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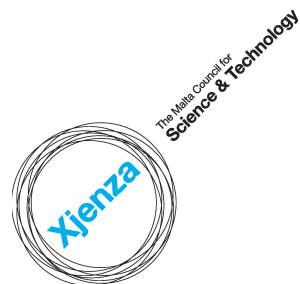


pri-sci-net inquire
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connect

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pri-sci-net

Networking
**Primary
Science
Education**





Project Summary

This project aims to promote the Inquiry-Based approach in Science Education (IBSE) with young children of ages 3-11 years across Europe. It aims to achieve this through providing educational material as well as professional development opportunities for teachers in various ways. The project aims to achieve these objectives by:

- Developing 45 IBSE activities;
- Networking both academics and primary teachers across Europe;
- Providing national and international in-service training on IBSE;
- Recognising and celebrating successful practice and research on IBSE with young children.

PriSciNet Vision of IBSE

Inquiry-based science at primary level is a teaching and learning framework with implications about learning science, learning to do science, and learning about science.

In this framework:

Children

- engage actively in the learning process with emphasis on observations and experiences as sources of evidence;
- tackle authentic and problem based learning activities where the correctness of an answer is evaluated only with respect to the available evidence and getting to a correct answer may not be the main priority;
- practice and develop the skills of systematic observation, questioning, planning and recording to obtain evidence;
- participate in collaborative group work, interact in a social context, construct discursive argumentation and communicate with others as the main process of learning;
- develop autonomy and self-regulation through experience

Teachers

The teacher scaffolds and guides learning by providing a role model of an inquiring learner. The teacher does not function, in the eyes of the children, as the sole bearer of expert knowledge. Instead, the main role of the teacher is to facilitate negotiation of ideas and to highlight criteria for formulating classroom knowledge.

Assessment

Assessment is mainly formative, providing feedback to the teaching and learning process for all classroom participants.

Benefits to schools and those interested in Primary Science Education.

The project is relevant to primary teachers interested in science as it will offer, downloadable teaching material, training courses, on-line collaboration and networking, as well as opportunities to attend the international activities being organised by the project.



Project Outputs

- 45 science teaching activities using IBSE for ages 3-11 years in 15 different languages;
- Recognition of Excellence for teachers implementing IBSE successfully at primary;
- Two International Conferences (Cyprus and Malta);
- Four 20-hour national training on IBSE for teachers in 13 countries;
- Three international teacher-training courses;
- Two virtual European network platforms for teachers and researchers in IBSE;
- An online newsletter and a research journal on IBSE in primary science; and
- Opportunities for teachers and researchers to attend the international training courses and conferences.