La main à la pâte 8th international Seminar on science education in primary and middle schools

Science education facing the challenges of sustainable development and climate change

After more than 20 years of development and international cooperation, the La main à la pâte Foundation organises its 8th international seminar, from 12 to 17 June 2017, in partnership with the French Ministry of Education for Higher Education and Research and the International Centre for Pedagogical Studies (CIEP).

This seminar is intended for new trainers and decision-makers of foreign educational systems wishing to discover and get acquainted with the methods and the tools developed in France. The seminar will focus especially on the professional development of science teachers.

This year, Education for Sustainable Development will be the transverse theme of the seminar.

General objectives:
- To raise foreign participants’ awareness of inquiry-based science education, of its implementation in the educational system, and of teacher professional development.
- To share free methodological and scientific resources developed in France for teachers and trainers.
- To make possible an intercultural adaptation of the approach and contents proposed by La main à la pâte to the context of each country.
- To lay the foundation for future long-term projects between La main à la pâte and the represented countries.
- To foster international cooperation between the foreign partners of La main à la pâte.

The La main à la pâte (« hands-on ») programme was launched in 1995 by Georges Charpak, Nobel prize winner, Pierre Léna and Yves Quéré with the support of the French Academy of Sciences and Ministry of Education.

Implemented jointly with the Ecoles normales supérieures of Paris and Lyon, La main à la pâte aims to renew and expand science an technology teaching in primary education in France and elsewhere. It recommends, for this purpose, that teachers implement an inquiry process combining exploration of the world, scientific learning, experimentation, mastery of language and argumentation, so that all children deepen their understanding of the objects and phenomena around them.

Its expertise is regularly sought abroad by a growing number of partner countries to contribute to the renewal of science education worldwide through expertise, training and resources.
**Dates and place**
From 12 to 17 June 2017 at the CIEP (International Centre for Pedagogical Studies), near Paris (France), www.ciep.fr/en/

**Contents**
- History and principles of *La main à la pâte* and inquiry-based science education.
- The inquiry-based science approach. Training to the pedagogical approach in primary and middle schools: methods, steps, relevance. Class visits, practical activities... in particular on the theme of Sustainable Development.
- Strategies for innovation in professional development practices: educational resources, teacher professional development and support, cross-disciplinary approach.
- Strategies for generalisation into the educational systems: in-service professional development for teachers and development of pilot projects...

*Contributors: La main à la pâte* staff, academics and researchers, staff of the French Ministry of Education, associated experts.

**Participants**
The seminar will host fifty participants from various countries, outside the European Union.

Profile of the participants: educational system officers, academics in charge of teacher professional development, national program for science education leaders and other stakeholders in science education.

Criteria for application: during the review of the application, particular attention will be paid to the impact that participants could have on national initiatives in science education in their own country (public policy, teacher training institutions, pilot programs). Applications presented by a competent institution in this domain will be given priority.

Double applications (2 persons from the same country, 1 stake-holder / 1 trainer) are required; the profiles of the participants have to be complementary to guarantee a better transfer within their national system.

The participants will have to be proficient either in French or English.

**Costs**
Professional development costs and most part of the costs related to the stay are covered by the French part during the whole duration of the seminar.

International travel expenses, visa and travel insurance fees, airport transfers and some meals will be at participants’ expense.

**Calendar**
- Deadline for application: February 28th, 2017
- Selection of the participants: March 17th, 2017 (publication on the seminar website)

**Registration**
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