



# PILOTS

## Pilots training course, Paris

La Cité des sciences et de l'industrie, Paris, France

19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> January 2010

**The Pilots project works towards the professionalisation of the role of explainers in science centres and museums both through developing European training courses and through research on the role of explainers.**

**Pilots is coordinated by Ecsite, and the partners are La Cité des sciences et de l'industrie in Paris, France; House of Experiments in Ljubljana, Slovenia; Museo Nazionale della Scienza e della Tecnologia Leonardo da Vinci in Milan, Italy; Pavilion of Knowledge - Ciência Viva in Lisbon, Portugal; SISSA Medialab in Trieste, Italy and Technopolis®, the Flemish Science Center in Mechelen, Belgium.**

[www.thepilots.eu](http://www.thepilots.eu)



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## About the course

**This Pilots training course will bring together best practices from across Europe. Over four days, explainers will come together to discuss key issues and work on the skills and competences necessary for the role, with a particular focus on working with adults, current science, and controversial issues.**

Please note that the course is open only to explainers who have a direct interaction with the public (i.e. not managerial staff, heads of explainers etc) and who have not attended previous courses in Milan or Mechelen. Participation is free of charge, although participants will need to pay for their own travel, food and accommodation.

After the course, participants are required to organise a “Co-Pilots” event or training activity within their institutions. This activity will consist of a selection of best practice taken from the Paris training course. The activity aims to allow many more staff in each institution to benefit from the content of the Pilots training course.

We also ask that explainers prepare:

- ⇒ A poster presenting their institution, its activities and how they train explainers;
- ⇒ A favourite short demo, part of a science show, hands-on experiment or public engagement activity to demonstrate for the other explainers present;
- ⇒ Some food and drink from their country or region to share on the first day.

For any further questions, please contact Michael Creek, Ecsite Projects Coordinator:  
[mcreek@ecsite.eu](mailto:mcreek@ecsite.eu)



## Programme overview

### **Day One, Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2010, 14h00 – 18h30**

#### **SELF PORTRAIT**

The explainers will meet and get an overview of the Pilots project. A few activities will be organised to break the ice and get to know each other. The first day will look at the question: who are we? What is the role of an explainer? Explainers, edutainers, guides, animators, pilots, etc: are these different names for the same job, or different jobs?

### **Day Two, Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2010, 09h00 – 18h30**

#### **WORKING WITH CURRENT SCIENCE AND CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES**

How can explainers deal with the latest results of research, and hot topics in science? We will try out debates, dialogue activities and discussion games which aim to engage the public on a range of topics from GMOs to rare diseases. There is also a demo evening, a chance for you to share your favourite demos and activities with the group.

### **Day Three, Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2010, 09h00 – 18h30**

#### **ENGAGING ADULTS IN SCIENCE**

How do explainers work with adult visitors? Explainers will try out and discuss a number of activities related to enquiry-based learning. How can these science communication techniques be used in demonstrations, and when working with exhibits? How can science shows engage adults as well as children?

### **Day Four, Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2010, 09h00 – 14h00**

#### **MY INSTITUTION**

Explainers trade places with CEOs, inviting reflection on the role of the explainer within the institution. We will discuss the wider importance of science centres in society, and how participants can organise Co-Pilots events to train their colleagues.



## Day One, Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2010, 14h00 – 18h30

### SELF-PORTRAIT

Time	Session	Description
14.00 - 14.20	<b>Welcome</b>	A welcome to La Cité, a short introduction to the Pilots project and an overview of the training course.
14.20 - 15.30	<b>Icebreaking</b>	Get to know your fellow Pilots.
15.30 - 17.00	<b>Workshop 1: Self Portrait</b>	Two activities designed to address the question – what is an explainer?
17.00 - 18.30	<b>Poster session: My institution, our activities and training</b>	We invite you to bring and present a poster describing your institution, the activities of the explainers there and how they are trained. Please bring food and drink from your own country or region to share in this informal poster session.
<b>Evening</b>	<b>Social Dinner</b>	



## Day Two, Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2010, 09h00 – 16h30 WORKING WITH CURRENT SCIENCE AND CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES

