

Science4People project

Aims of the transfer activity	The aim of the project is to create an international network of groups that are engaging in science popularization for young people. The first node was created at the University of Bethlehem with 10 students, who attended a one-week training on science communication and experiments for kids taught by the scientific team of the NGO Sunshine4Palestine in February 2017. The group is now carrying on scientific dissemination events in schools independently.
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Affiliation of the transfer activity at the University of Vienna	Computational Physics Group, Faculty of Physics
Project runtime	12.02.2017 - 16.02.2017
Funding	crowdfunding, donations
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Cooperation partners from outside of the University	Sunshine4Palestine NGO
Cooperation partners from the scientific/research field of the transfer-activity	University of Bethlehem; European Physical Society Young Minds

Project description

The activity took place at the University of Bethlehem (Palestine). It consisted in a week of training for a group of 20 university students from various disciplines: mathematics, chemistry and education sciences. The one week long seminars are divided in three sessions: On the first day the scientific team introduced to this broad public of not specialized students the field of soft matter physics and modern topics of research in that field, research performed by the scientific team at the University of Vienna. On the second day a workshop on scientific communication techniques was held by communication experts and a journalist. On the third day the University students prepared together with the scientific team two sets of experiments tailored on final recipients within the age ranges of 6-12 years old and 12-18 years old. The experiments were then presented to an audience of students aged 6 to 18 who “thronged” the university lab for the occasion. The experiments are made with easy-to-find materials and low-cost solutions, and can be repeated at home, not dangerous and not polluting the environment. Many of the experiments were tailored on the fundamental topics for sustainable development, such as water and energy, like how to build a battery or a solar lamp or a dynamo with scrap material.

Results/Impact

The university students from various disciplines are trained to be trainers to inspire pupils from primary and secondary schools by demonstrating the science that lies behind everyday phenomena with simple, practical hands on demonstrations that encourage rational thinking. University students became role models for the school children, future perspectives for young people were broadened through learning by playing and, last but not least, intellectual potential of students was stimulated. The students trained in this week became science trainers for the school kids and are independently carrying on the project on the Bethlehem territory.

Transfer aspect of the activity

University students of the University of Bethlehem learned how to communicate science to kids in a playful way, and how to emphasize the role of science in solving sensible problems of everyday life in such problematic areas like Palestine, such as lack of water and electricity.

Achievement of objectives

The achievement was verified, in fact the group of students involved in the project got passionate for science popularization and is now carrying on further science communication events locally in Bethlehem, assisted by us from Vienna. They already visited a new school where they repeated the event by performing the experiments with school kids in a local primary school.

Measures for a longer-term realization

The events carried on by the students in the local schools will be followed once a year by an event open to the whole population, that we will contribute and assist to organize, that will probably take place in the Peace Center in Bethlehem. We aim at expanding the network by creating new nodes of this Science4People project, and then organize know-how transfer between these nodes.

Visibility of the transfer activity

The project was made visible by the Facebook page of the NGO Sunshine4Palestine, and by several communications to media that were published. The NGO has its own communication office.

Webpage/Publications

<http://sunshine4palestine.com/science4people/>

<https://www.facebook.com/sunshine4palestine/>

http://www.lantidiplomatico.it/dettnews-science4people_project_in_bethlehem_university/82_19140/

<https://physik.nawi.at/index.php/science4people-2/>

Keywords

Science dissemination; green experiments; knowledge transfer