

## The “STEAM Talks” programme uses humour to spread science among secondary school students

- » A total of 600 students from 12 schools in Barcelona, Esplugues de Llobregat, L'Hospitalet de Llobregat and Montgat took part
- » The initiative comes from Barcelona Activa and the Parc Científic de Barcelona, with the participation of Big Van Ciencia
- » Artificial intelligence, human evolution and genetic engineering are some of the topical scientific issues covered in the talks

Barcelona City Council, through Barcelona Activa, in conjunction with the Parc Científic de Barcelona (PCB), organised the last session of the STEAM Talks this Friday at the Cibernàrium 22@, as part of the RESSÒ – Research in Society and Big Van Ciencia programme. The activity, aimed at secondary school students in Barcelona and the metropolitan area, aims to encourage careers in science and lead students to reflect on scientific and technological advances and their impact on society, through humour and the performing arts.

The talks addressed three topical issues: artificial intelligence (AI), human evolution and new gene-editing techniques. The purpose is to promote a critical opinion among new generations on issues such as the influence of AI-generated fake information on social media and how it has already entered our lives; the role of communication and the scientific method in human evolution; and the ethical challenges posed by genetic engineering.

The activity was held over four sessions in May at the Cibernàrium 22@ facilities, with the participation of nearly 600 students and teachers from 12 schools in Barcelona city, L'Hospitalet de Llobregat, Montgat and Esplugues de Llobregat.

*“This alliance between the PCB and Barcelona Activa enables us to bring science closer to young people in a city space, the Cibernàrium, which will soon be one of the leading facilities for their professional development,”* explained Maria Terrades, director of the PCB.

*“At Big Van Ciencia we participate in the RESSÒ programme using the theatrical genre of the Scientific Talk to show science to young people in an informal and fun way. The main aim is to break down social and gender stereotypes associated with the world of science and research, while encouraging vocations in STEAM (science, technology, engineering and maths),”* explained chemist Oriol Marimón, Big Van Ciencia co-founder and project manager.

Barcelona Activa and the PCB work with scientific, educational and economic projects in the city. An example of the close relationship between the two organisations is the BCN Health Booster

accelerator, also promoted by Biocat, which supports 11 companies in the health sector located in the PCB.

#### **Barcelona Activa**

The municipal economic promotion agency Barcelona Activa acts as a public facilitator for the revitalisation of scientific and technological vocations. Barcelona Activa promotes the STEAM Plan, led by the Barcelona Education Consortium, which is aimed not only at students, but also teachers and families. It is also a member of the Spanish initiatives Alianza STEAM por el talento femenino – Niñas en pie de ciencia (STEAM Alliance for Female Talent – Girls on a Science Footing) by the Ministry of Education, and the Pacto per la Generación D (Pact for Generation D), by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Digital Transformation.

#### **About RESSÒ – Research in Society**

The [RESSÒ](#) programme by the [PCB](#) was launched in 2002 and reflects the PCB's commitment to fostering a culture of sustainability by promoting Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4: Quality education.

The programme organises around 100 activities a year providing over 7,000 students in Catalonia with the opportunity to interact with science in order to awaken their scientific vocation and critical spirit. The programme, which focuses on students aged 10 to 18, also involves more than 15 research centres, more than 100 researchers, and other public and private organisations that promote science in Catalonia.

#### **About Big Van Ciencia**

[Big Van Ciencia](#) aim to transform scientific culture into an attractive product for all kinds of audiences. Big Van Ciencia use performing arts and humour to create [shows](#) and popular science texts in multiple forms of media: stage, video, radio, television, books and blogs. At the same time, they help to improve oral communication of science through [courses](#) for the scientific community, students and journalists, and design [communication plans](#) for research groups. They consider their strong point to be the promotion of STEAM careers, by developing a variety of [projects](#) with students. They also carry out their own research projects, developing new methodologies that make science accessible to all audiences in a fun and entertaining way.