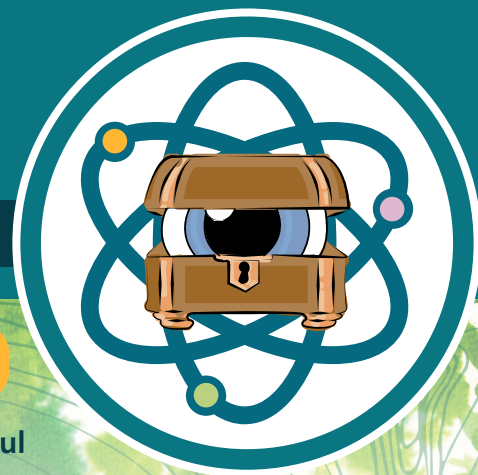


# Ark of Inquiry

newsletter

1/2018

issued by the Ark of Inquiry project consortium



## Welcome, dear Subscriber!

This is the 11th official newsletter of the Ark of Inquiry project. We are thankful for your interest in the project. In the newsletter, you will find some memories from last November, memories gathered during the Ark of Inquiry final conference in Paris, France.



The final conference of the Ark of Inquiry project was held in Paris, France on 20 November 2017 in UNESCO's Fontenoy building. We welcomed guests from all over Europe. All consortium partners were present at this conference and they brought teachers, researchers and policymakers with them. Over 90 people gathered to listen to the invited keynote speakers and to discuss with each other.

The role of Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) in Inquiry-Based Science Education was a central topic on this conference. Ton de Jong (Professor of Instructional Technology at the University of Twente) talked about this issue in an inspiring presentation. How to raise youth awareness to RRI was discussed in an interactive panel with specialists from different countries.

## About the project:

### Project Title:

Ark of Inquiry: Inquiry Awards for Youth over Europe (FP7, No. 612251)

### Funding Scheme:

EU-FP7-SCIENCE-IN-SOCIETY-2013-1 (CSA-SA)

### Duration:

4 years (March 2014-Feb 2018)

**Consortium:** 13 partners coordinated by Tartu Ülikool (University of Tartu), Estonia; Ellinogermaniki Agogi Scholi Panagea Savva AE, Greece; Turun Yliopisto (University of Turku), Finland; Panepistemio Kyprou (University of Cyprus), Cyprus; UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice, Italy; Hogeschool van Arnhem en Nijmegen (HAN University), The Netherlands; Bundesministerium für Bildung (Ministry of Education), Austria; Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (Humbolt University), Germany; Bahcesehir Egitim Kurumları Anonim Şirketi (BEKAS), Turkey; Ecole de l'ADN (DNA Learning Centre), France; University Colleges Leuven-Limburg (previously KHLim), Belgium; Kutató Tanárok Országos Szövetsége (Hungarian Research Teachers' Association), Hungary; SA Teaduskeskus AHHA (AHHA Science Centre), Estonia

European Union's  
Seventh Framework Programme



## Where to find Ark of Inquiry? Visit our website!



The findings of the Ark of Inquiry project were presented by consortium members themselves. Teachers of all the participating countries reflected in three different panels on these findings and their experiences with this findings in their daily lessons.

Four representatives from other European projects gave insight in their projects. It was informative for the audience to hear what happens and is going to happen in the projects Next-Lab, Hypatia, Nano2All and Sparks.

We proudly presented, at the end of the day, our brochure with the final recommendations and guidelines of Ark of Inquiry. It presents information of interest to different stakeholder groups on how to apply the findings from Ark of Inquiry beyond the project. Best practices and related success stories illustrate the recommendations.

A lively evening reception was the closing part of this great conference day with a performance of the Mad Scientists to show us that Inquiry learning really can be fun!



The Ark of Inquiry project aims to raise youth awareness to Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) and to build a society skilled in RRI and related scientific communication. It will provide young European citizens (7 to 18 year olds) with a pool of activities to improve their inquiry skills, increase their awareness and understanding of conducting 'real' science, and prepare them to participate in different roles in the European research and innovation process.

To this aim the project will:

- develop a framework for identifying inquiry activities that promote pupils' awareness of RRI;
- collect existing inquiry activities and environments from various national and international projects;
- make activities available across Europe through the Ark of Inquiry platform (implement the inquiry activities on a large-scale across a European school network such as the UNESCO Associated Schools Programme Network (ASPnet) so to bring together learners, and supporters (teachers, science and teacher education students, and staff of universities and science centres). During the project it is expected that at least 20 000 students will participate in the Ark of Inquiry.
- train at least 1,000 teachers to support pupils' inquiry activities in a manner that attracts pupils' interest and motivation towards RRI.



# Where to find Ark of Inquiry? Search for us in YouTube!

## Memories from the conference

During the conference in Paris we asked some of our participants about their experiences with the Ark of Inquiry project.

From our teacher trainers we asked what they found most interesting and fun about the Ark of Inquiry project. From researchers and specialists visiting the conference we inquired how inquiry learning and RRI could help to engage pupils in the classroom and what was the most interesting thing for them that came out of the project. You can see some of the answers in the videos presented below.



**Where to find Ark of Inquiry? Visit our website at [arkofinquiry.eu](http://arkofinquiry.eu)**

## **Final recommendations and guidelines**

The final conference of the project also saw the launch of the project's final recommendations and guidelines, which was encapsulated in the project deliverable 7.6.

Designed to be an accessible document for a variety of stakeholder groups, the recommendations were structured around **3 key messages** that had emerged from implementation across 13 European countries (12 project countries and Albania).

- 1. The right tools can better enable teachers to utilize inquiry learning with their pupils**
- 2. A supportive community can provide teachers with the training and resources needed to successfully use inquiry learning in the classroom**
- 3. Concepts like Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) are effective in enriching the inquiry learning process**

Each key message is supported by a series of "rationales" (qualitative or quantitative evidence) that share specific examples or best practices of how this key message came about. Teachers, teacher educators, policy-makers, scientists/researchers, staff from science centres/museums and pupils and parents alike all have specific actions addressed to them in each rationale to guide them on how to best apply the project's recommendations.

While the final recommendations were produced in the scope of this project, in a European context, it is however understood that they would have applications in many other contexts and thus a global relevance.

**Download and view the full document!**

## **In the next newsletter:**

In the next and final newsletter, we sum up the progress made during the 4 project years and set new goals for the period after the project end. Activities and resources continue to be available for your use - contact your local coordinator to find out how you can use Ark of Inquiry in the future!

Dear Subscriber, we wish you all the best and hope to see you again soon!

