International Conference "Engaging tools for science education"

Workshops, presentations, key-note speeches and discussions, all dedicated to engaging tools in science education, will be a part of this year's *"Engaging Tools for Science Education" conference*. The event will take place between **31 October and 2 November 2014** at Inter Expo Center in **Sofia, Bulgaria**.

The Conference is organized as a part of the international project **Teamwork, Training and Technology Network** (TTTNetwork). The project aims to make science education at schools more attractive and appealing to the young learners by introducing cutting-edge technologies into the classrooms, finding new educational policies and turning innovations into a part of the teaching-learning process. The new-generation methods and tools which can improve science education range from interactive boards to virtual lessons and science competitions.

The speakers at the conference "Engaging tools for science education" will cover the following **topics:**
- Tools for teaching sciences in an engaging way (e.g. games, robotics, Lego, virtual labs and other digital resources, 3D modelling/printing, etc.)
- Science education curriculum - national policies and practices
- Key competences in teaching maths, sciences and technology
- Assessment of competence based learning outcomes
- Gender aspects of STEM education
- Science education in pre-school and early school age
- 21st century classrooms

The speakers at the Conference are educational experts from different EU member countries. Scientific researchers, promoters of successful international education projects and relevant educational authorities will all take part in the Conference. Representatives from Ministries of Education and institutions dealing with student and teacher training will participate in the event as well. Some of the key-note speakers at the Conference are:
- **Danny Arati** (Education Manager Europe at Intel Corporation) – famous for supporting research, projects and policies that facilitate a shift towards 21st century learning and teaching. He has worked to develop and expand Intel's online presence in the Education sector and also sits on the General Committee of the British Science Association.
- **Emanuele Michelli** (Vice president at School of Robotics, Genoa) – a reasearcher in the field of robotics for autistic children and people with cognitive difficulties. Michelli has also organized a considerable amount of teacher training courses and works as an exclusive teacher for introducing industrial robotics at a high school level.

- **Intellisense** (Hungarian ICT developer) – Intellisense is a multiple award winning tech company providing educational, image processing and data acquisition solutions for the leading technology corporations of the world.
- **Space Camp Turkey –** As a space and science education center Space Camp Turkey motivates young people from around the world in the pursuit of careers in science, math and technology. The Camp teaches key competences as teamwork and leadership in a dynamic, fun-filled environment through interactive space-related simulations.

The speakers at the Conference will present their innovative ideas and projects for engaging tools in science education in three main ways: **presentation, workshop for conference participants and workshop for students**.

Everyone from the field of education is invited to take part in the Conference - *school principals, teachers, teacher trainers, students, representatives of educational assosiations, universities and even Regional Inspectorates of Education*. During the event will be formed **school teams** (students + teachers) which will take part in the workshops. The participating teams will have the chance to compete by presenting their own views on attractive science education.

The **official languages** of the conference are English and Bulgarian. Simultaneous translation will be provided for the participants during the plenary sessions.

The Conference host is **Center for Creative Training -** a non-profit institution active in the field of teacher training, educational initiatives and international project work. CCT aims to achieve a practical change in education which can help both techers and learners to effectively master key competencies and enhance their potential for successful professional and social realization. You can find more information about the assosiation on their website - www.cct.bg. If you want to contact the Conference organizer, write en email at tttnet@cct.bg.

The co-organizers of the Conference are the members of the *TTTNetwork*:
- Europole - Verona, Italy
- Center for Creative Training Association - Bulgaria
- Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, PH.D. Research Career Development Centre
- Space Camp - Turkey
- DOGA SCHOOLS - Turkey
- Institutul de Ştiinţe ale Educaţiei - Romania
- FOundation for Research and Technology – Greece
- The University of Stavanger – Norway
- Spanish Confederation of Education and Training Centers
- Moscow City Teachers' Training University – The Russian Federation