

Report on the activity in the framework of the European Inventor Network



To be sent to:

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**Name of the alumnus who
implemented the activity**

Iglė Vepškaitė-Monstavičė

**Short description of the
activity**

We had exciting 5 days filled with activities involving yeast, found on fruits and berries. Firstly, we discussed the work of scientists and introduced the students to practical laboratory activities. The students collected fruits and berries from the school garden, placed them in a sugar solution, and waited several weeks for fermentation to occur. Then they spread the solution on the nutrient medium, purified and examined the grown yeast colonies, and observed the samples under a microscope. We also organized an exhibition titled „Art in Science“, where Petri dishes with nutrient media replaced the traditional canvas, and morphologically different yeasts served as the color palette. The fourth and fifth days were dedicated to molecular biology. Genomic DNA was extracted from yeast cultures, amplified using PCR method, and analysed by gel eletrophoresis. We also performed restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLP) analysis. The students learned how to interpret agarose gel fragments, evaluate PCR and RFLP results, and attempted to identify the yeast species they had based on information from the scientific literature.

Date and place of the activity

September 19, October 10, 13, 23, 24, 2025. Veiviržėnai Jurgis Šaulys gymnasium, Veiviržėnai, Lithuania.

**Audience (number and age
of the participants)**

37 secondary school students from 13 to 18 years old and 3 teachers.

Outcomes and achievement

Ex: qualitative information, such as testimonials or success stories

The students learned about microbiology and molecular biology methods, the necessary laboratory equipment, and tried everything out of themselves. They assessed their desires and opportunities to become scientists. They actively participated in workshops and shared their thoughts about this project (see a video created by Augustė Bartkutė “Reeliuma” and photos taken by Gabrielė Stripeikaitė. Both students participated in this activity).

Teachers were pleased that the activity was interdisciplinary, covering nature sciences, technology, mathematics, and the arts (STEAM).

For me, this experience was a good opportunity to try explaining scientific topics in a simple and understandable way to the general public. I am proud of the participants who remained optimistic even when the activities were difficult.

Recommendations

Ex: any recommendation for Future activities based on the Experience and outcomes of This grant-funded activity

Based on this experience, I am delighted and would definitely recommend allocating funds for the purchase of activity tools in the future so that as many different things as possible can be demonstrated.

Attachments: Any supporting documents (such as photographs, testimonials or other relevant materials) that help illustrate the activity's impacts and effectiveness should be sent to mchopinaud@epo.org. These supporting documents might be posted on the European Inventor Network webpage.

