

Press release: Young scientists are bringing the polar regions to Brussels
25-26 May, Academy Palace, Brussels
Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS) Belgium



When you think of a scientist, do you imagine then a man with a beard, glasses and a white lab coat? This image needs to be adjusted urgently! Young scientists have plenty of energy, are enthusiastic and passionate about their research and want to share this with you.

Now that Belgium is hosting the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM; 20-29 May), where the Antarctic Treaty and Environmental Protocol are discussed and determined, APECS (the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists) Belgium organizes an event for the wider audience. Young polar researchers from Flanders and Wallonia find it's time to get attention for the glorious history of Antarctic expeditions, the protection of the poles and current climate changes. That is why they join forces, overcome barriers in distance and language and organize together a science fair. All visitors, young and old, will be able to actively take part in experiments, where they will for instance see the effects of melting of sea ice and land ice on sea-level. Young researchers will explain this all and share their experiences. Furthermore, you can listen to lectures in French, English or Dutch about Antarctic expeditions, the often forgotten microbial life on the poles or the unknown deep sea. You can also get inspired by enthusiastic teachers telling how they involve the polar regions and global climate in their classes and extracurricular projects. You will find out why polar bears don't eat penguins, meet scientists from different research institutions and talk live to researchers in Antarctica. For the little ones, there is a kid's corner.

Become excited about science and find out everything there is to know about the polar regions during this unique two-day event! 25-26 May, Academy Palace, Brussels. Free and suited for all ages. More info about the experiments and speakers: <https://sites.google.com/site/apecsbelgiumsciencefair/>.

Besides continuous experiments and documentaries, there is a fixed programme of lectures and activities:

Saturday 25 May 12-18h30

12h	Start of the continuous experiments
13h30	Polar race (game)
14h	Ann Vanreusel: deep sea (Dutch)
15h	Erli Costa: young researchers in Brazil (English)
15h30	Live connection with the south pole: talk to researchers in Antarctica!
16h30	Penguin game
17h	3 generations Antarctica expeditions (French)
17h30	Alex Baiverlin: the experiences of a teacher (French)

Sunday 26 May 10-18h30

10h	Start of the continuous experiments
	Polar race (game)
10h30	3 generations Antarctica expeditions (Dutch)
14h30	Annick Wilmotte: the forgotten heroes of Antarctica (microbial life) (French)
15h	Penguin game
15h30	José Xavier: why polar bears don't eat penguins (English)
16h30	Wim van Buggenhout: the experiences of a teacher (Dutch)

Contact persons: APECS Belgium members Ines Tavernier 0479/28.95.97 (Dutch) & Denis Callens (French).



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