

Hands-on Science

(H-Sci)

Brief presentation

The recent challenges Europe is facing in these times of enlargement consolidation and global affirmation of the European Union in the world, gives Education and particularly Science and Technology Education a decisive importance.

In the frames of the action Comenius3 of EC' program Socrates, twenty-eight institutions from ten European countries (BE, CY, DE, ES, GR, MT, PT, RO, SL, UK) and a transnational consortium (CoLoS) established the "Hands-on Science" network.

The main goal of the Hands-on Science (H-Sci) network is to promote experimental teaching of Science as a way of improving in-school scientific education and Science literacy in our society.

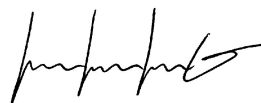
The H-Sci network has a broad remit, aiming to promote and diffuse among schoolteachers, schools, and national and transnational educational boards, well established and newly investigated practices of hands-on experimental teaching of Science in all its disciplines. We will do this by fostering the development and use of hands-on experiments in the classroom so that students "do" science rather than merely being "exposed" to it.

A task force is being established under the umbrella of the H-Sci project to co-ordinate a public relations campaign about Science education. This will be aimed at teachers and educators, schools and the community, Ministries of Education and Education bodies, in a systematic attempt to demonstrate the benefits of an extended use of hands-on learning of Science. Interactive web sites and virtual simulation tools and labs with open access to all will be established. Educational kits of hands-on experiments and support material at different levels of complexity will be designed created and discussed. Textbooks and reports, including electronic interactive versions, will be produced in different languages and disseminated.

Changes to the National syllabus in Science that, we believe, will enhance the effectiveness of science teaching, will be discussed and proposed to the proper authorities. Annual international conferences and workshops will be held, in addition to a significant number of courses for schoolteachers. Meetings and transnational exchange visits will be organized. New members from all EU countries will be associated to the network. The network will promote and induce new cooperation projects at EU level in the field of Science and Technology education. The establishment of student' Science Clubs will be induced. Science fairs, contests and activities that bring together students, teachers and education specialists, research institutions, the industry and the community in general, will be a notable feature of the network.

We would like to cordially invite you to join us in this effort towards the development of Science, and are looking forward to hear from you (www.hsci.info).

Universidade do Minho, Portugal, 15 January 2004.



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(Network Coordinator)

Forthcoming activities:

International Workshop "The Access of Women to Science" in Cologne, Germany, June 3 to 5, 2004 (<http://hsci.no.sapo.pt/WOMENSCIENCE.html>).

1st International Conference on "Hands-on Science. Teaching and Learning Science in the XXI Century" in Ljubljana, Slovenia, July 5 to 10, 2004 (<http://www.hsci.info/hsci2004/index.html>).

European Contest "Ideas for Science Fairs" (<http://hsci.no.sapo.pt/ScienceFair.html>).

International Training Course on "School' Robotics", Braga, Portugal, September 4 to 12, 2004 (<http://hsci.no.sapo.pt/robocourse.html>).



Education and Culture

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