

## IMPLEMENTING SMALL-SCALE PILOT ACTIVITIES

One of the main tasks of the Science Centre Agents was to coordinate a number of small scale pilot activities for the SEE Science consortium of partners. The idea behind the pilots was to develop and test innovative science centre services and activities, and share experiences and advice within the partnership through peer visits.

Inspired by innovative services and activities throughout Europe, gathered in the SEE Science Service Portfolio and the benchmarking visits, and adapted to the specific local and institutional contexts of innovation and science communication in the partners' regions, 13 different pilot activities were developed and implemented by the partners.

The pilots were developed for three different target groups:

- children at early school age,
- students/young adults, with a special focus on women, and
- innovation actors, e.g. agencies, business companies, SMEs and research institutes

About 4000 individuals have been reached through these 13 pilot activities so far, and there will be many more, as the pilots may become regular activities of a partner and be adapted by other partners, as well.

An amazing diversity of science communication activities has been achieved by the consortium and new workshop formats and contents were created:

- virtual workshops at Patras Science Centre organised by Centre for Science Education on mathematical problems with school classes in different countries
- , the visit of Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technological Information creative-discovery workshops at Atlantis Science Centre in Bratislava, combined with the use of extensive web materials for presenting topics in the classroom afterwards.
- Science Centre activities with innovative topics, for example, robotics; developed both for early school children in Debrecen and for young students, with a focus on young women in Thessaloniki.

Completely new concepts of science communication were also tested, for example in using empty shops for open access science communication activities in urban districts in Vienna.

The innovative character of these pilots can best be estimated in their regional and local contexts, e.g. an inquiry-based learning ornithology excursion for early school children is the very first of its kind in the Burgas region and, probably, throughout Bulgaria. The same holds for an interactive workshop in Sofia, in which school children experience the fun of serious mathematical problems through hands-on activities, and for a students' competition organised as science slam in Oradea, Romania.

A special target group of SCs are so-called innovation actors, i.e. representatives from the business, research or intermediate community, who could become strategic partners as collaborators, advisors, sponsors or supporters. Several small scale pilots tested new forms of networking and cooperation with innovators, e.g. the establishment of a FabLab at MUSE, Trento, targeting more experienced users, e.g. from the 'makers' scene. Another example is a networking format, which allows local innovators to be actively involved, such as in the concept and programme development for a new SC in Debrecen.

Innovative information materials for potential strategic partners and stakeholders were developed in Vienna as hands-on mini-exhibits, thus 'incorporating' and illustrating the philosophy of the SC approach.

A series of mutual peer visits among partners and of virtual meetings contributed to the sharing of experiences and know-how among the partnership and contributed to the success, and possible dissemination, of these innovative SC activities and services throughout the SEE region.

### Our important outcomes:

- **3 different target groups**
- **13 small-scale pilots implemented**
- **small-scale pilot reports**
- **almost 4000 individuals reached**



## Our Small Scale Pilots...

### ...for young adults & woman

**Creative Discovery Workshops:** two workshops on scientific explorations and on rotational motion with interactive exhibits and web resources, Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technological Information Bratislava, Slovak Republic.

**Dancing with Robots:** a workshop for programming Lego robots as interactive dance partners, South East European Research Centre, Thessaloniki, Greece

**Educational Teleconference:** schools collaborate with each other in a web-workshop. The teleconferences were held in Patras Science Centre, by Centre for Science Education, Greece.

**Empty Shops as Open Science Spaces:** temporary mini-science centres for new target groups in underserved urban areas, ScienceCenter-Network, Vienna, Austria.

**Marine Science Open Lab:** an interactive open-air exhibition at the Sea Park, Burgas Municipality, Bulgaria

**Students' Competition:** science slam – Seven minutes to present a chosen topic about science, mathematics, chemistry, physics, IT or engineering without using electronic presentation, University of Oradea, Romania.

**Innovations – Revolution and Evolution:** lecture and debate with young adults on inventions and innovations in history, Centre for Research and Analysis, Sofia, Bulgaria.

### ...for Innovation actors

**Establishing a Network of Innovators:** involvement of local innovation actors in the concept and programming of the future Science Centre, Debrecen, Hungary.

**FabLab:** establishment of a fabrication laboratory with state-of-the-art equipment for experienced users and stakeholders, MUSE, Trento, Italy.

**Innovative Materials for Stakeholders:** development of informative material for stakeholders and strategic partners as interactive mini-exhibits, ScienceCenter-Network, Vienna, Austria.

More information on the small scale pilots can be found on the website and in the Science Centre Service Portfolio on [www.seescience.eu](http://www.seescience.eu).

### ...for early age children

**Happening in Mathematics:** a workshop on mathematical problems and hands-on activities, Centre for Research and Analysis, Sofia, Bulgaria.

**Open Technology Lab:** a research-based learning ornithology excursion for young children, Municipality of Burgas, Bulgaria.

**RoboRoadShow:** an interactive exhibition on robotics and electronics, University of Debrecen, Hungary.

