

The Children's Virtual Museum of Small Animals

The idea and the stuff

The [Children's Virtual Museum of Small Animals](#) comes from the experience of environmental education of [Paolo Beneventi](#), who since several years has been going with kids taking still and moving pictures of insects, spiders and millipedes. In addition to the online space, we have a [traveling photo exhibition](#), [videos](#) which have also taken part in international festivals, [articles](#) printed and online published in Italy and abroad, a series of [ebooks](#).

After years of voluntary and episodic management by the creator, now we are setting the Museum, within the "[Terra Insieme](#)" project, as a permanent instrument of consultation and a point of exchange and meeting for children, teachers and educators from all the world, in collaboration with scientists, artists, producers of communication, nature enthusiasts and anyone who wants to collaborate, bringing ideas and experiences.

The Network

We are putting together an international network of subjects interested in "signing" activities (also associations, museums, cultural groups, public institutions). Some of them are **active subjects** that, according to a model of **permanent crowdfunding**, economically contribute a small fee for the maintenance of the basic activities (management and updating of the Museum and the multimedia library, web mastering, contacts with the school of the world). **The administrative part** is hired by the **Dog Training League**, based in Brescia (Italy), which also deals with more general education and is the point of reference for projects, workshops, exhibitions on the territory, in Italy and other countries, which are organized in cooperation with local representatives.

Schools, partnerships, activities

The **schools** which worked with us during past years, they are recalled, as well as **occasional partners**, asking to move their network of relationships, so that they send new **photos** and **videos** for the virtual rooms. For those who might be interested but think that macro photography or video are too difficult, we are preparing **information contents** as a teaching aid, to be hosted in a special section of the online Museum.

From this sharing of the "method", the idea is to build up new **exploration and collection centers** that refer to the Museum, in the schools of the world, and more generally in groups in which the protagonists are children, as well as to develop **side activities** somehow related to it, from **story writing** to **robot construction**, through the various manifestations of **children art and creativity**.

Among partners and users, we suggest and help the **production** of local low or no cost **photo collections** or **exhibitions**, **books** and **eBooks**, **videos** and **multimedia**, to be shared through web channels. A multilingual **blog** is going to be open, on the activities of the World Museum, as well as we are programming to take part in **educational conferences**, **children's video** productions festivals, **science festivals**.

Scientific advice

Also the sorting work and **classification of small animals**, as well as the proposal for played and engaging approaches to systematic, when the management of the Museum becomes permanent and regular, it can be developed continuously. It consolidates and expands the network of **scientific advice**, making it in some way accessible to the visitors themselves, for example through an **online forum** addressed specifically to schools and education.

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