Public Engagement and Outreach
The case of Agorà Scienza

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WHAT IS AGORA’ SCIENZA

The Centre is a meeting point

- to communicate and disseminate scientific culture
- to bridge the gap between scientists and society
- to teach researchers communication skills
- to innovate science teaching
- to develop research on “Science in Society”
- to promote scientific citizenship

In the Greek polis, the AGORA was the meeting place, the crossroad where cultures and professions met.
Agorà Scienza is located in Torino and is housed inside an 18th Century monastic compound built for the Order of Minims. The building hosted the ancient Chemistry laboratory where Ascanio Sobrero synthesised nitroglycerin (1847). Filippo De Filippi presented for the first time Darwin’s theory in Italy (1864).
The challenges
Key players

To build a trustworthy relationship between society and the scientific community it is essential that the researchers themselves talk about their work. *Agorà Scienza* offers them its expertise for planning dissemination activities, training opportunities and events devised for bringing together different communities.

Università Universities

Studenti e insegnanti sono i protagonisti di percorsi didattici costruiti sull’esperienza diretta in laboratorio per un apprendimento più coinvolgente ed efficace. L’interazione con i ricercatori appassiona i giovani ai temi caldi della ricerca e ai misteri di scienziato.

Scuola School

Students and teachers are the leading actors of science education projects based on their direct experience in the universities’ labs, designed to foster a more captivating and efficient learning. The interaction with researchers fascinates young people towards hot research topics and promotes scientific professions.

Grande pubblico General public

Gatherings and big events bring people of all ages in close contact with research. They allow the citizens to make informed choices to join the debate on challenges of the future.

Società Stakeholders

Involving institutions, organizations, companies and media is of the greatest importance to make research the key factor of development and innovation along with the values, the needs and the expectations of the community.
Evolution

2006
AS nasce come Centro di interesse generale dell'Università di Torino

2007
ESOF2006

2008
Politecnico di Torino, Università del Piemonte Orientale e Compagnia di San Paolo aderiscono al Centro

2009
PolTo, UPO and Compagnia di San Paolo join AS

2010
AS e tra gli organizzatori di ESOF2010 Torino

2011
AS diventa coordinatore della Notte dei ricercatori in Piemonte

2012
AS becomes the coordinator of the European Researchers' Night in Piedmont

2013
Progetto ISAAC: ricerca sui ricercatori italiani e la comunicazione della scienza

2014
ISAAC Project: Italian researchers and the communication of science

2015
Scienza Attiva® wins the "Engage U" and "Stendel" awards and becomes a national project

*LEGEND
AS = Agenzia Scienza
National school for PhD candidates

Science, Communication, Society

350 participants from all over Italy and all disciplines
Centro Interuniversitario Agorà Scienza

Come cambia la comunicazione della scienza
Nuovi media e terza missione dell’Università
a cura di
Sergio Scamuzzi e Andrea De Bortoli

2012

Apriti scienza
Il presente e il futuro della comunicazione della scienza
in Italia tra vincoli e nuove sfide

a cura di
Sergio Scamuzzi
Giuseppe Tipaldo

2015

il Mulino
PUBLIC EVENTS

5,000 participants
82 countries
50% under 35
50% women

public lectures
conferences
science café
RESEARCHERS’ NIGHT

- 7 cities
- 150 activities
- 90 supporters
- 30,000 people
- 800 researchers

Graph showing the increase over years:
- 2006: 7 cities, 36 activities, 36 supporters, 3,600 people, 700 researchers
- 2012: 6 cities, 108 activities, 68 supporters, 13,850 people, 280 researchers

Year 2015 and beyond
SCHOOL PROJECTS

SCHIENZA ATTIVA

SCIENTIFIC SUMMER ACADEMY

ESP – Italian session

STEM DAY

NANO DAY
An innovative web tool to disseminate, exploit and share research
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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