

Newsletter N° 5: February 2008

Regularly, we published this Newsletter, reporting on the Pollen project current and future actions by highlighting partners work. Do not hesitate to send your comments, remarks and suggestions to pamela.lucas@inrp.fr.

Seed cities life

Amsterdam

New trials of ICT enriched materials

(contact: Ed van den Berg at eberg@science.uva.nl)

A new series of trials of ICT enriched materials in grades 4 – 6 will start in March at three inner city schools with about 150 students. Materials are being translated in English and will be available at the Pollen dissemination seminar of Ljubljana in May 2008. A pilot in-service scheme (which will eventually include 300 teachers), will start in March as well with 15 – 20 teachers.



Ljubljana

Video N°2 - Balancing and weighting

(contact: Ana G. Blagotinšek at ana.gostincar@quest.arnes.si)

Marjeta Snoj a primary teacher involved in Pollen in Ljubljana, recorded a movie about activities carried out with her class within the framework of the learning unit “Balancing and weighting”. The work was achieved with pupils from the Primary School OS narodnega heroja Maksa Pecarja in Ljubljana – Cruce. The movie (English subtitled) is available at Pollen website:

<http://www.pollen-europa.net/?page=gYZ8PdOPtKM%3D&element=fkUpTA8kzHM%3D>



Stockholm

Natural Science and Technology for All (NTA): the movie

(contact: Karin Barman at karin.barman@kva.se)

Natural science and Technology for All (NTA), a Pollen project partner, is a national program for supporting inquiry-based teaching at primary and middle school levels in Sweden. The program initiated in 1996 by The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (RSAS) is based on a formal agreement and cooperation with the US NAS and its NSRC. A 13-min video full of testimonies of teachers, children and community partners involved in the program is now available at NTA website:

mms://stream01.edu.stockholm.se/kva/Filmen_om_NTA_en_1200k.wmv

mms://stream01.edu.stockholm.se/kva/Filmen_om_NTA_en_300k.wmv (low resolution)



Gerona

(contact: Claudia Alsina at claudia.alsina@paueducation.com)

Students visit the University of Gerona.

The students of the 5th and 6th grade from Bruguera School visited the Science Laboratories of the Faculty of Education and Psychology of the University of Gerona. They got the opportunity to learn about laboratory work: they made experiments using laboratory material and carry out observations under the microscope.

In Gerona, 45 classes from 5 schools are now participating in the project and 47 teachers are actively involved. Since September, 23 training sessions has been carried out in the different schools. Each school decided about the topic to focus on: the air, the vegetable garden, the environmental education, the sensors....



Saint Etienne

The science gathering bees – January 2008 issue (“Les butineurs de science”)

(contact: Clémentine Transetti at transetti@emse.fr)



The issue n°3 of the newspaper “Les butineurs de science” from Saint-Etienne Pollen seed city came out. This newspaper is written by the pupils involved in the project to disseminate Pollen activities to the whole Saint-Etienne community.

Children describe a science lesson, a visit to a museum; make questions, present challenges....The digital version (pdf file) of January issue is available in French at:

<http://www.pollen-europa.net/?page=gYZ8PdOPtKM%3D&element=qrNlwQ%2FjXiQ%3D>

Observer seed cities

Pollen in Romania

(contact: Dan Sporea at dan.sporea@inflpr.ro)



Following the invitation received from the “Pollen” coordinating team, the Center for Science Education and Training (CSET) at the National Institute for Laser, Plasma and Radiation Physics in Bucharest became an “observer” member of the project.

CSET would involve into the project several schools both in Bucharest and in other major towns in Romania. For the beginning important efforts are made by the primary school teachers Manuela Cazan and Carmen Dumitru at School No. 195 in Bucharest.

