

DATE: 08 November 2016

RELEASE: NUCLIO16/04

NUCLIO PRESS NOTICE

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## KICKOFF MEETING FOR EC FUNDED PROJECT PROMOTING INNOVATIVE LEARNING APPROACHES FOR THE TEACHING OF NATURAL SCIENCES

The inauguration meeting of PLATON (Promoting innovative Learning Approaches for the Teaching Of Natural sciences) project will take place on 8 and 9 of November 2016 at Parque Biológico de Gaia, Vila Nova de Gaia, Portugal. PLATON aims to offer an open and innovative training framework to teachers of primary and secondary education. During the meeting the project partners will establish the work plan for the outputs of the project.

Science education in today's school curriculum is faced with lack of relevance between what is taught in school and everyday life, no room for practical implementation and obsolete teaching methods. Addressing these issues and more, PLATON project will strengthen the profile of the teaching profession by providing teachers with the necessary training that will allow them to master the use of inquiry learning in their everyday teaching and the necessary tools for involving their students in interdisciplinary activities where meaningful learning occurs as they consciously and explicitly link their new knowledge to an existing knowledge structure.

The project is a collaboration of partners from 6 European countries that consist of: NUCLIO (Portugal)- coordinator of the project, Ellinogermaniki Agogi (Greece), University of Cyprus (Cyprus), University of Deusto (Spain), University of Helsinki (Finland), and Cardiff University (UK). Partners will work towards strengthening the profile of the teaching profession by supporting the meaningful collaboration between teachers and by enhancing their current teaching practices, making them more effective and better tailored to the needs of students.

### **MORE INFORMATION**

Núcleo Interactivo de Astronomia (NUCLIO) is a nonprofit organisation created by professional astronomers with the goal of promoting science outreach and education. NUCLIO coordinates the Galileo Teacher Training Program (GTP), one of the largest teacher training movements in the world with participation of more than 100 countries. Since its establishment, the organisation has reached directly over 10 000 students and 2000 teachers at a national level. In Portugal NUCLIO is responsible for iconic international educational projects such as International Asteroid Search Campaign, Universe Awareness, Astronomers Without Borders and Dark Sky Rangers.

## LINKS

PLATON <http://platon-project.eu>

Núcleo Interativo de Astronomia (NUCIO) <http://nuclio.org>

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