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GIREP Newsletter

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EDITOR'S SECTION

Dear Colleagues,

Electronic GIREP newsletters are a service to the members of GIREP and they will be published in the member section of the GIREP homepage. We will announce the publishing of a new newsletter through e-mail.

After a longer break, a GIREP newsletter was published again in November 2011. I hope all the members were able to get access to the newsletter on the GIREP homepage member section. I would be very grateful for feedback concerning the accessibility of the newsletter.

As already mentioned in the November newsletter, we plan to have three newsletter issues per year (October, February, June). So I want to repeat and emphasise **my invitation to you to contribute to the E-Newsletter** (upcoming events, announcements, news from your countries, etc.). The deadline for messages to be included in the next issue of this newsletter is April 30, 2012.

A happy and successful 2012!

Editor of GIREP Newsletter, Claudia Haagen

GIREP Membership: renewal & fees

2012 has just begun. We want to thank all members for supporting GIREP in 2011 and hope for further support. Fees for GIREP membership are again due since the beginning of 2012. Payment information can be found on the GIREP homepage (<https://www.girep.org/information.html>.)

We also invite everybody interested in physics teaching and learning as well as in physics education research to join GIREP. You can become member easily. Just follow that link: <https://www.girep.org/register.html>

National GIREP representatives

Forty-one GIREP members answered positively to the first call for acting as GIREP country representatives. Many thanks to the following people:

- Argentina: Julio Benegas,
- Armenia: Julietta Mirzoyan
- Austria; Hildegard Urban-Woldron
- Belgium: Wim Peeters
- Bulgaria: Nadezhda Nancheva
- Catalonia, Spain: Roser Pinto
- CERN: Sascha Schmeling
- Chile: Hugo Alarcón
- Croatia: Rajka Jurdana
- Cuba: Eduardo Molto
- Cyprus: Costas Constantinou
- Czech republic: Leos Dvorak
- Denmark: Jens Dolin
- England: Ian Lawrence
- Finland: Anssi Lindell
- France: Laurence Viennot,
- Greece: Dimitris Psillos
- Hungary: Beata Jarosievitz
- India; Pratibha Jolly
- Iran: Mohammadreza Khosravipour
- Ireland: Paul Nugent
- Israel: Ricardo Trumper
- Italy: Claudio Fazio
- Japan: Eizo Ohno
- Latvia: Inese Dudareva
- Malta: Charles Bonello
- Mexico: César Eduardo Mora Ley
- Netherlands: Henk Pol
- Norway: Carl Angell
- Philippines: Lamberto Jeresano
- Poland: Dagmara Sokolowska
- Portugal: Teresa Lobato
- Romania: Dan Sporea
- Singapore: Wee Loo Kang
- Slovakia: Suzana Ješková
- Slovenia: Mojca Cepic
- Spain: Jenaro Guisasola
- Sweden: Andreas Redfors
- Switzerland: Andreas Müller
- Taiwan: Fu-Kwun Hwang
- Turkey: Fatih Tasar



National GIREP representatives for 41 countries have been nominated so far

In addition to that, many countries have more than one person willing to help in improving GIREP networks on the national level. Also many thanks to them of course!

Finding representatives is an on-going task, so please let us know about possible candidates for this "function" in other countries. We also want to invite national representatives especially to **contribute to our "What's going on? - Newsflashes from GIREP countries"** section.

Thank you very much!

(Wim Peeters)

World Conference on Physics Education – a new strand for teachers

So far the main focus of GIREP conferences was on the presentation of results of PER as well as on the dissemination of examples of good practice. One target group playing an important role within the educational process – teachers - has hardly been involved up to now.

As a main goal the WCPE will again pay attention to research in physics education. In addition, however, the GIREP-committee decided to put **special emphasis on the involvement of teachers**.

