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The Big Blue Ball in the Park

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Studio DN production for children.

Croatia. This year, the Rijeka Astronomical Centre celebrates its tenth anniversary. For this occasion, on July 18 and for the rest of the month, it opened an exhibition on the main pedestrian zone in the center of the city of Rijeka, dedicated to its history and its activities. The exhibition consisted of 20 panels introducing the establishment of the Rijeka Astronomical Centre, its construction phases, programs, famous visitors and lecturers.

On 16-20 July, there was an image exhibition and a special program at the digital planetarium celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 mission that landed the first astronauts on the moon. During August and September, the Centre catered for tourists as well, introducing in its program planetarium shows narrated in English, as well as visits to the observatory and stargazing with the telescope.

On September 5, the Rijeka planetarium premiered *Dinosaurs at Dusk*, by Mirage 3D. The premiere was attended by Vojko Obersnel, mayor of the city of Rijeka, Igor Butorac, CEO of Rijeka Sport Ltd (the company that manages the Rijeka Astronomical Centre), representatives of various Rijeka institutions, the voice actors that contributed to the Croatian narration of the show, and others.

In the beginning of October and on the occasion of the World Space Week and this year's theme *The Moon: Gateway to the Stars*, the digital planetarium presented *To the Moon and Beyond*, a new live show dedicated to the exploration of the moon as well as to the preparations and technological advances that preceded the historic mission of Apollo 11.

The show covers all Apollo missions, and also presents documentary material related to two Croatian engineers that contributed significantly to the success of the Apollo program: Milojko "Mike" Vucelić, a NASA project manager and one of the directors of the Apollo program (1966-1978), and Josip Kotnik, a scientist who designed a synchronous machine-powered gyroscope used in the Apollo program. The show also presents previous explorations of the moon, plans for future human crew missions, construction of future moon bases (settlements) and a desire to go even further.

Italian Association of Planetaria

How many moons are there in the local art museums? To answer this question, the Serafino Zani Observatory and Planetarium, through the project "All the moons of the museums," has asked each of the



IAP. A painting of Accademia Carrara, the main art museum in Bergamo, that represent a rich woman of the past, Lucina Brembati (1518-1523). It include a curious detail on the disk of the moon. The artist Lorenzo Lotto wrote two letters "CI" inside the moon disk. It is a rebus. In fact, if we include the two letters in the middle of the Italian word "Luna," the final result will be the name of the woman, LuClna. Courtesy of Accademia Carrara.



IAP. The group of teachers and managers from the five partner countries (Finland, United Kingdom, Spain, Greece, Italy) who attended as part of an Erasmus project. Courtesy by Simonetta Ercoli.

museums of the region around Brescia about their paintings that contain a representation of the moon, either real or symbolic.

The project was conceived on the occasion of the White Night, on the first Saturday of October. The city of Brescia organized many activities, all inspired by the moon, in different outdoor spaces, buildings, and museums of the city, including a public conference of the astronomer Massimo Della Valle that was held in the 19th century home museum of the most important art collector of the city. The evening also included telescope observations in the garden of the most important museum of Brescia, Santa Giulia.

The replies received from the museums of other local cities, like Accademia Carrara of Bergamo, Museo Ala Ponzone of Cremona, the city museums of Pavia (Malaspina collection), and Pinacoteca Ambrosiana di Milano, suggests to the organizer of the project, that it should be expanded to include more museums across Italy. The idea is to collect more information about the "museum moons" that will become an original subject to attract not only audiences interested in science, but also the art museum visitors during the yearly celebra-

tion of the Apollo 11 landing each July. For that reason, the project will be diffused by the Italian Association of Planetaria (www.planetaria.org) with the collaboration of art museums and planetariums of Italy.

From 1-7 October the Starlight-a Handy Planetarium Association conducted a course of training on the teaching of astronomy in English, lasting 15 hours, essential for the initial meeting of the European ERASMUS Plus (PMSE+) KA229 project, held at the primary and middle school in Torgiano-Bettona.

The Umbrian school, leader of the project, organized a study week during which teachers and managers from the four other partner countries (Finland, United Kingdom, Spain, Greece) laid the foundations of the two-year project that provides for international mobility for all over 100 students and 20 teachers.

The Erasmus project aims to contrast the lack of scientific-mathematical skills
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through the approach to the study of astronomy and the observation of the sky. The direct observation of celestial phenomena, the collection of data, and the guided study of the same in order to formulate hypotheses to be verified in the field will bring children in a very concrete way closer to the scientific method and to the history of scientific discoveries.

Through the mobility in the five European countries of the partnership, it will be possible to observe the sky from places located at different latitudes in Europe. In

Finnish Lapland, the study of the sun will be deepened; in the United Kingdom, terrestrial motions and the representation of the globe; in Spain, the history of scientific discoveries; in Crete, the relationship between astronomy and mythology; and in Italy, in the conclusive mobility of the project, how the observation of the sky has influenced art, literature, and religion over the centuries.

Italy will celebrate the International Day of Planetariums on 8 March 2020. The national conference of Italian planetariums will be held in Florence from 24 to 26 April 2020.

The deadline of the yearly video Planit contest has been changed to the end of March.

Society of German-speaking Planetariums

North Rhine-Westphalia. In Solingen the new Galileum Planetarium opened on 5 July. It is the world's first planetarium in a freestanding gas tank, hence its motto: "The sky is a sphere!" The state-of-the-art full-dome planetarium with a dome diameter of 12 meters is located within the gas tank. A newly-erected adjacent building houses a lecture room for events, an exhibition area, workshops, and a rooftop observatory.

