

1st Press Release - MultiCO

MultiCO («Promoting Youth Scientific Career Awareness and its Attractiveness through Multi-stakeholder Cooperation», <http://www.multico-project.eu>) is an innovative project under Horizon 2020, the EU's research and innovation funding scheme. MultiCO involves classroom-based research studies in five different European countries, intended to raise students' awareness of the diversity of science-related careers and enhance their interest in pursuing careers in such fields. Toward this end, the project includes working with the same cohort of students for three consecutive years, engaging them with specially designed activity sequences that capitalize on career-based scenarios.

MultiCO is a three-year project and has started in August 2015. The University of Eastern Finland acts as the project coordinator and the consortium partners represent the following European universities: University College London (United Kingdom), University of Tartu (Estonia), University of Bonn (Germany) and University of Cyprus (Cyprus). The project consortium brings together expertise at the highest level and quality from different areas of science education geared to secondary school and teacher education.

The project focuses on the well documented need for **more scientists** as noted in the latest report of the expert group on science education to the European Commission. The available research literature has consistently indicated a considerable decline in students' motivation or interest in pursuing science-related careers. Furthermore, it has been argued that students are not aware of possible career paths that are centered on science and technology. The MultiCO project aspires to make a contribution in this broader research field, by exploring the potential of a certain curricular approach, to impact on, and increase, students' interest in STEM-related careers. This approach relies on the systematic engagement of students with the development and exploration of career-based scenarios, which could capture and depict the diversity of these careers, but also the paths (academic or not) that could possibly lead to them. These scenarios will be based on science careers mainly in fields related to Europe areas of challenge (e.g. energy, water, waste, climate change, food, health and transport).

The whole process will be investigated through quantitative and qualitative research methods (questionnaires, interviews, observations). Moreover, MultiCO Project seeks to secure networks of industry, researchers in the areas of science and technology, educators, academic counselors and policy makers.

MultiCO Logo Competition

In an effort to engage students in the project from an early stage, the consortium organized a European logo competition that involved all partner countries. The students were asked to design logos for the project according to given instructions and specifications.

The competition specifications were as follows:

- The logo should be simple and should not contain many details.
- The logo should aim to convey a sense about the purpose of the project.

