

# Argentina



**Primary National Organiser:** Comité Argentino para la Celebración del Año Internacional de la Luz (CAIL)

**Other National Partners:** Comité Territorial de Óptica de Argentina (CTO)

**Sponsors:** Ministerio de Ciencia Tecnología e Innovación Productiva, Ministerio de Educación, Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas, Comisión Nacional de Energía Atómica, Comisión de Investigaciones Científicas de la Provincia de Buenos Aires, Universidad Tecnológica Nacional, Facultad Regional Mendoza, Universidad Nacional de las Artes, Asociación Argentina de Astronomía, Instituto de Tecnologías en Detección y Astropartículas, Universidad Nacional del Nordeste, Universidad Nacional de San Martín Municipalidad de Malargue

**Estimated number of IYL 2015 activities organised:** more than 250 events

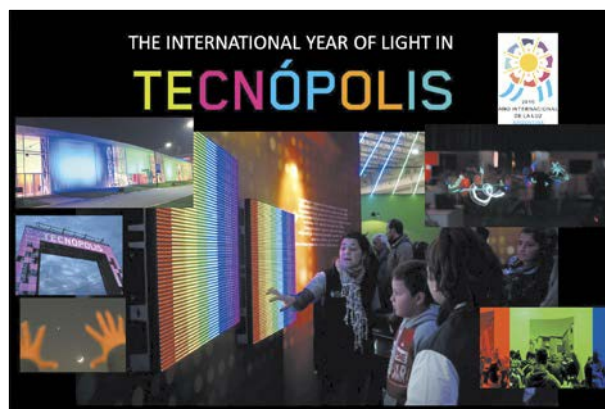
**Number of people reached by IYL 2015 activities:** around 1,000,000 people

## General overview of IYL 2015 activities in Argentina

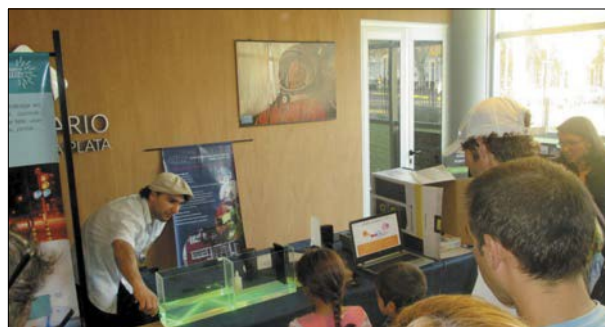
The International Year of Light (IYL 2015) was celebrated with more than 250 activities all over the country. The inauguration was held 22-23 January at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Mar del Plata. The celebration began with an outdoor laser show consisting of images of ephemeral art created by graffiti artists.

The IYL 2015 activities were developed by academic institutions, amateurs, museums, and artists. They included lectures, multiday scientific conferences, workshops, artistic performances, exhibitions, films, interactive experiments for children, photography contests, photo exhibitions, open days for laboratories, astronomical observations, teacher-training activities, and other activities (most of which were announced on our website,<sup>1</sup> but some were triggered by personal initiatives). Researchers from the photonics community produced more than 20 articles and notes, published in different media, to reach out to non-specialist audiences. They also performed at three national schools and offered more than 20 courses for students and young graduates.

Among the most prominent events of the year: the presence of IYL 2015 at TECNOPOLIS, a mega-exhibition of science, technology, industry, and art, based in Argentina and the largest in Latin America. During the 2015 edition of TECNOPOLIS, several booths celebrated the IYL 2015 with exhibitions, interactive experiments, art performances and other activities, involving more



IYL in TECNOPOLIS, a mega exhibition of science, technology, industry and art, based in Argentina and the largest in Latin America. More than 700,000 people celebrated the IYL 2015 by participating in exhibitions, interactive experiments, art performances, and other multiple activities.



**Festival de la Luz. Open Optics experiments for general public. Planetarium of the City of La Plata. Buenos Aires, Argentina. September 5, 2015. CREDIT: Gabriel M. Bilmes.**

than 700,000 people. The Patagonia region also developed an important program, performed mainly in the cities of Esquel (Complejo Plaza del Cielo) and Bariloche. *VACACiencias de Invierno*, an activity for children between 3 and 10 years of age featured experiments with light, shadow, color, and fluorescence. It took place in July and was organised by the Universidad Nacional del Centro de la Provincia de Buenos Aires.

Argentina also participated in IYL 2015 events at the international level, such as the organisation of *Light: Beyond the Bulb* exhibitions in several cities around the country.

Closing activities began in December 2015 and lasted until the end of March 2016. They were held mainly in Malargüe, Mendoza (with over 1,000 participants), Tandil, Corrientes, Esquel, and finally in Buenos Aires with the event *Posta Lumínica* developed by the University of Arts.