



3rd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE on "HANDS-ON SCIENCE"

Socrates/Comenius Contact Seminar

***Building bridges* Towards an improved Science Education**

Our development, the development of the European Union, demands a strong European citizenship, a solid awareness of our European culture defined and characterized by the diversity and richness of each one and all of our countries. School education is certainly of utmost importance in this process.

Transnational co-operation between schools and institutions involved in teacher education may have a major impact in enhancing the quality and reinforcing this European dimension. The Comenius 1 and 2 actions of EC' program Socrates aim the promotion and establishment of mutually beneficial cooperation projects between EU' schools.

Socrates/Comenius Contact Seminars are excellent opportunities for the establishment of such projects.

There are already a large number of examples of highly successful Comenius 1 and Comenius 2 established from these seminars, among which several promoted by the Hands-on Science Comenius 3 network towards the two Comenius Contact Seminars we organized as part of our two first annual conferences in Ljubljana, Slovenia in 2004 and in Crete in 2005.

Science is fast increasingly gaining a major role and decisive impact and importance in the field of School Education in all field and levels.

Therefore inscribed in our 3rd International Conference and Symposium on "Hands-On Science", we will organise a major Socrates/Comenius Contact Seminar "Building bridges. Towards an improved Science Education" in Braga, Portugal, from the 4th to the 9th of September, 2006.

As Coordinator of the Hands-on Science Network and Chair of the Conference and Seminar it is my pleasure to invite and welcome you next September in Portugal.

Universidade do Minho, Portugal, November 18th, 2005.

Manuel Filipe Pereira da Cunha Martins Costa



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This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

TENTATIVE PROGRAM

Sunday 3th September 2006

Arrival. Informal meeting.

Monday 4th September 2006

Registration

Opening ceremony of the Hands-on Science Conference and Symposium

Full day plenary solemn session on "Science Education in the EU". Challenges and opportunities"

Tuesday 5th September 2006

Presentation of the Socrates program focusing on the Comenius action

Participation on scheduled activities of the Hands-on Science Conference

Self-presentation of the participants in the contact seminar. Quick-off speech by the Chair

Wednesday 6th September 2006

Presentation of former and ongoing Comenius 1 and 2 projects in expo and round table discussion format

Participation on scheduled activities of the Hands-on Science Conference

Presentation of the drafts of new Comenius 1 and 2 projects

Thursday 7th September 2006

Time for informal contacts. Setting up of partnerships.

Visit to schools in Minho and Galicia regions (north western part of the Iberian Peninsula)

Friday 8th September 2006

Participation on scheduled activities of the Hands-on Science Conference

Organisation of partnerships.

Discussion and filling up of the first drafts of the new Comenius 1 and 2 projects (1)

Cultural evening

Saturday 9th September 2006

Discussion and filling up of the first drafts of the new Comenius 1 and 2 projects (2)

Conclusions and evaluation

Participation of scheduled activities of the Hands-on Science Conference

Sunday 10th September 2006

Departure

Further information will be available at www.hsci.info/hsci2006

**The H-Sci network (www.hsci.info) exists to promote the development of Science education and scientific literacy. It encourages a generalized use of innovative hands-on experimental approaches to science and technology in-school teaching. In raising the profile and attractiveness of Science in Education, we aim also to increase the desirability of a career in Science for all.*



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