

Report of activities in Catalonia on occasion of the WYP 2005

Catalonia is an autonomous territory in Spain, with institutions of self-governement and recognized as a nationality in the spanish constitution.

Structure

In preparation of the World Year of Physics, it was organized a structure composed by the main institutions with interest in physics in Catalonia. Interests that could be in the educational aspect, in research or in the outreach of physics to society.

The structure was called the **Commission for the World Year of Physics 2005 in Catalonia**. It was formed by:

- Societat Catalana de Física (Catalan Physical Society)
- Societat Catalana d'Història de la Ciència i de la Tècnica (SCHCT)
- Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
- Universitat de Barcelona
- Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya
- CosmoCaixa, museu de la ciència
- Museu Nacional de la Ciència i de la Tècnica de Catalunya
- Fundació Catalana per a la Recerca i la Innovació
- Associació de Professores i Professors de Física i Química de Catalunya.

The Societat Catalana de Física (SCF) and the Societat Catalana d'Història de la Ciència i de la Tècnica (SCHCT) are both associated with the Institut d'Estudis Catalans, which is the main academic institution in Catalonia.

The participating universities are the three largest universities in Catalonia. The Universitat de Barcelona and the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona have undergraduate and postgraduate studies in physics, and the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya has postgraduate studies in physics.

CosmoCaixa, museu de la ciència, and the Museu Nacional de la Ciència i de la Tècnica de Catalunya are the two institutions (the former privately owned, the latter publicly owned) of science museums in Catalonia.

Fundació Catalana per a la Recerca i la Innovació is a private institution, with presence of the Catalan governement, devoted the the promotion of research and the presence of science in the society. The FCRI organizes yearly the Week of Science in Catalonia.

The Associació de Professores i Professors de Física i Química de Catalunya is the Catalan Physics and Chemistry Teachers Association.

Activities organized by the Commission

The first action by the Commission was the setting up of a web page devoted to the WYP, www.amf2005.org, where activities to take place in Catalonia could be advertised.

The Commission also adopted a motto for the WYP: **La física és a la base de tot (Physics is at the basis of everything)**.

The other relevant action of the Commission was the contact with the presidency of the Catalan Parliament. Out of these contacts the Catalan Parliament issued on April 28 2005 an institutional declaration in support of the WYP. The declaration is published in the Diari de Sessions del Parlament de Catalunya, num 45, 28 abril 2005 pag. 32.

Two important meetings took place at the Catalan Parliament, by invitation of its presidency. The first, on April 27, under the title of “Physics in Catalonia”, was a gathering of a hundred persons, selected by the Commission and mostly physicists, to debate on the status and perspectives of Physics in Catalonia on the three main aspects of education, research and social outreach. All the material of this meeting can be found in the webpage www.amf2005.org.

The second meeting took place on December 14, with the title “Physics and Innovation”, under the presidency of Mr Ernest Benach, president of the Catalan Parliament, and before an audience of 200 persons. Two conferences of leading Catalan scientists, Dr. Ignacio Cirac (Max Planck Institut Munich) and Dr. Miquel Salmeron (Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory) were given, and the conclusions of the April 27 meeting were made public. These conclusions can be found in the same webpage.

General comments

It has been reported by UB and UAB, the two universities in Catalonia with undergraduate studies in physics, an increase on student enrolling in physics of around 15% for the academic year 2005-2006. This increase breaks a trend of continuous diminishing of the figures of student enrolling during the last years. It is very likely that the activities held in high schools on occasion of the WYP have had an important influence on this result.

Every institution has organized its own activities, with fundings of their own or other sources. Reports on these activities are attached to this report.

On occasion of the WYP many leaflets and posters have been produced and distributed, some concerning a particular activity, others with the general scope of advertising the WYP. A magnet (size 5x7 cm) with the logo of the WYP and the motto was produced and widely distributed.

The Direcció General de Recerca of the Catalan Government has distributed a card mask with the face of Einstein and also T-shirts commemorating the hundred years of the theory of relativity.

Local Reports

The following attached documents are the reports by some of the institutions participating in the Commission for the WYP.

1 Report by the Societat Catalana de Física

2 Report by the Universitat de Barcelona.

3 Report by the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.

4 Report by the Catalan Physics and Chemistry Teachers Association

5 Report by the Fundació Catalana per a la Recerca i la Innovació.

