



Understanding & Providing a Developmental Approach
to Technology Education

Press Release June 2007

Improving Technology Education in Europe

Research project UPDATE starts knowledge portal and newsletter service

Technology plays an indispensable role by now in the work and everyday life of most of the people living in Europe. However, technology related professions are chosen but rarely, in particular by young women; the existent demand of specialised staff can not be covered by the number of students in the fields of engineering or computer sciences. Moreover women's perspectives are often missing in technology development. The research project UPDATE is therefore scrutinising Europe's technology education. With a new, developmental approach, the project considers the following questions: Which improvements could be made in technology education that account for girls and boys? Which projects and practical examples worth emulating provide solutions for the actual situation?

The UPDATE website <http://update.jyu.fi> offers a constantly growing knowledge portal and a newsletter service for teachers, other stakeholders of educational system, and interested parties. In the form of a "Wiki" on technology education, managed by experts, news, dates, research results, and examples of good practice are presented. UPDATE reports, for example, on new concepts for the youngest visitors in European technology museums, on the amazingly successful project "Girls' Day – Future Prospects for Girls" in Germany, Austria, Luxemburg, and the Netherlands, or the Rumanian project „Be a Science Teacher for a Week“.

UPDATE (Understanding and Providing a Developmental Approach to Technology Education) as an innovative approach focuses the entire educational chain from (pre-)school up to the choice of field of study or an apprenticeship. One of the core themes is to examine why girls drop out of technology education at the different stages of their formation. New ways and educational methods shall be created to make the image of technology and technological careers more attractive for both girls and boys. Particularly girls and young women shall be promoted, encouraged and mobilised for engineering and technology careers, and as active users of modern technology.

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For more information check: <http://update.jyu.fi>

Subscribe here for the UPDATE newsletter: <http://update.jyu.fi/newsletter/>

Project Partners and Contact Persons

University of Jyväskylä, Finland, <http://www.jyu.fi/>

Dr. Aki Rasinen, Dr. Marja Kankaanranta, Dr. Leena Turja, Päivi Fadjukoff

University of Glasgow, United Kingdom, <http://www.glasgow.ac.uk/>

John R. Dakers and Wendy Dow

UFM University Institute for Teacher Training of Aix-Marseille, France, <http://www.aix-mrs.iufm.fr/>

Prof. Jacques Ginestié

"Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi, Romania, <http://www.uaic.ro/>

Prof. Dr. Doina Balahur

Ovidius University Constanta, Romania, <http://www.univ-ovidius.ro/imim/>

Prof. Ph.D. Valentina Pomazan, vpomazan@umv-ovidius.ro

University of Tallinn, Estonia, <http://www.tlu.ee/>

Mart Soobik

Dortmund University of Applied Sciences, Ada-Lovelace-Mentoring-Association, Germany, <http://www.fh-dortmund.de/>

Prof. Dr. Sylvia Neuhäuser-Metternich, neumett@fh-dortmund.de

University of Koblenz, Ada-Lovelace-Project, Germany, <http://www.uni-koblenz-landau.de/>

Dr. Martina Endepohls-Ulpe, endepohl@uni-koblenz.de

FCRI Catalan Foundation for Research and Innovation, Spain, <http://www.fcri.es/>

Dr. Jordi Mas, manuel.laporta@fcri.es

Competence Center Technology-Diversity-Equal Chances, Germany, <http://www.kompetenz.de/>

Sabine Mellies, Carmen Ruffer, update@kompetenz.de

Institute of Philosophy at the Bratislava Slovak Academy of Sciences, Slovakia, http://www.klemens.sav.sk/fiusav/index_en.php

Prof. Tatiana Sedová, filotana@savla.sk

State College of Education in Vienna, Austria, <http://www.pabw.at>

Prof. Christine Hahn, hac@pabw.at

Regional Institute for Educational Research Marche, Italy, <http://www.irre.marche.it>

Prof. Cristina Pavisic, cristina_pavisi@hotmail.com

Aristotle University, Dept. Of Mechanical Engineering, Greece, <http://isag.meng.auth.gr/home.html>

Prof. Dr.Eng. Kostas Karatzas, kkara@eng.auth.gr

University Complutense de Madrid, Spain, <http://www.ucm.es/>

Dr. Jesus Pintor, jpintor@vet.ucm.es, Prof. Maria Asuncion Peral Cerda

IDEC S.A, Greece, <http://www.idec.gr/>

Xenia Chronopoulou, xenia@idec.gr

For further information please contact the above mentioned project partners.