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WYP2005 activity report

The report on the WYP2005 activities in Slovenia is organized in a chronological way. Each item is described first and afterwards the evaluation of the impact of the activity is given.

1. The Chain Experiment

(from June 2004):

The activity was substantially funded by European Community by the WYP2005-EUROPE project number 516938.

By the number of active participants and spectators, as well as by the response in media, the Chain Experiment is with no doubt the highlight of the WYP2005 activities in Slovenia and has marked the WYP2005 in Slovenia more than any other event. While starting the activity, there had been two objectives: to activate a wide diversity of people by a popular science event and to make the execution of the Chain Experiment the topic of people's discussion all through the year 2005. The chain is made of homemade contraptions, linked by a 2 cm metallic sphere that falls from half a meter into a contraption and starts its action. Each contraption ends by dropping another 2 cm metallic sphere into the next contraption.

In order to stimulate public, a Demo Chain Experiment of ten contraptions (demo-CE) has been set up by the students of physics from University of Ljubljana and University of Maribor. The demo version has been put to display all over Slovenia, starting in October 2004 and through out the entire year 2005 and has been well accepted in public.

On May 14th 2005 we have organized the big Chain Experiment gathering in the largest Congress center in Ljubljana, joining over 50 contraptions, over 150 active participants, and over 1000 spectators. As the teams have been of many different ages, we have set up an expert committee to award the best contraptions in groups: kindergarten, primary schools, secondary schools, and students or older. The event has been covered by national and local TV and radio stations, we organized interesting accompanying program and filmed a documentary about the event. The documentary is available through our web site www.fizika2005.net.

The activity has a very positive influence on children and teachers. People do know about it and support the idea as one of the best way of bringing physics to the people. As a result, we will repeat presenting the demo-CE all over the country. In addition, we are organizing The Days of Physics from 16.-20. May in Technical museum of Slovenia and we will gather a new big Chain Experiment on May 20th, the last day of the exposition.

2. The internet site

(www.fizika2005.net, from November 2004):

The site is used to advertise the WYP2005 activities, it brings the reports on the past events and provide links to other related sites.

3. Promotion materials

(December 2004):

The wall calendar, informative leaflet, and T-shirts with the WYP2005 logo have been printed and distributed. A few months later a special poster named "Recognize modern physics in everyday life" has been issued and distributed to schools and other public places.

4. The opening ceremony of WYP in Slovenia

(January 14th 2005):

At the opening the official address has been given by the slovenian prime minister Janez Janša and the president of Slovenian academy of science and arts dr. Boštjan Žekš. The ceremony has been well covered by the national media.

5. Live radio show "Intelekt" was dedicated to WYP2005

(January 18th 2005):

The show is on in the middle of a working day on the leading national radio station and there have been many calls from the listeners for the speakers. The speakers were from Universities, from Institutes, and from industry.

6. **Seminar “Century of physics – the most important discoveries” (28.-29. January 2005):**
DMFA Slovenije organized a seminar for teachers of physics. Several important discoveries that marked the past century have been presented.
7. **Public lectures on physics (from February 2005):**
There have been over 20 lectures in 2005, covering topic like: “Physics of pills” or “Magnetic resonance in medicine” or “The bubbles are not just poetry”. As we think this is one of the most easy-to-prepare activities we will extend it at least until the summer of 2006, but most likely even further, the goal is to make it permanent.
People’s respond is varying from town to town, but the public lectures on physics are to new to conclude anything solid – we will have to continue and accustom people to this kind of lecturs.
8. **Round table about the physics in school (February 17th 2005):**
The main topic was about the changes of how physics is taught in school. In particular, we have talked about how to increase interest for physics and natural sciences in general among youngsters. Several opinion leaders have been present, so the expected impact is high.
9. **Participation in the “Physics enlighten the World” (April 19th 2005):**
The activity is too known to explain any more. There have been around ten teams taking part in Slovenia. We accepted the light signal in northeastern Slovenia (Šentilj) from Austria and passed it to forward to Italy at the south. The teams have been stationed at the tops of a few prominent hills, close to chalets or TV and radio antennas. In spite the bad weather – signal had to be transferred by cellular phone – the main national TV station filmed one team and the event has been included in the main news.
10. **Radio show about women in physics (April 21st 2005):**
Several physicists exchanged views about the role of women in science and physics.
11. **Conference “Physics – opportunity for the Slovenian business” (May 10th 2005):**
In cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia a one day conference has been organized. The main goal of the conference was to present, what the basic research laboratories can offer to Slovenian industry, business and economy.
12. **Posters on city buses (May 2005):**
The activity was substantially founded by European Comunity by the WYP2005-EUROPE project number 516938.
The idea of the project is to provoke curiosity among general public by displaying, on posters, provocative questions at the entrance to the bus and by displaying short clear answers later on at the exiting doors of the bus. The team of about ten people set up 50 pairs of such nature and all of the city public transportation companies in Slovenia accepted to display the posters free of charge for a year, starting in May 2005. People notice the posters, are amused by the questions and satisfied by the clear answers, thereby increasing their positive attitude towards physics as the science that explains many things around us.
13. **The 3rd international workshop GIREP (5.-9. September 2005):**
Faculty of Education hosted an important international workshop on “Informal learning and public understanding of physics”. People from around the globe, involved directly or indirectly in the process of teaching physics gathered and exchanged ideas on different aspects of learning formally acquiring knowledge through different informal ways, such as science centers, in particular.
14. **The festival of physics (Oktober 20th 2005):**
In cooperation with the Slovenian science foundation we organized a well attended Festival of physics as a part of the 11th science festival that lasts for a week each October. Several popular lectures have been organize, accompanied with workshops for secondary school children and different exhibitions. Both, the workshops and the lectures had a big number of participants and their response was very positive.
15. **Phone cards with physicists (November 2005):**
The Slovenian Telekom issued six phone cards with the picture of a known physicist and another picture related to his work. The selection includes: A. Einstein, I. Newton, G. Galileo, J. Stefan, J.C. Maxwell, and N. Tesla. A press conference has been organized at the time of issue of the last card.
16. **A poll about the WYP2005 impacts (January 2005 – January 2006):**
A set of around ten questions has been prepared carefully at the end of 2004 in order to measure the change in people’s perception of physics, awareness of the impact of physics on everyday life, etc. The results of the second poll will be collected by the end of January 2006 and the analysis will be done shortly after that.
17. **The closing ceremony (January 26th 2006):**
It will take place at the Ljubljana castle and is prepared as yet another reminder to the people to notice physics around them. There will be representatives from neighbouring countries

presenting the WYP in their countries and there will be a pre-ceremony working meeting with the aim of promoting physics also in the future, entitled "beyond WYP2005". We expect to get some new ideas about how to cooperate in promoting natural sciences and physics, as well as to learn from different experiences how to do things better.