

RESEARCHERS' NIGHT 2009

Estonia participated for the fourth year in the series of the European Researchers' Night activities, aimed at presenting researchers and science-related issues to the wider public. In Estonia the events of the Researchers' Night 2009 on 25 September were co-ordinated by the Science Centre AHHAA. The Estonian Academy of Sciences as a project partner was responsible for the activities in Tallinn. The programme was conducted in several venues and with the involvement of the Estonian Children's Literature Centre as well as research scientists of Tallinn University, Tallinn University of Technology, the University of Tartu and the Estonian Literary Museum.

In the course of the day fascinating events were organised for school students as well as senior public keen on knowledge and science. Especially popular were workshops for participants aged 9-10 at the Estonian Children's Literature Centre, carried out by research scientists of the Estonian eXcellence in Computer Science (EXCS) under leadership of Tarmo Uustalu (Institute of Cybernetics at Tallinn University of Technology). Children got to know what were the things computer scientists were studying and whether they were enthralling. They were offered an opportunity to programme an animated cartoon or a computer game and to operate a cube robot. In the afternoon scientists and scholars (incl. Member of Academy Jaan Undusk), bibliographers, bibliophiles and writers talked about the history of Estonian ABC-books, the collection of ABC-books of the Estonian Children's Literature Centre and stories related to their own ABC-books. An exposition "Monument to the ABC-book" was open in the Treasury of Estonian Children's Literature. Tallinn University Assembly Hall was the venue for a discussion panel "An Estonian never becomes extinct or version 2.0?" The dispute panel included a population scientist Luule Sakkeus, Senior Researcher of the Demography Institute of Tallinn University and a sports physiologist Kristjan Port, Director of the Institute of Health Sciences.

The Hall of the Estonian Academy of Sciences hosted a concert-science café "Folk music and chorals in the visualisation of a researcher", opened with an interesting and instructive prelude by Toomas Siitan, Professor of the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre, Chairman of the Musicological Society associated with the Estonian Academy of Sciences. Helen Kõmmus, Researcher of the Estonian Literary Museum and Ergo-Hart Västriik, Senior Researcher of the University of Tartu deliberated over the links between folk music and spiritual music: how and why do canonical church songs enter into their own in folk tradition, how are melodies and words adapted in traditional culture, how does a local or individual choral song tradition arise, how are musicians making use of scholarly collections and reinvigorate ancient music pieces. Music was performed by a folk ensemble Triskele.

Tallinn Science Centre Energy marked the Researchers' Night with "The Future Scientists' Day" and the AHHAA Tallinn Centre under the newly opened Independence Square welcomed visitors all through the day.

Besides Tallinn activities of the Researchers' Night were held in Tartu, Pärnu, Viljandi, Rakvere, Valga and Narva. The Estonian National Broadcasting contributed to the project as a partner.

