Dear editor and reviewers,

thank you for the helpful comments and suggestions. I really appreciate.

Point-by-point reply to the comments:

1) Line 126: specify the magnitude of the earthquake and the name of the town.

Done (revised file line 120-121)

2) Line 305: in the abstract, you say more than 400 schools.

I have corrected the sentence (line 235 of the revised file)

3) Line 312-316: The project discusses the calendars up to 2016—what future competitions are you talking about? What have you done in the competitions from 2017 onwards?

I have added an explaining sentence (line 300-303 revised file)

5) Line 319-322: how do these general considerations relate to your project?

I have added an explaining sentence (line 309-310 revised file)

Before the manuscript can be accepted I kindly ask you to improve the quality of English, for typos and style. The reviewer and I annotated the most relevant issues but a more thorough review on your part is necessary.

To improve typos and style the manuscript was revised by an English translator. I hope that this revision has made the text clear.

A marked-up manuscript version showing the changes made follow below.

10 years with Planet Earth essence in the primary school children drawings

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Abstract

"10 years with Planet Earth" is the title of the calendar addressed to primary schools, realized in 2016 by the Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia - Italian Institution of Geophysics Geophysical Research Institution—for primary school. The Calendar Competition is the outcome of a project created conceived to support and complement 15 years of dissemination activities with in schools. Each year for 10 years, we have printed the calendars, that represented for 10 years, each year with a different subjects related to a World-world in constant evolution. Each year we have launched calendar competitions among schools, asking children to send in drawings
related to the chosen theme. The aim was to stimulate interest in learning about Earth Sciences and Planet Earth dynamics, as well as. Our aim is to raise awareness on water resources availability, prevention of natural disasters and planet sustainability. We have received about 10,000 drawings from students of more than 400 schools. For each yearly competition, we have chosen the most significant drawings and we have included them in the calendar. The authors of the drawings have been awarded by scientists, journalists, artists, and science communicators and even by a minister. In addition to the competition, the drawings reflect impressions and thoughts, and illustrate the children’s point of view. From drawings - the images, one can sense feel a great sensitivity, consideration, responsiveness - and respect for the Planet planet and as well as a positive feelings for towards Science.

1. Introduction

The Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia (hereinafter INGV) is one of the most important international research institutions in the field of geophysics. As part of the Italian Civil Protection Service, INGV provides vital support for seismic and volcanic risk mitigation programs on a global scale and for emergency management. INGV is entrusted with the surveillance of the charge of monitoring seismicity of the national territory, the activity of Italian volcanoes and the of early warning for tsunami in the Mediterranean area, through instruments with cutting-edge technology, advanced instrumentation networks. Particular attention is devoted to the dissemination of scientific culture, aiming to and the development of the awareness of risks and prevention. INGV manages the museums dedicated to Geophysics and Volcanology - the Geophysical Museum of Rocca di Papa, the Vesuvian Observatory, the Aeolian Information Centres - and collaborates in the scientific management of the Laboratory Museum of Earth Sciences of Ustica and the Volcanological Museum of Nicolosi. In these museums, INGV created organized permanent and temporary scientific exhibitions and installations (Pagliuca et al., 2007; Avvisati et al., 2015; D’Addezio et al., 2015). Furthermore, during national and international events and festivals, as well as in projects with schools, INGV researchers and technicians offer educational and outreach initiatives on Earth Sciences (Pessina et al., 2012; D’Addezio et al., 2014; Lanza et al., 2013; Musacchio et al., 2015a; 2015b; 2019; Amici and D’Addezio, 2018; D’Addezio et al., 2014; Di Nezza et al., 2018). We also organize yearly educational and outreach activities for schools (Pessina et al., 2012; Lanza et al., 2013; Musacchio et al., 2015a; 2015b, 2019; Amici and D’Addezio, 2018). The goal is to respond to meet the needs and the requests demands of the community on issues regarding our planet, and to engage society in a correct, straightforward and
efficient communication on about scientific research and technological innovations. In a world that needs citizens to be more informed, aware, and able to make crucial important decisions about their own health and safety, knowledge is crucial to handle doubts and take decisions with consciousness decisions. Educational activities are designed to help raise awareness about of Earth sciences and research, as well as stimulate to generate interest in scientific culture.

