

Schoolchildren from South Moravia already know how to save lives

Press release, 12. 3. 2015, Brno

The pilot stage of the educational program HOBIT (Biology Lesson for Life) was concluded today at the scientific conference for the International Clinical Research Center at St. Anne's University Hospital in Brno (ICRC-FNUSA). HOBIT gives primary and secondary school students vital information about what cardiac and cerebral infarction are, how to correctly react to them and thus save lives. The project has demonstrated its purpose and undoubted benefits when two students near Brno who received this training were able to put their acquired knowledge into practice directly on the street and properly administered first aid to a man undergoing cardiac arrest. The authors of the project will now try to use the next stage to spread this unique and useful learning platform to as many schools as possible.

The conference for the HOBIT project included the main conclusions and outcomes of the pilot stage of the project – for example, fifty short reenactment videos that show the real signs of these diseases and which are used to test the response of students to these cases. The participants were also familiarized with the first statistical results, namely that the project not only educates, but also collects data about what the students know. *“We determined from the data obtained that students have a good understanding of what a heart attack is, but their knowledge about strokes was rather weak. However, watching the educational film and reenactment scenes boosted their knowledge in both areas – we are on the right track with the chosen methodology,”* said Professor Robert Mikulík, project supervisor and head of the Comprehensive Cerebrovascular Center of FNUSA.

The HOBIT project also actively involved students in the form of competitions – at the conclusion of the conference, students from the secondary schools Boskovice Gymnazium and Klvaňová Gymnazium in Kyjov were honored as the winners of the competitions for the Best Medical Team and in the Creative Competition, which motivated students towards the active popularization of the issue. *“I am glad that such a thing exists, because it's a great opportunity for students my age to become more interested in different diseases, and how to act and what to do if someone close by is affected by this disease,”* said Dalibor Sedlák, a participant in the Creative Competition.

The conference also included a creative workshop where teachers shared their own experiences about the project and, together with the implementation team, discussed the best way to spread the teaching of these subjects in schools in the future.

The HOBIT project (Biology Lesson for Life) was held at the International Clinical Research Center at the St. Anne's University Hospital in Brno (FNUSA-ICRC), made possible by a grant from the Operational Programme Education for Competitiveness – Global Grant for the South Moravian Region. *“Although the project worked with a small budget, it was able to give thousands of children really important information and to create a sophisticated learning platform,”* said Veronika Svobodová, co-author of the project and Supervisor of the FNUSA-ICRC Grant Department.

Teaching under the HOBIT project is done using multimedia in an interactive and entertaining way. During one lesson, students immediately undergo dual testing through reenactment videos and watching a film that combines real and animated scenes to explain the issue to them. *“This project is unique in that it's the first in the Czech Republic to target children and not the adult population, for whom*

educational campaigns on providing help for strokes has proved ineffective,” said the director of the hospital, Martin Pavlík.

The HOBIT project involves 37 schools from the South Moravian Region, 54 teachers and nearly 2,500 students have participated in the lessons.

Website of project HOBIT: www.projekthobit.cz