her experience in using Skype with children at the nursery school in Latina.  

**Between progress and pollution**
Lidia Minza, another Xplora teacher, teaches Chemistry in Romania at the “Vasile Alecsandri” High School, Galatzi. She tells us about an activity, carried out in her chemistry class with pupils aged 16-17 years. Within this lesson plan, students will describe ways in which humans impact the environment, -understand that pollution is harmful to all living things and see examples for
reducing, reusing and recycling waste.  

Do you want to let us know about your teaching activities? Would you like to present your favourites? We will feature them on Xplora.
Contact: laura.massoli@eun.org

ABOUT XPLORA PARTNERS

PENCIL project: On line access to the History of Science Museum’s objects
Istituto e Museo di Storia della Scienza – IMSS is developing informal learning activities that have their background in the history of science, a discipline whose contents are often disregarded in the educational programmes at school, both in the sciences and in the historical disciplines. The birth of modern science, linked to the figure of Galileo Galilei, is the focus, in terms of content, of this Pilot Project. 

More about IMSS  

More about PENCIL  

Nucleus project: Science is Primary II
Nucleus is a European cluster of projects to improve science education in Europe. On of these projects Sciencedu, in the framework of the European Science Education Initiative, is organising the Second European Conference on Primary Science and Technology Education from 15 to 17 October 2006, in Stockholm, Sweden. The program is available at:  

More about Sciencedu  

More about Nucleus  
EUROPEAN SCIENCE EDUCATION PROJECTS: HAVE A LOOK AROUND

STIPPS - Scientific Thinking In (pre) Primary School Settings
STIPPS wants to emphasize the cognitive development of scientific thinking in (pre) primary school education and teacher training. The STIPPS project tends to make sciences and its cognitive thinking models more appealing, in order to raise the enthusiasm for science and technology.

Ch.I.Ps - Child Information communication Technologies Pages
The Ch.I.Ps project aims at enabling the access of children aged 5 to 12 years, their families and teachers to Information Society. Children’s Digital literacy is a fundamental need, and the tools, products and opportunities of online training are manifold, but often not well targeted, known and organized in an accessible way.

eTTCampus
The eTTCampus project aims to set up, develop and consolidate a European Virtual Campus for teachers and trainers. On the virtual campus, teachers and trainers can directly compare experiences on the pedagogical use of ICT and learn through context-based work.

More about other science education projects:

AWARDS AND NEWS
Impact your Environment
The school competition 'Impact your Environment' is an initiative of the Directorate-General for Enterprise and Industry of the European Commission to find a new, memorable name for the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) initiative.


Development Youth Prize
The Development Youth Prize is open to schools in the 25 member states of the European Union and is addressed to pupils aged between 16 and 18 (inclusive) at the time of the deadline. The focus for the 2006 competition is Africa and there are three themes for entries: Education, Health and Environment. Pupils can choose one or combine them. Deadline for entries is 15 September 2006.

Read more about awards and prizes:

Maths competitions
Competitions in mathematics and other science topics are important, as they are a way of teaching by discovering and investigating. There are many maths competitions: some are individual and others are team competitions. Have a look at this overview, prepared by Benito Buas Ares, a maths teacher from the Xplora teachers group:

European Space Agency and Education
Education is an important theme for the European Space Agency - ESA, which tries to support European educators in their work, providing simple, practical and modular educational material to use. ESA has now launched a new Education Kit about space. It is for primary and secondary school teachers who wish to teach students about space and related subjects, including life and physical sciences.

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**Events**

**Imagining the future for ICT and Education**  
26-30 June 2006  
Alesund, Norway

The conference will be an opportunity to combine our experience and imagination for thinking “beyond the box” by exploring new and different structures for teaching, learning and professionalism, stimulating new conversations between emerging formal, informal and lifelong learning communities and more.  
http://ifip35.inf.elte.hu/alesund/?q=node/48

**How to design and organize public deliberation for science and technology - CIPAST workshop**  
26-28 June 2006  
Dresden, Germany

The CIPAST consortium will organize a training workshop on citizen participation in science and technology. Members of CIPAST and invited speakers will present the state of the art knowledge on public participation in science and technology.  

**International Conference on Global Research and Education**  
2-15 July 2006  
Iasi, Romania

The inter-Academia conferences always aimed at gathering scientists and students in order to exchange information, new ideas and to foster lasting co-operation relationships in both science and education fields.  

**iEARN World Conference and Youth Summit**  
3-7 July 2006  
Enschede, The Netherlands
The NGO iEARN-Netherlands will organize the international iEARN World Conference and Youth Summit in 2006. The iEARN network is active since 1989 and has participants in over a hundred countries all over the world. More than 20,000 schools are involved in collaborative projects.  
http://www.iearn2006.nl

**Summer school in Open and Distance Learning**  
16-23 July 2006  
Crete, Greece

The Hellenic Network of Open and Distance Education along with the University of Crete are organizing a summer school in “Open and Distance Learning”.  
http://www.edc.uoc.gr/Therino%202006/index.htm

**Global Hands-On Universe Conference**  
7-10 August 2006  
Haute-Provence, France

The 2006 Hands-On-Universe international conference aims at gathering scientists and middle/high school teachers from the 6 continents to share ideas, software, techniques, and science concerning the pedagogical use of the concepts and methods of astrophysics.  

**Hands on Science Conference 2006**  
4-9 September 2006  
Braga, Portugal

The aim of the conference is to promote an open broad exchange of experiences on good practice, syllabus and policy matters, social factors and the learning of science and other issues related to Science Education through an enlarged use of hands-on experiments in the classroom.  

More about science education events:  
About this newsletter

Please send all comments, criticisms and contributions to science-news@eun.org. For more information about Xplora, please visit http://www.xplora.org/about.htm.

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