This work is a summarises summary of the first 10 years of INGV’s calendar competitions, and describes an the experience of Earth Science education by through drawings. The project on the artistic representation of scientific subjects, that involves scientific subject and its artistic representation by through drawings, have been presented at the EGU session Earth sciences and Art. The paper describes this project and investigates discusses the impact and effectiveness efficiency of our approach.

The calendar projects

One of the most successful INGV initiatives is the creation of calendars, designed for the schools and realized thanks to the with drawings from the contest for primary school children competitions among the children of primary schools. The objective aim is to introduce the opportunity of provide a pleasant occasion for discussion among scientists, teachers, and students. The initiative achieved great participation and appreciation, as every year schools joined in with enthusiasm by sending pupils’ drawings made by children on a specific themes, that keep changing every year, and is are chosen within the subjects of Earth Science subjects. Earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, magnetic storms and other phenomena are manifestations of the complexity and the changing dynamic of our planet, which began more than four billion years ago and never ended stopped.

In the past decades, we recognized that global warming is part of the Earth’s dynamism. Although we are already facing the crises of climate change, and that it will have on profound even stronger impact on will be felt by future generations, although we are already facing the crises of climate change.

By involving primary school children in this project, we have the chance to bring them closer to science closer to and them and also to investigate their children’s point of view on the Earth, Science, Environment, and Sustainable Behaviour. Indeed, the content of children's drawings artworks may provide insights into their feelings and thoughts about the world and the way it functions works. Drawing is an important activity for children since it not only stimulates encourages their imagination, and but it also represents an amazing way of displaying emotions.

Many authors in the field of education have been focusing on children's drawings (Farokhi and Hashemi, 2011; Cherney et al., 2007), which can be useful to understand can tell you so much
about their fears, joys, dreams, hopes and nightmares. The drawings of young children have attracted and interested many authors in the field of education (Farokhi and Hashemi, 2011; Cherney et al., 2007). The use of drawing–artworks as a tool for teaching and learning science teaching–and–learning, is described and discussed in the literature (Phyllis, Eds, 2017). For examples, drawings have been used to investigate learning strategies (Van der Veen, 2012), to analyse children volcanic risk awareness (Brasini et al., 2020), and the children's perceptions of the eEnvironment –(Günind, 2012). In our project, children's the drawings may represent useful tools that provide valuable information for the assessment of to understand children's environmental perceptions and their major expectations and concerns for about the future.

The first calendar has been realized as a was the result of an educational project with a school (see the description of the 2004 – 2005 Calendar). The After the success of the initiative-first calendar, the experience was repeated suggested the repetition of the experience and extended: ing panding the invitation to all Italian primary schools were invited the invitation to participate. Launch calls were prepared for each competition. The calls included a brochure illustrating the main-motivations behind importance of the chosen theme and some starting points for the discussion. Information on the competition was spread via institutional websites, and via social media. The initiative has been advertised in all All the INGV venues and locations contributed to the calls-diffusions, even in occasion of education and outreach in all dissemination activities carried out in their venues. As a result, we collected drawings from schools distributed in the entire throughout the whole Italian territory. The first four calendar editions were organized by the INGV Settore Formazione e Divulgazione Scientifica (Training and Educational Office). Starting from the 2009 calendar, I have coordinated the competitions together with the INGV Laboratorio Didattica e Divulgazione Scientifica (Educational and Outreach Laboratory).

For each calendar a working team, composed by researchers, graphic experts, and occasionally science communicators and/or psychologists, took care of the drawing–selection, were was managed by a working group, composed by researchers and graphic experts, occasionally with science communicators and/or psychologists. The collected drawings were selected based on the basis of their relevance to the theme, their originality and attractiveness and, last but not least, their inherent message. For some calendars, also texts have been chosen among those the ones sent by the children, together with the drawings. In the final selection we have considered the gender and ages balance and the uniformity in the geographic distribution of the winners.

