

IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)  
Ignition - Primary Space Education (1)

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ASTRO PARTY - AN INSPIRING NATIONAL EVENT FOR CHILDREN

**Abstract**

“Astro Party” has been traditionally held since 2005 on the beautiful bank of the river of Danube at the village of Baykal, Dolna Mitropolia Municipality, Bulgaria, under the patronage of the Minister of Education and Science and the Mayor of Dolna Mitropolia Municipality. The programme includes activities with students and teachers, which inspire a love of both sciences – physics and space/astronomy. When taking part in the “Astro Party” students gain more skills both in theory itself and in making observation experiments of space. They learn how to analyse and describe such experiments. These activities are not held in school competitions in astronomy. The party itself gives a lot of opportunities to carrying out a variety of methodical activities with physics and astronomy teachers. It makes extra-curricular activities more attractive to students. The event is included in the National Calendar for extracurricular activities of the Ministry of Education and Science for the academic year 2022/2023. Another important idea of “Astro Party” is the integration of astronomy with biology, in particular ecology: use of the telescopes for observation of water-floating and water-loving birds, some elements of astrobiology. Partners: Union of the astronomers in Bulgaria, Sofia university faculty of physics and astronomy, Institute of astronomy at Bulgarian Academy of sciences, Astronomy association Sofia. International partners: IAU - International astronomy union- OAE - Office for Astronomy Education, EAAE - European association for astronomy education, GTTP - Galileo Teachers Training Program, UNAWA - UNIVERSE AWARENESS, SPACE AWARENESS projects. The participants are: physics and astronomy teachers from the municipal schools and across the country, Republic of Romania and Republic of Turkey, ranked students in regional, national and international astronomy Olympiads and such that are about to touch the most beautiful and ancient science – the astronomy. Work, style and methods are team work, workshop, learning by doing - hands on activities students that proved to be good in Astronomy teach their classmates beginners. Involved disciplines are physics and space/astronomy, chemistry, biology, ICT.