

ERA-Net PathoGenoMics launches an ICT teaching aid

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The main purpose of the teaching aid is to provide accurate scientific knowledge, from reliable sources, at an appropriate level, in Pathogenomics.

An equally important objective is to make students and surfers aware of some of the main aims of modern scientific research and to point out to them the medical and economical potentials of such research.

The teaching aid is expected to be available on the internet within few months.

ERA-Net PathoGenoMics (PGM) is a Coordination Action funded by the European Union (EU) whose main aim is to establish the infrastructure of collaborative research in Pathogenomics. Among its activities, "Science to Society" has earned a good deal of attention from the Member States of the EU and the Associate States.

As a part of ERA-PGM activities and with its financial support, a web-based teaching aid for PGM-related issues was developed. This teaching aid presents the public with the various prospects and benefits of Pathogenomics research. The teaching aid was designed for the use of high-school students and of occasional lay internet surfers, designed as an Internet Web-site. It is built of modular sub-units. Each sub-unit stands alone and yet all are interconnected. This modular structure enables non-linear steering between the various components of the teaching aid. The basic scientific knowledge that would be required to deal with the learning issues is continuously available as a supplement called "A virtual journey to the genetics of pathogens".

The learners are confronted with scenarios that simulate actual issues, and required to make decisions concerning those issues, on the basis of the scientific knowledge obtained while using the teaching aid. The relevance and significance of underlying scientific concepts and facts is unveiled during the learning process, while the learners make meaningful connections between newly acquired scientific concepts and their own existing body of knowledge. It is highly recommended that small groups of students (2-3) work in collaboration while performing the assignments included in the teaching aid.

The kit is written in English and can be translated into any language.

Subject: Biotechnology;

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Institution: Public Research;

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