



## Puzzle Universe

Anca-Catalina Marian (1) and Aura-Cecilia Harceaga (2)

(1) (anca\_cata@yahoo.com) National College Inochentie Micu Clain, Blaj, Romania  
(imc.blaj@mail.albanet.ro/+40258710661), (2) National College Inochentie Micu Clain, Blaj, Romania  
(imc.blaj@mail.albanet.ro/+40258710661)

In recent years, science has known a spectacular development. Whether it is biology, physics, astrophysics, chemistry, mathematics, geography (to name a few areas), every day, we are indirect witness to the numerous discoveries and scientific innovations. However, it is negatively remarkable, worldwide, a decrease in student interest to study science. Teaching science is become a challenge for teachers by finding new ways to bring science closer to students, to encourage students to research. Considering that by all media and information channels we are "bombing" with more or less scientifically based information, all presented as scientific truths, the teaching of science becomes more important. It is of major importance for teachers to help students manage to discern the truths of science from fiction, to ask questions, seek answers, to be closer to their world, trying to penetrate in its complexity.

As we approach the requirements of the society and the communities where we live, the desire of students to discover and explore can develop interdisciplinary projects to encourage the discovery and research. The interdisciplinary nature of projects is very important since it can no longer speak of a strict separation of science, and understanding of phenomena surrounding requires more complex knowledge than strictly physical, strictly biology or strictly chemistry. For this reasons, carried projects of Astronomical Club from the National College "Inochentie Micu Clain"-Blaj, Romania, have a strong interdisciplinary and intercultural character. Among these projects can remember:

- drawing inspiration from Global Astronomy Month motto, "One people, one sky", students from Astronomical Club have become professors of astronomy organizing observational nights for all community members
- to open dialogue student-teacher it was organized a symposium on science, Talking with the Universe, where students took the opportunity to present their work (models, posters, presentations) in front of colleagues and teachers. To develop creativity, starting from the real scientific phenomena, students are also invited to a literary and plastic SF contest, From Earth to Stars, a competition that enjoys great success among students.

- participation with models, experiments and posters at the National Festival of Science.

Also, wishing to bring students closer to nature, to better understand the world around us, we have initiated a project (To understand our biodiversity), whose main objective is to discover biodiversity from Blaj area. Working in research groups, students began discover of habitat around Blaj, starting from the position of this region in Romania's geography, to identify flora and fauna of the area, trying to highlighting the specific of Blaj area. Blaj is a town from Transylvanian plateau, at the confluence of Tarnava Mica and Tarnava Mare, near to Mures River, surrounded by forested hills, and two natural reservations.