

VT in the Secondary Schools

held in Le Carré des Sciences, Paris in November 6th 2004

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Czech national node

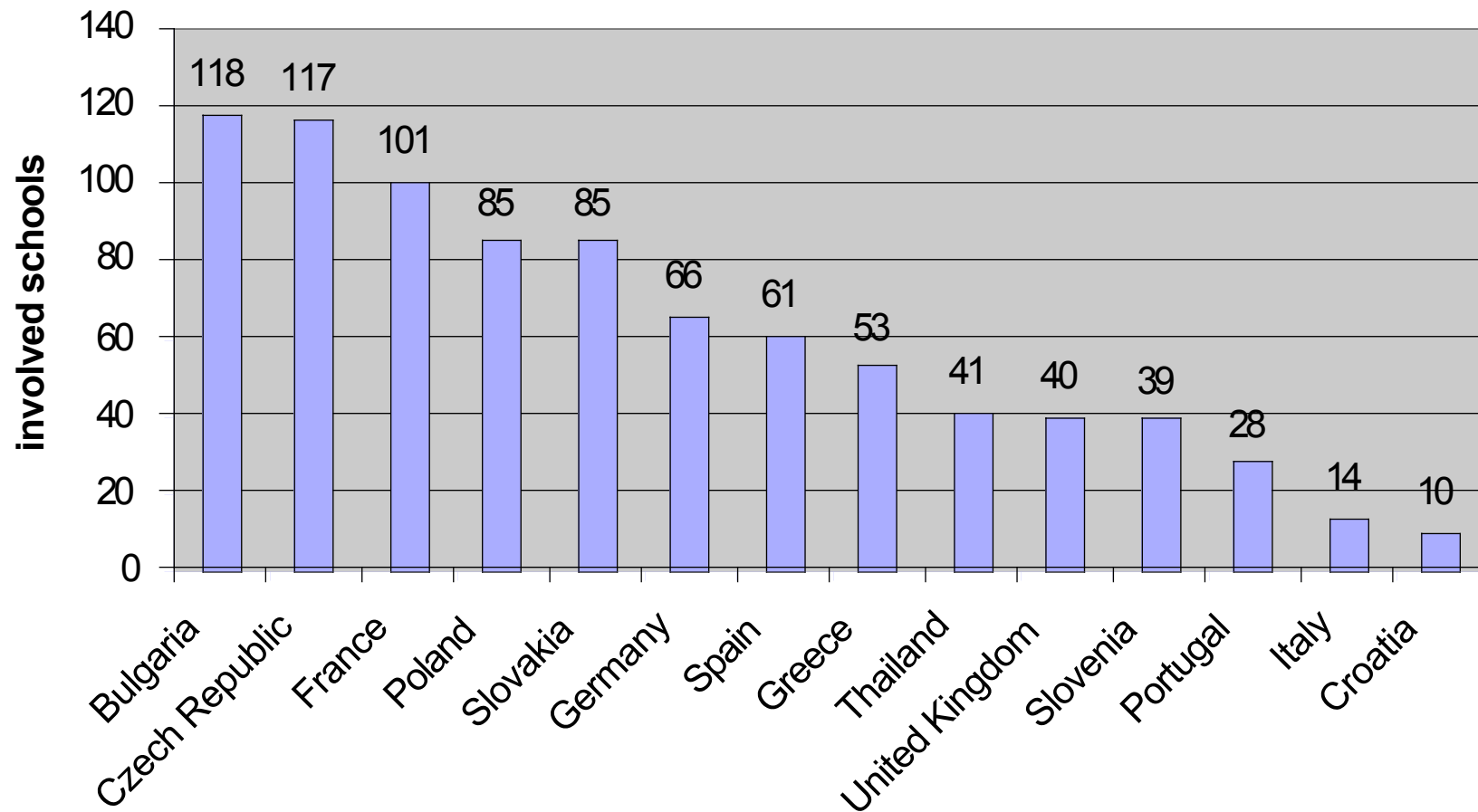
Realne Gymnasium, Prostějov, Czech Republic



