

Science on Stage 2

National Events: April–October 2006, in 29 participating countries
International Event: 2–6 April 2007, ATRIA Centre, Grenoble, France

The first Science on Stage festival, held at CERN in Geneva in November 2005, was a great success. As described in the previous issue of *The Messenger*, almost five hundred science educators from across Europe met to share innovative science-teaching techniques.

Now, the countdown has begun for Science on Stage 2. The festival is again being organised by the EIROforum, of which ESO is a member, and co-funded by the European Commission as part of the EIROforum Science Teachers' Initiative (ESTI). The international event will take place in Grenoble at the ATRIA

Centre from 2–6 April 2007. The European Synchrotron Research Facility and the Institut Laue-Langevin are the local organisers from the EIROforum.

If you are a teacher or are interested in innovative teaching methods, and are from one of the 29 countries who will be represented at Science on Stage 2, then now is your chance to get involved! Each country will be running a National Event during 2006, in order to choose the delegates who will go to Grenoble in April 2007.

Visit the Science on Stage website at <http://www.scienceonstage.net/> (or email eduinfo@eso.org) to find contact details for your National Steering Committee (NSC). The national websites will be available by the end of April, giving details of how to get involved with Science on Stage at a national level. The National Events will be taking place between April and October of this year, so if you want to join this exciting programme you should contact your NSC as soon as possible.

For further details see <http://www.scienceonstage.net/> or email eduinfo@eso.org

Euroscience Open Forum – ESOF2006

15–19 July 2006, Munich, Germany

Following the successful first ESOF2004 event in Stockholm, the second pan-European 'General Science Meeting' ESOF2006 is scheduled to be held in Munich from 15–19 July 2006 at the *Forum am Deutschen Museum* and the *Deutsches Museum*. ESOF constitutes an attempt to create a European version of the famous AAAS meeting and targets scientists, science administrators and policy makers as well as science journalists from across the continent.

ESOF is an initiative by EUROSCIENCE with strong sponsors including the European Commission and major German funders. It is supported by an advisory board, which – among others – includes Enric Banda (former Secretary General of ESF), Phillip Campbell (editor of *Nature*), Helga Nowotny (until recently chairperson of EURAB and a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the future European Research Council) and the Directors General of ESO, Catherine Cesarsky, and the EPO, Alain Pompidou.

The organisers intend to put a special focus on young scientists, young journalists and students through an extensive Careers Programme with educational workshops and seminars on career development. In this connection, the EIROforum will organise videoconferences to the facilities of the partner organisations, including ESO.

According to the current programme, the meeting comprises over 70 seminars, symposia and workshops.

One of these seminars – on exoplanet research – is organised by ESO. This particular session will take place on 17 July 2006 at the Forum. Another astronomy-related event is the key-note talk by Prof. Gerry Gilmore (Cambridge University) with the title "The history and future of the Universe".

As at the Stockholm meeting, ESO will also be represented as part of the EIROforum partnership that will mount a major information stand at the exhibition area, also at the Forum.

Also as in Stockholm, which featured a wide programme for the general public, ESOF2006 offers an interesting range of outreach activities, comprising hands-on experiments, games and science cafés. These activities will be held together with the German national science week from 15–21 July 2006. The public activities are free and will take place at the *Marienhof* square, behind the historical Munich town hall. The *Wissenschaftssommer* is organised annually by *Wissenschaft im Dialog*, an initiative of the *Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft* and other German science-funding organisations.

For further information, see: <http://www.esof2006.org>

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