Dear readers,

The PARRISE project has now completed the first of four years. For this reason, I would like to take this opportunity to look back at the successful work of the past year and recognize the efforts of the PARRISE partners.

After the kick-off meeting of the project at Utrecht University in January, 2014, the PARRISE partners invested a lot of effort in articulating the Socio-Scientific Inquiry Based Learning framework (SSIBL), which will guide the teacher professional development programmes (PD). The SSIBL framework was discussed during a second project meeting which took place at the Institute of Education, in London, in May 2014. In the first months of 2014 we also established the work package teams, which have communicated at regular intervals of time ever since, working together to clarify and operationalize the SSIBL framework and exchange knowledge on how to implement it in their professional development programmes. At the moment, the partners in each of the work package teams, which have communicated at regular intervals of time ever since, working together to clarify and operationalize the SSIBL framework and exchange knowledge on how to implement it in their professional development programmes. At the moment, the partners in each of the work package teams are exchanging information regarding their own national contexts, developing their complete teacher professional development programmes and planning their implementations. These will be discussed in more detail at our coming project meeting, which will take place in Malmö, Sweden from June 15 to June 17, 2015.

In addition, the PARRISE partners have been presenting the SSIBL framework and testing their professional development programmes around SSIBL throughout the partner countries and at the European level (for example, at the 2nd PROFILES international conference in Berlin, at the 2nd Scientix conference in Brussels, at the EAPRIL conference in Nicosia, and at the SIS-RRI conference in Rome). You can read more about these efforts in this newsletter.

Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI), which is at the heart of the PARRISE project, is a major goal of the European Community’s research and development programme. This is evident in the emphasis on RRI at the very successful 2nd Scientix conference in Brussels in October 2014. PARRISE was one of the programmes presented there and was also highlighted in the Scientix newsletter, titled “RRI: Responsible Research and Innovation, Doing science and innovation with society and for society”. You can find the description of the PARRISE project, one of the five RRI projects that were funded by the EC, on page 6.

The PARRISE project was invited and represented at the recent RRI conference which took place in Rome and was organized during the Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union and supported by the European Commission. The title of the conference was “SIS-RRI Conference: Science, Innovation and Society – Achieving Responsible Research and Innovation”. The aim of the Conference was to elaborate an effective instrument for the European Commission to be used to plan future RRI framework actions and objectives. The Rome Declaration was prepared as a concluding document, drawing on the Conference conclusions and recommendations.

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PARRISE activities at UCL IOE during autumn 2014 have focused on our new cohort of 92 pre-service science teachers (PSTs).

In September, Ruth Amos and Ralph Levinson presented the PARRISE project and ideas about SSIBL to our experienced teacher-mentors, who are supporting the PSTs in school this year.

We devised a pilot PST development programme together with other colleagues in our team at UCL IOE where SSIBL approaches were introduced after two workshops on inquiry science and using socio-scientific issues in science learning. In the inquiry workshop, PSTs were given some standard science practicals and asked to generate possible questions which students could research and investigate. The SSI session followed a science and consumerism theme. PSTs explored the layers in Kinder Eggs™ from the aluminium foil, through the chocolate to the plastic toys and paper instructions. They imagined, discussed and researched the scientific, environmental, economic and social impacts and issues surrounding the manufacture of Kinder Eggs™.

To foreground the main SSIBL workshop, PSTs carried out some research in their first placement schools, linked to curriculum requirements in our new ‘Working Scientifically’ science national curriculum theme.

The PSTs interviewed mentors and experienced science teachers about:
I. their ideas of inquiry in science,
II. the kinds of inquiry they teach, and
III. whether socio-scientific issues are commonly used within, or to initiate, inquiry.

We are collating the research findings.

In the main SSIBL workshop, Ruth and a colleague, Sheila Curtis, showed a range of stimulus photographs to promote a questioning learning environment and explored the nature of creative, open questions in science.

