

**Report about the activities related to the World Year Of Physics (WYP)
in the Principality of Liechtenstein**

(Scientific Forum of Liechtenstein- Naturwissenschaftliches Forum NWF)

September 2004. A Philatelic “First day Cover” with the Liechtenstein Post Stamp “Exact Sciences” (“First day” date-stamped) is sent to 102 Members of the Scientific Forum.

November 2004. Publication of the programme of the WYP at the annual Meeting of the Scientific Forum. Opening of the Website on Internet www.nwf.li

“Didactic display-cabinets “ installed in some secondary schools

15 January 2005 Opening of the WYP in the newly restored National Museum by Cyril Deicha, President of the Scientific Forum

28 February Conference by Fritz Epple, Physics Teacher at the LG (Liechtensteinisches Gymnasium) : “ Einstein : Life and work”

12. March Presentation of the “leading-Object” for the WYP : The Beam Balance, which is the oldest type of measuring instrument of mankind history.

25 March 2005 National Museum in Vaduz: “No-Touch-Experiments” are presented in a showcase with the logo of WYP. They explain the appearance of spectral colours, colours which are represented on the Liechtensteinese one-Franc Stamp .

3rd to 12. July. A liechtenstein Team takes part at the International Physics Olympiads at Salamanca. Awarded “Honorable Mention” to David Oehry

17 August. Beginning of the Academic Year. Several Schools organise in this year didactic activities and “project weeks” devoted to Physics.

11 to 16 December 2005 Exhibition “ Mileva and Albert Einstein in Space and Time” . In collaboration with the Campus Muristalden (Berne Swizerland) and the University of Belgrade (Serbia)

15 November. Cinema-Night of the State Bureau for Chance Equality, with an introductory Conference from Ms. Dr. Anne Gerhards, chairperson of the Zonta-Club. Discussion led by Daniel Oehry, Physics teacher.

24 November Reports in the local newspapers as an answer to the question“ Were the Einsteins even in Liechtenstein ?”

26 November Annual meeting of the Scientific Forum. Experiments demonstrated by Students

15 December . The exhibition is the framework for the presentation of the book by Victor Sialm (Goethe at the LG) and by Georg Schierscher (the Geographical Barycenter of Liechtenstein)

16. December Closing party of the exhibition.

Several papers in the daily newspapers, and school magazines

Impact of the WYP in Liechtenstein

The impact of the WYP in Liechtenstein is very difficult to assess, because of the smallness of the country (only 34000 inhabitants, a single “Gymnasium” i.e. High School, no University, no TV-station of its own) and the very intricate network of relationships with the surrounding countries (Liechtensteiners study generally at Swiss or Austrian universities, from where they get most of their ideas).

The proportional importance of the activities of WYP can rather be considered as the high point of the last 15 years of efforts of Institutions and science pioneers to popularize Science . In the course of this time following improvements were achieved in Liechtenstein to develop scientific education:

The Scientific Society Naturwissenschaftliches Forum

The First Scientific Society dealing with Physics was founded in 1992. The other Scientific Societies are older (National Historic Society : beginning 20th Century; Regional Botanical and Zoological Society : middle 20th century)

The **Highschool** “Liechtensteinisches Gymnasium”, led by Josef Biedermann

The Physics department was separated from the Maths department as an autonomous Teachers Group at the LG-Highschool in the 90ies.

The **Government** of Liechtenstein and especially the Minister Rita Kieber Beck.

The standard Curriculum was either the Economic (Wirtschaftsmatura Typus E) or the humanistic (Lateinmatura Typus B) until the end of the 20th century.

With the new Reform of the secondary schools there is a Mathematical-Scientific curriculum which is very popular among the youth. The first Maths-Science-Matura took place in May 2005. All 20 candidates succeeded at the final exam (**11 boys, 9 girls**). That is a quite good ratio for this first year-group (compared to the non-scientific 52 graduates.)

Physics has been taught since the early 40s by the Mathematics Teachers. **Cyril Deicha**, the first Physico-Chemist, a Certified Professor in Physical Sciences educated in France began his service 1991.

The interest in Science is also supported by the participation of a liechtenstein Team with **Fritz Epple** at international contests like the Physics Olympiad. The fact that in the very first year of participation **Fabian Hasler** was awarded a bronze Medal, has done very much for the popularity of Physics.

The equipment of the school science lab was thoroughly modernized in the time between 1995 and 2004

. A well equipped Electricity Lab from an abandoned Technical School could be integrated in the Liechtenstein Gymnasium thanks to **Heinz Meyerhans**.

A collection devoted to Science History was created in the national Museum thanks to the perseverance of the Scientific Forum