



Rapporti Tecnici INAF INAF Technical Reports

Number	238
Publication Year	2023
Acceptance in OA@INAF	2023-01-30T09:17:16Z
Title	IAU Office of Astronomy for Education OAE Center Italy - Quarterly Report 1 January-March 2022
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Handle	http://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12386/33090 ; https://doi.org/10.20371/INAF/TechRep/238

IAU Office of Astronomy for Education
OAE Center Italy



Quarterly Report 1
January-March 2022



Quarterly Report Q1 2022

CENTER ITALY

0 Staffing, infrastructure

Stefano Sandrelli, Sara Ricciardi, Stefania Varano, Livia Giacomini, Giuliana Giobbi, Gianluigi Filippelli, Elisa Di Carlo, Rosa Valiante, Alessandra Zanazzi, Anita Zanella, Claudia Mignone, Mayssa El Yazidi, Riccardo Leoni, Silvia Casu, Caterina Boccato, Giuseppe Bono (from November 2021), Francesco D'Alessio (from March 2022), Dario Del Moro (until April 2022)

Variations:

New entries: Giuseppe Bono (from November 2021), Francesco D'Alessio (from March 2022)

New exits: Dario Del Moro (quitted, April 2022)

1 Objective: Professionalize astronomy education

1.1 Organization and delivery of the 16 hours course for PhD students "Designing innovative public engagement activities", at the University of Padova.

Coordinator: Anita Zanella

The course was led by Anita Zanella, with the participation and contribution of Caterina Boccato, Sara Ricciardi, Stefano Sandrelli. The students have been presented with some public engagement techniques (e.g., hands-on activities, coding, storytelling) and they have been guided in designing, building, and testing their own activity. The students created five hands-on activities, each 45 minutes long, targeting different age groups (from 4 years old kids to teenagers and general public), all focusing on the concept of "gravity". The activities will be part of the Astronomy Festival that will happen in Castellaro Lagusello (Italy) on June 10 - 11 - 12, 2022.

2 Objective: Provide access to good resources

2.1 astroEDU ITA

Coordinator: Livia Giacomini

In this period, the editorial board of astroEDU ITA met monthly to:

- spot and solve technical issues of the website, in collaboration with astroEDU international editorial board;
- publish new educational activities (a new educational activity called “Hunting for spectra” was completed both in Italian and English and 3 educational activities have been translated in Italian from English);
- organize a board of Italian teachers who volunteer to work as reviewers (we met and talked with 14 teachers who were involved in the activities);
- publicize activities in the Italian community (activities were included in 2 EduINAF notebooks: <https://edu.inaf.it/astrodidattica/sole-stelle/> and <https://edu.inaf.it/astrodidattica/luce/>).

On the 1st of April, Livia Giacomini became editor in chief of astroEDU international and a reorganization of the platform (English and Italian) started in the last month and is still ongoing.

2.2 Shared astronomical Glossary

Coordinator: Giuliana Giobbi

We formed a subgroup of the OAE Center Italy dealing with the Italian translation of the OAE Multilingual glossary. We have asked and obtained the collaboration of about a dozen of INAF colleagues, most of them astronomers, for the translation and scientific revision of terms. We are waiting for OAE to complete the review of the Glossary using the OAE custom-built access to the system so as to get access to this same review system and start our work. We guess we will need the whole summer 2022 in order to have the work done and revised.

2.3 Astrophotography contest

Coordinator: Livia Giacomini

We are collaborating with the organization of the *Astrophotography contest*, funding it (5000 euros) and supporting the committee and the Jury. We are also publicizing it and spreading the news in the Italian community:

<https://edu.inaf.it/news/premi-e-concorsi/astrofotografia-iau-2022/>

<https://www.uai.it/sito/news/vi-segnaliamo/concorso-di-astrofotografia-delliau-al-via-ledizione-2022/>

3 Objective: Promote astronomy in curricula

3.1 Teacher training pilot program

Coordinator: Sara Ricciardi, Stefano Sandrelli

We are collaborating with the organization of the *Teacher training pilot program*.

Five projects dedicated to primary school level (up to 12 years) will be financed by the OAE Center Italy for a total of 10000 euros. We'll also support the Jury, the Italian NAEC's team for the whole process.