The graphic designs of the calendars were developed and realized by the INGV Laboratorio Grafica e Immagini (Graphics and Images Laboratory) (Riposati et al., submitted). Each graphic project was inspired by the theme of the competition and realized by taking into account considering the
heterogeneity of drawings, using different techniques, colors and subjects, but always keeping the focus on the children's work. Educational materials produced by INGV, in addition to copies of the calendars, were sent to the participating schools. Copies of the calendar were also distributed to the schools participating in INGV projects and events, but not directly to the contest.

Events were organized to award the winners. They were hosted in the INGV venue in Rome, with the presence of classmates, teachers and often their relatives. They received certificates of attendance, medals, games, scientific games, and T-shirts with the logo of the competition. We invited scientists, journalists, artists, and science communicators to the award ceremonies. Remarkably, the Italian Minister of Public Education came to the INGV headquarter in Rome to support the event on October 20, 2005, personally rewarding the winners.

2. The 2016 calendar

For the 2016 calendar we have chosen drawings used in the past calendars, dedicated to the Earth (Fig. 1). This initiative gave us the opportunity to reflect, evaluate, and sum up the message that this 10 year-long project was conveying to the scientific community regarding the relationship between children and our planet—Earth. Below is a description of the calendars, whose images contributed to the one released in 2016, follows.
Fig. 1. The cover page of the 2016 calendar made with a collage of all previous calendar covers (edited by INGV Laboratorio Didattica e Divulgazione Scientifica and INGV Laboratorio Grafica e Immagini).

2004 – 2005 Calendar "A natural phenomenon called earthquake"

The first calendar was inspired by the project "When the Earth has a stomach ache" (Burrato et al., 2004). In 2000 a small size earthquake (M4.1) hit the Aniene Valley, a town near Rome. This event was strongly felt in the little town of Agosta Subiaco (RM), impressing shocking by teachers and students of the a local primary school. This fact and suggested lead to the idea of developing a dissemination a project focused on earthquakes focused on earthquakes. Children, who have been taught about earthquakes, can be engaged to use their artistic expressions, and demonstrate their awareness on this phenomenon through drawings (Izadkhah and Gibbs, 2015). The aim of the project was for the children to learn about the causes of earthquakes and to become familiar with a phenomenon often considered random and unforeseeable unpredictable. Moreover, an important task aim of the project was to train students and teachers to behave properly during the occurrence of an earthquake. At the end of the project, the researcher team realized a calendar that displays earthquakes using the kids’ original drawings and texts, showing presenting their own impressions.
and experiences on earthquakes and on shaking effects. In accordance with the researchers' efforts, most students have focused on what they have learned about the simple behaviours that can help reduce the damage.

Calendar 2005 – 2006 "Once upon a time there was a Volcano"

Drawings of this calendar were chosen among 853 works dedicated to volcanoes. The drawings show the fascination and fear that the "mountains of fire" arouse in children. Month after month, children told us about the legends of the past regarding volcanoes. Hephaestus, the god of fire in the Greek mythology, that had his nether forge inside the interior of Etna, and working alongside the Cyclopes, giants with a single eye. Many drawings represented the volcano as an island, such as the island of Vulcano in the Eolian archipelago, the dwelling of the homonymous god of fire of the ancient Roman people. At the end of the Middle-age in fact, the name 'volcanoes' was given to the mountains of fire, because of it's from Vulcano Island itself that, at the end of the Middle age, the mountains of fire were given the name volcanoes. Children also represented active volcanoes in their activity, with the damage caused by eruptions, fire and flames, houses in danger and frightened people; but also the role of volcanoes for the life of the planet, with the emissions of flowers and fishes from craters, and the slopes of the volcano covered with vegetation are also a subject of the children’s drawings.

Calendar 2006 – 2007 "Telling the Story of the Earth"

In this calendar, children drew the Earth’s history and the many different living beings that have dwelled on it, showing Mother Earth’s diversity and grandeur. We received 2200 drawings, illustrating the children's point of view on the history of the planet, from the origins of the Universe and of the solar system, the first forms of life, the differentiation of species in the waters and then on land, with dinosaurs, mammals and humans. Through the children's drawings one can follow the story of an extraordinary adventure, a Universe full of energy, seas and oceans crowded with forms of life, with the unmissable giant dinosaurs among luxuriant vegetation, grappling with smoking volcanoes, then the beginning of the human race, with human ancestors and other hominids engaged in hunting, and finally the incoming of civilization.

