

ARISTARCHUS 1st Teacher Training

The scheduled first teacher training in the framework of the European Erasmus+ project ARISTARCHUS took place in Paris, France, from Monday 22nd to Friday 26th August, 2022.

The University of Cergy hosted the event delivering a unique hands-on experience. The training event gathered together a total of 19 qualified teachers in the area of Astrophysics and STEM from France, Greece, Cyprus and Germany.

The purpose of the training was to introduce the Human Orrery (HO), a 3D kinesthetic model that simulates the planetary motion in the solar system and engage teachers in Embodied Learning activities. The selected teachers will later serve as coordinator teachers in each partner country with the aim to implement interdisciplinary and inclusive STEAM activities with students.

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On the first day, Professor Emmanuel Rollinde in Physics Education and Project Coordinator and Professor Maha Abboud in Mathematics Education and Director of the [LDAR](#) at the University of Cergy welcomed the teachers and gave an overview of the training programme.

In addition, the participants shared their expectations as well as reflected on their previous experiences in such contexts. The initiation session with the HO brought the team closer and sparked productive discussions. The Stellarium Astronomy Software was also introduced by Gilles Remy, Deputy Manager of the Francophone Node of the Office of Astronomy for Education at CY (OAENF-CY) and Physics teacher at the University of Cergy, who provided insightful information on how to run the software in the classroom.



The next three days included kinesthetic activities with the HO map and they particularly focused on the exploration of fundamental laws of Physics and mathematical concepts.

“How old are we on Mars?” “Are the orbits circular or elliptical?” “Do the planets line up?” were some of the questions that were further investigated utilising the Human Orrery.



The last day was dedicated to discussions on how the Human Orrery can support inclusive projects in the framework of STEAM education.

The organisers would also like to thank Professor François Dulieu for presenting the James Webb Space Telescope. The information circulated among the teachers was definitely a great asset and complemented their knowledge in the field.



In the following months, the consortium of the ARISTARCHUS project (University of CERGY, University of Aegean, CARDET and University of Munster) along with the Teacher Coordinators will be planning the pilot testing of the Human Orrery in schools. Great !!! Let's do it 😊