Time	Session	Description
9.00 - 10.00	<b>Workshop 2: Engagement in controversial issues through consumer choices</b>	Try out La Cité's debate activity on genetically modified organisms.
10.00 - 10.30	<b>Take-home ideas: Debates</b>	Conclusions and discussion on the debate activity as a way to approach controversial issues.
10.30 - 11.00	Coffee break	
11.00 - 11.30	<b>Plenary session: How do we present current science to adults?</b>	A general overview of activities across Europe and the world engaging adults in current topics in science.
11.30 - 12.45	<b>Workshop 3: Dialogue activity on diseases</b>	Try out a dialogue activity from Sissa Medialab, Trieste, which is used to engage adults in discussion on diseases.
12.45 - 13.45	Lunch	
13.45 - 14.30	<b>Workshop 4: Discussion games</b>	Museo della Tecnologia e della Scienza Leonardo da Vinci, Milan, invite you to try out a range of discussion games they use.
14.30 - 15.00	<b>Take-home ideas: Dialogue activities</b>	Conclusions from workshop leaders and large group discussion
15.00 - 15.30	<b>Wrap-up: Ways to present controversial issues</b>	Expert analysis of the three workshops
15.30 - 16.30	<b>The HUB</b>	Sign up for our online community for explainers in Europe, update your profile, and blog the day's events.
	<b>In parallel: Nano kit</b>	Test out the Nano kit produced by the Time for Nano project ( <a href="http://www.timefornano.eu">www.timefornano.eu</a> )
<b>Evening</b>	<b>Demo session</b>	A chance for you to show us what your institution does best! Prepare a short demo, show or group activity, a favourite from your institution, and share it with the group.



## Day Three, Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2010, 09h00 – 18h00 ENGAGING ADULTS IN SCIENCE

Time	Session	Description
09.00 - 9.30	<b>Plenary session: How do adults learn?</b>	An external viewpoint on how adults learn differently to young people and children.
9.30 - 10.30	<b>Workshop 5: Encouraging conversations</b>	A workshop on how to develop good questions and "hooks."
10.30 - 11.00	Coffee break	
11.00 - 12.30	<b>Workshop 6: Enquiry-based Learning</b>	Try out a specialty activity from the Pavilion of Knowledge – Ciência Viva in Lisbon which makes use of the principles of enquiry-based learning.
12.30 - 13.00	<b>Take-home ideas: Encouraging conversations and enquiry-based learning</b>	Conclusions from workshop leaders and large group discussion.
13.00 - 14.00	Lunch	
14.00 - 15.30	<b>Workshop 7: Science Shows</b>	Technopolis and the House of Experiments present a workshop on how science shows are not just for kids.
15.30 - 16.00	<b>Take-home ideas: Science shows</b>	Conclusions from workshop leaders and large group discussion
16.00 - 16.30	Coffee - Break	
16.30 - 17.00	<b>Wrap-up: Different learning methodologies for adults</b>	Expert analysis of the three workshops, highlighting the different methodologies used in science shows and enquiry based learning activities
17.00 - 18.00	<b>The HUB</b>	Sign up for our online community for explainers in Europe, update your profile, and blog the day's events.
<b>Evening</b>	<b>Explore Paris!</b>	



## Day Four, Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2010, 09h00 – 13h00 MY INSTITUTION

Time	Session	Description
9.00 - 10.30	<b>Workshop 8: Answers to my boss</b>	Explainers trade places with CEOs in this activity, inviting reflection on the role of the explainer within the institution.
10.30 - 11.00	Coffee break	
11.00 - 11.30	<b>Science centres and museums in society</b>	An invited speaker linking our work to the wider importance of science centres in society.
11.30 - 12.30	<b>Co-Pilots events: problems and solutions</b>	It's not over yet – when explainers return to their institutions, they will organise Co-Pilots events to train their colleagues. Here's how.
12.30 - 12.45	<b>Feedback</b>	
12.45 - 13.00	<b>Closing</b>	



## Letter of Agreement

*In order to confirm your wish to send a participant, please have this letter signed and returned, either by email (scanned), faxed or by post to:*

*Michael Creek,  
Ecsite  
Coudenberg 70/5  
B-1000 Brussels  
Belgium  
[mccreek@ecsite.eu](mailto:mccreek@ecsite.eu)  
Fax: +32 2 647 5098*

**I hereby authorise the following explainer to participate in the Pilots training course at La Cité des Sciences, Paris, January 19-22 2010.**

**Name of participant:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I understand that as part of the follow-up of the training course, the person I send to the training course will be required to organise a “Co-Pilots” event or training activity within my institution. This activity will consist of a selection of best practice taken from the Paris training course. The activity aims to allow many more staff in my institution to benefit from the content of the Pilots training course.**

**I hereby agree to make provision for the explainer attending the Pilots training course to organise at least one Co-Pilots training activity in my institution in 2010, in which a number of my staff will participate, and which will be detailed in a report sent to the Pilots webplatform.**

**Signed,**

**Position:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Institution:** \_\_\_\_\_