Then Ralph focused back on the Kinder Egg™ scenario by revealing the in-depth story of the production of aluminium. PSTs were taken on a journey from Canada (bauxite extraction) to Jamaica (aluminium extraction), stopping off at Ivittuut, Greenland for some cryolite and finally they met the catadores do lixo in Brazil to examine the complex issues around recycling.

Next steps – in January the PSTs will create and try out their own SSIBL activity for a group of 11-14 year old school students ... more news to follow.
PARRISE presentation at the EAPRIL 2014 conference

by Eleni Kyza & Yiannis Georgiou, Cyprus University of Technology

Eleni Kyza (CUT) and Ralph Levinson (IOE), with the contribution of the PARRISE consortium, co-authored a round-table submission titled “SSIBL: A theory-informed instructional framework for enhancing students’ understanding and action on socio-scientific issues through an inquiry approach”.

Eleni participated at the round table session, during which she had the opportunity to present and discuss the SSIBL framework with a total of thirty conference delegates attending the session. During her talk, Eleni Kyza explained what the SSIBL framework is and stressed the need for teachers’ professional development in order to employ the framework successfully.

With the goal of providing concrete examples to allow the conference delegates to conceptualize the framework, Eleni presented the SSIBL basis of a socio-scientific inquiry-based module regarding Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs). This presentation was followed by a lively discussion.

In the context of the discussion the conference delegates indicated that they found the SSIBL framework interesting and useful but at the same time challenging. Participants’ questions were focused on how teachers can be better prepared for SSIBL-type teaching and whether students can engage with it.

The SSIBL framework was appreciated by all as an innovative learning approach since it brings new and alternative perspectives to teaching and learning about complex socio-scientific issues.

PARRISE presented at the 2nd SCIENTIX conference

by Yiannis Georgiou, Cyprus University of Technology

The 2nd Scientix Conference, which was organized by the European Commission, took place in Brussels, Belgium, from 24 to 26 October 2014. The conference was a huge success with over 598 participants from all over Europe. The programme of the conference featured 70 talks, 14 workshops, 7 round-tables, and 25 exhibition stands.

During the conference, Ralph Levinson gave a talk about PARRISE. The highlight of his talk was the SSIBL framework, on which the PARRISE project and its philosophy are based. In his presentation, he talked about the structure of the framework, the main challenges related to the integration of the model in science education, as well as the need to prepare science teachers to successfully integrate this framework in classroom practice.

For more information:

See the PowerPoint presentation: http://www.slideshare.net/Scientix/parrise-integrating-society-in-science-education-ralph-levinson

Visit the Scientix conference website: http://www.scientix.eu/web/guest/conference;jsessionid=A6D8C66C335A4B8D6795EDD66C3EC79F8
In the context of the PARRISE project, collaboration protocols were established with two groups of schools: Carolina Michaëlis and Rio Tinto.

These schools, located in Porto metropolitan area, and offering instruction cycles covering levels that range from pre-school up to secondary education, host a considerable number of teachers, who are willing to participate in this challenge. In Portugal, the implementation of activities and resources developed along the various steps of the project, in formal and informal learning environments, will take place mainly at the secondary level. Nevertheless, many of the participants recruited up to now, also teach subjects from other education levels.

Carolina Michaëlis Group of Schools is one of the major groupings of Porto. With a privileged location in the center of the city, it integrates four primary schools and a secondary school, which is the group’s headquarters. The group is attended by about 1100 students, almost half of which are secondary school students.

Rio Tinto Group of Schools is located in a more peripheral zone of Porto, has its headquarter based at Rio Tinto Secondary School. This Group encompasses an elementary school, an integrated level school, two primary schools and four nurseries. This group of schools is attended by about 3300 students, of which 1250 are secondary school students.

The curricula at each of these schools are very diverse, which provides students with a wide range of educational options. The teachers involved in the PARRISE project are biology teachers, who are extremely motivated to collaborate in the enforcement of every commitment made by both parties.

