

Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) project

Call for Pilot Teachers

January – September 2020

Aim

European Schoolnet (EUN) is looking for 15 teachers (5 teaching primary education, 5 teaching a STEM¹ subject at secondary level and 5 teaching a non-STEM subject at secondary level) to join the Nature-Based Solutions project (January - September 2020). The teachers will:

- Develop a Learning Scenario on integrating nature-based solutions in the classroom.
- Participate in two face-to-face workshops in the Future Classroom Lab in Brussels, one to take place on 21-22 February 2020 and one to take place on 26-27 June 2020.
- Participate in at least two online meetings led by EUN to share experiences and feedback for colleagues.
- Test their own learning scenario and a colleague's learning scenario by implementing them in their classroom and help in the assessment of the learning scenarios.
- Support the organisation and hosting of a final and open webinar that can inspire teachers to include nature-based solutions in their teaching.
- Report based on their experiences implementing the created educational materials on the topic of nature-based solutions.
- Provide post-implementation stories about their colleague's learning scenario they reviewed.
- Reflect on the learning scenarios developed in video footage to be shot by EUN during the second teacher workshop.

What are nature-based solutions (NBS)?²

NBS are **solutions inspired and supported by nature and ecosystems**. As opposed to purely technological solutions, NBS are cost-effective, simultaneously provide environmental, social and economic benefits, and help build resilience to climate change. **NBS bring more nature and biodiversity to cities, landscapes and seascapes**, through locally adapted, systemic interventions. Examples of NBS are **green roofs** and **green walls** to cool down cities in the summer, **parks** to combat pollution and provide leisure and exercise to citizens, **green corridors** connecting natural areas, **urban food gardens**, etc. See examples at: <https://oppla.eu/nbs/case-studies> and <https://www.naturvation.eu/atlas>

¹ STEM stands for Science (Physics, Chemistry, Biology), Technology, Engineering or Mathematics subjects.

² Official NBS page: <https://ec.europa.eu/research/environment/index.cfm?pg=nbs>

About the project

Better awareness of the opportunities, benefits and limitations of nature-based solutions has been identified by citizens and experts as one of the main factors that could facilitate the transition to more sustainable cities and territories. Nature-based Solutions (NBS) use nature and ecosystems to deliver social, ecological and economic benefits, increasing biodiversity and contributing to climate change adaptation and mitigation. However, the educational potential of NBS remains largely unexplored, whilst innovative programmes and resources around NBS are currently missing from formal and informal education programmes for children and families. Building on scientific evidence and on experiences from NBS demonstration projects in cities, this educational pilot study will exploit recent research results to develop innovative educational programmes and resources to raise awareness on nature-based solutions (NBS) and their benefits among children, young people and their families.

The project is initiated and funded by the European Commission Directorate-General for Research and Innovation and coordinated by PPMI, in collaboration with European Schoolnet (EUN). PPMI (www.ppmi.it/en) is a leading European research and policy analysis centre, aiming to help public sector and civil society leaders from around the world, presenting evidence in a way that is simple, clear and ready to use. European Schoolnet (www.eun.org) is the network of 34 European Ministries of Education, based in Brussels. EUN aims to bring innovation in teaching and learning to its key stakeholders: Ministries of Education, schools, teachers, researchers, and industry partners. EUN's task in the NBS project is to coordinate the pilot teachers.

Tasks to be carried out by NBS pilot teachers

1. Participate in two face-to-face workshops in the Future Classroom Lab at EUN.
 - a. The first workshop will be held on 21-22 February 2020 and will gather the 15 NBS pilot teachers who will be introduced to the project topics and will start the creation of the learning scenarios.
 - b. The second workshop will see the pilot teachers gather once again at the FCL to finalize the development of their learning scenarios on 26-27 June 2020.
2. Create one learning scenario to teach about nature-based solutions (NBS), using the template provided by EUN and finalise it by the end of May 2020.
3. Test the learning scenario developed by themselves and test a learning scenario developed by another one of the NBS pilot teachers (from a different country), by implementing them in the classroom in April-May 2020.
4. Participate in a kick-off online meeting in early February 2020 and a mid-term online meeting led by EUN to share experiences and feedback in April 2020.
5. Support the organisation and hosting of a final debriefing webinar open to any interested teacher on the topic of nature-based solutions to be held in September 2020.

6. Provide post-implementation stories about their colleague's learning scenario they reviewed by June 2020.
7. Provide reporting based on their experiences implementing the created educational materials on the topic of nature-based solutions by June 2020.
8. Reflect on the learning scenarios they developed in video footage to be shot by EUN during the second teacher workshop in June 2020.

Benefits for teachers

- Pilot teachers completing tasks will be remunerated for up to 6 days of work (600 EUR).
- Travel and accommodation costs of teachers covered to participate in the two workshops (the days spent at the workshop are not remunerated).
- Opportunity to be part of the selected network of this European project.
- Training provided in the Future Classroom Lab
- Certificate of work done at the end of the project.

Selection criteria of NBS pilot teachers

Interest in integrating new topics in classes: teachers should have an interest in integrating new topics in classes, like 'climate change and its mitigation', 'green pedagogies', etc.

Actively teaching in primary or secondary school: teachers will implement learning scenarios in their own practice; therefore, they should be active teachers during January and September 2020.

Experience in producing learning/training resources: teachers will be required to have proven experience in developing pedagogical material for students.

Proficient knowledge of English (understanding, writing, reading and listening): teachers should feel comfortable to communicate in English in order to attend the workshops, facilitate the development of learning scenarios and collaborate with teachers from other countries.

Availability to participate in two face-to-face workshops: in order to fulfil their tasks, teachers need to attend both workshops.

Eager for video production: teachers should be comfortable speaking on video about their learning scenario implementation. Additionally, if possible, the teachers should be eager to film their own classroom (including getting approval from the students' parents).

Interest in learning and sharing experiences and good practices: teachers will need to demonstrate their interest in collaborative activities and learning.

Very good community organisational skills: teachers should have previous experience in facilitating (online) communities.

Very good authoring/digital skills: teachers should have experience in using a range of digital tools for content creation and feel comfortable with maintaining and updating web sites, blogging, photography, videography, online commentary, the maintenance of social media accounts, and editing and distribution of digital media.

Good internet connection at home both in terms of stability and available bandwidth as well as frequent access to technical infrastructure (i.e., PC's) since teachers need to be able to regularly connect online for their work.

Availability for 9-month project: in order to carry out their tasks, teachers will have to be able to participate in the project for its entire duration.

How to apply

- Teachers are invited to apply to be an NBS pilot teacher by filling in this [application form](#) by **27th of January 2020**. Due to time constraints, applications might be reviewed as they are received.
- The selected teachers will be officially informed by email on their selection by **the 7th of February 2020**.

More information

The final selection of teachers will be validated by the Ministries of Education in the corresponding countries. EUN will not enter into detailed discussions or exchanges with any applicant as to why their application was not successful. **We expect to select 3 teachers per country, from a total of 5 countries.**

In order to carry out the activities between January and September 2020, the selected teachers will be requested to sign an agreement with EUN by the first workshop.

Any doubts? Please contact

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