

## **Interview with Karl Sarnow**

### **1. What is the pedagogical value of Xplora and why should schools join it?**

Xplora offers services, which enable teachers of science to give exciting lessons. If a teacher is looking for new ideas or resources, then he/she will probably find something at the portal.

### **2. How does the Xplora project link scientific institutions and school education?**

Xplora has many research labs and science museums as partners. We offer links to them in different ways. Obviously, teachers can click on the links we offer, so they can connect to the institutions. But in many cases, we can also help getting in contact with the right people directly, if, for example, a specific project is involved.

### **3. Can you give some tips on how to carry out your activities in a collaborative way?**

Xplora is not mainly focused on project activities. Our main focus is to make science teaching more attractive by giving tools to teachers. One part of this approach is to offer project work. We have developed database projects, which are science focused, and collaborative projects, which have a broad background like involving festivities in society, history lessons, politics background and so on.

In database projects, a teacher would input observations into a database. By this, the data is not lost but reusable by others in other lessons.

A very specific and new offer is our web experiments. Here we offer teachers new pedagogical tools for experiment-based science lessons. Some of these experiments enable science for the first time to follow the scientific reasoning inherent in that experiment, and a large volume dataset is therefore necessary. Students thereby profit from each others' work. An excellent example is the web experiment "Millikan elementary charge", which Xplora is trying to develop together with university partners.

### **4. Can you give some examples of best practice in the field of science?**

They are all available in the Practice/Examples section of Xplora:  
<http://www.xplora.org/ww/en/pub/xplora/practice/examples.htm>.

There are many innovative and inspiring teachers in Europe, so we try to give them a place on the portal where they can share their work.

### **5. Which help can the Xplora portal give to eTwinning partnerships?**

In the Megalab section of Xplora, teachers can find projects, which they might find inspiring, and on which to base a partner search. I would propose that a teacher looking for an eTwinning project in science, just inserts a project name from the Xplora Megalab projects into the eTwinning search tool.

**6. In which way does the Xplora portal contribute to motivate pupils for science?**

Our attempt is to motivate teachers to use interesting topics, materials, ideas. We assume that motivated teachers with powerful repository as basis are a reliable source for motivating pupils.