Calendar 2007 – 2008 "Living with a Star"

On the occasion of the International Heliophysical Year (IHY), the 2007 competition was dedicated to the Sun, “our star” (Fig. 2). Thanks to the European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST269 project partnership), schools from 8 European countries - Czech Republic,
Cyprus, Finland, France, Italy, Poland, Spain and the United Kingdom participated in this competition. The winning drawings were chosen among about 1300 works. Realized in all the languages of the participating countries, this calendar collected the drawings inspired by "our star". Fantastic images were produced of the Sun, sitting in space with other celestial bodies, rockets and satellites, and spreading out coloured rays. There are Some drawings that recall life on Earth, the Sun and, the rainbow and the warm rays in the summer. There are images related primarily to the energy and life brought by the Sun. Finally, the interaction with the Earth at different latitudes: eclipses, auroras, the Sun in summer and non-Sun in winter, in some cases probably inspired by personal experiences.

2009 Calendar  "The Earth of tomorrow is today in my hands"

For the UNESCO International Year of Planet Earth we focused on the issue of human responsibility on the sustainability of the planet, trying to stimulate young students’ becoming active citizens of tomorrow. Children’s relationships with nature for environmental education have been explored using the ‘draw and write’ methodology (Kalvaitis and Monhardt, 2012). Climate change will have multiple effects on human health and it is an important challenge for the development of young humans in the 21st century. We suggested topics on climate, oceans, and seas and continental waters to raise awareness in the younger generation on the beauty of Earth’s beauty and natural resources, as well as on natural hazards and on the relation between humans and Earth's health. Children responded by sending drawings of rainbows, waterfalls, volcanoes and flower fields, but also with images showing concern for the environmental degradation and the indiscriminate use of the planet's resources. Disrespectful behaviour is sometimes represented as fought by "Superheroes" or protectors. Moreover, drawings on the natural environments and everyday life highlight virtuous and environmentally friendly behaviour, respect for the environment and the importance of taking care of it (Fig. 3).
Fig. 2. The back cover of the 2007-2008 calendar dedicated the to the Sun and realized, through a partnership of European countries in the COST269 project, in 8 languages (edited by INGV Settore Formazione e Divulgazione Scientifica and INGV Laboratorio Grafica e Immagini).

2010 calendar "Precious Earth"

The 2010 calendar still focused on children's attention on planet Earth and the effect of human activity on the Earth. We asked children to create a message, by drawing an image to promote planet Earth. The title, 'Precious Earth', was chosen to underline how our existence completely depends on planet Earth, where we have evolved. We are and will continue to be part of it and will continue to be so if we manage to maintain a dynamic balance between a sustainable life and the Earth’s ecosystem. The alteration of the planet’s natural climate cycle calls for a more responsible and efficient use of natural resources in the future and the promotion and development of alternative energy sources. From the collected drawings and texts, emerges a sense of respect for the planet, a
consciousness of its beauty and uniqueness emerges, as well as sadness for activities that are perceived as damaging for the planet. Also, the texts suggest the same sensitivity, i.e.: Va bene cercare un altro mondo ma se ti trattiamo bene sarà sempre bello chiamarti casa. It's okay to look for another world but if we treat you well it will always be nice to call you home: Chiudo gli occhi e so no un mondo pulito e nessuno alza un dito. Sogno le persone rispettose dell'ambiente e la natura tornare vincente. I close my eyes and dream of a clean world and nobody raises a finger. I dream of people who respect the environment and nature becoming a winner again.

![Image of the back cover of the 2009 calendar dedicated to the Earth and to the responsibility to protect the environment](image)

**Fig. 3.** The back cover of the 2009 calendar dedicated to the Earth and to the responsibility to protect the environment (edited by INGV Laboratorio Didattica e Divulgazione Scientifica and INGV Laboratorio Grafica e Immagini).

