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“Researchers’ nights” 2006

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Deliverable D2.1 Exhibition of children’s paintings

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Revision 1

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Dissemination Level		
PU	Public	X
PP	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	
RE	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)	
CO	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	

EU FP6 Project U*NIGHT “University by night”

The activities of WP2 were targeted at kids and their parents. The objective was to raise children’s recognition of researchers and their achievements using art and fun as facilitators. At the same time, the activities allowed children to express their vision and image of researchers and their work using more appropriate tools for their age such as the art language of drawings and paintings. At all project locations, the children, teachers and parents were given opportunities to meet researchers in a festive environment, and to learn more about famous researchers from the scientific quiz.

1. CHILDREN EXHIBITIONS IN SOFIA

Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”

Children exhibitions ‘My vision for researchers’

Sofia University started the organization of the painting competition for children at the end of the school year. Three different groups of children were targeted – children from two social homes in Sofia, and children from a special painting group. The organizers met with the respective teachers in order to discuss how to proceed. It was decided not to make a real competition as this is very sensitive issue for the children in social homes, and to provide all participating children with awards.

The other preparatory action line was related to the design, organization and announcement of the amusement programs for children on 22 September. On both locations for which Sofia University was responsible – the National Polytechnics Museum and the Faculty of Physics – were held programs with music, anecdotes for researchers, and a scientific quiz. The quiz with scientific questions, including on prominent European researchers, was prepared by the Sofia University staff and send to all U*NIGHT partners in order to use it for their children program. In addition, researchers were invited to interact with the children and their parents on 22 September on both locations. Several promotional materials were disseminated to the participating children, including hats, T-shirt, Frisbee, Yo-Yo and balloons with the U*NIGHT logo.

The program in the National Polytechnics Museum in Sofia was dedicated to children from the social homes ‘P.R. Slavejkov’ and ‘As. Zlatarov’, providing also to these children in an unequal status opportunity to get acquaint with technology and scientific achievements of researchers. The exhibition of their paintings ‘My vision for researchers’ was presented in the Museum on 22 September.

In the foyer of the Faculty of Physics of Sofia University was presented the exhibition ‘My vision for researchers’ with paintings of eleven children on the age of 5 to 11 years from art atelier ‘Fairy tale world’. The paintings were shown also on the web site of two project partners:

<http://www-it.fmi.uni-sofia.bg/u-night/deca.html> and
<http://www.cys.bg/gallery/thumbnails.php?album=1> .

The small painters on both locations were given awards for their paintings.

Technical University – Sofia

Awards for children - winners with high performance in preparing and defense of their diploma projects

The preparation phase for children's contest started with identification of the children, who will participate in project competition – the selected children were among the final year students at the TU-Sofia affiliated specialised secondary school “Technology School on Electronic Systems” in Sofia. A local school board graded 17 final year projects. The projects are developed in the areas of electronic, computer and communication techniques and technologies as parts of real industrial projects of leading Bulgarian and international IT companies and all are put into practice. The supervisors are university lecturers and prominent company researchers. The awarding ceremony took place at the opening of the Researchers Night on 22 September at the TU-Sofia hall 2140. The awarded children are: Peter Petrov, Victoria Antonova, Alexander Zavinovski, Nikola Banenkin, Alexander Kitov, Vladislav Petrov, Andrey Spiridonov, Ivaylo Shopov, Sergey Petkov, Peter Todorov, Anton Kenov, Branimir Georgiev, Todor Vlaev, Ivan Parushev, Dimo Dimov, Iliya Igov, Martin Stoyanov. A photo of the awarded children with the full titles of their projects and their supervisors are uploaded in the U*NIGHT website of TU-Sofia on http://elde2410a-1.tu-sofia.bg/U-Night/Zashtita_TU_2006.doc. The awards were delivered in a festive atmosphere. Presentations and demonstrations of the awarded final year projects by pupils from the Electronic Systems School were envisaged in lab 2408 with discussion and photos. The event will be reported in the TU newspaper “Technical A-vanguard”.

Views and experience on hot research topics shared by young talents

Ivaylo Nedyalkov – a 4th year student at the English Language Faculty of Engineering, is a mini Noble Prize holder in Physics for 2005 – the year of Physics. He was invited to share his views on physics and technology, and his experience how to become famous in research.

2. CHILDREN EXHIBITIONS IN UNIVERSITY OF ROUSSE

Children's attitude to science expressed in the exhibition “Mummy, daddy, science and me”

The project staff of the University of Rousse started planning and designing the event in the early July by the preparation of a detailed Work Plan, including final dates for execution of activities and responsible people for them. Two operational meetings were carried out with the people involved in the preparation and execution of the event.

The preparation of the exhibition was launched at the end of the school year, when the project staff addressed the Regional Inspectorate on Education in Rousse with a letter, requesting assistance in the preparation phase of the exhibition. In this way the task was in front of the teachers of several kindergartens in Rousse and the children had enough time to think about the event and to prepare the paintings carefully.

The paintings of the children were at hand in the early September, ready to be exhibited. A special jury was appointed, chaired by an artist with the task to nominate the first three prize winners.

