

Schools at University for Climate and Energy (SAUCE)



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University programme for school classes

The European project “Schools at University for Climate & Energy (SAUCE)” offers a series of one-week on-campus education programmes for pupils ages 10-13 on the topics of energy efficient behaviour, renewable energy and climate change. The SAUCE programmes are held at all partner universities from 2009 until 2011.²

What is SAUCE?

SAUCE builds upon experience with European “kids’ universities” which have been held since 2002 first in Germany and Austria and subsequently in universities in numerous other European countries. SAUCE makes use of the kid’s university format but explicitly puts the thematic focus on energy use and climate change. The programmes discuss the scientific, technical and global aspects of sustainable energy use and global climate change in a way appropriate to the children’s age. This implies to focus on the behavioural aspects by bringing energy use into direct relation to the pupils’ everyday lives and lifestyles.

Furthermore, preparatory information meetings for teachers are offered with each SAUCE programme. In Vienna such teacher trainings are held a couple of weeks before the pupil’s event. Successfully proven and effective teaching records and information sources are presented and made available to improve teaching and curriculum to promote energy efficient behaviour. Interesting approaches belonging to the energy and climate change issue are presented to raise awareness among teachers. The aim of these workshops is to serve a pleasant atmosphere for the mentioned issues above



Figure 1: Mobility - an exciting lecture, © TU Wien

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² All partners are listed in the appendix.

as well as discussing energy and environmental topics, exchanging experience and build up informal networks.

SAUCE in Vienna

In Vienna, the first “University for Schools” was held from 28th Sept. until 2nd Oct. 2009.

36 classes with a total number of 909 pupils from the city and the surrounding area took part in 10 lectures and 33 workshops. During the whole week – excluding Wednesday - the event’s structure implied a morning starting lecture, 2-3h parallel workshop sessions and a reflection event for all pupils finally. The effects, for example, of food production, different means of transport,



Figure 2: During a workshop, © TU Wien

or of leisure time activities are presented by professors and academics from different university faculties and research institutes as well as NGO energy education experts.

As mentioned before Wednesday’s programme differed from these concept by implying parallel lectures only. The focus of the “workshop days” - as we call it - were individual training courses for each class while the “lecture day” had its focus on a broad knowledge transfer from various scientists to the pupils, adapted to their age of course.

Evaluation

Evaluation is a crucial issue for future development and improvement of the SAUCE programme. It is carried out by each partner and involves options of all participants: teachers, lecturers, the organisation team and the pupils as the most important ones. Evaluation for the Viennese event is actually carried out and our first results and findings will be available by December 2009.



Figure 3: Reflection of a whole day SAUCE, © TU Wien

Handbook for dissemination

A SAUCE handbook is compiled to summarize the project partners’ experience, best practice and evaluation results. It serves as a pivotal tool to disseminate the principle ideas of SAUCE to other universities within Europe and support them in tackling the tasks of preparing and carrying out a SAUCE programme. The handbook will be available online at www.schools-at-university.eu in the later project-phase. Furthermore, an international conference addressing universities throughout Europe is planned for 2010 or 2011.

Are you interested in SAUCE?

The project also provides the opportunity for national and international exchange. If you are interested in joining our local or international exchange, please contact the project coordinator or local partners.

Appendix:

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Bibliography:

- www.schools-at-university.eu, 28th Oct. 2009