

1st European Conference MARCH

"Making Science Real in Schools", Athens 13 – 11- 2014



The banner features a 3x3 grid of icons: 'M' with a beaker, 'A' with a satellite, 'R' with a satellite, 'C' with a potted plant, and 'H' with a beaker. Below the grid is the text 'making science real'. To the right, it reads 'MARCH Comenius Network International Education Conference' and 'Making Science Attractive in Schools'. The date 'THURSDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2014' and 'SECRETARIAT GENERAL OF MASS MEDIA' are also present.

MARCH Comenius Network
International Education Conference
Making Science Attractive in Schools

THURSDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2014
SECRETARIAT GENERAL OF MASS MEDIA

Logos at the bottom include: BRITISH COUNCIL, BRITISH SCIENCE ASSOCIATION, jungvornweg, Sci Co (science communication), UGDYMO PLĖTOTES CENTRAS, AGÊNCIA NACIONAL PARA A CULTURA CIENTÍFICA E TECNOLÓGICA, CP nlu FENOMEN, and a logo for the Lifelong Learning Programme.

Lifelong Learning Programme With the support of the Lifelong Learning Programme of the European Union

<http://sciencemarch.eu/> #MARHscience

Programme

<http://sciencemarch.eu/index.php/en/conf-mnu-uk/conf-mnu-uk-prog>

Full list of speakers, with information on the organizations/projects they represented

<http://sciencemarch.eu/index.php/en/conf-mnu-uk/conf-mnu-uk-speak>

Full list of participants

British Council

Copies of the materials produced for the event

British Council

Objectives

The conference aimed to explore best practices in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education in schools today. Education leaders and visionaries from around Europe convened to advance the agenda for better STEM education, policy and workforce development.

Topics discussed that were not part of the programme and are relevant to the project

Outcomes

At the end of the conference, the network achieved the following:

- Provision of the state-of-the art approach for Science Education in secondary schools through scoping and comparative analysis.
- Establishment of links with key European networks in Science Education.
- Assistance in the networking and content support of projects and networks that are thematically related and funded by the EU Life Long Learning programme.
- Promotion of innovative methodologies, insights and best practices in science education that allow dynamic interaction between teachers, young people, researchers and other experts in science education and science communication.

A general view on the event

The Conference began with an introduction to both MARCH Network and STEM Education.

The keynote speaker Louise Archer, from the Department of Education and Professional Studies King's College London described the ASPIRES research outcomes entitled “Why liking science is not enough: Young people’s science and career aspirations age 10-14”.

The first session included the State-of-the-Art approaches in Science Education focusing on the results of MARCH survey and also on in-depth interviews in 7 European countries. A panel discussion entitled “Science Education in Europe” commented the outcomes of the aforementioned survey.

The second session referred to the achievements and trends in STEM education in European level. The experience of relevant European Networks was presented and in particular, the Scientix Network, the Geoschools Network, “My school voyages with PERSEUS” and also the School on the Cloud. Finally, at the end of the second session, an event about science storytelling and interviews on camera took place.

The storytelling session was organised by the Green Agents team. Green Agents is an environmental education programme that has recently been included in the Highly Recommended participations of MEDEA Awards 2014 for encouraging innovation and good practice in the use of media (audio, video, graphics and animation) in education. The presentation featured was about the flow of energy in the ecosystems and it was presented as a “true science story”. It was built around an art craft in the shape of a big book that guides the story. The big book that excited the Conference participants was also exhibited in the foyer for them to further interact with it in the breaks. In the Green Agents stand there was also a school model featuring the ideas of the students who participated in the programme about the green school of the future that uses renewable energy and saves energy.

Moreover, in the foyer, representatives of the Athens Science Festival were presenting some experiments that can be easily implemented in the classroom using every day materials while inviting the educators to participate in the festival’s activities that will take place in March. Exhibits from the projects *Scientix*, *Go-lab*, *Perseus*, *Inspiring Science* and robotics installation were presented too at the foyer and attracted participants’ interest.

During the final session, best practices in STEM education from all partners of the project were presented and discussed thoroughly with the audience. The conference closed with a “Stand Up Science” happening with funny interactive stories giving a different view and approach in “STEM literacy”. The topics addressed in the Stand Up Science were presented in a humorous way, combining science with comedy in a free presentation style. The young

scientists that participated in it are all finalists or winners of FameLab, the British Council's competition for science communication that takes part in more than 20 countries worldwide. Apart from the Greek FameLab participants, there was also one participant in the event from FameLab Bulgaria. Mathematics, Physics, Biology, Chemistry and Medicine were presented in an original way and left the audience both informed and entertained.

