

Why go to Nachod?



Attending a teacher workshop in Nachod¹ is a great way not only to see some great demonstrations and teaching approaches you can use in your classroom; it is also a chance to meet some very passionate educators and better understand international approaches to teaching physics.

More than a homespun workshop for teachers, Heureka has for over 11 years brought together some brilliant and highly-qualified physicists from all over the world who are very passionate about their subject and the people they teach.

As an attendee I was struck by both the differences *and* similarities I felt among the participants. I had the chance to compare notes on activities and methods used at home as well as bring home some new ideas and even equipment for my classroom. Heureka participants bring to the table a great number of experiments that can be conducted using inexpensive, everyday materials. There is also an interest in the latest tech and you can find new ways to use the internet, instructional technology and even your mobile phone or tablet. Don't think that Heureka is all string and sticky tape. In the morning I was doing Bernoulli's principle with balloons, bottles and buckets and a few hours later I was estimating oscillations with my tablet camera (ask me how). I had a lot of fun working equations with my colleagues and feeling the excitement of learning again. During free time there is socializing, sightseeing, singing and stuffing oneself at the terrific Czech restaurants.

For American educators, it is far to travel and it may be hard to get days off during the school year for the October workshop. Never fear, however, as there is an August conference² in Prague which is much more formal and well-attended by physicists and educators far and wide. I had a terrific and productive three days in Nachod. I was well-taken-care-of and felt very at home among my international peers. I highly recommend going if you have the chance.



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¹ The conference The Heureka Workshops 2012

² The conference ICPE-EPEC 2013 <http://www.icpe2013.org/>