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“Warning!”: from physics to an interdisciplinary project to reflect on the challenges of modern societies

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The “Warning” project has reached its fifth edition this year. “Warning!” was born in 2020, when Pisa Foundation and the Pisa unit of the Italian Institute for Nuclear Physics (INFN) launched this initiative with the aim of developing interdisciplinary educational paths, on the topics of major planetary dangers and environmental fragility. This project was conceived as a knowledge dissemination initiative, addressing the general public at large, but with a specific focus on high-school students, that represented most of participants. Given the great success in terms of number of participants and positive response, “Warning!” has been repeated in the following years, proposing different themes for discussion: from the scenarios that will open up in the near future following technological innovations, to the emergence of new ethical questions; from the affirmation of new professions in the job market, to an in-depth analysis of modern theories of complexity; from humanity’s relationship with nature, to the ever-present questions on the origin of the Universe and the birth of life. Interdisciplinary approach, importance of cross knowledge and, above all, education on complexity, were the main features of “Warning!”. The centrality of the scientific method in facing complex problems was underlined. Instead of focusing on a specific aspect, interdisciplinarity allows to approach different topics from different points of view. Each cycle was composed of four or five debates in which experts from different disciplines addressed the topic under discussion. Physics was the “fil rouge” that accompanied the participants on this journey across many fields of science. The various events took place in Pisa “Palazzo Blu” auditorium, and were streamed online allowing the participation of more than 3000 high school students. “Warning!” represents a useful educational support for students and teachers, who can integrate topics covered in school programs.

<https://warning.palazzoblu.it/>

Secondary track

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