During WCPE a **special teacher program** shall establish a better contact between teachers and researchers, but also between teachers in different educational systems. (For further information: www.wcpe2012.org)

Exclusively for teachers it is possible to register for the whole conference, attend the first days the **general program and join this special teachers' program** from Wednesday on **for a reduced fee of only €195**. Accommodation info: <http://www.wcpe2012.org/accommodation.html>

(Wim Peeters)



*Teachers going to the World
Conference on Physics Education*

PRELIMINARY TEACHER PROGRAM			
	JULY 4, 2012 WEDNESDAY	JULY 5, 2012 THURSDAY	JULY 6, 2012 FRIDAY
08:45-09:45		Keynote Speaker 5 (WCPE conference)	Keynote Speaker for teachers
09:45-10:15		Coffee Break	Coffee Break
10:15-11:15		Content Materials exchange workshop 1	Teaching methods exchange workshop 3
11:15-11:30		Short Break	Short Break
11:30-12:30		Content Materials exchange workshop 2	Assessment Methods exchange workshop 4
12:30-13:30	LUNCH	LUNCH	CLOSING CEREMONY WCPE
13:30-14:00	STARTING: Registration Teachers	Poster presentations	Exchange workshop 5 (to be defined)
14:00-14:35	Introduction Get to know Interactive workshop cultural issues (educational systems/educational policy/trends)		Discussions Evaluation teacher program CLOSING
14:35-15:10		Presentation researcher D + discussions	
15:10-15:45		Presentation researcher E + discussions	
15:45-16:00	Short Break		
16:00-16:35	Presentation researcher A + discussions	Visit to local school	
16:35-17:10	Presentation researcher B + discussions		
17:10-17:20	Short Break		
17:20-18:00	Presentation researcher C + discussions		
18:00-19:00	Break/Leisure time (in group?)	Break/Leisure time (in group?)	
19:00-23:00	Teacher Program Dinner (optional)	Conference Dinner (optional)	

GIREP-EPEC 2011 Physics Education Conference in Jyväskylä

Impressions of my first GIREP Conference

The GIREP 2011 conference in Jyväskylä was my first GIREP experience. It was a perfect opportunity to learn more about physics education and on-going research in this field. Unfortunately, we don't have a centre of excellence in this field of science in Belgium. (Which is a huge hiatus.)

Some things struck me from the first moment. The conference was very well organised and we were kept well informed (also in advance). The plenary talks gave a good overview of contemporary physics (education) research and were given by speakers that were very academic, as well as very didactical. The big range of parallel sessions was very interesting and they were well balanced. Unlike lots of other conferences, the timekeepers did a really good job. Apart from the conference itself, the social activities created a motivating atmosphere for deeper discussions and getting to know a lot of interesting folks.

Even though I'm not involved in educational research, there were a lot of things I could easily transfer to my day to day classroom situation. Both content and processes. These things led to ideas for possible future (small-scale) research, posters and presentations.

To summarize, it was a splendid first experience and I'm more than happy to join you once more in Istanbul for the next conference . . .

(Tom Lambert, PONTOn VZW, Belgium)



Physics Alive

Status Quo of the Reviewing Process of submitted contributions

The official deadline for the referees to send back their review reports of submitted conference papers was January, 30. According to Anssi Lindell, chair of the local organising committee, nearly all referees had handed in their review reports in time.

At this point, **we want to thank all referees for their efforts!**

Anssi Lindell also emphasised that the local organising team was working very hard at the moment to send responses to the authors within a month.

Many thanks to the LOC for their efficient work!

What's going on? – Newsflashes from GIREP countries

This is a new section of the GIREP newsletter informing GIREP members what's going on in the GIREP member countries. We would like to encourage you to contribute to this section.

Send your contributions to claudia.haagen@unvie.ac.at.

News about **your country** could be placed here in future 😊

WCPE 2012



On behalf of the organizing committee of The World Conference on Physics Education and participating organizations I would like to welcome physics teachers to Istanbul.

The WCPE 2012 will be held with participation of researchers and teachers from around the world. At all levels of education, problems, solutions, and success stories, as they pertain to physics education, will be shared and discussed among stakeholders, *such as policy makers, teachers, university instructors, and researchers. At the core of the conference lies meeting and interacting with colleagues and new ideas to improve teaching and learning. We wish to have a deeper understanding of learners and learning, teachers and teaching, physics as a branch of science and physical knowledge, and teaching environments with the overall goal being to reach and attain the state of the art knowledge and skills necessary to be able to teach physics successfully in our classrooms.*

Please join us in Istanbul at the WCPE 2012 during the first week of July to help each other to achieve this vision.

Best regards,

M. Fatih Tasar (Chair of the Local Organizing Committee of WCPE 2012)

For further information: www.wcpe2012.org

Please send contributions for next GIREP Newsletter till April 30, 2012!