Prior to opening the event a special and detailed scenario was developed, fixing the time schedule of all the actors in the event. The project staff invited students, PhD-students, university management, researchers from the University and the region, teachers and parents,

children, citizens, representatives of business incubators, industrial units, journalists from national and local radio and TV-channels.

The opening took place on September 20, 2006 at 10,00 a.m. at the University foyer. 78 children participated with their paintings in the exhibition. Representatives of students, PhD-students, university management, researchers from the University and the region, teachers and parents, children, citizens, representatives of business incubators, industrial units, journalists from national and local radio and TV-channels took part in the event. The number of children who participated was 81 and the total number of participants was about 120.

The exhibition was opened by the project manager; the participants in the event were kindly invited to look at the paintings. After that the Chairman of the jury announced the first three nominees. Awards were given to the first three, and then to each child were given booby prizes.

The prize winners were as follows:

- FIRST PRIZE WINNER: Denislav Mitev, 6 years of age, Kindergarten “Chuchuliga”
- SECOND PRIZE WINNER: Mariya Gadeva, 5 years of age, Kindergarten “Pinokio”, painting title “Summer in the Space”
- THIRD PRIZE WINNER: Stela Aleksandrova, 6 years of age, 4th group, Kindergarten “Snejanka”

Each child received booby awards for the participation and for the efforts.

Some examples of the themes of the presented paintings are given below:

- Theme of the painting
- Mummy & Daddy see me to school
- Space
- Mummy, Daddy, myself and the book
- Jurassic Park
- The School
- With the computer at home
- The First School Day
- With Grand mother in the Delfinarium
- A plant, polluting the environment
- Sea fest
- Monster
- Dad and myself in the jungle
- Training of dolphins
- A dinosaur from the book of my brother
- A house of future
- Mummy and Daddy – in the space
- My family by the sea light
- Acidic rain
- Intelligent submarine

The whole event was thoroughly followed by a photographer.

3. CHILDREN EXHIBITIONS IN TRAKIA UNIVERSITY - STARA ZAGORA

Children's view on physics and technologies

The work of the staff of Trakia university – DIITT related to the organization of children contest and exhibition consisted of the following phases:

I. Preparation

- At the end of the school year the potential participants were informed about the painting competition, its topic, objective and rules for participation. Informational letters were handed in at schools, kindergartens and children's centers, a number of personal contacts were made with teachers.
- Forming a jury – As chairman of the jury was appointed Assoc. Prof. Zlati Zlatev, and as members – Dr. Ani Zlateva and Slavena Petkova. They prepared specifying criteria for assessment and rating, and carried out the selection and evaluation of the children's paintings.

II. Design and arrangement of the exhibition

Seventy two (72) paintings were selected for participation in the exhibition belonging to children at the age of 5 to 12 years.

III. Opening of the exhibition – It started with a short speech of the Department Director and the Jury member. From all 72 paintings 9 were selected for awards in three age groups. Encouragement awards were given to 7 paintings, and 56 certificates were handed for original participation. One of the most interesting titles was “The young scientist's thoughts”, first prize – Christian Gospodinov (6 years). One of the most attractive topics for children was space and space technology – there were a lot of paintings, connected with this research sphere.

4. CHILDREN EXHIBITIONS IN TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY - VARNA

Children drawing exhibition and competition ‘What do the scientists work on?’

During the preparatory phase the staff of TU-Varna sent official letters to the Directors of Varna schools “Nayden Gerov”, “Angel Kanchev” and “Zahari Stoyanov” with information about the Project U*NIGHT and its aims and with request students from their schools to participate in the competition titled “What do the Scientists Work on” during the Researchers night organized at the TU-Varna.

Before the competition, all the participants received sets of water-colors and drawing-pads to draw their works.

33 children from 2nd to 12th classes of Varna schools “Nayden Gerov”, “Angel Kanchev” and “Zahari Stoyanov” entered the competition for children's drawing. The children used their great imagination and excellent knowledge to present the work of scientists. On their pictures they portrayed astronauts, astronomers, ecologists, chemists, archeologists, biologists, sea-explorers, etc.

The exposition was arranged in the lobby of the New Study Building of the Technical University of Varna (TUV).

The jury constituting of scientists-artists from TU-Varna gave the following awards:

- 2 first prizes to
Liliya Tihomirova Tsvetkova
Denis Gyunal Seid and Aleksandar Boyadzhiev
- 2 second prizes to
Angel Radoslavov Velikov
Dani Ivanov Lazarov
- 2 third prizes to
Mila Plamenova Stoyanova
Pavel Milenov

Assoc. Prof. Hristo Hristov presented the winners with the book “The Bulgarians – a brief history”. All participants in the children’s drawing exhibition were presented with T-shirts and hats having U-NIGHT logo.

The exhibition was visited by schoolboys and schoolgirls, parents, school-teachers, citizens, Bulgarian and foreign students and lecturers, the managing body of TU-Varna and by 46 foreign scientists (members of Black Sea University Association and participants in the Congress of BSUN, which took place in TUV, 21-23 September).