



Summer School 2013, Crete, Greece, 30/6-5/7/2013

“Best Practices In Inquiry-Based Science Education (IBSE)”

Description

Website: pathway-summerschool.ea.gr

The course's main objective is to introduce teachers to inquiry-based science teaching techniques with the view in to adopting them in the classroom practice. Participating science teachers will be immersed in the process of science-inquiry via their interaction with collections of open digital educational resources which have proven their efficiency and efficacy in promoting inquiry based-education. These resources do not impose a fixed curriculum but support the development of a model that can be customised to reflect location and culture, and thus are ideal to be used in the European context. At the same time, participants will experience a training framework that will provide a means for creating learning activities into a workflow and a vehicle for the sharing and re-use of effective lessons in schools. In addition, teachers will be trained to select appropriate ICT tools for exploration, presentation, and collaboration that suit their own needs in terms of planning, implementing and sharing pedagogical ideas. This will further empower them to create effective inquiry-based learning scenarios to use in their classrooms with their students.

Throughout the duration of the course teachers will experience inquiry strategies in three different modes: a) as learners participating in inquiry-based learning; b) as teachers implementing inquiry-based strategies in their classes; and c) as researchers collecting, examining and interpreting data about their practice and their students' learning. The course will leverage an inquiry-based approach through hands-on sessions to experience the principles of inquiry-based learning, while introducing the basics of computational thinking; introduce learning repositories including preparing, uploading and sharing learning resources; present popular social tools and inquiry-based learning scenarios for use in the science classroom; and explore inquiry-based strategies for and best practices of using digital teaching & learning resources in the classroom.

The training course comprises 10 hours of demonstrations and guided explorations, and 15 hours of hands-on workshops. All sessions will be held in a multimedia laboratory where each participant will have direct access to a PC (although participants are encouraged to bring their own laptops) as needed to enhance the hands-on activities.

To ensure the proper preparation for the training course a website will be developed which will act as a main hub of communication with the participants. Through this website the participants will have access to all materials necessary for their preparation (suggested reading materials, relevant websites etc) and a common workspace for uploading and downloading educational materials. Moreover, all the information regarding the training course such as the course description, the daily programme, travelling and accommodation guidelines will also be accessible through the website. Participants will familiarize themselves with the training course topics as well as the course methodology by accessing the relevant resources, materials and tools. Based on their interests they will be invited to participate into one of the working groups each of which will have a different main topic focus.

Participation in this event is funded by the European Commission through the Comenius and Grundtvig programmes: therefore interested teachers or trainers can simply contact their relevant National Agency. The list of eligible countries (EU ones plus Turkey, Croatia, FYROM) and the contact details of the National Agencies can be found at: http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-programme/doc1208_en.htm.

The deadline for applications is January 16th, 2013. So we strongly suggest that:

(a) You ask the members of your teams that are working with the learning design and implementation of learning scenarios to apply for Comenius (for school staff) and Grundtvig (for university/adult training staff) funding through your National Agencies, so that they can participate in the Summer School.

(b) You forward this opportunity to contacts that could be interested (e.g. external institutions with which you are already working on learning design activities), letting them know about this training opportunity and inviting them to apply for funding. We would particularly encourage the participation of teachers/trainers that have been involved in the past in one or more of the project workshops.

For any further information please contact **Dr. Georgios Mavromanolakis** at gmavroma@ea.gr.

Guidelines

(Detailed Guidelines as in <http://ec.europa.eu/education/trainingdatabase/instructions%20for%20applying-EN.doc>)

How to apply for a grant:

1. Contact your own National Agency to obtain information on the grant application procedures and to check the deadline for submitting your application. National Agency contact details can be found at: http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/llp/national_en.html
2. Once you have selected the training event, **Reference Number: GR-2013-229-001** <http://ec.europa.eu/education/trainingdatabase/index.cfm?fuseaction=DisplayCourse&cid=35028>, contact the training organizer to check that places are still available. You may need to enclose confirmation of your provisional registration for the training with your grant application.
3. Send your grant application form to your National Agency following the defined application procedure.
4. Your National Agency will inform you if you have been awarded a grant, normally 7-10 weeks after the application deadline.
5. You should then immediately contact the training provider to formally register for the course or to confirm your pre-registration. If you have not been awarded a grant but made a pre-registration, it is your responsibility to cancel this.
6. From the moment your National Agency confirms that you have been awarded a grant, you have responsibilities towards the training provider. If you cancel your attendance at the event, you will be responsible for paying any cancellation fees which the training provider may claim. Only in very exceptional cases of force majeure (e.g. serious illness or death of the grant applicant or a family member) may your National Agency pay cancellation fees using grant money.
7. If the training organizers cancel the training at short notice, you may ask him/her for compensation if you have already incurred costs. Neither your National Agency nor the European Commission can be liable. However, in justified cases your National Agency may decide to cover these costs using the grant awarded. If your training event is cancelled, your National Agency may give you the opportunity to select another one (contact your Agency for further details).
8. At the end of the training event, the organizers must hold an evaluation session. Your opinion on the quality of the training is important; training which is considered to be of poor quality can be further investigated by the National Agency.
9. At the end of the training event, the organizers should distribute a course attendance certificate, which is proof of having carried out the training activity.
10. Within 30 calendar days after the end of the activity you must send the Final Report to your Agency. Approval of the Final Report is the basis for formal settlement of the awarded grant. The Final Report form is downloadable from your Agency's website.

Should you need any further information, please contact your National Agency.

The initial description of the event can be found at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/education/trainingdatabase/index.cfm?fuseaction=DisplayCourse&cid=35028>



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