Scientix 3: Scientix Ambassadors Training Course

3rd edition

October – December 2017

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Introduction

Scientix, the community for science education in Europe, is organising a training course for STEM teachers at all education levels. The course aims to provide teachers with the skills and information that can contribute to their professional development.

Benefits for teachers:

- Meet and learn together with likeminded teachers from all around Europe and beyond
- Learn about the wealth of resources and training opportunities available through Scientix and other projects in science education
- Get insight into how you can engage with other projects and the ways in which this can benefit your teaching and personal development
- Receive a Scientix certificate upon the successful completion of the course
- Have the chance to become a Scientix Ambassador and be part of an international community of teachers passionate about science education

After the course completion, teachers with an overall score of 65% or higher will be invited to express their interest in becoming Scientix Ambassadors by filling in a form and a motivation letter. European Schoolnet, following the approval of national authorities where relevant, will appoint the Ambassadors taking into account the final course grade and the letters of motivation.

Scientix will oversee and coordinate the course, as well as provide the technical facilities for its implementation. The course's language is English.

Modules have been developed by experts who will share their experience and know-how with the course participants and will be moderated by one or more Scientix representatives. Modules will contain elements of expert intervention, self-study and group discussions. Participants will have to complete tasks and evaluate the course.

Aims

The main goal of the course is to introduce teachers to the Scientix tools and practice in order to prepare them for becoming Scientix Ambassadors, but also to help STEM teachers from across Europe and beyond to get the information and develop skills and competencies that can contribute to their professional development.

The objectives of this course are:

- To provide an outline of the Scientix project and of the professional development possibilities offered through the project;
- To learn how to perform a variety of tasks;
- To provide teachers with insight into what is expected from working with projects in science education and what are the advantages for them;
- To help select, according to skills and availability, a new cohort of STEM teachers enthusiastic about supporting Scientix.

All those who complete the course successfully will be awarded certificates which will include the number of hours spent. At the end of the course, participants with the best scores (65% or

higher) will be asked to express their interest in becoming Scientix Ambassadors through filling in a short form and a motivation letter.

Scientix Ambassadors

Scientix Ambassadors will collaborate closely with the Scientix project team, their main tasks consisting in supporting the project's dissemination, providing ad hoc help in surveys, feedback requests, etc. and reporting back to Scientix on their activities. Scientix Ambassadors agree to provide general support to Scientix on a volunteering basis.

Benefits of being a Scientix Ambassador

- Be among the 1st to be informed of upcoming Scientix key activities.
- 5 places will be reserved at each workshop / conference organised by European Schoolnet, in the framework of Scientix, for Scientix Ambassadors.
- Accredited by Scientix as an Ambassador (name included in the website, certificate at the end of each academic year, possibility of obtaining a letter of recommendation based on the performance shown, etc.)
- Opportunities[1] to be remunerated for project specific tasks
- And more …

Target: 300 Scientix Ambassadors by the end of 2018.

Project specific tasks

Apart from dissemination, Scientix will also require the support of Scientix Ambassadors in other tasks, eligible to be remunerated. Project-specific tasks (except dissemination) will be allocated according to the needs of projects, and all Scientix Ambassadors from EU countries and H2020 associated countries will be considered, according to their expertise and availability. A contractual agreement will be closed for the duration of the task between European Schoolnet and the Ambassadors selected to carry out the specific activity.

Eligible countries

- EU countries and H2020 associate countries

- Countries with EU international agreements on science and technology

- Countries eligible for H2020 funding.

Learning space

The Learning Course for Scientix Ambassadors is deployed in a Moodle environment http://moodle.scientix.eu/. Course participants are invited to create accounts and set up their own passwords in the Scientix Moodle in order to access the platform.

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[1] This point is restricted to Ambassadors from EU countries and H2020 associate countries.

Throughout the course, participants may be asked to use other Scientix platforms, such as the Scientix Online Meeting Room, the Scientix portal, etc.

Target group

The online learning course addresses STEM teachers from Europe and beyond who are interested in collaborating with international projects in science education.

Content outline and process

The course consists of four compulsory modules and four optional topics. The participants need to pass an introductory test, which will help assess their level of Scientix knowledge.

