



GIREP Newsletter

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EDITOR'S SECTION

Dear Colleagues,

Year 2020 started with establishing the new GIREP vzw Board and we have encountered many difficulties in completing the work of GIREP vzw over the past few months due to the COVID-19 crisis.

We issue this Newsletter to provide information on activities, reports and plans related to GIREP as a Community and GIREP vzw as a legal organization. In particular we share highlights of the GIREP-EPS-PED-MPTL Webinar hosted online by the University of Malta from 16-18 November 2020. We share details on the programme for the 3rd WCPE conference to be hosted by Hanoi National University of Education on 19-23 July 2021. We invite you to plan you contributions to GIREP-EPS-PED-MPTL 2021 Seminar to be hosted by the University of Malta from 15-19 November 2021. We report also on published and planned GIREP publications and share news from GIREP members and friends.

We share details of GIREP Thematic Groups and international Communities and recent publications by the GIREP community. On the last page we would like to draw your attention to all benefits for being a GIREP vzw member. On behalf of the GIREP community we would like to invite you to contribute to the GIREP Newsletter. Please, inform us about upcoming events (including events at national level), new initiatives and all other announcements that are relevant to GIREP's topics of interest, spirit and mission, and which you would like to share with the GIREP community. The deadline for sending information to be included in the next issue is the 30th April, 2021.

We thank you all for your contributions during 2020 and look forward to your support and collaborations during 2021.

Eilish McLoughlin, GIREP General Secretary

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WEBINAR PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION GROUPS

A total of 93 abstracts were submitted for this webinar but during the webinar, a total of 86 presentations were delivered as some abstracts were not accepted. The themes were discussed for around 6 hours in 7 breakout rooms each having 2 or 3 workgroup leaders. The number of presentations per theme are shown below.

Group	Theme	Presentations
1	ICT and Multimedia in Teacher Education (Initial and Further PD).	11
2	Experiments and lab work in teacher education.	13
3	Quantum Mechanics in Teaching and learning physics.	16
4	Formal, non-formal and informal aspects of physics education at primary level.	11
5	Strategies for pre-service physics teacher education at all levels.	10
6	In-service teacher professional learning strategies.	25

MEDAL CEREMONIES

GIREP Medal - The webinar provided an opportunity to recognize outstanding individuals in Physics Education. This year, Prof David Sokoloff [Oregon University, USA] was presented with the 2020 GIREP medal by the President of GIREP, Prof Marisa Michelini. Prior to presenting the medal, Prof Michelini invited Dr Eilish McLoughlin, GIREP Secretary, to briefly summarise Prof Sokoloff's contribution to Physics Education. Following the presentation of the medal, Prof Sokoloff delivered his keynote speech.

GIREP Anniversary Medal – The webinar provided a second opportunity to recognize the outstanding contribution of a distinguished personality to the sphere of Education – Hon Luigi Berlinguer. Prior to presenting to Hon Berlinguer with Anniversary medal, Prof Michelini invited Dr Dagmara Sokolowska, GIREP Vice-President, to briefly summarise Hon Berlinguer's contribution to Education. Following the presentation of the medal, Hon Berlinguer delivered his reflections on the invaluable worth of education in today's world, to the GIREP participants.

CLOSING CEREMONY

The webinar closed with a brief input from the three members of the Local Organising Committee. The members of the committee invited the participants to take part in the GIREP Malta Seminar that is planned for November 2021. Finally GIREP President Prof Marisa Michelini closed the webinar by thanking all the contributors for their support to the GIREP Malta Webinar 2020, making it a success.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The organizers would like to thank all contributors to the webinar: the GIREP Committee, the invited speakers, the workgroup leaders, the presenters and the participants. These all played a crucial part in the GIREP Malta 2020 webinar. We are also thankful to the Rector of the University of Malta, Prof Alfred Vella and the Deans of the Faculties of Education and Science, for their support. We thank also the University of Malta Conference Unit and the IT services personnel who wholeheartedly supported the organization of the webinar from behind the scenes and whose expertise ensured the smooth running of the webinar. We hope to welcome you to Malta in November 2021 for a face-to-face GIREP seminar, during which you will savour our Maltese hospitality!

Charles Bonello, Joan Borg Marks and Anthony Galeaby, GIREP 2020 Local Organizing Committee