

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



Name of the alumnus who implemented the activity:

José Ángel Ávila Rodríguez

Short description of the activity

Two visits to engineering faculties in Slovenia (Ljubljana and Novo Mest) to deliver inspiring lectures to students aged between 14 and 20 towards Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), placing a particular emphasis on encouraging girls to consider careers in these fields. The presentations delved into complex topics such as relativity and quantum mechanics, and stressed the significance of Europe, its values, and the importance of learning other languages and cultures.

Date and place of the activity

Two engineering faculties in Slovenia, one in University of Ljubljana and in Novo Mesto:
-Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, University of Ljubljana (April 8th, 2024)
-Šolski center Novo Mesto (April 9th, 2024)

Audience (number and age of the participants)

About 400 students in total, ages ranging from 14 to 20 years old.

Key messages delivered

Key messages included promoting curiosity and confidence among students, particularly in STEM fields, highlighting how a curious mind fosters innovation and discovery. The visit emphasized empowering women in STEM, stressing the importance of their representation and participation in driving technological advancement. Additionally, it underscored the significance of patents in protecting innovation and encouraging students to consider intellectual property in their future endeavors. Lifelong learning was encouraged as essential for success in STEM, emphasizing the value of staying curious and open to new experiences beyond the classroom. Europe's innovation potential was showcased, urging students to take pride in their continent's history of innovation and seize opportunities for shaping future technology. Collaboration and diversity were emphasized as crucial for driving innovation, promoting interdisciplinary teamwork and inclusion of diverse perspectives. Ultimately, the visit aimed to inspire students to become future leaders in STEM, encouraging them to dream big and work tirelessly to turn their visions into reality, shaping the future of technology and innovation.

Outcomes and achievement

The visit to the faculties in Ljubljana and the school in Novo Mesto was a resounding success, with students expressing newfound inspiration and enthusiasm for science and technology. The interactive nature of the sessions facilitated meaningful exchanges and sparked curiosity among attendees, underscoring the importance of such initiatives in nurturing the next generation of innovators and problem-solvers.

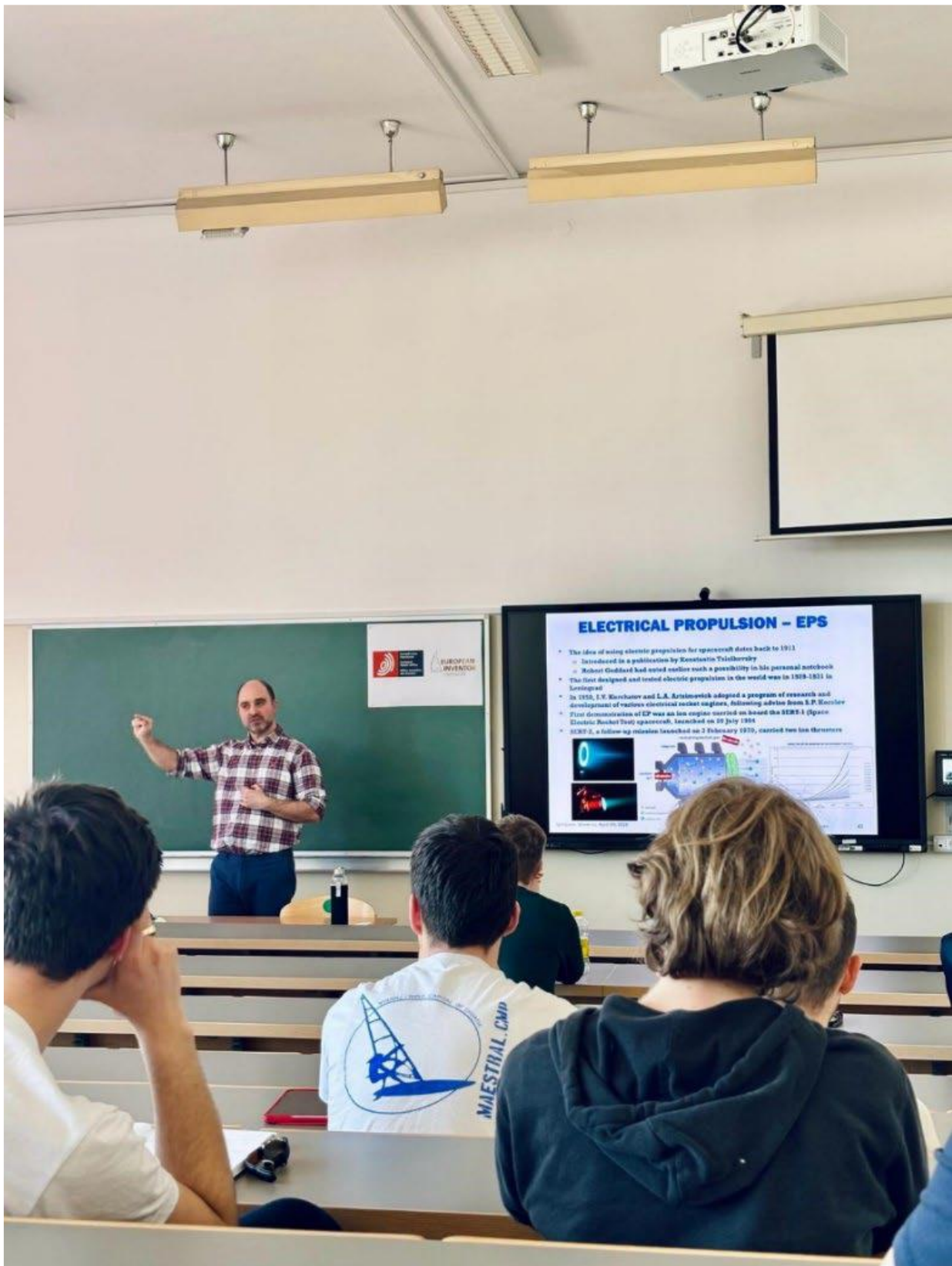
The faculties and school authorities expressed their gratitude for the visit, acknowledging its transformative impact on the students' outlook and aspirations. Moving forward, there is a clear consensus on the need for continued efforts to inspire and empower young minds in STEM fields, with the European Patent Office playing a crucial role in supporting such initiatives and driving innovation across Europe.

