



BULGARIAN FOLLOW UP EVENT

30.9 – 1.10.2022, High School "Vasil Levski" - Sevlievo

of the INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL "SCIENCE ON STAGE 2022", under the heading "From Teachers for Teachers"

According to the rules of the European platform "Science on Stage", each member country must organize at home, one **"follow-up"** event to the International Festival (see the link <https://www.sons2022.eu/en/home>), which is considered as teachers' training for the rest of the national STEM teachers. The national and local organizing committees of the "Science on the Stage - Bulgaria" organized this event, as traditionally, at "Vasil Levski" High School /HS/ - Sevlievo on **30.9 – 1.10.2022**.

The main organizers of the event are the Union of Physicists in Bulgaria and the HS "Vasil Levski" - Sevlievo, with the help and support of the Bulgarian cite of the technological giant SAP and the Foundation "Workshop for Civil Initiatives" (FRGI), which helped organize the 8th National Festival "Science on Stage" (25 - 27.06.2021 - <https://scienceonstage.bg/home/fest/>) and the participation of the Bulgarian delegation at the International Festival in Prague <https://www.science-on-stage.eu/science-stage-festival-2022> .

The dates for the follow up event were determined by the proposal of the organizers of the **"European night of scientists-2022"** under the project "K-Trio 2022-23" (101061564 — K-TRIO), to include it as part of the events in it. The night was this year exactly on the dates (**30.9 – 1.10.2022**). The subsequent event was also included in the **National Program to mark the United Nations International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development (07. 2022 – 07. 2023)**, as the improvement of education is one of the main prerequisites for sustainable development.

All activities from the program of the event took place in the Assembly Hall of SU "Vasil Levski", Sevlievo. Exhibitions of posters presenting the Bulgarian projects at the stands of the festival in Prague and several attractive stands in the lobby in front of the Assembly Hall were arranged by the hosts. To ensure greater accessibility, a hybrid broadcasting was provided by Monika Kovashka - Dimitrova from SAP and the team of IT – teachers from the "Vasil Levski" High School. The program was streamed live through the online platform, which allowed all those who couldn't come to the venue to follow the event with us.

The program of the event included brief information on the International Year of Basic Sciences and Sustainable Development; the popular lecture "Space science and cosmonautics – sources of attractive examples in physics education" by Prof. Dr. Garo Mardirosyan from the Institute for Space Research and Technologies of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences /BAS/. The impressions of the Bulgarian participants on the festival and the new ideas and good practices that have enriched their experience in teaching STE(A)M subjects in their classroom and extracurricular activity were shared in a in a very attractive presentation by Teodora Konova - one of the leaders of our delegation and in a short videos by all the members of the delegation. After these attractive presentations the members or the Bulgarian delegation at the Prague's festival were introduced as **ambassadors** of "Science on Stage - Bulgaria" and Nasko Stamenov a chemistry teacher in the National High School of Sciences and Mathematics in Sofia was elected as the Bulgarian ambassador for "Science on Stage - Europe". They all received respective certificates and small presents from the organizers.

Traditionally, workshops for teachers are of great interest, and our workshops are always highly appreciated at international festivals as well. With a lot of enthusiastic

participants in the Assembly Hall and online the workshop “Together from a distance” of Michael Gregory from “Science on Stage – France” (on line) and of Nasko Stamenov from the National High School of Sciences and Mathematics in the hall showed some interesting and easy chemistry and physics experiments, simple to be implemented not only in each classrooms, but even from the students at home. Milena Gosheva and Greta Rajchovska with a student from Sofia vocational high school of electronics "John Atanasov" demonstrated a workshop “How to do Science in a Box!” which offered to physics and science teachers an idea how to increase students' motivation to learn through the basics of robotics, combining microcontroller programming skills to illustrate physics’ laws in an engaging way.

These two workshops were followed by two very motivating for the science teachers lectures: “Contacts from the international festivals and ideas for creating a joint project” of Romyanka Galchavova a science teacher from Silistra and "Inspiring STEM Resources in the Classroom and Beyond" from Ivo Jokin, Municipal Center for extracurricular activities – Baikal village.

In the follow-up event the science teachers (STEM - teachers) from all levels of education in our country, including preschool and kindergartens, that participated were 62 – 15 online and 47 present, which gives us the hope that in the future National events we will have more participants and the jury selection for the Science on Stage festival will be better motivated.

At the end, the organizers of the event outlined the regulations and conditions for participation in the upcoming National (2023) and International (2024) Festivals.

