

SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)  
Space Education and Outreach (8)

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UNIVERSE AWARENESS: AN EDUCATIONAL ASTRONOMY AND SPACE SCIENCES GLOBAL  
PROJECT**Abstract**

Universe Awareness (UNAWA) is, an IAU-endorsed programme that uses the beauty and grandeur of the Universe to encourage young children, particularly those from an underprivileged background, to have an interest in science and technology and foster their sense of global citizenship from the earliest age. Although UNAWA was only founded five years ago, it is already active in 40 countries and comprises a global network of almost 500 astronomers, teachers and other educators. The project includes organising teacher-training courses and developing hands-on material for children. In the long term, UNAWA aims to help produce the next generation of European engineers and scientists and to make children from underprivileged areas realise that they are part of a much larger European community. Recently UNAWA received a 1.9 Million Euros grant from the European Union.

During this talk we will present the first results of the implementation of Universe Awareness programmes in six countries: Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, South Africa and Spain