

Pri-Sci-Net Third International Training Course on Informal and non-Formal Education in Primary Education

17th February 2014– 20th February 2014

Paedagogische Hochschule (University of Education Salzburg)

Application Form to apply for financial support to attend Course

Name: MARIA KASMIRLI

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Current Employment

Position : (English Section) Class teacher Grade 3 primary, Ethics and Maths coordinator

Employment address : A. Nioti and Savathianon 8, 71202, Heraklion Crete, Greece.

Please describe your experience in the field of primary science education.

As part of my teaching practice at Keele University, I studied energy studies with theory and lab work, gaining a subsidiary in the subject. (Keele was an innovative institution at the time, requiring humanities students to include a natural science strand to their studies.)

More recently, as a primary school teacher in the School of European Education in Heraklion I have engaged my third-grade and fifth-grade students in various science themes through *Exploring Our World* projects. (EOW is an interdisciplinary curriculum area, including science subjects.) In addition to doing formal science studies, I also brought in different perspectives from areas such as literacy, poetry, drama, maths, ethics, art, music, gymnastics (mainly outdoor activities).

As a philosopher I favour encouraging students to explore science in a creative and critical way. And as ethics coordinator at our school, I facilitate fellow teachers' attempts to approach their scientific enquiries from an ethical perspective too.

This term, I presented some my class's and school's science work at a regional teachers' conference in Sitia, Crete, themed around the topic of Water. Next term I will work with local WWF representatives to coorganise water projects in our area.



This project Pri-Sci-Net has received funding from the European Union
Seventh Framework Programme (FP7 2007 /13) under grant agreement
No.266647



In the space below please write why you are interested in attending the Pri-Sci-Net course.

In my experience, many pupils lack confidence when it comes to science. Some shy away from the subject, and many do not know how to apply knowledge and skills they already have in order to proceed. Building students' confidence and fostering their creative thinking skills are crucial tasks for the science teacher.

I therefore favour the creation of supportive learning environment using informal and non-formal learning techniques designed to boost confidence and encourage (supervised) exploration and experimentation. Examples include using thought experiments, science fiction examples, role-playing, modelling, hands-on activities, visits to labs, and so on.

I also stress the need for analysis in scientific explorations –breaking problems down, modelling systems in simpler terms, questioning assumptions, and similar techniques. My training in analytic philosophy has helped me greatly in this.

For these reasons, I am particularly excited about the programme of training in informal learning techniques that Pri-Sci-Net has put together. It embodies my own approach to education and I am sure it will enable me to develop and extend my skills in inquiry-based teaching.

Describe how you will be able to use the training gained to assist other teachers or teacher-trainers within the field of primary science education.

At my school, I will be able to offer informal in-house training for colleagues, where I can give feedback on my training experiences and share materials developed during the course. As school ethics coordinator I will be able to build new areas of interest that will include science-oriented themes, such as environmental ethics and bioethics, again drawing on skills developed during the course.

In addition, I am now part of a local network of Cretan teachers, reporting and sharing science teaching experiences. This term I spoke at a regional teaching conference on the theme of water, and I have been invited to visit other schools to brief colleagues on teaching environmental ethics in a critical and creative way through analysis and investigative inquiry.

As a fully bilingual (English/Greek) person, I will also be able to carry the share my skills and experiences with colleagues in other countries, and other European schools, should the opportunity arise.

I am sure that taking part in your course will help me immensely in my work in promoting science teachers.



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I declare that the above information is correct and that I will be able to attend the whole course if I am chosen.

Further, I am aware that:

- any personal data provided shall be processed only for the Pri-Sci-Net FP7 EU funded database and in connection with its scientific aims, and in particular to inform about our project activities;
- the personal data shall be processed in compliance both with the European Union and National discipline on the protection of personal data.

Therefore, I give my consent to the processing of such data, also by electronic means, without prejudice to the possibility of passing the data to the other Beneficiaries of Pri-Sci-Net project and to the bodies in charge of a monitoring or inspection task in accordance with European Union legislation.

Name: Maria Kasmirli

Signature: 

Date: 20-12-2013