



# YOUNG EXPLORER CLUB CHARTER

OCTOBER 2017

## PREAMBLE

### MISSION OF THE YEC PROGRAMME

The mission of the Young Explorer Club Programme is to develop various skills in club members through personal and collective experiencing of science.

### GOALS

- To increase learning abilities of the club members, such as self-motivation, memorisation and building new knowledge on the knowledge already possessed.
- To increase STEAM skills in club members, i.e. reaching answers using skills related to the fields of science, technology, engineering, art and applied mathematics.
- To increase club members' social skills, such as team work, sharing knowledge, skills and experience.
- To build a sustainable community of club members – children, juveniles, Supervisors and partners.
- To create opportunities for club members to meet personally with scientists and science promoters.

### THE ORIGIN OF THE YEC

The YEC programme is derived from the Young Explorer Club project implemented in 2002-2005 by the Education Society of Kłodzko based on the idea conceived by Janusz Laska. Since 2009 it has been coordinated by the Copernicus Science Centre. The programme is co-funded by the Polish-American Freedom Foundation.

## WHAT IS THE CLUB?

Young Explorer Clubs mean discovering the world through experiencing. A Club can be established at any place where there are children or young people willing to discover the world through experiencing and an adult ready to be their guide.

### INDISPENSABLE ELEMENTS OF THE MEETINGS:

#### **1. Activity based on club members' natural curiosity of the world irrespective of their state of knowledge**

The classes can be attended by pupils with different interests and not necessarily outstandingly gifted.

#### **2. Activities based on experiencing**

Club members personally, and at the same time in collaboration with the group, experiment, observe and draw conclusions. This enhances their motivation and triggers emotions (curiosity, joy, satisfaction and astonishment), which stimulates the learning process.

### **3. Focus on searching answers instead of supplying ready-made solutions**

Club members, both children and juveniles, and the Supervisors, pose research questions and persistently search for answers together. Finding a solution gives satisfaction and a feeling of success; it also helps understand and remember the often complicated processes. The research process encourages independent thinking and creative and critical approach to the tasks as well as developing the problem-solving skills. It teaches independent thinking and drawing conclusions.

### **4. Elimination of grading, both school marks and verbal appraisals**

Each experiment, event such that contradicts the anticipated results, is an opportunity to learn. The clubs use sources of motivation other than evaluation of the success of an experiment or of the extent of knowledge.

## **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

The power of the clubs is the freedom for club members (Supervisors as well as children and young people) to act in their local space, which translates into their involvement, creativity in finding new forms of activity and real influence on the local communities. Each club, however, is obliged to follow a set of fundamental rules stemming from the membership in the YEC programme.

### **CLUB**

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1. You can start a club at any time by registering on [www.kmo.org.pl](http://www.kmo.org.pl).
2. Participation for club members in the meetings is entirely voluntary and free of charge. The YEC operates on a non-commercial basis and must not generate any profits for the Supervisors or any businesses.
3. Clubs may be established at any level of education, from preschool through primary to secondary school.
4. Clubs may operate at any place, not only at schools but also at e.g. libraries, common rooms or community centres.
5. The minimum number of registered club members is 3. The optimal size is between 11 and 20 people.
6. A club supervisor can be any adult who has experience of working with children or juveniles and is willing to take care of the club.
7. We encourage clubs to have two supervisors. Such a solution ensures greater sustainability and higher quality of activity.
8. The club should have a permanent meeting place, friendly to club members perceived by them as something separated and their own. We recommend that the space and the desks are rearranged for the duration of the meeting in such a manner as to ensure comfortable experimenting in a group.
9. Meetings should take place on regular basis, at least once a month for a larger part of the year.
10. With regard to the special character of the classes, the supervisor should ensure the safety of the club members and adherence to occupational health and safety provisions.
11. Clubs are obliged to use consistent visual identification of the YEC which is available in the form of a brand book on [www.kmo.org.pl](http://www.kmo.org.pl).
12. For all matters not regulated in the Chart, the YEC rules shall apply, as published on [www.kmo.org.pl](http://www.kmo.org.pl).

## COMMUNITY

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The YEC community consists of the clubs together with their technical and local partners. The task of the programme coordinator, the Copernicus Science Centre, is to spread the idea and to support the development of the YEC network, wherein:

1. To enable the development and sharing of experience between the supervisors at an annual YEC Forum, at trainings, through competitions, in local communities as well as virtually through the website and the social media.
2. To initiate participation of the clubs in education, research and prosocial events organised by the partners.
3. To enrich the archives of educational resources, activities and good practices based on collaboration with the technical partners of the programme and the outstanding club supervisors.