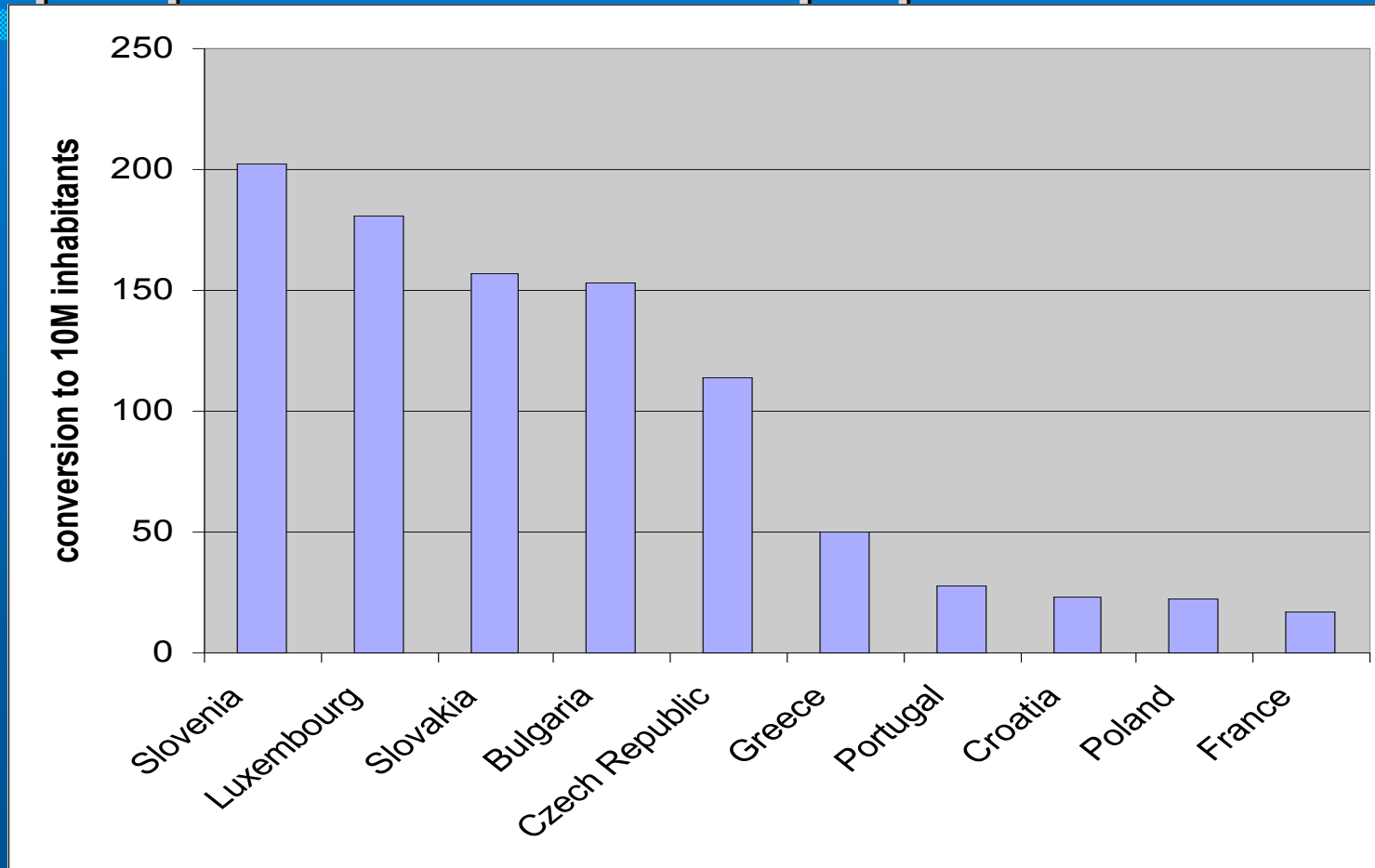
Main objectives of the VT 2004 project with respect to students

- to increase the interest in science of young people
- to establish a closer contact between students and scientists and scientific organizations
- to explain to them the scientific methods of examining the world
- to give them information about a current front-line research
- to involve them in an international project.