We are also publicizing it and spreading the news in the Italian community:

<https://edu.inaf.it/news/per-la-scuola/programma-pilota-formazione-docenti/>

4 Objective: OAE Networking

4.1 STEAM-MED / Lampedusa school (also Obj. 3, 2, 1)

Coordinator Sara Ricciardi, Stefano Sandrelli

During this period we carried on the co-design process about LIGHT. We coordinate two rounds of codesign. In each round two NAEC representatives (from two different countries) worked together. Each NAEC produced its own resource and incorporated suggestions and ideas from the paired country. For the first round, we formed pairs going for similarities; we paired NAEC with the same language (e.g. Syria Morocco, Lebanon Egypt) or we paired NAEC that already worked together (Croatia Slovenia).

In the second round instead, we paired NAEC apparently not so connected (Syria Turkey, Lebanon France, Morocco Croatia, Portugal Palestine). The Italian team facilitated the work setting up moments of sharing and reflections. We have at least 8 resources in the process.

In the meantime, we are organizing a moment in which each team will have the chance to present in person their ideas developed through the co-design process. The process is not easy due to the short time available, visa issues, and Covid restrictions but we are confident in the organization of this small un-conference.

4.2 Under the same Moon: building bridges through sky and astronomy

Coordinator: Caterina Boccato

In March 2022 a workshop dedicated to the fundamentals of astronomy, astrophysics and moon sighting was held at the Great Mosque of Rome under the MoU between INAF and the Islamic Cultural Center of Italy that was signed in 2020. The continuation of the activities foresees the extension of participation to the Imams' families.

The primary objective is to increase the scientific dissemination of astronomy in the Islamic community. We also want to promote a new phase of cultural and scientific confrontation through educational and informative projects on astronomy, for schools and society.

This establishes a new model of sustainable relational development, through dialogue, culture and science.

5 Objective: Spread the news

5.1 Participation in Expo 2020, Dubai, Italian Pavilion

Coordinator: Caterina Boccato, Stefano Sandrelli

On March 16, 2022, *Let's light up the skies of the world* took place in the Italian Pavilion of the 2020 EXPO in Dubai. The event, organized by OAE Center Italy and INAF, was constituted by two different moments: a hands-on laboratory for the pupils of local schools, and a roundtable on the topic *Astronomy for Teaching: from theory to practice*, which took place both in person and in live streaming

In the teaching lab, called *Let's light up the skies of the world*, about twenty girls from the *GEMS Al Khaleej International School*, an International school based in Dubai, lit up the stars with LEDs and paper circuits, inventing their own constellations and connecting them to the legends and myths of different cultures of the world.

In the second part of the morning, a roundtable took place with Markus Poessel, Responsible for the IAU-OAE Office, Stefano Sandrelli and Sara Ricciardi of the OAE Center Italy, Hamid Al-Naimiy and Ilias Fernini of SAASST (Sharjah Academy for Astronomy, Space Sciences & Technology) and Pedro Russo of Leiden University/Ciência Viva.

Full report

<https://edu.inaf.it/in-english/report-in-english/light-up-the-sky-of-the-world-from-the-expo-in-dubai/>

Video

Activity: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PE5O5xBgZ4A>

Interviews: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aaKExMMdH8Y>

Round table: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LfqWCg1rISs&t=3187s>

<i>National media coverage</i>	<i>International and UAE media coverage</i>
09-03 Announcement in EduINAF	11-03 Europlanet
11-03 Press Release in Media INAF	17-03 Mashair
11-03 IAU Press Release	17-03 Emaratalyoum.com
11-03 Announcement on Innovitalia	17-03 Hiamag
12-03 Announcement in the UAI website	18-03 UAENews24/7
14-03 Announcement from ANSA	18-03 Alkhaleej
16-03 Account in the ANSA website	18-03 Wam
16-03 article in Il GiornaleDiplomatico	20-03 Article in the newspaper Al Khaleej
16-03 The event in the website of Agenzia 9Colonne	
17-03 News report in MediaINAF	

5.2 Under the same sky: an exhibition in Rome

Coordinator: Stefania Varano

OAE-I supported the exhibition *Under the same sky* within the *Point of Views* festival at Palazzo delle Esposizioni, a very important exhibition Area in Rome. The exhibition, scheduled from 21

to 23 January, was extended until February the 27th because of the public's appreciation. It included various stations of the IAU Inspiring Stars exhibition.

The interaction of the children and the public with the stations have been studied in order to start the design of inclusive educational activities based on the exhibition.