

Ispra, 15 April 2009

Half a century of European research at Lake Maggiore

JRC Open Day 2009 – Saturday, 16 May 2009 – Ispra (Italy)

In 1959 the first experimental nuclear reactor in Italy was inaugurated at Ispra. 50 years later, the research at the European Commission's Joint Research Centre Ispra site covers a broad range of environmental, consumer protection and security related topics. At the JRC Open Day you can discover how the site has evolved over these 50 years and meet the scientists from all over Europe who handle test tubes, analyse satellite images to predict the next flood, drive trucks on a roller bench to measure CO₂ emissions – in short, who support European policies to make Europe a better, safer and more competitive place.

Laboratories which are unique in Europe, practical demonstrations, outdoor activities, exhibitions and conferences will all be used to illustrate the science behind policy making and provide answers to questions such as 'Where will energy come from in the future?', 'How can we ensure the safety of the food we eat and the products we use?', 'How can we better protect ourselves from natural disasters?' 'What do we know about our environment and how do we protect it?' and much more...

A day of science exploration for everybody

Nobody will be disappointed or bored! There is enough choice for the one who is interested in energy related matters, for example, to spend all day gathering useful information and there will be more than enough activities to keep even our youngest visitors entertained. Just check out the programme on the website and you will want to come along!

The doors will be open from 10 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. (last entrance at 3.30 p.m.). Visitors will receive an information pack with a map showing the different visitor routes and will be able to choose between a walking tour and a bus tour.

There will be plenty of car parking possibilities in Barza, Cadrezzate and Ispra with regular shuttle buses between all car parks and the main gate of the JRC.

Many attractions and surprises are being prepared, and of course nobody will leave on an empty stomach!

The most creative young Italian scientific talents on stage

The winners of the Italian Schools' competition entitled 'Creativity and science in the classroom' will present their work. This competition was organised by the JRC together with the Italian School Authorities under the auspices of the European Year of Creativity and Innovation. Its aim was to bring science close to youngsters or vice-versa and it was a resounding success. The jury had the difficult task of selecting the most creative and relevant proposals from over two hundred entries – web pages, video clips, games, songs and leaflets on climate change, food safety and renewable energy.

Janez Potočnik, European Commissioner for Science and Research will present the three winners with their prizes.

Registration for the Open Day is required and can be done in a few clicks at: <http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/jrc/ispra-openday-2009> where the full programme for the Open Day is also available.

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