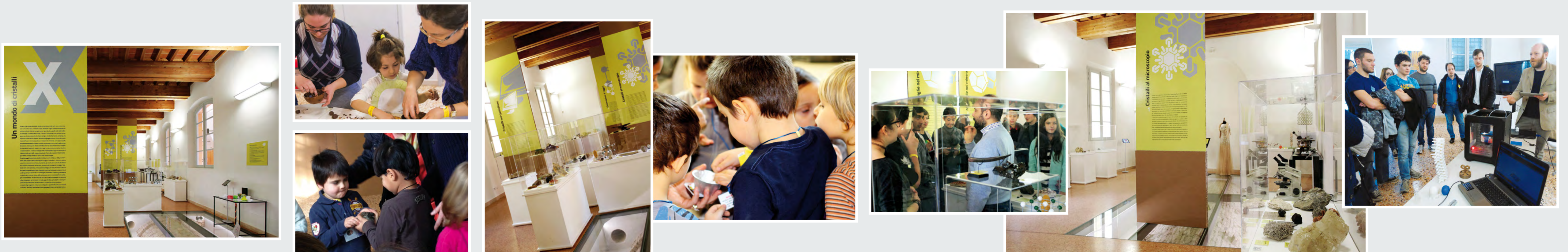


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# Inside out University Museum Collections of Geological Sciences

On July 2012, the General Assembly of the United Nations declared 2014 the International Year of Crystallography. On this occasion, the Department of Chemical and Geological Sciences of Modena and Reggio Emilia University (Italy) and its Museum Gemma 1786, organized an exhibition named *Cristalli ai Raggi X* (Modena, 24 Jan.-29 Mar. 2015) based on museum collections. The initiative involved the cooperation of many public and private partners and the active participation of twenty schools of different types and levels. A novel aspect was the planned participation of high-school students in the fifty collateral events organized during the exhibition. The main purpose of *Cristalli ai Raggi X* was to introduce non-specialists to the world of crystals and their properties. **The exhibition included** a wide range of scientific materials sourced from collections (minerals, historical documents, precision instruments) and technological applications. The display was rewarded by the appreciation of 9,000 visitors and a hundred guided tours for regional and extra-regional schools.



## Communication of Heritage

- Reinterpretation of collections in a new light
- Increase access to collections in storage rooms

## Educational activities

- Guided tours
- Laboratories for school students
- Practical activities for the community and family
- Experimentation and "scientific moments"

## Museum promotion

- Offer a "window on the world"
- Student engagement
- Community and family involvement
- Attract a wider public

The role of Museum Collections in

**Museum**

**CRISTALLI  
AI RAGGI X**

**Audiences**

## Practical components

- Creativity
- Motivation to act
- The promotion of values



## Emotional components

- Curiosity ▪ Personal discovery
- Interest in knowledge ▪ Entertainment
- Socialization



## Cognitive components

- Learning
- Learning by doing



*Cristalli ai Raggi X* gave the **University Museum Gemma 1786** the chance to renew its relationship with audiences and find new ways to be relevant in the communities it serves. Taking inspiration from this experience, **the Museum developed a new project** with the involvement of some high schools and public partners. It was named **CREO discovering museum collections**. The CREO project received an **award from the 2015 competition "I Love Cultural Heritage"** sponsored by IBC, Istituto Beni Culturali Regione Emilia-Romagna.

[www.cristalli.unimore.it](http://www.cristalli.unimore.it)