Successfully teaching astronomy in schools (STARS)

Antoaneta Antonova

Bulgarian Astronomical Society,

Institute of Astronomy, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

Motivation for the project

- Need for rejuvenation of science education in our schools.
- In most education systems in Central and Eastern Europe, teachers struggle due to lack of resources and sometimes even information.
- Support the teachers teaching astronomy at secondary education.
- Improve teaching practices, as well as give concrete ideas of how to present a given topic in astronomy-related curriculum.

AIMS

- To equip teachers with innovative methodologies, knowledge and tools to deliver astronomy-related curriculum in a relevant and meaningful manner.
- To foster the acquisition of critical thinking, analytical and abstract reasoning skills, thus contributing to increasing the attainment levels among students, as well as the acquisition of relevant knowledge
- To develop a concept for new educational program in astronomy which is reflecting current trends and students´ attitude towards the modern learning process.
- To equip target groups with **open education resources on astronomy** that are of high-quality, free to use and available **in their national languages**.

STARS OUTPUTS

- STARS Methodological Handbook for Teachers
- STARS Training Program for Teachers
- STARS Online Platform for Teachers, Students and Parent
- STARS Concept for Astronomy Education Program

STARS Methodological Handbook for Teachers

- Consists of 10 chapters covering different astronomical topics: https://app.project-stars.com/en
- Each chapter has theoretical information for the teacher, practical exercises for the students, an answers where appropriate.
- The Bulgarian version: https://project-stars.com/preview-file/STARS-MP-pre-ucitelov-BG-final-nahlad-2a.pdf

EXAMPLES

- Constellations: theoretical part for the teacher: (https://app.project-stars.com/kapitola1-en); example exercise: (https://app.project-stars.com/kapitola1/ulohy/uloha3-en)
- Milky Way and Other Galaxies: https://app.project-stars.com/kapitola8-en; example exercise: https://app.project-stars.com/kapitola8/ulohy/vzdialenosti-vo-vesmire/uloha-8-model-suhvezdia-orion-en

RESULTS AND FEEDBACK

- Easy to use materials in our native language.
- More practical exercises for the students.
- The materials are already successfully used by teachers in secondary schools in Bulgaria, as well as in extracurricular classes.