The test will include introductory elements of the four core modules and is used to indicate where each course participant will start. If participants complete the test with more than 70%, they may move to compulsory Modules. If the score is below 70%, they will need to accomplish additional tasks related to each topic in order to move on to the modules.

The compulsory modules cover topics that range from general knowledge about Scientix and the professional development opportunities offered to teachers, to more specialized topics such as communication, collaborating with projects, branding and visual identity, etc.

The **four introductory topics** are:

1. Introducing Scientix
2. The Scientix portal
3. Maintaining the network
4. The Scientix visual identity

The following are the **compulsory Modules**:

A. **Scientix in detail**

- What is Scientix?
- Being a Scientix Ambassador

B. **Professional development through Scientix**

- The Scientix repository of resources and the Scientix Moodle
- Scientix webinars and the Scientix MOOC

C. **Communication skills**

- Copyright and Visual Identity
- How to deliver the perfect presentation.
- Social media or how to reach your audience

D. **Working with projects**

- Working with projects – an introduction
- Basic tools to support collaboration

Each module will include tests and assignments in order to determine the perceived level of learning of each participant.

The course in detail

The current edition of the course will run between October and December 2017. A delayed start is allowed in case of free places.

A quota is established of 300 participants per edition. Participants will be chosen through an open call published on the Scientix portal, taking into account the order of application and a fair country distribution among participants.

Modules covered

A detailed breakdown of the modules and activities included in each module are provided in Table 1.

Table 1: Course topics and experts

Task	Expert
Optional Topics	
1. **Introducing Scientix**	Adina Nistor
2. **The Scientix portal**	Victor J. Perez-Rubio
3. **Maintaining the network**	Marina Jimenez Iglesias
4. **The Scientix visual identity**	Róbert Hlynur Baldursson
Compulsory Modules	
A. **Scientix in detail**	
A1. **What is Scientix?**	Noelle Billon
A2. **Being a Scientix Ambassador**	Adina Nistor
B. **Professional development through Scientix**	
B1. **The Scientix repository of resources and the Scientix Moodle**	Victor J. Perez-Rubio
B2. **Scientix webinars and the Scientix MOOC**	Noelle Billon
C. **Communication skills**	
C1. **Copyright and Visual Identity**	Róbert Hlynur Baldursson
C2. **How to deliver the perfect presentation**	Àgueda Gras-Velázquez

Task	Expert
C3. Social media - or how to reach your audience	Róbert Hlynur Baldursson
D. Working with projects	
• **D1. Working with projects – an introduction**	Adina Nistor
• **D2. Basic tools to support online collaboration**	Adina Nistor

At least one webinar will be organised related to this course. Participants are not required to attend the live webinar (although they are encouraged to do so), but they may need to consult the webinar recordings in order to successfully pass the module assessments.

Course calendar

2017 — October

		Compulsory Modules	Optional Topics
1	Su		
2	Mo	CM (A.1)	OT (1)
3	Tu	CM (A.1)	OT (1)
4	We	CM (A.1)	OT (1)
5	Th	CM (A.1)	OT (1)
6	Fr	CM (A.1)	OT (1)
7	Sa		
8	Su		
9	Mo	CM (A.2)	OT (1)
10	Tu	CM (A.2)	OT (1)
11	We	CM (A.2)	OT (1)
12	Th	CM (A.2)	OT (1)
13	Fr	Evaluation	
14	Sa		
15	Su		
16	Mo	Evaluation	
17	Tu	CM (B.1)	OT (2)
18	We	CM (B.1)	OT (2)
19	Th	CM (B.1)	OT (2)
20	Fr	CM (B.1)	OT (2)
21	Sa		
22	Su		
23	Mo	CM (B.2)	OT (2)
24	Tu	CM (B.2)	OT (2)
25	We	CM (B.2)	OT (2)
26	Th	CM (B.2)	OT (2)
27	Fr	Evaluation	
28	Sa		
29	Su		
30	Mo	Evaluation	
31	Tu	CM (C.1)	OT (3)

