

## PRESS RELEASE

**Contact:**

Communication Office  
Promotion and Development Section  
University of Cyprus  
Tel.: 22894304, Fax: 22894477  
E-mail: [prinfo@ucy.ac.cy](mailto:prinfo@ucy.ac.cy),  
Web-site: [www.ucy.ac.cy/pr](http://www.ucy.ac.cy/pr)

Nicosia March 10 , 2017

### €400,000 GRANT FOR UCY

**The Research in Science and Technology Education Group (ReSciTEG) national coordinator of the European project Next-Lab**



*Members of the ReSciTEG group. Dr. Zacharias Zacharia (third from the left) is the director of ReSciTEG.*

The Research in Science and Technology Education Group (ReSciTEG) of the UCY Department of Education is one of the partners of a consortium that has been recently granted funding for a new European Research project, namely **Next-Lab**. The project, which has a total budget of €6.3 million, is being implemented in the context of the European Union's Horizon 2020 Programme. Next-Lab started on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 and will last for three years. The Project is the continuation of

the successful Go-Lab Project. It aims to bring large-scale changes in the way that science, engineering and technology are taught throughout Europe. The modules project centres around a huge collection of interactive online laboratories and teaching modules. Students can use these resources to carry out scientific experiments, while teachers can use them to enrich their classes.

The objective of the Go-Lab project, which started in 2012, was addressed to young Europeans of the 10-18-age group with enthusiasm for science, engineering and technology, aiming at developing their scientific/ research competencies. Working under supervision, these young people learn how to formulate research questions, carry out experiments and draw conclusions based on the results

obtained. In practice, this ‘inquiry-based learning’ is a very effective. While acquiring knowledge about the subject, students also learn how to carry out scientific research.

In the context of the Go-Lab project, teachers created hundreds of online inquiry learning spaces with the Go-Lab authoring platform (graasp.eu). Roughly 500 of these have been published on the Go-Lab sharing platform (golabz.eu), covering fields such as physics, chemistry, mathematics, biology and astronomy. Students can run all kinds of experiments online that rely on virtual laboratories or even real physical laboratories – albeit remotely (remote labs). Students can, for example, create virtual electrical circuits or emulate chemistry experiments. With a remote lab they are able to conduct experiments using a real research set-up located somewhere in the world.

Depending on the types of labs available, teachers can develop or combine all kinds of teaching modules. About 1,300 schools in thirty (30) different countries use the 468 (virtual and remote) laboratories that are available, and the 500 online inquiry learning spaces that have been published. The Go-Lab portal is visited about 10,000 times a month. No fewer than 15,000 pupils have already taken advantage of the opportunities Go-Lab offers.

Next-Lab follows on from the successful Go-Lab project. In the context of this new project, a broad international consortium intends to expand the scope and impact of the teaching modules. For instance, the target group will be expanded to include younger students in primary education, and efforts will be made to align the project with training programmes for teachers. In this way –the consortium will be able to inspire even more young teachers. The open authoring and sharing platforms will also be enhanced by the addition of extra tools enabling students to cooperate with one another remotely and to measure their progress.

The project is being coordinated by the University of Twente in the Netherlands and includes the following additional partners: École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (Switzerland), Information Multimedia Communication AG (Germany), EUN Partnership AISBL (Belgium), Ellinogermaniki Agogi Scholi Panagea Savva (Greece), University of Cyprus (Cyprus), Universidad de la Iglesia de Deusto (Spain), Tartu Ülikool (Estonia), Núcleo Interactivo de Astronomia (Portugal), École Normale Supérieure de Lyon (France), Turun Yliopisto (Finland) and the University of Leicester (UK).

The Research in Science and Technology Education Group (ReSciTEG) as the national coordinator in Cyprus, is responsible for the implementation of its tasks. The director of the ReSciTEG is Zacharias C. Zacharia, Associate Professor of Science Education in the Department of Education of the University of Cyprus (<http://ucy.ac.cy/dir/el/component/comprofiler/userprofile/zach>).

For more information about **Next-Lab** visit the following websites:

<http://www.go-lab-project.eu/news/go-lab-ends-welcome-to-next-lab>

<http://www.golabz.eu/>

**End of announcement**