

## ESI 2015, an unforgettable edition bringing the science-passion before all!

Brussels, 28<sup>th</sup> July 2015 - The Expo-Sciences International 2015 has come to an end. Most of our participants have returned home; a few remained and are visiting Paris or London.

Last Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> July, latest official day of ESI 2015, the thousand participants have reached the City of Doudou, European Culture Capital 2015, starting from Brussels North train station. After a warm welcome by the City Mayor, Mister Elio DI RUPO, the participants had the opportunity to enjoy the eclectic and enriching programme proposed by the Mons 2015 Comity.

At the end of the day, they returned to the Belgian capital for a memorable closing ceremony binding the emotion of the departure with the friendly joy of a shared moment, with a taste tiredness.

**Antoine VAN RUYMBEKE, ESI 2015 Director:**

### **What assessment do you take from this 15<sup>th</sup> ESI and this first Belgian Edition?**

ESI was a huge challenge, especially when the host is a youth organisation, an ASBL. To welcome such audience with a complete programme, providing all services such as the expo, the catering, the transports, the accommodation, this represent 4 years of work, 4 years closing on a great achievement.

We have welcomed 1000 participants, 60 countries, 400 projects in this great science adventure...

We have competed with an experimented and involved team to really carry the event with a large echo in the press and extremely positive feedbacks from the participants and the visitors. We shall consider all this as a threshold of the ESI 2015 success.

### **To repeat? Why?**

The outcome is just amazing, the impact on the young participants is a life time experience which will make them having a before ESI and an after ESI. To be able to positively influence a young person opening new doors and opportunities is, by itself, the greatest motivation.

The whole team simply forgot the long journey to set ESI keeping only in mind the smiling faces of the participants.

The challenges were worth to take, however, it is important to underline the key factor which cannot be overcome by a passionate and skilfully team; to be able to secure the financial aspect is mandatory to step in the adventure. For a youth organisation, the risk is extremely heavy to carry.

### **Special thanks to address?**

The actors of this success are numerous:

- The participants are the key, the reason to be of everyone work. Next to them, the teachers, the families, the organisations worldwide
- The organizing committee and the volunteers whom have got involved with no binderies and, for some, since 4 years have set the event. They are amazing and passionate.
- Our partners, headed by the Brussels-Capital Region, which believed in us and supported us all along the project offering us the opportunity to welcome the world.

Gaëtane VAN CAUBERGH, General Secretary of Jeunesses scientifiques de Belgique:

- **As General Secretary of Jeunesses Scientifiques de Belgique, what assessment do you take of this Belgian edition of ESI 2015?**

A very positive outcome with about 1000 participants from 60 countries! The Scientific projects showcased where in general at a very high level!

- **Why did you wish to host this event?**

While the political and economic leaders are stating without break that the economic revival shall go through innovation, it seemed to us important, in the heart of Europe, to underline today this innovation is coming mainly from research and scientific progresses and the future will be set by today's youth. Underlying the necessity to invest in youth science formation.

- **What are you most proud of?**

To manage, with an ultra-motivated team of volunteers, to set in a country having a high institutional complexity and, in the other hand, which became very small at world scale, a global event in a domain so "media-friendly" as science. I take the opportunity to thank all the partners, private and publics (regions, communities, federal and cities) which allowed us to realize this project.

- **Why is it important for an ASBL such as the JSB to co-organise that type of event? And for the science?**

For the JSB, it was, quite naturally, to take the baton in this bi-annual event which we've attended since its first edition in 1987. The JSB are, by the way, a founder member of MILSET.

Such events are not only great vectors of science promotion to the youth but are, first and foremost, times of sharing, cultural openness extremely rich for the youngsters. At the time of globalization and development of exchange programmes such as Erasmus, we shall stress on motivating youngsters to meet other cultures and to be open-minded to the world.

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