

IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
Interactive Presentations - IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (IP)

Author: Mr. Maciej Mysliwiec
Poland

EDUCATIONAL INCUBATORS FOR YOUNG SPACE TECHNOLOGY ENTHUSIASTS

Abstract

On IAC2023, I talked on space education through practice at the university level, explaining how important it is to show future graduates the space sector from inside and not just by teaching the theory.

In this year's presentation I would like to focus on the education of younger space and technology enthusiasts, and on the process of shaping their passion.

Observing the social movement that has organised itself around the Polish ESA Project Astronaut, Slawosz Uznanski, and accompanying him on various events, I realised how important it is to teach space technologies to the youngest in a practical way too. The practice is supposed to enthuse and fascinate younger students, show the success stories and challenges but in the way, where they will not scare young engineers. It's a major problem, for example in Poland, where the organisation of the education system is in a way that many people are discouraged from Science, Technology, Engineering and especially Mathematics at the very beginning of their education. The system of teaching these subjects is repetitive, not necessarily friendly and does not show the bigger picture. This causes many future engineers to give up at an early stage, despite their passion. I know exactly how this is like because I was one of them.

In my presentation, I would like to present a project for a holistic educational approach. An Incubator, in which experts, organisations, student science clubs and universities would be, open to collaboration with schools, not on the basis of one-off workshops, but on an ongoing basis. And not only with students, but also on tutoring for teachers, who would have the opportunity to enhance their classes with STEAM elements and also focus on space topics. In the shape of technology and entrepreneurship incubators, everyone would be able to benefit from specific support in a dedicated area early on, so that students would receive a better educational product, and support that would perhaps result in choosing a course which is desirable in the space sector. The coming years in Poland, thanks to the flight of the Polish Astronaut, will be a breakthrough in terms of space promotion, and thus will also add an important subject matter for the educational process. It was similar in 1978, when the first Pole, Miroslaw Hermaszewski, flew to space. This social movement will undoubtedly be the trigger for many initiatives. Their consolidation will benefit every student.