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## How contact with CERN researchers shapes students' perceptions of physicists

*Monday 30 June 2025 16:30 (1 hour)*

Engaging with scientists can challenge stereotypes and foster a more inclusive perception of STEM. The CERN-Solvay programme provides a unique opportunity to examine how contact with physicists influences students' perceptions.

This study explores how participation in its one-week summer camps shaped students' preconceived notions of physicists. Pre- and post-camp data were collected using adapted measurement tools assessing perceptions of professional and interpersonal competencies.

Preliminary analyses indicate no significant change in professional competencies but notable positive shifts in interpersonal competencies. Findings suggest direct interaction with physicists humanises scientists and informs future outreach efforts in physics education.

### Education level

Age 15-18 (Secondary education)

### Physics topic

Other

### Research focus

Student conceptions / Preconceptions / Misconceptions

### Research method

Analytic Physics Education Research (Quantitative research)

### Organizing preference criteria

Research focus

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