

## **Project “Step into the Physics”**

Jelena Radovanović

Primary school “Slobodan Sekulić”, Užice, Serbia (lena.radovanovic@gmail.com)

The “Step into the Physics” project was implemented with the twin goals of science popularization among younger schoolchildren, with an emphasis on physics, and the strengthening of their teachers’ professional competences related to science topics.

The basic idea was for the groups of fourth-grade students (10 years of age), from all the primary schools in the wider Užice city region, to take part in one of the four workshops, together with their teachers. The workshops were: Measurement; Electricity and Magnetism; Floating and Sinking; and The Moon in the Palm of Your Hand.

Topics were selected so as to be appropriate for students’ age, but with clear connections to physics lessons which they will be taking in the future. Workshop activities were designed to allow students to develop basic scientific culture and literacy through immediate, practical work and peer cooperation, in accordance with the principles of investigative approach.

The workshops were implemented in the Užice Science Club during the months of October and November 2017. They were attended by over 80 fourth-grade students from 9 primary schools. 20 previously trained seventh- and eighth-grade students (age 13 and 14) took part in workshop implementation as associates.

These activities were an excellent opportunity to develop child curiosity into interest for science and realization that science is the way towards understanding phenomena in the world around us. The activities also provided a chance for older students to apply their acquired knowledge while simultaneously developing skills of cooperation and communication. Motivation of all the participants and the achieved quality of interaction made this experience invaluable for the author herself.