

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



To be sent to:
Marjorie Chopinaud
Coordinator of the European Inventor Network
mchopinaud@epo.org

Name of the alumnus who implemented the activity

Luis Chimeno Moral

Short description of the activity

The activity took place at a secondary school and was structured in two parts:

- i) a one-hour presentation for students, and
- ii) participation in a podcast together with students, aimed at spreading the activity among future students from the region and other educational centers.

The activity was mainly addressed to students who are in the process of deciding their future career paths. The objective was to share my personal experience as a former student, talk about my academic and professional journey, my current work, as well as the Young Inventors Award and the work we are doing around our invention.

Date and place of the activity

On January 8th, 2026, at the secondary school “La Marisma” in Huelva, Spain.

Audience (number and age of the participants)

35 students from pre-university courses (aged 16–17), plus an additional audience of over 25 students who followed the podcast live (aged 14–17).

Outcomes and achievement

Ex: qualitative information, such as testimonials or success stories

The main focus of the activity was to offer students my experience not only as a former student, but also as a young person who once faced the challenge of choosing a career and dealing with all the fears and uncertainties that come with that decision.

During the presentation, I explained the different pathways available to build a professional career, with a particular focus on university options. I also tried to demystify the idea that once a decision is made there is no way back, which is not the case.

I introduced Biotechnology through our invention—smart labels for food monitoring—and explained how the idea emerged, how we developed it, and how meaningful it was for us to receive recognition from the European Patent Office as Young Inventors.

I also explained the role of the EPO and worked to challenge the common misconception that innovators or inventors are geniuses who discover something completely unique. In reality, inventors often provide solutions to existing problems, and these solutions do not need to be complex or difficult, but rather practical and driven by real-world needs.

The students highly appreciated the activity, and many of them showed strong interest by asking in-depth questions and sharing their own concerns.

At the end of the session, some students requested my email to stay in touch and seek further guidance, and I am currently in contact with them.

One particularly meaningful outcome was a student who wishes to study aerospace engineering, specializing in materials, but does not know where to start. I have the opportunity to connect him with PDL Space, a leading Spanish aerospace company with which we are already connected, which could be very helpful for his future.

Recommendations

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

Based on my experience during this activity, it is extremely valuable for students to have a reference they can relate to and reflect on. In my personal opinion, it is crucial that students feel free to make mistakes rather than feeling guilty about them. Choosing a career is a complex process, especially when it feels like a lifetime decision.

Having close contact with someone who was in their position not long ago can be very reassuring and can help them make decisions—or at least reduce the fear and anxiety associated with the process.

Thanks to the dissemination of the activity through the podcast, I was contacted by professors from different educational centers - IES José Caballero (Huelva) - who recognized the value of the initiative and expressed interest in organizing the same activity with their own students.

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.

