

SYMPP - (18584) - POTENTIALITIES OF STUDENT-CURATED EXHIBITIONS ON SOCIO-SCIENTIFIC ISSUES AS AN ACTIVIST APPROACH

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Short Abstract

The IRRESISTIBLE Project (Apotheker et al. 2017; Blonder et al. 2017) had the aim of involving teachers, students, and the public in the discussion on Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI), promoting both the construction of knowledge about cutting-edge (and controversial) research topics (socioscientific issues—SSI) and discussion about the criteria that research/innovation processes should respect to be considered as responsible. This paper presents qualitative results on the educational potential of IRRESISTIBLE's student-curated exhibitions about SSI and their RRI dimensions as an activist approach (Linhares and Reis 2017, 2020; Reis, 2020; Reis et al. 2020). Student-curated exhibitions took place in different contexts—schools, universities, museums, and public places—and were assumed as an activism strategy through which students informed the community about the SSI they had researched, and triggered discussion about the necessary conditions to ensure RRI practices in those areas. Data were collected through interviews with participating students from 10 countries. Overall results indicate that students improved their perceptions regarding their competences in developing exhibitions as a way of creating awareness about topics relating to science, technology, and society. This activity reinforced students' perceptions that in science classes they develop socially relevant projects and learn how to influence other citizens' decisions about social issues related to science, technology, and the environment, with the aim of ensuring a more sustainable future.

References

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