2011 Calendar "I'm a Scientist too! Science and scientists from the children point of view"

In the International Year of Youth, established by the United Nations General Assembly, the theme was selected with the purpose of finding out how children's point of view on seeing the world of science, scientists and research, and its potential and future perspective is. Children were asked to answer the following questions through given suggestions and asked to create a drawing:

1. How do you imagine a scientist? How do you imagine the daily activities of a researcher?
What is the invention you consider the most important among all those you know? (3) What would you invent?

During the competition, 986 drawings were collected. What we got is a colorful and busy world, full of young scientists confident in the power of science and technology, engaged in inventing devices to make us happy, to travel in space and time, and to solve the Earth problems of the Earth (Fig. 4).

A sample of 200 drawings has been analyzed in order to test and tune a classification scheme and to infer some considerations of the perceived image of science, scientists and inventions from the child’s point of view (Rubbia et al., 2015). The analysis reveals a persistent gender stereotype related to scientists, since 70% of the depicted persons were male and 45% of girls draw male scientists. The image of a ‘mad scientist’, mainly related to male scientists, is still present (15%). Female scientists are drawn by girls, and they are represented as young, not crazy and are usually good-looking. Scientists of both genders are young, and this is a positive image, in that scientists may be perceived as closer to everyday life (Rubbia et al., 2015).

2012 Calendar "Mission Possible: let’s save the world"

The theme was inspired by the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All, designated by the United Nations General Assembly to promote research of new green technologies and to focus on environmental problems and the future of the Earth. Our planet provides all the resources that allow life to flourish. Many of these resources depend on delicate balances and are not unlimited. We consume more resources than the Earth can generate. Almost all of the energy and raw materials we use to produce or build what surrounds us and what we needed to live comes from the Earth. A land that feeds, warms and offers us beauty.

In the brochure of the call we have suggested some priority for the mission:

1) counteract the pollution of air, water and soil;
2) stop global warming and the destruction of ecosystems;
3) develop new green technologies.

Children’s fantasy offered us images of a planet with rainbows, trees, clean rivers and lakes, school buses powered by pedals, eco-volcanoes, machines that convert waste into flowers. In fact, the real challenge for children was to draw inventions. We can see green’ ideas and technologies based on solar energy for high-speed trains or pizza ovens, an energy that comes from the destruction of weapons or by harnessing volcanoes (Fig. 5). In other words, Sustainable Development...
development that is able to meet the needs of the present without compromising those of future
generations.

**Fig. 4.** The design chosen for the 2011 calendar cover summarizes the main themes presented in the
drawings sent by the children. Smiling scientists, confident of the potential of science, engaged in
enthusiastic discoveries to improve planet life (edited by INGV Laboratorio Didattica e Divulgazione
Scientifica and INGV Laboratorio Grafica e Immagini).
Fig. 5. One of the drawings selected for the 2012 calendar. The drawing shows a very complex project of an eco-volcano, with very detailed instructions and precise statements on the low cost of the project and on the absence of pollution (edited by INGV Laboratorio Didattica e Divulgazione Scientifica and INGV Laboratorio Grafica e Immagini).

2013 Calendar "In the heart of the Earth"

What do students of primary schools imagine there is inside the Earth? Scientists agree on for a common representation of the interior of the Earth, but so far no one has yet gone to check it. Inside the Earth, temperature and pressure increase progressively until they reach very high values, that challenge any technology known to date. We went to the moon, but we have not been able to go for more than a few kilometres inside the Earth. From the 1034 drawings, we can say have received, that the interior of the Earth is definitely very colourful and sometimes animated by turtles, butterflies and fire-breathing dragons. In some cases, it consists of candeisy, cream and chocolate, precious stones and fire feeding volcanoes. Some drawings were inspired by legends and myths alluding to the existence of underground, hidden and mysterious worlds, also inhabited by people and fantastic creatures.
Water is an essential part of the Earth making it a rare planet. Precious and indispensable to life, water is a wealth fundamental necessity that we are claimed need to protect. By increasing raising awareness, we can avoid the waste and pollution water wasting or polluting of water.

