





Acknowledgements

As the head of the *La main à la pâte* project and co-chair of the conference, and although unable to join you, I would like to sincerely thank Dan Sporea and his team for the organization of this conference, which hopefully will inspire the participants and will convey to them some of the experience we have been accumulating in France for the last 10 years.

We deeply think that a successful program is not a turnkey project, which one would uproot from one field to transplant in an other. Local factors, partners, resources and culture must be carefully and thoroughly taken into account. By including Dan Sporea's initiative for inquiry-based science education first as an observer member in our Pollen European project (www.pollen-europa.net) and then as a full member in the incoming Fibonacci project, we aim at including Romanian educational authorities, trainers and teachers in a large network of European partners sharing the same conviction that science is part of all children's culture and that the best way to teach it is by taking advantage of children's active curiosity for natural phenomena. But this single inspiration must respect the great diversity of contexts which is the richness of Europe, and be respectful of all its nuances.

The Fibonacci project, that will be presented to you by Prof. Yves Quéré, will offer a framework to enable best practices transfer for inquiry-based science education throughout Europe. We are glad to have Romania, through the involvement of Dan Sporea and the National Institute for Lasers, as a member of this initiative which gathers 25 partners from 21 countries.

In the next 2 days, several speakers, specially Mr Olivier Burger, Inspector from the French Ministry of Education, will explain and detail *La main à la pâte*'s objectives and methodology better than I could through many slides. We hope that from their experience you will get a more precise idea of our efforts, and that some of our resources or methods will be useful to you. We of course remain available to support Romanian initiatives in the field.

I would like to finish by thanking all the institutions which in Romania have made possible this conference. As Georges Charpak, Nobel Prize laureate and one of the founder of *La main à la pâte* said "POLLEN evokes for me the work of all these teachers who will spread knowledge among thousands of pupils."...Due to your work and reflection, I'am sure that IBSE will find fertile and well-prepared schools in Romania. I wish you an excellent meeting.

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