

CASTME Europe Report: 2006- 2007

1. CASTME Europe Activities

The main activities for CASTME Europe this year involved the organisation of two events in Malta in November as part of the Expo Science Med 2006 held 13th-17th November 2006. This EXPO was organised by a team of full-time students within the National Student Travel Foundation (NSTF) with the help of the International Movement for Leisure in Science and Technology (MILSET). It was estimated that ESM 2006 attracted more than 10,000 visitors during the event. The Expo was held at the University of Malta. The whole venue had a total area of 2,000m² and consisted in four workshop areas, a hall seating 150 persons, an exhibition area featuring the participants of ESM 2006, the Fusion Expo, the Little Scientists' Village and a special sponsors' exhibition area for Platinum and Gold sponsors.

The two event to which CASTME Europe contributed included a one-day conference entitled "Promoting Science, Technology and Mathematics Careers: attracting more students through social, moral and ethical issues" which was held on the 17th November. CASTME Europe also organised a workshop for primary children attending the science fair. Around 70 teachers and student teachers attended the conference while the workshop was held for around 30 students. CASTME Europe gained visibility in Malta through its collaboration and support within the science fair organised. Lady Dr. Sue Dale Tunnicliffe was the main foreign guest speaker who contributed to the conference with a presentation as well as ran the workshop for the primary children.

2. CASTME Europe Newsletter

The CASTME Europe newsletter was given a facelift and a new and more attractive format was developed. It was also planned to have teachers write and make contributions about aspects of teaching science at different levels. However, the calls for contributions had a poor response. In view of this, it is necessary to consider whether it is worth having an electronic newsletter for only Europe members or else to promote an electronic newsletter for the whole of CASTME branches so that there would be wide readership. CASTME Ltd. is being asked to consider this option.

3. CASTME Europe conference in 2008

The CASTME Europe conference held in 2006 substituted the usual CASTME Europe conference that was to be held over a few days in Malta. The plans were to move this conference to some time in 2008. However, due to the dwindling membership and limited support within the committee, it is difficult to have the adequate administrative framework to organise such a large scale event.

4. Funding

CASTME Europe obtains its funding mainly from the membership fees. Membership has remained at the same level and consequently the income has been low. None the less, the remaining funds from the previous conference in Malta have enabled CASTME Europe to cover those basic expenses needed to organise the conference and cover the expenses for the contribution of Lady Dr. Sue Dale Tunnicliffe to the conference and workshop.

5. CASTME Europe Chair: Following the few years (3/4 years as CASTME Europe chair) my professional life and consequently demands have grown to an extent that my time and energy are limited. In view that there are few members and limited support, as Chair I had to carry out most of the organisational logistics myself. Unfortunately, although still willing to participate and contribute to CASTME, it is no longer possible for me to be able to dedicate so much energy to CASTME Europe activities. In view of this I wish to present my resignation as Chair of CASTME Europe.

Dr. Suzanne Gatt
Chair, CASTME Europe,
June 2007