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Encouraging students to explore science



18 May 2016

Every year all the European Schools organise a major science event for secondary students, the European Schools Science Symposium (ESSS). The event is a competition open to students between the 2nd and the 7th year and the winner will represent the European Schools at the 'EU Contest for Young Scientists' in September in Brussels.

Individuals or groups of students, guided by a teacher-mentor, explore an area of scientific interest of their choice, not normally covered by the official science syllabus. The first selection takes place at each European School level and only the very best science projects (a maximum of three) from each participating European School are showcased at the major event.

This year the ESSS was hosted by the European School of Brussels I, in Uccle in March where more than 80 students from 17 European Schools participated with 46 projects and posters. The competitors' projects were judged by eleven jury members from different scientific fields.

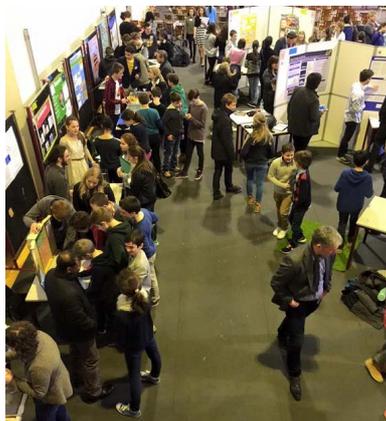
The evaluation of the projects took place in two rounds: the preliminary round involved the analysis of the abstracts and the complete written work produced by the researchers including innovation tips; the second round aimed to integrate newer points into the poster displays. Participating students were competing in senior or junior categories.



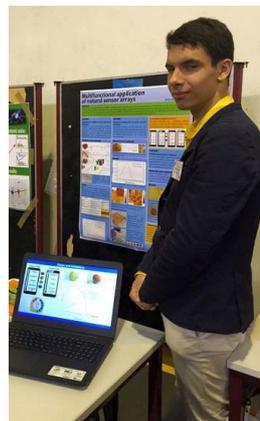
The ESSS 2016 participants

Six senior and three junior projects made it to the final round where the students had the opportunity to present their work 'on stage'. The posters and presentations gave the audience (mainly students but also professors) a great opportunity to explore the content of these scientific projects.

Nearly 1500 students visited the Uccle site. The availability of live-streaming the presentations and the opportunity to remotely vote for projects ensured a much wider participation among all the European Schools.



The visitors during ESSS 2016



Ádám Ürmös, this year's winner

The first prize winner of the senior category and final winner of the ESSS 2016 was **Ádám Ürmös** (year 6, European School of Brussels I) for his project [Multifunctional application of natural sensor arrays](#). The research focused on building simple chemical sensors to improve consumer protection and work safety, by allowing determination of different food colours, pH and CO₂ levels, etc.

The project will represent the European Schools at the ['European Union Contest for Young Scientists'](#) that will take place in Brussels in September 2016. This EU Contest allows students to compete with the best of their contemporaries at a European level with the aim of attracting young people to careers in science and technology.

Competitions are now over but applicant students have already started working on their new projects for the next ESSS that will take place in Luxembourg.

For all information including the most important moments and final results please visit www.esss2016.eu

Some of the presentations can be watched at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PzdHDddIvN0>

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