

PILOTS

Pilots training course #4

DASA, Dortmund, Germany

1st-2nd June 2010

In collaboration with THE group



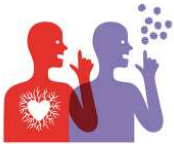
The Pilots project works towards the professionalisation of the role of explainers in science centres and museums both through developing European training courses and through research on the role of explainers.

Pilots is coordinated by Ecsite, and the partners are La Cité des sciences et de l'industrie in Paris, France; House of Experiments in Ljubljana, Slovenia; Museo Nazionale della Scienza e della Tecnologia Leonardo da Vinci in Milan, Italy; Pavilion of Knowledge - Ciência Viva in Lisbon, Portugal; SISSA Medialab in Trieste, Italy and Technopolis®, the Flemish Science Center in Mechelen, Belgium.

www.thepilots.eu



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Learning Cultures – a workshop for explainers

DASA, Dortmund, Germany

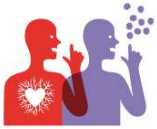
Ecsite Pre-Conference 1st-2nd June 2010

In collaboration with THE group



The following members of the Pilots project team, THE Group steering committee and invited guests will be leading sessions and workshops:

- ⇒ **Ecsite, the European Network of Science Centres and Museums:** Michael Creek, Antonio Gomes Da Costa
- ⇒ **Technopolis®, the Flemish Science Center, Mechelen, Belgium:** Walter Ginckels
- ⇒ **Universcience - La Cité des sciences et de l'industrie, Paris, France:** Anne-Lise Mathieu
- ⇒ **Museo Nazionale della Scienza e della Tecnologia Leonardo da Vinci, Milan, Italy:** Maria Xanthoudaki
- ⇒ **Sissa Medialab, Trieste, Italy:** Paola Rodari
- ⇒ **Pavilion of Knowledge – Ciência Viva, Lisbon, Portugal:** Sofia Lucas
- ⇒ **Hisa Eksperimentov, Ljubljana, Slovenia:** Miha Kos
- ⇒ **Natural History Museum, London, UK:** Brad Irwin
- ⇒ **TRACES, Paris, France:** Matteo Merzagora
- ⇒ **University of South Denmark, Odense, Denmark:** Nana Quistgaard



“Learning cultures” - a workshop for explainers

This workshop focuses on learning and reflective practice, two aspects which lie at the very heart of the work of explainers and education staff. The topic is explored through a combination of parallel sessions, specifically for junior explainers or senior staff, and some plenary sessions for everybody together focusing on topics of common interest and aiming to share professional development.

The sessions will be examining what quality interaction looks like across various contexts, creating processes for observations and evidence collection, as well as methods for feedback. Research and concrete case studies from museums and science centres will be used as the basis of training and discussion.

In particular, the first day will focus on enquiry as the methodology at the basis of learning experience and education work in science centres and museums. Enquiry-based learning will be analysed through theoretical contributions, workshops and in-depth discussions. The second day will focus more specifically on reflective practice by exploring methodologies and tools through which educators can look into their work in a constructive way. In addition, those sessions reserved to senior staff will be discussing issues more related to their responsibilities as well as the present and future of THE Group itself as a way to improve its action, accessibility and results.

The two-day pre-conference emerges from the work of THE Group (Thematic Human Interface and Explainers group) and Pilots (the two-year European project on professionalisation of the role of explainers in science centres and museums) and also from feedback from previous pre-conference workshops.

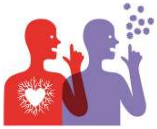
We also ask participants to **prepare a favourite short demo, part of a science show, hands-on experiment or public engagement activity** to demonstrate for the other explainers present on the first evening. Show us what your institution does best!

Registration Fee: 175€

Please note that there will be a limited number of participants.

More information on the activities of explainers to be found on the website of [Pilots](#)

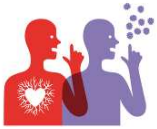
Registration is now [open](#)



Tuesday 1st June 2010

hour	title	content	moderator
9:00-11:00	Welcome, ice-breaker Guest speaker Jamie Bell, UPCLOSE	Welcome to this THE Group / Pilots workshop! We'll explain how the sessions will work, break the ice, and introduce a guest speaker to present this year's theme: Jamie Bell, Visiting Scholar, The University of Pittsburgh Center for Learning in Out of School Environments (UPCLOSE), Pittsburgh, USA, and former Centre of Learning Director for Petrosains: The Discovery Center, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.	Maria Xanthoudaki, Museo Nazionale della Scienza e della Tecnologia; Michael Creek, Ecsite; Anne-Lise Mathieu, Universcience
11:00-11:30	Coffee break		
11:30-13:00	Choice of parallel sessions:	Enquiry-based learning Discussion about enquiry-based learning: activities and skills THE Group update and future plans: Topics covered in pre-conferences, objectives set (and met?), results. How to activate local contacts that never really worked, how to involve other members, governance etc. (THE Group Steering Committee only)	Sofia Lucas, Pavilion of Knowledge Chaired by Maria Xanthoudaki, THE Group Spokesperson
13:00-14:00	Lunch		
14:00-16:00	Self-evaluation tools for enquiry-based learning	In this session we will explore the major characteristics of enquiry-based learning (EBL). Working groups will develop a set of parameters to assess the EBL nature of an activity. These parameters will also be applied to common activities and exhibits – can they be EBL too?	Antonio Gomes da Costa, Ecsite
16:00-16:30	Coffee break		
16:30-18:00	Choice of parallel sessions:	Answers to my boss Explainers trade places with CEOs in this activity, inviting reflection on the role of the explainer within the institution. Networking THE GROUP Interactions with Ecsite, with other thematic groups, with other projects	Miha Kos, Hisa Experimentov Chaired by Maria Xanthoudaki, THE Group Spokesperson
18:00-18:30	Coffee break		
18:30-20:30	Evening programme – Demonstrations*	All participants gather on stage and share their best practices on shows and demos.	Walter Ginckels, Technopolis®

* Please prepare for this session by gathering the best practices of your institution. You will perform them on stage for your colleagues (max 15 minutes).



Wednesday 2nd June 2010

hour	title	content	speaker/ moderator
9:00-11:00	Authentic questions	How to make visitors talk science. Facilitating dialogic processes through authentic questions, uptake, and high valuing.	Nana Quistgaard, University of South Denmark
11:00-11:30	Coffee break		
11:30-13:00	Choice of parallel sessions:	<p>Methods for self-evaluation and self-evaluation exercise with objects</p> <hr/> <p>The future of THE Group: Objectives, activities, directions Session open to any Ecsite member interested. Particular focus: senior educators and managers of education staff</p>	<p>Matteo Merzagora, TRACES</p> <hr/> <p>Chaired by Maria Xanthoudaki, THE Group Spokesperson</p>
13:00-14:00	Lunch		
14:00-16:00	Goals and best practices in self-evaluating	A short panorama on best practices in self-evaluating, and a practical workshop about some of the best tools.	Paola Rodari, Sissa Medialab Brad Irwin, Natural History Museum
16:00-16:30	Coffee break		
16:30-18:00	THE Group annual meeting	Join us for THE Group's annual meeting to find out about future plans and how to get more involved.	Chaired by Maria Xanthoudaki, THE Group Spokesperson