MicroArctic Outreach in Lyon started (Feb 2017) with some basic environmental microbiology classes – 10 classes for 11 year olds and 15 year-olds. Here’s Tim Vogel and ESR Rose Layton:

During these classes, the students had a lecture and then looked at different bacteria through the microscope. Bacteria came from Evian water, the local pond’s ice cover, and a microbial fuel cell. Here’s ESR Benoît Bergk Pinto helping students with the microscope.
Here’s ESR Rose Layton helping a group with their microscope work.

The students appreciated discussing with both women and men scientists. Katherine Weinert, who was instrumental in organizing this outreach and teaches history and geography at the Cité Scolaire Internationale (CSI), was also discussing microbiology with students.
Tim Vogel introduced the science part of the daylong (March 13, 2017) discussion about climate change, Greenland and the Arctic in front of more than 150 students from the “CSI”.

Catherine Larose (CNRS and part of the Lyon team, responsible for the WP1) gave an introduction to the Arctic
Alex Anesio (coordinator of Microarctic and Professor at Bristol University) described the goals of the EU funded Marie Curie ITN “Microarctic” including the different aspects of environmental microbiology and biotechnology. Professors Aurélien Dommergue and Tim Vogel looked on.

Carston S. Jacobsen (Head of the start-up mBioInform and Prof and Department Chair at Aarhus University in Denmark and partner of Microarctic) described his work in Greenland.
ESR Rose Layton explained how to do a doctorate, and her specific questions and approach.

Each guest had a student “host”. Here Professor Aurélien Dommergues (Univ. Genoble-Alpes) sat next to Mathieu Contamin. There was some time for mentoring.
ESR Rose Layton responds to questions.

ESR Benoît Bergk Pinto presents his PhD research project.
Professor Pierre-Louis Patoine (Univ Paris and Sorbonne) analyzes the impact of the arctic environment on cultural expression, narratives, and language.

Aviaja Lyberth Haupmann, who was defending her PhD the next day in Copenhagen, answered students’ questions about life and science in Greenland via the internet. She has just started a job back in her hometown of Nuuk, Greenland.
The younger students created posters with text and photos supplied by Dr. Catherine Larose and then explained them to the audience.

Students had time to browse and look at the posters during breaks in the day.
The afternoon started with brainstorming (idea shower), during which students thought of ideas to address in the smaller afternoon workshops. Nathalie Bisson, CSI biology teacher, encouraged student participation.

The workshop ideas were summarized under different headings: Solutions: Transportation, Energy (start doing, stop doing), Resources, Security/Safety, Protection, Social and Environmental characteristics. Then the students raised their hands to select in which subject workshop they wanted to participate.
Carsten voted with the students who wanted to discuss Transportation

Rose Layton was with the “problem” group
Aurélien Dommergue was with another group

Benoît Berk Pinto was with the “protection” group
Rose Layton’s group excelled at communication

They even used Rose to help out.
And, then they acted out their ideas as the polar bear ran out of ice and drowned

The students relayed through their teachers their interest in and enjoyment of the Microarctic outreach.

The teachers, Katherine Weinert, Nathalie Bisson, Yves Modigliani, Neil McKain, Emily Rozé, Alan Geary, Laura Kincade and the Head of the Anglophone Section, Rob Miller, and Tom Badou all contributed to the success of this outreach at the Cité Scolaire Internationale. There is even talk of next year and Katherine Weinert’s continued contact with Aviaja in Greenland.