

Learning How to Run a Science Center

September 21, 2017

The City of Science of Naples hosted the third edition of the EMME Summer School for Science Communication, a week of talks and workshops on the topic of managing multi-use centers devoted to scientific dissemination.

Museums, scientific exhibits, planetariums, **science centers**: worldwide, the presence of these structures is constantly growing (albeit with significant differences between Countries), with a considerable increase in the number of visitors.

But “how do you make” a science center? And what does it mean to manage such, often very complex, structures? All this was discussed, September 10 through 15, at the [EMME Summer School for Science Communication](#), organized in one of the most important Italian science centers, the Città della Scienza , or [City of Science](#), in Naples.

The school, which came this year to its third edition, was a great opportunity for meeting and exchanging ideas for **science communicators**, managers and staff of museums and scientific centers for facilities based in the **Euro-Mediterranean area and the Middle East** in particular.

The twenty-six participants, coming from **ten countries** (Italy, Portugal, Cyprus, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Palestine, Saudi Arabia and Tunisia), were involved in numerous **workshops** where they had the chance to experience first-hand many operational and management situations closely related to the organization of a science center such as planning, fund management, human resources management, communication strategies, and activities for young visitors.

Many high-profile speakers, coming from some of the world’s leading science centers such as **Michele Lanzinger**, director of Muse, **Maissa Azab** (Bibliotheca Alexandrina), **Rosalia Vargas** (Ciencia Viva, Lisbon), **Mikko Myllykoski** (Heureka , Finland) and **Kua Patten**, former exhibit director at the of the Exploratorium of San Francisco and current consultant of Città della Scienza.

The six-day event also included guided tours of the main attractions of the City of Science, such as the **Corporea** exhibit and the **Planetarium**, as well as social activities related to Neapolitan culture and gastronomy, greatly appreciated by participants from the Middle East.

The results are **very positive**: participants who already work in a science center can now return to their organizations of origin with a wealth of knowledge and richer relationships, while those who plan to work in this field in the future, or are merely interested in the subject, will now have a better understanding of what running these structures means.

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