Feedback comments on the conference from partners

Adrian - Very well organised, everything went very well, very good content, lots of projects, need to make sure we disseminate through our website.

Philip - Huge amount of information to absorb, need to maximise what we can do with the information and the contacts made.

Sarah - Interesting to see that we are facing similar challenges to other organisations and projects.

Loreta – Also interesting to note that our experiences are different.

Julia R. – Need to consider how to use social media to promote the project.

Tamara and Sarah - Interesting to learn about the results of the survey.

Julia K. - Liked the stand-up science event.

Zorana – Regarding the survey results, it was good to find out where the weaknesses are and where we need to focus more.

Tim - Interesting to see that the hurdles we need to go through are the same for different projects; there is certainly a role for teachers at future conferences; need to understand the policy makers' ideas.

Todor - In terms of future conferences, suggests having some kind of plan in advance for possibilities for networking, exchange of ideas, some kind of match making event.

Lyubov - Really interesting panel discussion, the fact that Ms Vilamovska was so impressed and engaged means that in the future we can have similar stakeholders from other countries at our events.

Didi – The parallel between first presentation and the presentation of the results was interesting; the panel discussion was also very good.

Rosario - Variety of ideas presented; MARCH can very much profit from other projects on science education.

Fátima P. - Interesting to know about other projects, same challenges being faced in different countries; there was a general atmosphere of interest, enthusiasm, engagement from the audience, and MARCH can certainly profit from that.

Aikaterini - Great to see the engagement from the Greek audience, must make the most of the momentum; maybe have more time for talking to speakers, small rooms or round tables in the next conference.

Anna - Happy to see so many schools represented.

Sofia - Constructive event, we now have an overall view of the state of the art, the networks that exist, etc.; we can organise some collaboration with those networks; need to engage the teachers more.

Fatima D. - Really surprised on how we managed to attract so many people - thanks to the hard work of the Greek team, great to see so much engagement from participants, and especially from teachers.

Anastasia - Need to develop more networking opportunities, maybe have possibility for individual talks with the speakers, need to consider this for the future; maybe making more questions, more focused, rather than simple presentations.

In the near future we will have data on how many people watched online. The online broadcast was organised by Schools Online. They will also make it available for people to watch later on. It would be useful to have it subtitled.

Evaluation by participants: British Council

The poster is for the MARCH conference, titled "Making Science Attractive in Schools". It features a central cluster of science-related icons including a lightbulb, microscope, DNA helix, atom, planet Saturn, and various chemical symbols like H₂O, CO₂, and Aa. In the top right corner, the acronym "MARCH" is displayed in a grid of colored boxes, with the tagline "making science real" below it. The main text in Greek reads "Η διδασκαλία των θετικών επιστημών στα σχολεία: Πώς μπορεί να γίνει καλύτερη;". The event is scheduled for Thursday, November 13, 2014, from 09:00 to 19:00, with free admission. It is organized by the British Council and the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs. The poster also lists several partner organizations and provides contact information for the British Council.

Information on the webcasting (including whether and when it will become available for all to be able to watch)

The webcasting of the 1st European Conference MARCH – “Making Science Real in Schools” was provided by the Greek School Network service at the URL <http://vod.sch.gr/video/iptv/646>

Interviews: <http://sciencemarch.eu/index.php/en/conf-mnu-uk/mnu-interviews-uk>

Webcasting: the video of all speakers will be uploaded on the March web page <http://sciencemarch.eu/index.php/el/conf-mnu-el/mnu-livstr-el> (by the end of the next week)

Number of people watching online

Maximum simultaneous connections 15, Total Connections: 152

Information on whether the presentations or some of them will be available on the MARCH website

<http://sciencemarch.eu/index.php/en/conf-mnu-uk/conf-mnu-uk-present>

Information on the team who organized the event

British Council

Anastasia Andritsou, project coordinator

Maria Nomikou

Vaggelis Kravvaritis

EduTV- Ministry of Education team

Aikaterini Chariopolitou, Head of Educational Radiotelevision Department

Dr. Sofia Papadimitriou, Education-Programme Expert, Educational Radiotelevision Department

Dr. Marianna Karatsiori, Education-Programme Expert, Educational Radiotelevision Department

Christos Rachiotis, Digital Support Specialist, Educational Radiotelevision Department

Aikaterini Chatzipetrou, Management and Economics Specialist, Educational Radiotelevision Department

SciCo team

Theo Anagnostopoulos, CEO SciCo

Anna Christodoulou, SciCo

Stand up science

Eleni Grammatikopoulou