



AHHAA introduces European science projects during its music week

Press release: 18th April 2018

From the 11th to 15th April AHHAA organised a music week during which participants could learn the science behind music through hands-on activities and science theatre shows. The activities were part of the project [ERC= Science²](#), funded by [the European Research Council](#) (ERC).

“The visitors of the music week were given an opportunity in AHHAA to make for example cup phones, examine how to get different pitches out of an ordinary drinking straw and discover the musical side of physics in the Science Theatre,” said Annika Vesselov, the project manager in charge of the project at [Science Centre AHHAA](#), giving a comment on the content of the music programme.

“We also had an interactive science tent right next to the workshops which supported the activities, offering the possibility to visitors to examine the music-related scientific research that is currently being developed in Europe and to show the important discoveries that have been made,” she added. The activities were carried out as part of the [Music](#) theme of the ERC= Science² project.

The music week programme of AHHAA included activities for families as well as school groups, but also activities for those visitors who have a deeper interest in science. Two of the workshops were based on creating musical instruments – the Drinking Straw Flute workshop showed visitors how they could turn almost anything into a musical instrument (including an ordinary straw) and in the Balloon Guitar workshop they were showed how to make a guitar – with just two balloons and a piece of string. The two remaining workshops had a more practical outcome. In the Paper Cup Phone workshop, participants could make one of the first and most basic phones in the world – the string telephone, and in the Survival Whistle workshop a bit of recycling was introduced to make a whistle out of an old aluminium can.

Throughout this music week some science theatre shows also took place. As usually in AHHAA, the shows were both spectacular and educational. Participants could find out why and how sounds are created, what are decibels and hertz and many other aspects of sound creation.

Over 600 people actively participated in the hands-on activities and the science theatre shows during the music week, and over 2400 people in total visited AHHAA and had an opportunity to get themselves acquainted with the work of ERC scientists in the pop-up stand.

“In addition to the programme carried out in AHHAA, a science café was also held within the music week. ERC grantee Mart Loog, professor of molecular systems biology at the University of Tartu, who has been developing the synthetic biology centre of excellence, attended the science café and talked about his research, which is supported by the European Research Council”, Annika Vesselov said.

This project has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (grant agreement No 672302).



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In the science café, professor Mart Loog spoke about his work in the field of synthetic biology, and about the process of applying for the grant and his experience with it. He also discussed synthetic biology in general, its possibilities in the future, biohacking, bio-pirates, and genetic engineering. The presentation was followed by an avid conversation between the researcher and the audience.

About the project:

ERC= Science² is a Europe-wide communication campaign which uses popular scientific themes such as “Longevity” to tell stories about the breakthroughs in science projects funded by the European Research Council, and the potential impact they could have on our lives.

The activities of the science centres and museums are coordinated by Ecsite (the European Network of Science Centres and Museums), while the project is coordinated by Science | Business.

To find out more about the ERC= Science² campaign, featured ERC-funded research, and the project multimedia content, please visit www.sciencesquared.eu.

To get the latest news and updates about this project follow us on [Twitter](#) and like us on [Facebook](#). For press queries, please contact Ms. Natalia Grzomba at natalia.grzomba@sciencebusiness.net.

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