



Freiburg, July 2013

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Rethinking teaching, helping students gain a deeper understanding of mathematics and science and supporting young people as they discover that maths and sciences are not only part of their everyday lives, but also fun: That is the essence of our new project funded by the European Commission we would like you to join in.

We have named it *mathematics and science for life (mascil)* to reinforce the key concept that all the effort, thinking and resources we invest in this project are aimed at going beyond school curricula and the classroom as we work to better prepare students for their future careers and roles in their communities.

First project meeting in Freiburg, Germany

For our first project meeting at the beginning of this year, seventeen partner universities and the *mascil* European Advisory Board, consisting of representatives from school authorities, teacher training centres and university representatives, came together in Freiburg, where the coordinator of *mascil* introduced the project's concept:

We aim to promote a widespread use of inquiry-based science teaching in primary and secondary schools connected to the world of work. We want to make mathematics and science become more meaningful to young European students and motivate their interest in science and technology careers.

Katja Maaß, from the University of Education in Freiburg

The four days in Freiburg centred on the issue of how to analyse the educational backgrounds of the different countries involved in the project in order to incorporate the various local settings when implementing inquiry-based teaching and learning. Further, we began discussions about how to develop criteria for learning and teaching material that makes classroom and professional development possible.

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mascil is funded by the
European Commission involving
18 partners from 13 countries



www.mascil-project.eu



Training courses for teachers

To this end, we will offer professional development courses supported by teachers from vocational education and representatives from industry for pre- and in-service teachers starting in 2014. Teachers taking part in our training courses will experience inquiry-based teaching methods and be able to integrate these into their school practice through iterative cycles of implementation followed by reflection.

The participants will also develop tasks in vocational contexts, leading to a European repository of inquiry-based tasks, which can be reached online via www.mascil-project.eu An e-learning platform and a forum will make it possible for teachers to profit from the international perspective of *mascil*.

Reaching 65,000 teachers in Europe

To ensure a widespread participation, we will start out either with a small number of teachers who in turn, become multipliers of *mascil* and offer courses to further teachers, or we will - depending on the national context - use e-learning. We intend to reach more than 65,000 teachers directly and 800,000 teachers indirectly via stakeholders and the media. To promote *mascil* and make the project known on a wide-spread basis, we will also involve parents, students, school authorities and policy makers. National and European advisory panels are to bring together stakeholders to advise partners throughout the project, whilst policy makers will be reached by workshops and policy papers.

To ensure the effectiveness of our work, we will start with a detailed analysis of the different educational systems of the thirteen countries represented by the partner universities and institutes of *mascil*:

*University of Education Freiburg,
Universiteit Utrecht,
Universidad de Jaen,
Hogskolen I Sor-Trondelag,
Hacettepe Universitesi,
Johann Wolfgang Goethe
Universität Frankfurt,
Universitatea Babes Bolyai,
Univerzita Hradec Kralove,
Divulgacion Dinamica SL,*

*Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas,
The University of Nottingham,
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Institut für Pädagogik der Naturwissenschaften
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Institute of Mathematics and Informatics at the
Bulgarian Academy of Science,
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Become part of our community

If you are interested in learning more about *mascil*, please visit us at www.mascil-project.eu and follow us on <https://twitter.com/mascilEU/mascil-team>

We hope we got you interested in *mascil* and are happy to answer any question you may have concerning the project,

Your *mascil* team

Please send an email to mascil-freiburg@ph-freiburg.de if you prefer not to receive future *mascil* newsletters.

The project *mascil* has received funding from the European Union Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2013-2017) under Grant Agreement n° 320693. The newsletter only reflects the author's - the *mascil* consortium - views. The European Union is not liable for any use made of the information contained herein.

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