

Public understanding of Science and, consequently, science communication are themes of increasing importance for the scientific community: people are more and more involved in making decisions and choices about the future and development of research, about scientific applications and about possible ethical limits.

How can we improve people's understanding and knowledge of the scientific method, of the way science develops and grows, of how it changes our daily lives, so that they can make an informed choice when required?

A level, among many others, at which we can make some difference, is school education.

For this reason I am going to investigate the value of merging the curricular teaching of physics with practical activities related to astrophysics, as, for example, measuring a stellar spectrum via a normal digital camera and then evaluating temperature and chemical composition of the emitting object.

The project is divided in 4 steps:

Checking what is already available in literature and web, to avoid duplicates;

Building a practical activity, tuned for high school students, involving common tools and instruments, which enlightens a specific physical topic through an astrophysical phenomena;

Proposing this activity to high school teachers, with a refresher course, in order to inform and prepare;

Checking, after the activity has been carried out with students, if there has been an improvement in scientific process understanding, comparing with a class which did not make the activity.