The ratification of this collaboration has been carried out by the representative of the Directors’ Board of each School Group.
PARRISE presentation at the OEKOLOG (ECO-School-Network) conference and IMST network meeting

by Franz Rauch and Diana Radmann, Alpen-Adria-Universität Klagenfurt

Franz Rauch introduced PARRISE to the Scientific Board of OEKOLOG members at the OEKOLOG Conference, which took part from 10-12 November, at Graz. His presentation included general information about PARRISE like what does PARRISE stand for, the objectives of the project as well as some facts about the PARRISE consortium. During his presentation he also distributed the local PARRISE brochure.

The Board of OEKOLOG members consist of regional representatives from all of the 9 Austrian provinces. They transfer relevant projects, topics and results within their local networks, which consist of provincial school boards, colleges of education, environmental departments of provincial governments, NGOs, etc. At that event around 20 people were present.

What is OEKOLOG? OEKOLOG is the first and the main Austrian programme for schools at the interface of Environmental Education and school development. It is a contribution to the UN-Decade of Education ”Education for sustainable development in Austria”, initiated and supported by the Ministry of Education. 456 schools, 118.000 pupils, 14.000 teachers and 6 Colleges of Education (Pädagogische Hochschulen) are members of the Eco-School-Network.

The aims of the Eco-School-Network are:
⇒ to offer a platform for information, communication and continued exchange of experience
⇒ to ensure visibility of achievements by disseminating good-practice examples via the homepage, newsletter, as well as awards for pupils, etc.
⇒ to offer relevant support like teacher training courses, consultation, materials, etc.

PARRISE was also presented at the regional network meeting, which took part from 6-7 November 2014 at Bad Gastein (Salzburg). The presentation was delivered by Franz Rauch, and Peter Holub, who is the teacher network coordinator of the University of Teacher Education in Carinthia, in the PARRISE project.

Thirty-one participants from the regional IMST-Networks, regional Didactic Centres, institutions who were rewarded with the ”Regional Educational Competence Centre”- label, were present at that event.

The presentation included general information about PARRISE as well as the goals of the project. During the presentation the local PARRISE brochure was shared with all participants.

For more information

www.oekolog.at
www.imst.ac.at

Upcoming PARRISE-related conference in Budapest

by Andrea Király, László Egyed, Andrea Kárpáti, and Tamás Té, ELTE

The Graduate School for Physics of ELTE University – Ph.D. Program for Physics Education organises an English language conference for teachers and researchers of physics education at the secondary and tertiary level, entitled:
“Teaching Physics Innovatively – New Learning Environments and Methods in Physics Education”.

Location of the event: ELTE University, Faculty of Science, Budapest, Hungary.

Main topics of the conference:
⇒ Socially sensitive issues in physics education
⇒ New methods of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in Science
⇒ Non-traditional methods in teaching physics
⇒ The role of Science Centers in physics education
⇒ Methodological innovations in physics education
⇒ Experiments in physics education
⇒ Complex systems
⇒ Environmental issues
⇒ Contemporary physics: new research results
⇒ Issues on nuclear physics
⇒ Registration fee (includes the Book of Abstracts, sandwich lunches and coffee breaks with refreshments): 250 Euro.
⇒ Optional Gala dinner on 18 August: 50 Euro
⇒ Deadline for payment/registration: 15 June 2015.

Information for presenters:
Submission of abstracts (1000 characters): Site opens on 1 February 2015.
Deadline for submissions: 15 April 2015.
Submission of corrected abstracts: 30 July 2015.
PARRISE NEWSLETTER

PARRISE - Promoting Attainment of Responsible Research & Innovation in Science Education

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The next PARRISE newsletter will be circulated in June 2015.
PARRISE newsletter editor: Cyprus University of Technology
Visit our web page to find out more the PARRISE project and its partners @www.parrise.eu

Send us email or subscribe to our newsletter by visiting www.parrise.eu/contact-us

SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME
SiS-2013-2.2.1-1
Grant agreement: 612438