

NSTF Launches its Programme of Educational Projects

The National Student Travel Foundation (NSTF) has launched another year of Educational Projects for students aged 8 to 22. With the commencement of the scholastic year, NSTF is busy visiting educational institutions all over Malta and Gozo to talk to students, teachers and school senior management teams. It was also present during University's Fresher's Week where talks with students were held during the Faculty's Introductory Meetings.

NSTF projects are Scientific and European in character. They complement the formal educational efforts of local schools and other educational establishments including University, by providing unique non-formal educational experiences, some of which include participation at overseas expeditions, exhibitions and contests. They are carried out in collaboration with the Malta Chamber of Scientists, the Malta Council of Science and Technology and with the support of Airmalta.

The Mini European Assembly (open to students attending post secondary schools and the first year of the tertiary education) is a simulation of the European Parliament where students discuss and debate topics of European relevance.

The Malta Student Science Forum, another NSTF project for students aged 16-22, encourages students to discuss current science topics from a scientific and ethical perspective, whilst the Contest for Young Scientists (students aged 16-22) promotes creativity in the development of a scientific or technological project or in the explanation of a scientific phenomena. NSTF had been appointed the National Organizer for the annual EU Contest for Young Scientists and so the national Contest for Young Scientist serves as a means to choose participants to represent Malta at this prestigious event.

The School Contest for Young Scientist (students aged 11-14) requires students to work on developing science projects in teams and the Science Art Contest (students aged 8-11) invites students to submit art works with a scientific theme.

Mr Francis Stivala, Secretary General of the Foundation, commenting on this year's projects said that the response by various educational institutions in past years, has spurred NSTF to intensify its efforts to provide Maltese students with the best possible opportunities to develop their capabilities and share their experiences with other

students from a number of European countries. “We, at NSTF, intend to continue playing a significant role in highlighting the importance of science, in line with our country’s strategy to become a centre of educational excellence”.

NSTF invites interested parties to check the NSTF website at www.nsts.org for rules and regulations of the various projects. Closing date for all projects is Monday 15th October.