

Science Education Department Monthly Focus

The Science Education Department at European Schoolnet aims to encourage more students to follow Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) studies and go into STEM careers, and more importantly, ensure all students understand the key role STEM has in our lives.

To achieve this, we support our Ministries of Education

by working with teachers, industry partners and other STEM education stakeholders, offering professional development opportunities, carrying out validation pilots, curriculum analysis and dissemination of good practices.

We are currently involved in over 15 projects and in each monthly focus we will highlight a service/area we work on.



//April 2020//

Short news

On **6 April, IMPACT EdTech**, the European incubator-accelerator for EdTech start-ups, has launched its first open call to select some of the most promising EdTech start-ups/SMEs to be supported with up to **€195,300 equity-free funding** and incubation-acceleration services adapted to their needs. The call will remain open until 30 June 2020 at 13:00 CEST. During this period, EdTech disruptors providing solutions to educational challenges either targeting formal (school-based) compulsory education or general learners

are invited to submit their applications through the project website.

To help SMEs and other interested parties learn more about the objectives of IMPACT EdTech Incubator Accelerator and its benefits, a webinar will be organised on **28 April CEST, from 13:00**.

More information available on the registration page of the [IMPACT EdTech Open Call webinar](#).



Innovative Trends in Education

This month's focus: Scientix and the 2020 STEM Discovery Campaign...

The **2020 STEM Discovery Campaign (SDC20)** is a joint international initiative organized by Scientix inviting projects, organisations, libraries, schools, universities and youth clubs across Europe and around the world. The purpose is to showcase the efforts made in STEM education during the academic year while using learning resources and engaging students in educational activities promoting STEM. The tagline for this year's campaign is "Innovative Trends in Education".

As part of the SDC20, **competitions are organized by partner projects** where participants are encouraged to prepare an online STEM event or a STEM activity at school.

The winners will be able to showcase their activity on the respective project website.

To contribute to the collective efforts aiming at curbing the widespread of COVID-19, Scientix and all partners of the SDC20 worked to offer online adaptations of the competitions, providing support by means of resources, such as [Scientix Resource Repository](#), online support by using the [Scientix Online Meeting Room](#), and facilitating online teaching with the [Scientix Moodle](#).

In the next section is a list of the competitions, active from 1 February to 30 April 2020, organized by the SDC20 partners.

The [Europeana Education Competition](#) 2020, created as part of the Europeana DSI-4 project, calls primary and secondary school teachers of all subjects to find innovative ways of using Europeana digital cultural items in their virtual classroom. The Europeana Collections are an online database that functions independently of the current emergency; all teachers are encouraged to read carefully the participation requirements.

The STEM School Label project invites primary and secondary school stakeholders from European Union countries and Horizon 2020 associated countries to use the STEM School Label platform as a way of developing their STEM strategy at the school level and share their stories of implementation with other schools. It is now possible for all activities to be carried out online, as instructed on the [STEM School Label competition page](#).

The **TIWI Teaching ICT with Inquiry project competition** encourages ICT and STEM teachers to share their implementation Inquiry-Based Science Education (IBSE) in a virtual classroom. In this competition, teachers are asked to describe the processes and impact of introducing the inquiry method in ICT by using collaborative spaces as personal learning environments for students, with **Go-Lab** as a teaching methodology.

The **“BLOOM Stories” competition** invites primary and secondary school teachers of all subjects to implement teaching resources to introduce the concept of bio-economy, the core of the project. The competition was adapted to the online environment and thus teachers are encouraged to organise online activities, whenever possible, and use bio-economy as a way of engaging pupils in school subjects.

The STEM Discovery Campaign hosts three more competitions: The non-profit initiative **Leonardo 4 Children 2020: Climate Action** is dedicated to environmental sustainability and climate action, and aims to empower children and young people across Europe to contribute to address the issue of climate change.

Atelier for STE(A)M Erasmus+ project invites teachers

to send a scenario or lesson plan developed around the topic of **The colours of Science** for an interdisciplinary competition.

Finally, the **Clean Tech Competition** for the 2020 edition “Reducing Individual Impacts”, focuses on how we as individuals can instigate change through the integration of environmentally responsible energy sources.

...and the STEM Online Days 2020

In light of the current developments related to the pandemic COVID-19, the Science Education Department analysed alternative scenarios applicable to each of its projects, identifying a range of solutions to support collaboration, professional development and the online safety of teachers and their students. In an attempt to preserve the continuity of all project activities, many of the face-to-face training were “virtualised”, and didactic resources offered to help teachers in their virtual lessons were made public. Furthermore, the biggest challenge

to face was the reorganisation of events which included a combination of physical training and activities. In this regard, the Science Education Department has toiled to launch the new initiative **STEM Online Days**, a series of online activities on STEM education. The STEM Online Days will set off with a webinar on April 24, on **“Converting Workshops to Online Training”** and will include online conferences, workshops, and interactive sessions all the way to the 3rd of July.

More information in next month’s Focus.



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> More information

Contact **Dr Agueda Gras-Velazquez**
 Head of the Science Education Department
aguada.gras@eun.org

