www.kidsinnscience.eu

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kidsINN science

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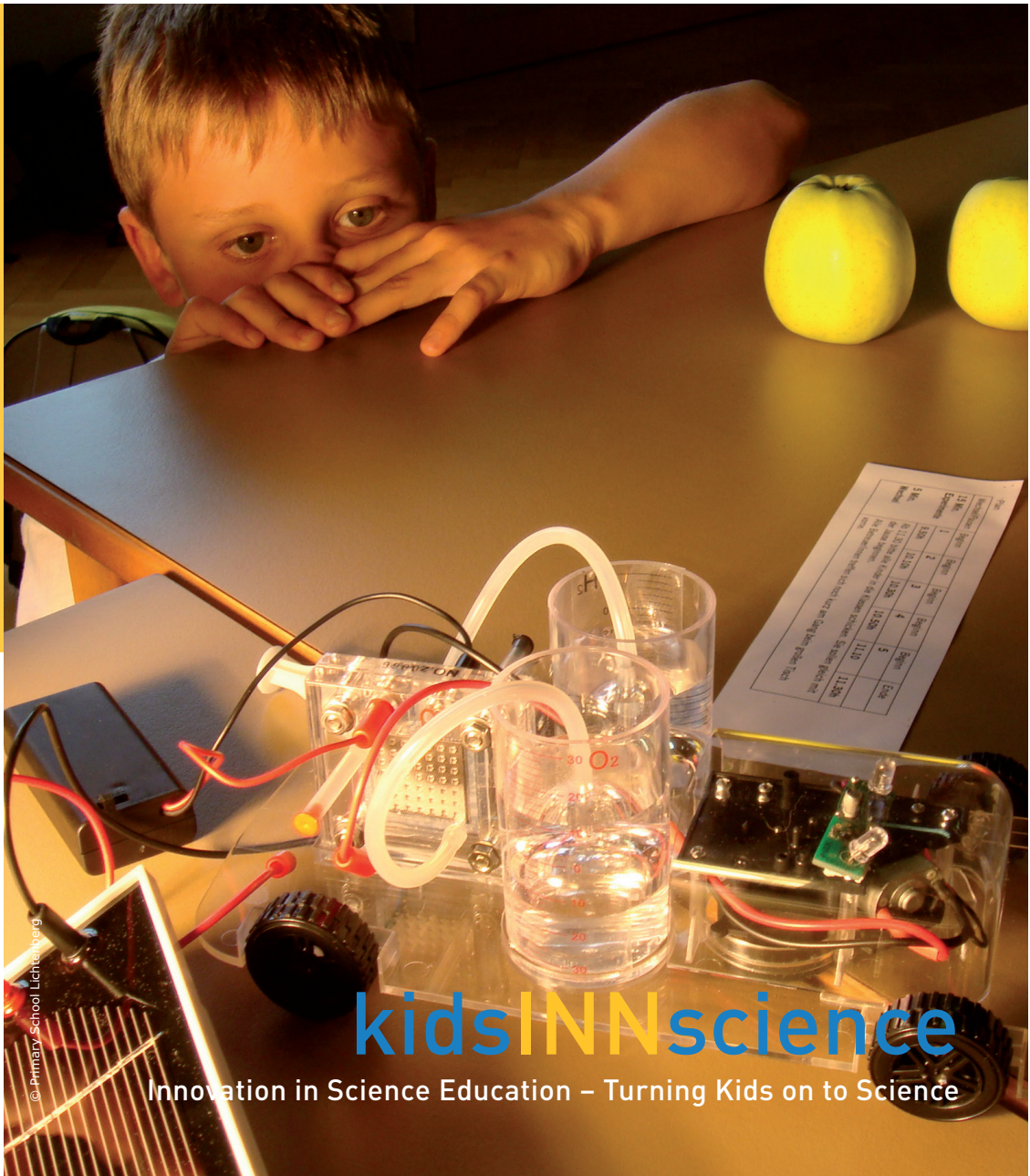

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Innovation in Science Education – Turning Kids on to Science


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Innovation in Science Education – Turning Kids on to Science

is a research project involving ten partners in Europe and Latin America that aims to identify and promote innovative approaches for teaching and learning science, adapt and test them for implementation in mainstream schools and develop innovation strategies for science and technology (S&T) education in all participating countries.

European society faces enormous challenges at the start of the 3rd millennium i.e. to secure and improve the quality of life and the environment and to remain competitive in an ever globalising economy. Science and technology make important contributions to realising these goals. S&T education is vital to broaden the knowledge base of the European population and to stimulate more young people to opt for careers in S&T. Although constantly innovated, science education suffers from considerable differences between countries and even within countries. The basic assumption of the project is that innovations in S&T education work efficient if they meet agreed quality criteria and are adapted to the local circumstances and conditions.

kidsINNscience proposes to adopt adaptive strategies to enable participating countries to learn from each other and to develop feasible innovation plans that fit the specific conditions of each of the countries. The aims are to

- facilitate educationalists at different positions in the educational system to operate more creatively within the system and to help generate changes toward more active learning systems
- help to improve performance and interest in S&T among young people

Cultural diversity, gender aspects and activity based and learner centred approaches are explicitly addressed in all phases of the project.

Main questions that the project addresses are

1. What strategies for teaching and learning in S&T motivate teachers and learners in the participating countries?
2. What similarities and differences are there in innovating S&T teaching and learning in the participating countries?
3. What strategies to innovate S&T teaching and learning would work in the participating countries, considering its characteristics of S&T teaching and learning?

kidsINNscience will make a contribution to S&T teaching and learning in the participating countries and the development of cross national innovation strategies for S&T education:

- Definition of an initial set of criteria and indicators to describe and compare S&T curricula and methodologies for teaching and strategies for learning S&T.
- Comprehensive compilation of innovative approaches for science education: Recognised innovations will be selected.
- Adaptation of the innovative approaches to make these new practices and strategies applicable in S&T education: Each country will chose from the list of innovations and adapt them to the national educational conditions.
- Performance of effective field trials in schools to contribute to a solid evidence base: The adapted innovations are tested in mainstream schools.
- Evaluation of these field trials in order to look at the feasibility and effectiveness of activities.
- Redefinition of the set of categories and criteria for innovation in teaching and learning of science.
- Formulation of concrete, country specific strategies for innovating S&T education.

In order to reach a strong impact on science education in the participating countries, KidsINNscience includes persons, institutions and decision makers at different levels in the educational systems: experts on S&T education, educational researchers, teachers and key change agents are involved in various phases of the project.