EPSC Abstracts
Vol. 12, EPSC2018-1270, 2018
European Planetary Science Congress 2018
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Teaching Astrobiology in the modern classroom: a contemporary challenge and an opportunity for educators

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Abstract

Astrobiology is an incredibly dynamic and engaging multidisciplinary topic that attracts professional scientists and amateur enthusiasts alike and can be used as a vehicle that provides a unique environment for educators from Kindergarten to Lyceum, for an introduction to science education.

We believe that by developing and promoting the teaching of Astrobiology in the broadest possible way to students we can introduce them to science in a very pleasant way and easily prepare them for a "life—long learning" journey. Furthermore, the cultural and philosophical role of Astrobiology is undisputed. Studying and sharing the exciting discoveries and unique perspective of astrobiology with a wider audience is a way of searching for our own origin, learning to situate ourselves within cosmic infinity and developing a sense for the beauty and fragility of our planet the Earth. It also allows us to keep a critical approach towards irrational pseudo-sciences.

We will present a role model of educational programs which has already been implemented in various successful Astronomy projects. As well we will present our future plans.