Countries with more than 10 involved schools (in total 977 schools)



Involvement of the schools proportional to the population size



Czech national VT 2004 committee report

- We established the Czech national committee at the end of October 2003.
- There are 8 members in the Czech Organizing Committee:
- 4 researchers of the Czech astronomical institutions and observatories
- 3 journalists, i.e. representatives of the public television, the public radio and the newspaper
- 1 teacher
- The main way of communication between us is the internet, which enables flexible and immediate response.
- The first meeting of our committee was held in the middle of November 2003 in Prague where we got to know each other and we identified main problems and suggested further steps.

What problems have we identified?

- **Busy periods are not suitable for addressing both teachers and students. The best time for this are the months from November to December or from February to April.**
- **There are plenty of competitions at schools which are offered to students every year. For captivating attention of students and teachers we have found that the support from the Ministry of Education is of great help.**
- **Some kind of competition between students is welcome because it motivates them to work harder.**
- **The national nod needs to have some overview as regards to the schools involved in the project.**

The forms of addressing teachers and students:

- **emails or letters directed to schools and sent through educational authorities – the reason is to enhance the effect**
- **to make a massive media campaign which draws the attention of both students and teachers to supply teaching and studying materials via the Internet**
- **to announce the competition and the award**
- **to provide students with information about registered students/groups**
- **the local astronomy observatories could provide technical help and leadership and make the project familiar to the general public via lectures for schools and the general public**
- **observation of the Venus transit held at a public place promotes publicity of the school educational program and demonstrates its international activities**

What have we achieved?

- **We prepared letters to address teachers and students**
- **We established further contacts with the Ministry of Education, with the astronomical observatories and with the media representatives**
- **The Minister of Education of the Czech Republic accepted the aegis over the Venus Transit 2004 project.**

What have we achieved?

11/10/04

JUDr. Petra Buzková
ministryně školství, mládeže a tělovýchovy

V Praze dne 10. ledna 2004
Č.j. : SÚ 1754 / 2003 - 32

Vážený pane,

se zájmem jsem si přečetla Váš dopis, v němž mě informujete o celoevropském projektu „Venus Tranzit 2004“, spojeném s popularizací letošního astronomického úkazu - přechodu planety Venuše přes sluneční disk.

Tento projekt považuji s ohledem na jeho hlavní cíl - přiblížit zejména středoškolské mládeži způsoby vědeckého zkoumání světa a zapojit ji do mezinárodní spolupráce ve vědě - za velmi prospěšný a oceňuji rovněž, že Česká republika se podílí na organizování tohoto projektu.

Ráda bych Vám proto sdělila, že Ministerstvo školství, mládeže a tělovýchovy (MŠMT) zmíněný projekt morálně podpoří a převezme nad ním záštitu. Pokud jde o setkání evropských amatérských astronomů v květnu 2004, mohu svou osobní účast přislíbit pouze předběžně, bude záviset na mých případných dalších pracovních povinnostech, v každém případě se však tohoto setkání zúčastní zástupce MŠMT.

S pozdravem



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VT and British Council in the Czech Republic

- We established a contact with the British Council, Prague
- The competition to make the best internet pages dedicated to the VT and students' observations
- 6 internet pages in the Czech language and the same in the English language
- Total size 30MB
- The semifinal held at BC's headquarters in Prague – 10 representatives of the best teams
- Presentation in English language
- Award for 3 best representatives – attendance at the London International Youth Science Forum (The Science Forum each year brings together some 250 students of the sciences, from almost 60 countries in the 5 continents).

The winners

1. Gymnasium Karlovy Vary (off-line version)
<http://www.gemia.cz/transit/>
2. Gymnasium Litvinov (off-line version)
<http://www.gtgm.cz/vt2004>
3. Gymnasium Vsetin (off-line version)
<http://www.inext.cz/mgv/vt2004>



Czech students are looking forward to participate in further European projects!