

Planets in a Room: a DIY, low-cost educational kit

L.Giacomini (1,2,3), F.Aloisi (1), I. De Angelis (1, 4), S. Capretti (5)
(1) Speak Science, Rome, Italy (info@speakscience.it), (2) IAPS-INAF, Rome, Italy (livia.giacomini@iaps.inaf.it), (3) Europlanet 2020 RI, (4) Roma Tre University, Dipartimento di Matematica e Fisica, Rome, Italy, (5) AstronomiAmo, Rome, Italy

Abstract

“Planets in a room” is a DIY kit to build a small, lowcost spherical projector and planetarium that teachers, museum, planetary scientists and other individuals can easily build and use on their own, to show and teach the planets and the stars. The kit was developed by the italian non-profit association Speak Science with the collaboration of INAF-IAPS of Rome, the Roma Tre University (Dipartimento di Matematica e Fisica) and the non-profit association AstronomiAmo. The project was funded by the Europlanet Outreach Funding Scheme and presented in a first prototype version at EPSC 2017 [1].

Starting from EPSC2018, “Planets in a room” will be presented and distributed to schools and other education institutions from all over Europe. The distribution phase will take place as a crowdfunding project (<http://www.planetsinaroom.com/>) that will also involve the outreach and research planetology community, with the aim of bringing planetary science to a larger audience.

Acknowledgements

We acknowledge for this project the vast community of amateur and professionals that is actively working on innovative educational systems for astronomy such as planetarium and virtual reality projects (both hardware and software). Planets in a room is based on the work of this vast community of people and their experiences and results. To cite some of them, we acknowledge the work of Paul Bourke and the Lhoumeau Sky System Open project. We also acknowledge for this work Europlanet for funding Speak Science and finally, all scientists, teachers and students who have used (and will use) Planets in a Room.

References

- [1] Giacomini L., Aloisi F., De Angelis I., “Planets in a room”, EPSC Abstracts Vol. 11, EPSC2017-280, 2017