Both schools recognized the incredible value of the activity promoted by the European Patent Office and expressed their enthusiasm for extending the initiative to many more schools. Both schools welcomed the prospect of my return at the earliest possible occasion to sustain the positive momentum generated during this visit.

Recommendations

The alumni member's recommendation for future initiatives is to focus the activities on the range of ages from 12 to 18 as this is where the impact is the greatest. Visit to the faculties was very valuable but the impact significantly higher at the school of Novo Mesto, where the kids were fascinated.

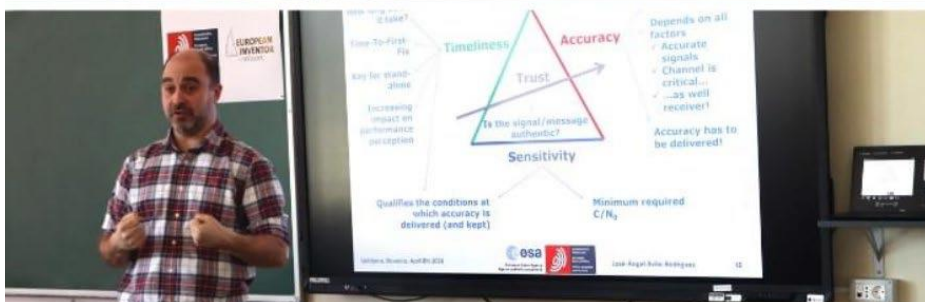
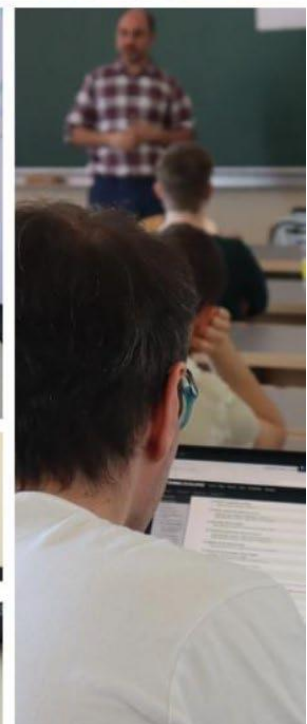
Visit to the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Ljubljana (8 April):



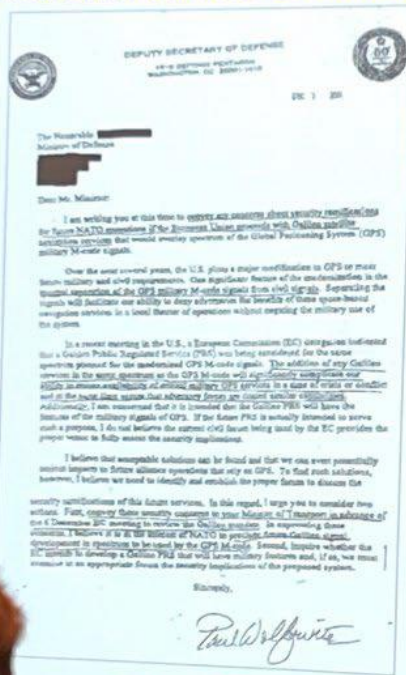
Lecture at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering on April 8th, 2024



Introduction by Dr. Igor Petrović in front of the aula



GALILEO: THE STORY OF AN UNWELCOME SUCCESS



José-Ángel Ávila-R



Šolski center, Novo Mesto (9 April)View (from the top) of the Assembly Hall on April 9thView (from the bottom) of the Assembly Hall on April 9th



Round Table with Students specialized in Science (17-18 year old group)



Example of some of the prizes given to students participating in the games (one of the several prizes given to female students at the Šolski center Novo Mesto)



Winning teams of the science quiz competition (every team got space bags and shirts and the captain and leader a pullover with ESA related motives)