Information on Polish Association of Science Teacher (PAofST)

Polish Association of Science Teachers has been founded for a first time in Poland in 1993. It is the member of ICASE and IOSTE. PAofST has been validated by EC as a non profit association, private body, under the indirect cost method “Standard Flat Rate” with the following PIC – 996754153. It has the PADOR No. 0000212202.

The Members of PAofST are the teacher of: physics, astronomy, chemistry, biology, science and geography from whole Poland.

General aims of this Association are as follows:

- promoting activities in the development of Science Education (SE), including enviromental (proecological) education at all educational levels, taking into account the reformed school curricula (latelly in 1999 and 2009),
- encouragement of the vocational activity and professional development of science teachers,
- promoting recognition of the value of science knowledge and skills in the society,
- integration of science teachers in creation and exchange of science teaching resources,
- assistance and organisation of conferences, workshops, special schools and symposia,
- providing the professional evaluation of the existing didactical resources to promote various educational institutions and enterprise developments,
- co-operation with the other world-wide Science Teacher Associations and participation in the international projects for teachers and their students.

The Members of the Polish Association of Science Teachers are performing activities in the following areas:

- Polish Projects on Science Education, including interdisciplinary cases,
- Elements of ecology in science education,
- Elements of history of science in science education
- Pre-service and in-service training of science teachers,
- Presentation of teacher achievements at the international and Polish conferences, seminars, workshops, etc.,
- Organising the Annual Meeting (1993 – 2011 – 18 so far) at different places in Poland,
- Collaboration within the international projects:
  - SAE - Science Across Europe, project conducted by Association for Science Education, UK,
  - STL, Science and Technology Literacy, conducted by ICASE,
  - EU TRAIN, SOCRATES COMENIUS Project: Pedagogical practices in teacher training in Europe
  - EU ICT in SE, SOCRATES COMENIUS Project: Effective use of ICT in Science Education,
  - MOSEM, SOCRATES COMENIUS Project: Minds-On in teaching Superconductivity and Electromagnetism,
  - EU HOU, SOCRATES COMENIUS Project: Hands-On Universe,
  - HIPST, EC FP7 Project: History and Philosophy in Science Teaching, as well as with other organisations in Poland and abroad,
- Developing innovative, inquiry methods of teaching science at the elementary and secondary school levels,
- Planning and organising general Polish competions on different actual topics as for example: \textit{Radioactive Word, Fascinating Nature, ICT in Science Education, Science quartet, Fascinating Universe, Colours of nature, Radioactivity around us - profits and risks". Student's research projects, etc.}

- Publications (Bulletin of PAofST \textit{"Science Teaching"}, 40 numbers so far) and many other books as: "Ozone hole", "Almost everything about water", "Proposed curriculum - conservation and environmental management", "The practice of integrating science", "The interdisciplinary science projects", "The stepping into science";

- Active participation in local educational events for children and youth, such as: "Torun Festival of Science and Art", "Birthday Anniversary of Nicolaus Copernicus", "Shows of physical and chemical experiments for young people";

- Management of the website \texttt{http://psnpp.org.pl/} where up-to-date information useful for the professional practice of science teachers are published.

\textit{Furthermore:}
- PAofST co-organised (together with the Education of Physics Laboratory of Nicolaus Copernicus University) the International Conference for Teachers on: "Science and Mathematics Teaching for the Information Society".
- PAofST in 2011-2013 will be a Partner in an EC Life long Learning EC Project on: "Storytelling@STM".