



PILOTS

Pilots training course #1

Technopolis®, the Flemish Science Centre, Mechelen, Belgium

1st-4th April 2009

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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The following members of the Pilots project team will be leading sessions and workshops:

- ⇒ **Ecsite, the European Network of Science Centres and Museums:** Catherine Franche, Michael Creek
- ⇒ **Technopolis®, the Flemish Science Center, Mechelen, Belgium:** Walter Ginckels, Patrik Claes
- ⇒ **La Cité des sciences et de l'industrie, Paris, France:** Anne-Lise Mathieu
- ⇒ **Museo della Scienza e della Tecnologia, Milan, Italy:** Camilla Rossi-Linnemann, Sara Calcagnini
- ⇒ **Sissa Medialab, Trieste, Italy:** Paola Rodari
- ⇒ **Pavilion of Knowledge – Ciência Viva, Lisbon, Portugal:** Sofia Lucas, Rosario Pereira
- ⇒ **Hisa Eksperimentov, Ljubljana, Slovenia:** Miha Kos, Luka Vidic

Programme: 1st Training Workshop Technopolis®, the Flemish Science Centre Mechelen, Belgium Day One: Wednesday 1st April 2009

Time	Session	Content	Led by
14:00-14:30	Opening session	We welcome you to this first Pilots training course for explainers, introduce the activities over the four days.	Ecsite
14:30-15:45	Ice-breaker	An initial activity in order for participants to get to know each other a little better	Technopolis
15:45-16:15	Coffee Break		
16:15-18:00	Expainer's self-portrait	A discussion game aiming to uncover the role, or roles, of an explainer, based on our own experiences throughout Europe, and data taken from abroad.	Sissa Medialab, La Cité des Sciences
18:00-21:00	Welcome dinner buffet	At Technopolis, free for all participants	



Day Two: Thursday 2nd April 2009

Time	Session	Content	Led by
10:00-11:00	Results of the survey	We present the early research results of the Pilots project so far into the role of the explainer, and launch a discussion.	Sissa Medialab, La Cité des Sciences
11:00-11:15	Coffee Break		
11:15-12:15	Answers to my boss	What do we expect in our jobs? What would give us extra motivation? What do we not like?	Hisa Eksperimentov
12:15-13:00	Training of explainers	What training approach should be used when new explainers are taken on? What is the value of a long-term developmental programme? We will invite you to share your views.	Technopolis
13:00-14:00	Lunch		
14:00-14:45	Debates: training module part 1	We participate in a debating activity from the point of view of the public.	La Cité des Sciences
14:45-15:25	Debates: training module part 2	We analyse the activity as a group - does it work to make people debate and why? Do participants have similar experiences to share? How can we exploit these methods in other institutions?	La Cité des Sciences
15:25-16:15	Debates: training module part 3	We participate in a second debating activity from the point of view of the public.	Museo della Scienza
16:15-16:30	Coffee Break		
16:30-17:00	Debates: training module part 3 continuation	We participate in a second debating activity from the point of view of the public.	Museo della Scienza
17:00-17:30	Debates: training module evaluation	We analyse the activity as a group - does it work to make people debate and why? Do participants have similar experiences to share? How can we exploit these methods in other institutions?	La Cité des Sciences, Museo della Scienza
17:30-18:00	Debates	An overview of best practices in debating activities from across the EU.	La Cité des Sciences, Sissa Medialab



Day Three: Friday 3rd April 2009

Time	Session	Content	Led by
10:00-11:00	Enquiry-based learning	From demonstration to enquiry-based learning – we look at how to incorporate these techniques into demonstrations.	Pavilion of knowledge
11:00-11:15	Coffee Break		
11:15-12:00	Enquiry-based learning	From exhibits to enquiry-based learning – we look at how to incorporate these techniques into work with exhibits.	Pavilion of knowledge
12:00-13:00		Enquiry-based reasoning: how to dismantle a well-known scientific concept.	
13:00-14:00	Lunch		
14:00-14:45	Enquiry-based learning	Final discussion: what can become an enquiry-based activity?	Pavilion of knowledge
14:45-15:45	The how-to session	How to control your nerves. How to include someone who is excluding you. How to use your voice and body language. How to use your props properly. How to self-evaluate, and more!	Technopolis, Hisa Eksperimentov
15:45-16:00	Coffee Break		
16:00-18:00	Demo-session: I want to show you this...	This is your chance to show us your work in action! Participants show their best practices (demos, shows, debates). Maximum 15 minutes per participant!	All



Day Four: Saturday 4th April 2009

Time	Session	Content	Led by
09:00-10:15	Website and pedagogical material	Explainers try out the Pilots webplatform and find out how to make the most of this online resource.	Sissa Medialab
10:15-11:00	Feedback from the participants	We launch a discussion on your thoughts about everything we have covered over the last four days.	
11:00-11:15	Coffee Break		
11:15-12:30	And now Live!	Explainers have a chance (if they wish!) to perform in front of Technopolis public (maximum 10 minutes per participant).	Technopolis
12:30-14:00	Lunch	Explainers in small groups with project staff chat over lunch – we want to collect impressions, comments and criticisms.	Sissa Medialab
14:00	Close		

