

scirab

science in radio broadcasting

Activity Report
Full project summary

Trieste, March 2005

Summary of the full project activity and objectives reached

The SCIRAB project was successfully carried out.

All of the proposed goals were reached. An higher than planned impact was obtained.

Due the short length of the project, we refer to the Mid term Activity report (submitted in September 2004) and to the Second Activity Report for detailed descriptions of the activities, the list of delivered deliverables, and the objectives reached. We include here a short summary.

Main fulfilled activities:

- Survey of science radio programmes in Europe.
 - o Over 70 science radio programmes all over Europe were identified and contacted.
 - o Detailed data on 40 radio programmes were collected through a questionnaire and are available on line.
 - o Data were analysed and discussed and presented on the web-site.
- Establishment of a network of science radio journalists
 - o Most of the journalists or producers of the abovementioned programmes were contacted and involved in Scirab activities, with different level of engagements
- Establishment of a web site devoted to the role of the radio in science communication (www.scienceonair.org).
- Review of the literature on science communication on the radio.
 - o A bibliography was made available on the web-site
- Organisation of two focused workshops and of the first International symposium on the role of the radio in science communication.
 1. *Challenges and opportunities in Radio Science Journalism in Eastern Europe*. Bucharest, Radio Romania, 2-4 July 2004
 2. *Science on air. The role of the radio in science communication*. Trieste, ICTP, 1-2 October 2005.
 3. *Are scientists heard on the radio?* London, BBC Bush House, 27 November 2004.
- Definition of priorities, best practices and guidelines for promoting science on the radio and the radio in science communication.
 - o Results were summarised in the workshops and symposium reports and in the Scirab final reports. All documents were made available on the website.

The only planned activity that was not fulfilled is the establishment of a web-forum, as participants to the various Scirab meeting clearly expressed a preference for a lighter, e-mail based way of contact.

OBJECTIVES REACHED

- Science radio programmes in Europe were surveyed and analysed in terms of a series of parameters, such as style and length of the programme, scheduling times, role of the journalists and of scientists, attitude toward the educational, informational or entertainment roles, use of the web, etc. This provided a sound data base for further considerations on the role of the radio in science communication (see below), and contributed to highlighting the relevance of the radio medium.
- Journalists and scientists working or interested in the radio medium were gathered around what will probably be a stable, long term network. Regular e-mail exchanges, communications, and professional collaborations are already taking place on spontaneous basis among Scirab partners.

- Guidelines for collaborations and co-productions at European level were carried out. These will be used as basic reference for further projects, whether carried out within the Scirab network or independently by radio practitioners and scientists.
- In depth discussion on the relationship between scientists and journalists in science radio programmes took place. These were analysed and included in the London seminar report, and will constitute the basis for further dissemination actions.
- Gender balance was fulfilled in all the meetings, and specific voice was given to gender issue on radio programmes, although it was not chosen as a priority in this phase of the network.
- A high representation of new member states characterised all the meetings.

Key figures:

- 75 science radio programmes from 16 countries identified and contacted
- 40 questionnaires received, analysed and inserted in a database
- 28 radio journalists actively involved as speakers in the meetings (13 women, 15 men)
- 6 researchers on science communication actively involved as speakers in the meetings (3 men, 3 women)
- 14 scientists actively involved as speakers in the meetings (6 women, 8 men)
- 18 countries represented (11 European old member states, 5 European new member states, plus Russia and Switzerland)
- 11 papers published in congress proceedings
- Specific Scirab presentations at 3 International conferences
- A book on Science in radio broadcasting expected to be published in summer 2005.

All major achievements and guidelines are reported in the **SCIRAB Final Report**