

Report

Title of the workshop: Scientix workshop on CSI - Portugal: Forensic Molecular Biology

Project covering: Scientix 2

Expert – José Matos/Eugénia Cunha

Duration of the workshop – 4 hours

Type of participants: Biology and Geology teachers

Local: National Institute for Agrarian and Veterinarian Research (INIAV) – Oeiras - Portugal

Number of participants - 20

Date: 9th Maio, 2014

The workshop “CSI - Portugal: Forensic Molecular Biology” was organized by DGE within the scope of Scientix 2. The aim of this workshop is to promote teachers’ updating with the basic concepts of molecular biology, its application on forensic field and to give them the opportunity to experience the most recent techniques in this area, in order to improve science education in schools.

The workshop was publicized on DGE’s website and on a platform used by the central bodies of the Ministry of Education and Science to communicate with the heads of School boards.

Information was provided about the importance of this workshop within Scientix2, its objectives, target audience (Biology and Geology teachers) and criteria for participants’ selection. The registration of candidates was made online.

There were 36 registrations and 22 of them were selected, based on the criteria that had been established.

The workshop took place in the National Institute for Agrarian and Veterinarian Research (INIAV); the participants were 22 teachers of Biology and Geology as trainees, and as trainers the expert José Matos – Molecular Biologist, the expert Eugénia Cunha – Forensic Anthropologist and a member of the Portuguese Scientix2 team, Sílvia Castro.

The workshop began with a welcome message by the member of the Portuguese Scientix2 team, who presented Scientix2, focusing on its objectives and scope, as well as referring to the importance of this workshop within the scope of Scientix2.



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She also provided information on forthcoming events of Scientix2 and encouraged the participating teachers to apply for the European conference to be held in Brussels, 24-26 October 2014, and more information concerning events within the scope of Scientix 2 and procedures on how the teachers could join the initiative.

After that, the expert José Matos began his presentation on forensic sciences focusing on forensic methodology involving DNA analysis such like DNA extraction procedures, genetic markers, DNA amplification using PCR, molecular data analysis and computer software.

Then, the expert Eugénia Cunha made her presentation on the role of bones study in the identification and cause of death, focusing on the evaluation of biological profile and other factors, making use of molecular biology methods.

After that, there was a Lab practical, where participants prepared PCR reactions, ran an agarose gel electrophoresis, analysed molecular data and solved a DNA fingerprinting analysis.

In the end, teachers were very enthusiastic with the workshop and with Scientix2, which gave them this opportunity to update their scientific knowledge in Molecular Biology, one of the matters of Biology curricula that causes more difficulties in their practices.



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