2017 — November

		Compulsory Modules	Optional Topics
1	We	CM (C.1)	OT (3)
2	Th	CM (C.1)	OT (3)
3	Fr	CM (C.1)	OT (3)
4	Sa		
5	Su		
6	Mo	CM (C.2)	OT (3)
7	Tu	CM (C.2)	OT (3)
8	We	CM (C.2)	OT (3)
9	Th	CM (C.2)	OT (3)
10	Fr	CM (C.2)	OT (3)
11	Sa		
12	Su		
13	Mo	CM (C.3)	OT (3)
14	Tu	CM (C.3)	OT (3)
15	We	CM (C.3)	OT (3)
16	Th	CM (C.3)	OT (3)
17	Fr	Evaluation	
18	Sa		
19	Su		
20	Mo	Evaluation	
21	Tu	CM (D.1)	OT (4)
22	We	CM (D.1)	OT (4)
23	Th	CM (D.1)	OT (4)
24	Fr	CM (D.1)	OT (4)
25	Sa		
26	Su		
27	Mo	CM (D.2)	OT (4)
28	Tu	CM (D.2)	OT (4)
29	We	CM (D.2)	OT (4)
30	Thu	CM (D.2)	OT (4)

2017 — December

		Compulsory Modules	Optional Topics
1	Fr	Evaluation	
2	Sa		
3	Su		
4	Mo	Evaluation	
5	Tu		
6	We		
7	Th		
8	Fr		
9	Sa		
10	Su		
11	Mo		
12	Tu		
13	We		
14	Th		
15	Fr		
16	Sa		
17	Su		
18	Mo		
19	Tu		
20	We		
21	Th		
22	Fr		
23	Sa		
24	Su		
25	Mo		
26	Tu		
27	We		
28	We		
29	Fr		
30	Sa		
31	Su		

Task and assignments

At the end of each module and topic section, participants are assigned evaluations and tasks by the experts. Tasks and assignments are presented in conjunction with each topic under the specific sections of the course. Two extra days are allocated at the end of each module for participants' evaluation.

Most of the tasks are individual, but participants are encouraged to exchange in the Moodle forums.

Detailed schedules for each Module, as well as deadlines to complete tasks will be announced in conjunction with each Module topic in order to increase transparency and help participants respect the course timeframe.

In case of difficulties and/or questions regarding tasks, course participants can use the helpdesk forum; the Course Moderator and the organisers will tend to questions and requests.

Evaluation and certification

Each topic will be concluded with a short evaluation quiz to assess perceived obtained knowledge. Some topics may include individual assignments and instructor feedback.

Participants will be rewarded according to the percentage of tasks completion.

%	Status	Certificate	Possible to become Scientix Ambassador
0 – 49	Course not completed	No	No
50 – 65	Course completed	Yes	No
65 – 100	Course completed successfully	Yes	Yes

The final course grade will be calculated according to this formula:

Final grade = 22.5%*A+22.5%*B+32.5%*C+22.5%*D

After the course completion, each successful teacher (overall score of 50% or over) will receive a certificate. The course will take a total of approximately 55 hours of participants' work. The number of hours will be stated in the certificate.

Participants will receive their final course grade at the end of the course, and those with a grade of 65% or higher will be asked to express their interest in becoming Scientix Ambassadors by filling in a form and a motivation letter.

European Schoolnet, following the approval of national authorities where relevant, will appoint the Ambassadors taking into account the final course grade and the letters of motivation.

This is the time estimation per Module:

Module	Estimated time	Schedule
Topic 1	3h	Monday 2 October – Monday 16 October
Module A	10h	(13 days) + 2 days for evaluation
Topic 2	3h	Tuesday 17 October – Monday 30 October
Module B	10h	(12 days) + 2 days for evaluation
Topic 3	3h	Tuesday 31 October – Monday 20 November
Module C	15h	(19 days) + 2 days for evaluation
Topic 4	3h	Tuesday 21 November – Monday 4 December 2017
Module D	8h	(13 days) + 2 days for evaluation

Support and helpdesk

In case of difficulties and/or questions regarding tasks or technical issues, course participants can submit their queries to the Course Moderator that will tend to questions and requests. The course moderator will be Adina Nistor.

Social media

If you wish to use a hashtag to talk about your participation in the course, please use the following one: #Training4Scientix