Assisted by the physics teacher Florentina Lofciu, a graduate of the 2007 NASA/ Honeywell Educators @ Advanced Space Academy, and a “student” to the 2008 on-line courses on Photonics delivered by the New England Board for Higher Education (USA), the two teachers started to introduce 2 and 3 grade students to the wonderful world of “Light”. The wave nature of Light was explained with the help of “sweet wave” made by students themselves. The colour

“composition” of Light was revealed by simple means such as: a prism, a CD, or soap balloons. Watching through coloured filters students discovered secret messages or debated about the real colour of objects. Newton’s disks built in class by students as a hands-on activity became small science class projects. *More information about the new partner at: <http://education.inflpr.ro>*



Pollen on a German newspaper

The article "Land der kleinen Forscher" ("the country of the small researchers") of the newspaper "Der Spiegel" N°49 /2007 (published on 03.12.07), made an extensive focus on the importance of inquiry based science teaching methods based on the good recent German results at Pisa evaluation. The article also focused inquiry European programs as NTA and actions promoting this approach at school level as Pollen project or Sinus-Transfer. Pollen Seed Cities' staff of Berlin, Brussels and Stockholm contributed to this article.



Pollen Websites

The Pollen seed cities of Amsterdam, Perugia and Loures have created their own websites or have included Pollen WebPages on their institution's websites for enhancing local links with their teachers.

More information at:

Amsterdam: <http://pollen-europa.nl>

Perugia: www.pollen-italia.net

Loures: www.cienciaviva.pt/projectos/pollen/



European Coordination highlights

New Pollen observer seed cities

Three new seed cities through 3 new partners' institutions were associated to the project as observer members:

- **Bucharest** (Roumania) & the National Institute for lasers, plasma and radiation physics.
- **Luxembourg** (Grand Duchy of Luxembourg) & the University of Luxembourg
- **Trnava** (Slovakia) & the Faculty of Pedagogy of the Trnava University.

These institutions expressed their interest to join Pollen since they have already carry out actions directed towards science teaching promotion according to inquiry based approach.

The new comers will benefit of Pollen seed cities experience in the local implementation of the inquiry approach. They will participate to Pollen European seminars, they will benefit of Pollen resources and training sessions devoted to them. In addition each new partner will visit one Pollen seed city to which it will be twined taking advantage of experience acquired by the other partner. Trnava will be twined to Tartu; Bucharest to Ljubljana and Luxembourg will soon define its twining seed city. A training session was organised in Bucharest on October, 11-14 and ensured by French trainers.

Pollen dissemination seminar

From May 17 - 20, 2008 all Pollen coordinators and trainers will meet in Ljubljana (Slovenia) to participate to Pollen dissemination seminar. It will gather about 50 persons from 15 European countries, to discuss the project's achievements and prospects. New observer members Luxembourg, Romania and Slovakia will also participate to the seminar.

Eight different workshops will address relevant topics such as the Pollen social key issues, the project learning units & resources for teachers, the Pollen Charter on science education; the community participation evaluation, the assessment of children and teachers attitudes towards science on Pollen seed cities. Wynne Harlen is a special guest who will contribute to reflection on the latter topic.

Johannes Klumpers from the Science & Society program of the European Commission will close the conference on May the 20th. The seminar will be both hosted by the Faculty of Education of the University of Ljubljana and the city of Kamnik which has locally joined the project.

Changes on Pollen coordination in Girona

Sabine Schumann has left PAU Education. Pierre-Antoine Ullmo is ensuring Pollen national coordination, Claudia Alsina continues to ensure local coordination and Lidia Ochoa, local training. You can join them at: pa.ullmo@paueducation.com, claudia.alsina@paueducation.com and /or lidia.ochoa@udg.es

Rocard's report on science education: "New approach to science teaching needed in Europe" in five languages.



The report draw up by the High Level Group on Science Education chaired by Michel Rocard and tasked by the European Commission is now available on five different languages: English, German, Slovenian, Portuguese and French.

The report states the importance for improving science education over Europe through inquiry based methods as proposed by Pollen. It underlines the key role that teachers can play in such renewal of pedagogy and the importance to network them, to provide them professional development, in-service teacher training in order to stimulate and motivate them. It also gives a key role to the cities and the local communities in improving science education: ..."The participation of cities and the local community in the renewal of science education in collaborative actions at the European level aimed at accelerating the pace of change through the sharing of know-how."...

All versions of the report are available online at Commission's website: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/index.cfm?fuseaction=public.topic&id=1100>

Subscribe to newsletter: www.pollen-europa.net (registration required)



Pollen is a European research and development project supported by the DG RESEARCH (FP6) of the European Commission