



**Public Report on the  
3<sup>rd</sup> Online Discussion Event for Policy Makers**

**Author**

*Silvia Panzavolta, Emilio Balzano*

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## 1. Quantitative description of the 3<sup>rd</sup> ODE for Policy Makers

ODE title: Discussion event for policy makers

Target: Policy makers

Date: April 4<sup>th</sup> - May 10<sup>th</sup> 2013

Number of invitations made (if possible, please specify typology of invitees)

Total: 7. Invitees are policy makers, researchers or professionals, participating in national Ministry of Education boards or commissions.

Number of actual participants per day (if possible, please specify typology of invitees): NA.

The mode of the ODE was a newsgroup, with a mailing list dedicated open for several days.

Drop-outs<sup>1</sup> per day: 0

Number of posts per day: NA

Ratio participants/post per day: 5 per participant on the whole.

Silent viewers per day: all participants posted at least 1 message for each question asked by the moderator.

## 2. Qualitative description of the 3<sup>rd</sup> ODE for Policy Makers

### 2.1 Profile of the people involved

The people involved are those indicated below:

*Tricia Jenkins*, Director of international Centre Excellence of Education at Liverpool University, Principal Investigator of several European projects, UK

*Silvia Caravita*, biologist, researcher at the CNR now retired, was a member of scientific committees of national and European projects. In particular, she monitored, for the Italian Ministry of Education, the activities of the National Plan ISS. The most important project on science education in recent years in Italy.

*Michela Mayer*, Ph. D. in Scientific Education Research and a degree in Physics, was for 20 years responsible for research in the Italian National Institute for the Evaluation of the Educational System (INVALSI, former name CEDE); she is a recognized national and international expert in the fields of Environmental Education, Scientific Education and Education for Sustainable Development with strong experience in evaluative research, comparative research, action research.

*Ugo Bouché*, Engineer, technical inspector and Official of the Regional Department of the Italian Ministry of Education in Campania.

*Paolo Guidoni*, physics professor now retired member of numerous scientific committees in national and European projects on science education. In particular, he cared for the Minister of Education oversight activities on the dissemination of projects

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<sup>1</sup> Meaning people that said would be present and that were not there.

*José Moura Carvalho*, Team Leader of Technology Directorate for Educational Projects-Lisboa-Portuguese Ministry of Education

*Maria Xanthoudaki*, Director of Education and of CREI, the Centre for Research Informal Education at the National Museum of Science and Technology Leonardo da Vinci of Milan, Italy. She is member of the Annual Conference Programme Committee of Ecsite, the European Network of Science Centres and Museums. She is a member of several committees of national and European projects on scientific and technological education.

## 2.2 Moderator's questions

Taking into account the ideas discussed in the previous two activities, the moderator has selected five questions to get answers focused on proposals with reference to individual experience allow the development of general indications on five topics relevant:

1. dissemination strategy and quality and quantity of impact
2. tools and mass media channels to be privileged
3. incentives to promote projects and innovation
4. resources to be used
5. specificity to be taken into account in the different EU countries

The following sections contain emblematic answers that summarize the discussion.

## 2.4 Conclusions

The reading of selected answers of the participants allows us to highlight that despite their different backgrounds, working contexts and experiences some common ideas seem to emerge:

- 1- Proposals for innovation are collected only if they resonate with the practice of teaching and if they impress with the quality and the opportunity for professional development
- 2 - Dissemination activities must be developed and monitored during all phases of the project and provide tools for dissemination even after many years after the end of the project
- 3- Projects are generally not equipped to assess their effectiveness on a large scale in terms of real transformations induced
- 4 - An integrated use of different communication channels can help us to reach different interest groups
- 5 - European projects on STEM are perceived as an opportunity that could be captured both locally and at European level. Projects should better take care of sustainability. To do this it would be necessary to connect more fruitfully the national programs and to European ones.