



Virtual Observatory at school

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In September 2011, a project aimed at studying astronomy by using professional software and science cases developed in the context of the Virtual Observatory was proposed to three schools (one junior high school and two senior high schools).

Two of them joined the project, which covered the period Oct 2010-Feb 2011.

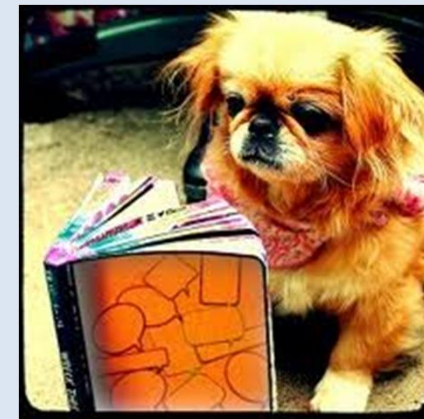
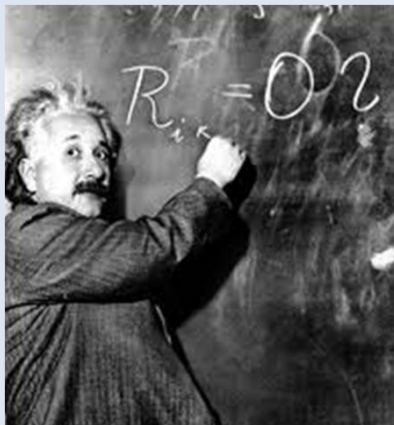
EuroVo AIDA/WP5:

<http://wwwas.oats.inaf.it/aida4you/index.html?fsize=medium>



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Moreover the innovative didactic method
provided by the Virtual Observatory gave
students the possibility to study astronomy by
using a language close to their reality: the
Information Technology.



Our project focussed on the important role of the “scientific laboratory”, meaning both the facility and the conscious use of research.



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the junior high school “V. Verga” and the secondary school
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We proposed three modules:

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NO, A PLANETARIUM
ISN'T FOR RAISING
VEGETABLES



From the very first lesson students had the opportunity of learning how to use the software “Stellarium”, which allowed them to “take a stroll among stars”.

Indeed, this actually occurred, and students enjoyed this funny, fascinating and stimulating experience, mainly because they were using an instrument that is undoubtedly close to their own reality.

In general, we can say that the software “Stellarium” is a valid approach to the “scientific method” and can promote the interest in and the understanding of the physical sciences, and especially Astronomy.

Teachers’ role has changed, but at the same time their task of coordination and educational promotion has remained the same.



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International Virtual Observatory Alliance Interoperability Workshop - Napoli, May 2011

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The use of the movies, images and multimedia employed by the experts made the lessons much more interesting than the traditional front lecturing based on the use of the textbook. Moreover, considering that in the lower secondary school Astronomy is generally not studied in depth, it appears to be clear that the approach of this Project proved extremely effective. This experience was definitely successful, for both the interest aroused and its methodological innovation.



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In the future....

<http://www.na.astro.it/didatticaVO/>

We plan to propose the project to other schools selected according to their declaration of interest.

