

Astronomical Education in Poland

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Astronomical education is undergoing a fundamental change in Poland with the introduction in 1987 September of a revised astronomy programme. Although previously taught as a separate subject, it was often neglected by pupils concentrating on examinations for other subjects. Astronomy is now treated as part of the physics course and will be taught to all grades of pupils. This contribution also described the encouragement of astronomy through school astronomy groups, summer camps and the Astronomy Olympiads, where the winners are excused from entrance examinations to university if taking astronomy or physics courses.

Astronomy and Computing in Spanish (Aragon) High Schools

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Astronomy is an optional subject available at some schools, but is generally underfunded. A recent government campaign aims to increase the knowledge of computing and astronomy has been fruitfully linked with this. Details of three specific areas were given: computer-based training; modelling and simulation; and guided programming, where the pupil has to master both astronomical and computational problems.

[In addition to the paper by Dr Acker (given above), four contributions dealt with planetariums and their programmes. These formed a sharp, and interesting contrast, because their size and facilities differed so widely. Further information about European planetarium facilities may be found in "European Planetarium News", published by the Planetarium at Strasbourg. Two Colloquia on European Planetariums have been held in Strasbourg, the first in 1984 and the second in 1988. – Eds.]

The Planetarium at the Palais de la Découverte

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This large planetarium has about 250 000 visitors every year. It seats 201 persons and has a modern Carl-Zeiss Jena projector. Two or five showings from a series