



EXPLOAR: a European project that connects schools and science centers in a creative manner, aided by augmented reality technologies.

Awareness Days are a go for the EXPLOAR European project

The **EXPLOAR European project** organized its first **Awareness Day** at the **Eugenides Foundation** on **Tuesday, September 30, 2008**. The Awareness Day was held together with the opening ceremony for the e-Knownet project, titled “Research laboratories – Trainers – Science Centers: cooperation through the use of new information and communication technologies”, in the Lectures Room of the Eugenides Foundation.

During the event, Mr. Sophocles Sotiriou, in charge of disseminating the project's results, made a presentation of **EXPLOAR**, while Mr. Hagen Buchholz of Germany's Fraunhofer Institute for Applied Information Technology, a member of the EXPLOAR Consortium, demonstrated the **Mobile aerofoil exhibit**. Following the presentation, the participants had the opportunity to visit the project website, submit questions to the project team in a specially modified hall and visit the “Electromagnetic Spectrum” exhibit, an experimental model of the Eugenides Foundation, which is showcased on the first floor of the Interactive Science and Technology Exhibition and is Greece's contribution to the **EXPLOAR** research program.

The **EXPLOAR** European project was launched on November 1st, 2007, with the aim of enabling remote "visits" to science centers/museums. Using augmented reality technologies, and aided by the Internet or satellite links, visitors feel like actually visiting such venues and “interacting” with the exhibits from the science centers that participate in the project (Eugenides Foundation, Heureka).

EXPLOAR is co-funded by the European Commission (*Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency*) and has a projected two-year duration. This project carries forward the research work of the **CONNECT** European project, which was successfully completed on 31.01.2007. The main object of the **EXPLOAR** project is to perfect the augmented reality systems that have already been developed by the **CONNECT** project, through the addition of new, more sophisticated devices, and through the preparation of new scenarios concerning visits at the exhibits of the project member-centers (Eugenides Foundation, Heureka).

Extensive testing ensures that even users from remote areas and areas that are difficult to access are able to have a real-time interactive experience that only actual science center visitors enjoyed up to this date.

There is also a continuous assessment of the pedagogical value added by interconnecting a formal learning environment (school) with an informal learning environment (science or technology center, or museum) that is equipped with advanced technological systems. The project provides for assessing the response of the general public and the schoolchildren.

For more information: <http://www.ea.gr/ep/exploar/>

Project Members Network

 ICCS – Institute of Communications and Computer Systems
(Greece)


<http://www.iccs.ntua.gr/>

 FIT: Fraunhofer Institute for Applied Information Technology
(Germany)

<http://www.fit.fraunhofer.de/>

 Ellinogermaniki Agogi (Greece)

<http://www.ellinogermaniki.gr/>

 ECSITE - European Collaborative for Science, Industry and
Technology Exhibition (Belgium)

<http://www.ecsite.net/>

 Universitat Bayreuth (Germany)

<http://www.uni-bayreuth.de/>

 HEUREKA - The Finnish Science Center (Finland)

<http://www.heureka.fi/>

 Eugenides Foundation (Greece)

<http://www.eugenfound.edu.gr/>

 INTRASOFT International S.A. (Luxemburg)

<http://www.intrasoft-intl.com/>

 Natural Sciences Laboratory Center of the Prefecture of Chios
(Greece)

<http://ekfe.chi.sch.gr>

