

T1_58 INSPIRE - CHALLENGING THE LACK OF INTEREST IN PHYSICS AMONG STUDENTS

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Inspire (Innovative Science Pedagogy in Research and Education) was an LLP Comenius project, which had the aim to develop and experiment new teaching methods in the field of maths, science and technology (MST). The purpose was to challenge the lack of interest among students to start scientific studies and to extend the supply of scientific specialists and to develop a scientific culture in European countries. During a period of ten months Inspire we:

- Observed the impact of using Learning Resources on pupils and on their motivation.
- Analysed the pre-requisites to be defined for enabling teachers to integrate these new techniques in their pedagogy.
- Identified the critical success factors to be mastered at the level of the teacher and the school for the generalization of such practices.

The testing was carried out in 60 schools from Austria, Germany, Lithuania, Italy and Spain. More than 200 teachers used a selection of Learning Resources (LR) in their classes. Over 4100 students were surveyed before and after the pilot tests to measure the LR's impact on students' motivation. Additionally, teachers provided input on the characteristics and formats LR must have for their integration in the normal class lessons. Aspects like languages, LR technical formats; copyright and other issues were analyzed. Results were also analyzed taking into account the subject in which the LR was integrated, in particular in Physics classes. Follow-up projects include Aspect, where the research and retrieval of LR is done from an LRE portal with specifications designed to cater for the needs of both teachers and content providers.