



## **The NetS-EU project: Network to Improve non-Formal Science Teaching in Europe**

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Purpose of the paper is to present the NetS-EU project, a European Comenius network that has the main aim of collecting, elaborating, diffusing and exploiting ways of applying non-formal methods and inquiry-based learning approach to science education at school. The institutions and the experts involved in the network will contribute non-formal and inquiry-based practices that can be shared at European level and exploited as innovative tools for science teaching. The research, the experimentation and the evaluation of specific teaching/learning activities will contribute to the transformation and the adaptation of the educational school system, in simplifying the creation of skills that motivate the students to learn science and to choose scientific careers, also facing the gender issue. The spreading and exploiting of non-formal and inquiry-based practices will make science and technology more attractive for young people.

The NetS-EU project has duration of three years (October 2010 to September 2013) and involves eight partners from different countries. The central network activities include a “web place” where it is possible to connect people interested in non-formal science teaching or learning, to exchange information and discuss on project’s findings: <http://netseu.ning.com>.

During the project three International Comenius Conferences will be organized. In these conferences, information among all Comenius activities working in the field of science education will be exchanged. In each partner country, school teacher workshops to encourage the use of the social network and the application of non formal and inquiry-based learning in their teaching at school will be also organized.

Further aims of the project are: - building an effective European Comenius network of projects working in the same thematic area as the NetS-EU project; - printing three detailed annual reports in order to provide an overview on the state of art of non-formal learning methods in science; - spreading the news about non-formal learning methods in science through the organization of workshops in the partners’ countries; - supporting the building of a wide network of teachers, experts, pilots, working on this thematic.