

Dear Sir or Madame,

We are currently developing novel EU project designed to enhance the science understanding and know-how of the entire community members: students, parents, teachers and the wider public. We would like to explore the possibility that your school will embark with us on this project utilizing a cutting-edge methodology in STEM education and community engagement in science.

The Schools are the natural arenas for such activities as they are where community groups can meet. Most schools are closely operating within their community and serve as the institute for gatherings on a regular basis for a variety of activities.

Within this context, teachers are located in a pivotal point in society and can promote social change and the framing of mind-sets amongst students and the community at large

Today, public debate is based, in many cases, on falsified facts and incomplete or misleading information which leads to a very shallow level of discussion and ultimately to poor decision making by both the public and policy makers. The project aims, through new breakthrough pedagogical concepts, to introduce STEM content and skills which will foster the acceptance and adoption on the scientific method in the community.

The actions taken in the project will include:

1. Using new pedagogical methods that foster interest and curiosity in science learning amongst students and to facilitate development of relevant key competences
2. Taking active action to enhance and encourage the scientific discourse in students' family homes and support to S&T based careers path
3. Facilitating community actions of inquiry through the use of the scientific method, and raising the public awareness to the ability of science and the scientific discourse to successfully tackle many questions and dilemmas in the public sphere and beyond.

What is expected from the school:

1. School teaching grades 7-9.
2. School striving to make STEM studies a priority, supportive to identification and development of giftedness/talent in STEM and uptake of S&T based careers path
3. School that have a science lab / workshop in campus or regular access to such facilities
4. Willing to initiate and be engaged in community-wide activities or already has a good working relationship with the community (including local civil society, non-formal and informal education actors and S&T based industry).

What is expected of participating teachers (3-4 per school):

1. Be a science teacher for grades 7-9
2. Flexible attitude towards new STEM teaching methods
3. Striving to make a change in the local community they operate in.
4. Proficient in English (speaking, reading, writing)
5. Willing to take part in European teachers training in English.
6. Willing to initiate and lead 3-4 after school activities per year involving students, parents and other community members.

Funding provided:

1. Full monetary coverage to time spent on preparation and implantation of school and out-of-class activities.
2. Full coverage of all travelling and subsistence involved in teacher training activities.
3. Full funding provided to the school for the procurement of consumables and equipment required for project activities.
4. Full funding of any hosting expenses during the project.

Best regards

Sagiv Segal, project developer Ort Israel