We received 1195 children's drawings, where water is represented in its plentiful manifestations, in the atmosphere and on the Earth's surface (Fig. 6). Placid waters of lakes and lagoons, pouring waterfalls reflecting where the sun is reflected, more troubling troubled water that gives rise to glaciers and ice figures, and polluting boats. There are also suggestive images that reminded us of extreme weather events such as floods and or very powerful rain, which represent a sign of awareness. In fact, the understanding of water’s varied and sometimes powerful manifestations in the atmosphere and on the Earth’s surface, promotes a correct approach with use of the territory and respectful a behaviours a behaviours of respect and attention for the towards natural environment.

Fig. 6. The back page of the 2014 calendar dedicated the to the water (edited by INGV Laboratorio Didattica e Divulgazione Scientifica and INGV Laboratorio Grafica e Immagini).
3. Final considerations

The 10 years of INGV’s calendar competitions directly involved more than about 400 schools. In addition, at least 500 other schools have been reached by part of the initiative each year by receiving copies of the calendar. We have collected about 10,000 drawings. These data indicate a good-high level of impact of the calendar drawing competition approach. With the exception of the first calendar, resulting from a specific in-presence educational activity, the scientific messages were conveyed without a direct interaction with between children and researchers. The launch call brochures represented only a starting input. The teachers had the opportunity to organize special lessons to raise awareness in pupils awareness on the competition topics and to better develop the calendar theme subject.

After 4 years of interruption due to other demanding outreach activities, the calendar project, after 4 years of interruption due to the arise of other demanding outreach activities, has been restored in 2020. Thanks to the cooperation with the Science Together-NET project (an European Researchers’ Night project, financed by the European Commission under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions) we expect the competition to take place again in action to be active for the next years. The interaction with researchers can be enhanced in future competitions by organizing, for the participating schools, lectures and workshops using distance learning technologies. This could more effectively convey the scientific messages to teachers and students. Moreover, a direct interaction, even if at distance, can offer the possibility to have feedback on the efficiency of the initiative on raising knowledge and awareness.

This work, summarising 10 years of the INGV’s calendar competition, represents a contribution to a more general investigation on the INGV training activities imprint. In fact, the organization of training and outreach activities can benefit from the knowledge of the cognitive and emotional outcomes of the beneficiaries. Projects with schools and with-in public have been analysed in order to gauge determine the effects of the training activities and the motivations of participants. These studies provided information over the amount of popularity and effectiveness of training in various contexts (D’Addezio, 2019; D’Addezio et al., 2014; Lanza et al., 2013; Musacchio et al., 2015a; Musacchio et al., 2015b). Moreover, we can perform a more general analysis on how the scientific message has been received, on the ability of scientists in transferring concepts, ideas, information in a correct but also captivating way.

Apart from the competition, the drawings we received in ten years of continuous activity with schools depicted children’s impressions and reflections, and provided an opportunity to
understand their children’s point of view. In fact, children's drawings can provide valuable information on the development of children's environment perceptions (Farokhi and Hashemi, 2011). How do young people cope with global problems, such as climate change, potential sources of worry and distress? Generally, children cope with worries about climate change by having less problem-focused behaviour, and more taking distancing and placing trust in researchers and technological development to a higher degree than adults (Ojala, 2012). Our analysis shows that this attitude can be observed in the children’s drawings. In fact, from the drawings and texts we have collected, a great consideration, a deep environmental concern and respect for the planet emerge. As shown in other experiences (Kalvaitis and Monhardt, 2012), children demonstrated a positive relationship with nature (Kalvaitis and Monhardt, 2012). A similar positive relationship between children and science and scientists also emerges from the calendar drawings. Science and technology are perceived as powerful tools that are capable to handle the continuous challenges humanity is facing. Moreover, children represent themselves as users of these tools to solve problems and improve the world. In this light, the outcome of the calendar project, gives us hope that similar initiatives can contribute in increasing the knowledge of the Earth and the fragile human ecosystem in the hearts and minds of future active citizens.

The author declares that she has no conflict of interest. Figures are from INGV publications.

Acknowledgement

The project has been made possible thanks to the teachers and to the wonderful students that participated to the competitions with drawings that have intrigued, touched, enchanted, and surprised us. We are grateful for everything they have chosen to share with us.

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