The Galileum project was initiated by the astronomy association in Solingen, the Walter Horn Society. Its long history traces back to 1924 when Solingen's first astronomical observatory was opened by association founder Walter Horn.

In 2010, the team of the observatory, led by association President Guido Steinmüller and Managing Director Frank Lungenstrass, began to work on the realisation of the Galileum planetarium. An architectural competition brought forth many creative ideas on how the gas tank could be transformed into a planetarium.

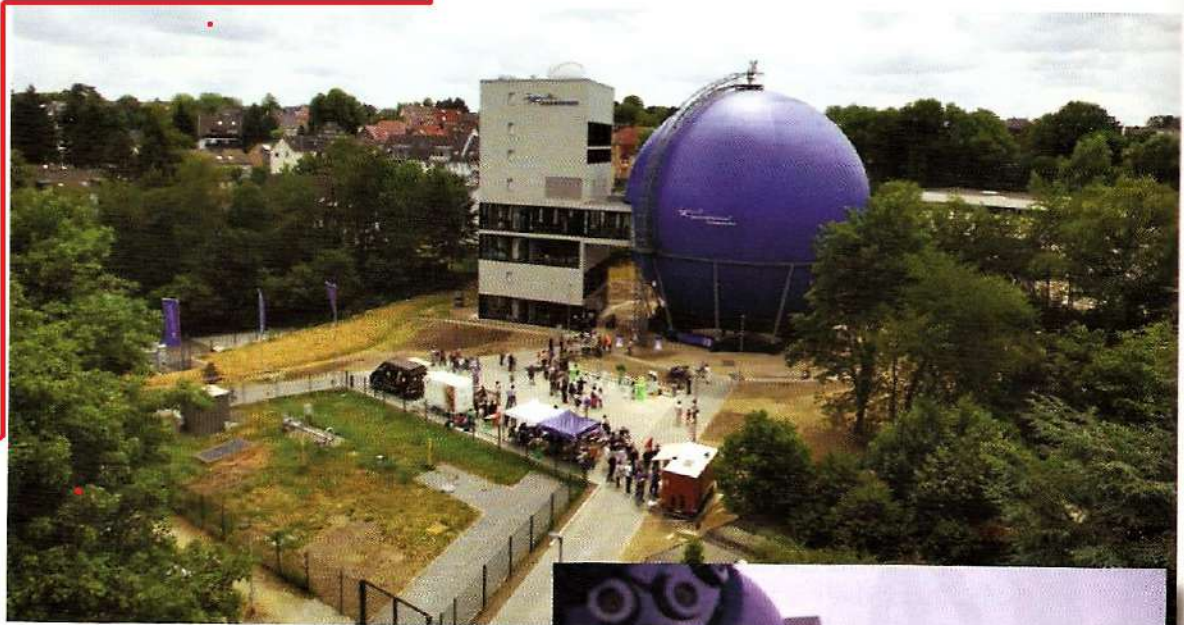
After the winning design was selected in 2011, the association had to secure the funding from diverse sources, to a large extent from funds of the urban development program of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, but also from private donations. In 2014, the land on which the gas tank is located was bought by the association, and construction began in 2016.

The gas tank has a diameter of 26 m. Inside the tank, the planetarium of 12m diameter, along with an aisle running outside of the projection dome's circumference, were installed on support structures that did not entirely fill the tank. From the aisle, windows offer a view of the surrounding empty volume of the gas tank.

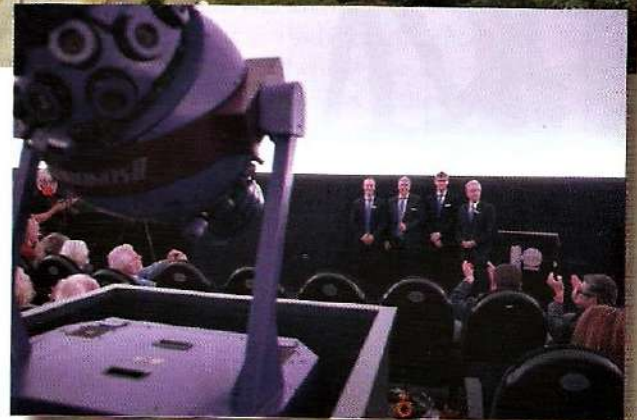
In the planetarium, a Chronos II star projector from GOTO projects 8,500 stars, the planets, and all other features of the night sky. The star

projector is run as a hybrid installation along with an RSA Cosmos Sky Explorer V4 full-dome projection system.

Because of the limited space—the planetarium offers 84 seats and two wheelchair positions—the Galileum celebrated its opening event over the course of three days. On July 5 was the official opening ceremony attended by representatives from politics and business, by the media, and, above all, by the numerous sponsors. They were the first to experience the projection systems of the Galileum in action. A colorful



GDP. An aerial view of the gas tank housing the new Galileum planetarium, and the new adjacent support building. All courtesy of Walter-Horn-Gesellschaft.



GDP. The Galileum opens its doors for the first time: Association president Guido Steinmüller (left), the mayor of Solingen Tim Kurzbach (middle) and managing director Frank Lungenstrass cut the ribbon. In the new planetarium, the board of the association running the new planetarium is applauded by inauguration guests. All courtesy of Walter-Horn-Gesellschaft.

cross-section of the Galileum's future program was presented, leading up to a live performance by harpist Christine Högl. In addition, the entire premises, including the exhibition space and the observatory, were presented to the public. This event was repeated for a second group of invited guests on the following day. On the third day, 7 July,

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