

ScienzAperta at INGV, open-weeks of scientific information and dissemination

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Since 2011, the Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia (INGV) promoted ScienzAperta, an Open Science Week that involve several INGV headquarters over the Italian territory, keeping open their doors to public. ScienzAperta held once per year during spring, proposing scientific exhibitions, hands-on laboratories, meetings and seminars with researchers, guided tours to scientific laboratories and to the 24-hour countryside seismic and volcanic surveillance rooms.

The common goal is to responds to the needs and the request of the community for more information on issues regarding our Planet and to engage the scientific world in a correct, straightforward and efficient communication on scientific research and technological innovations. In a world that request citizens to be more informed, aware and able to make crucial decisions about their own health and safety, the knowledge is crucial to handle doubts and to know how to choose with consciousness.

Activities are designed to help raise awareness about earth sciences, and research activities at INGV, as well as intrigue, interest, and stimulate audiences of all ages. Researchers and technicians were involved in outreach activities to conceive scientific programs and to present research as the heritage of all. The ScienzAperta programs were designed giving special attention to pupils and teachers. Hand-on laboratories for kids on earthquakes, volcanoes, and also on INGV researches in Antarctica were organized, achieved great participation and appreciation. Events were also organized in collaboration with other institutions and with transdisciplinary approaches. For example, for the first edition, geophysics and nutrition sciences were linked through geodynamic evolution and diet evolution of the Mediterranean tanks to the collaboration with Istituto Nazionale di Ricerca per gli Alimenti (INRAN). For the 2016 edition, University of Roma 3 and INFN researchers have been involved in seminars on volcanoes and gravitational waves, respectively.

In all the editions music-based initiatives were designed to attract young people as well as generic public, such as the performances “seismic waves, sound waves, from earthquake to music”, “musical journey of Italian earthquakes”, “waves, sympathy and music”, “landscapes, territory and wines” as well as the “Flamenco waves” dance for the most recent edition.

ScienzAperta is part of the continuing educational and outreach project we promote to citizens. These initiatives could increase people's awareness of the INGV activity and its role in society and, since preparedness and knowledge on how to prepare and deal with natural disasters is a powerful resource for risk reduction, accomplish the knowledge on Earth Science and strengthening the culture of prevention.