



**CALL FOR SCIENTIX 4
NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS
SEPTEMBER 2020-DECEMBER
2022**



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Aim

Scientix¹ promotes and supports a Europe-wide collaboration among STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) teachers, education researchers, policymakers and other STEM education professionals.

In its first stage (2010 - 2012), the project built an online portal to collect and present European STEM education projects and their results and organised several teacher workshops.

The second phase (2013 - 2015) expanded to the national level. Through the network of the National Contact Points (NCPs), Scientix aimed to reach out to national teacher communities and contribute to the development of national strategies for wider uptake of inquiry-based and other innovative approaches to science and maths education.

This activity was continued in the third stage of Scientix (2016-2019), expanding the networking to include more Scientix ambassadors, training programmes and the Ministries of Education STEM representatives Working Group.

The objectives of Scientix 4 are the same as for Scientix 3:

- To ensure the continuation/adaptation of the Scientix 3 activities
- To contribute to and support the development of national strategies for wide uptake and dissemination of Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE), and other science education methodologies

In order to address the contribution to the development of national strategies, three initiatives have been planned under Scientix 4:

- The continuation of Ministries of Education Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) representatives Working Group (MoE STEM WG) as a platform

¹ Please note that in this document, the terms Scientix 1, 2 or 3, are used to highlight a difference within the different stages of the Scientix project. Scientix 4 is used for the new contract to run between January 2020 and December 2022. Otherwise the portal and the project are simply referred to as Scientix

of discussion and exchange for Ministries of Education regarding their STEM education policies

- The establishment of Scientix 4 National Contact Points
- The establishment of STE(A)M European partnerships at national level

The remit of the Ministries of Education STEM representatives Working Group is:

- To monitor national STEM education policies in each country
- To provide a platform of exchange for ministries of education regarding practices related to national STEM policies
- To promote national STEM initiatives via Scientix

The objectives of Scientix National Contact Points, in addition to those stated for the MoE STEM Working Group, are the following:

- To organise joint national/Scientix events
- To support professional development of STEM teachers, both at initial teacher education level and also at in-service training level
- To provide a link between activities at a European and a national level, by engaging with national communities of STEM professionals, providing information about Scientix activities and organizing national workshops, webinars and other relevant activities
- To monitor and analyse national initiatives regarding science education policy and practice, to be published on the Scientix website, providing an overview of the national initiatives in science education taking place across Europe

Ministries of Education part of the MoE STEM WG were invited to act as Scientix National Contact Points. Among countries in which the Ministries decided to leave this role to other national organisations, and other eligible countries (please see the list of eligible countries in the section below), Scientix 4 will select 14 organizations to act as NCPs on the basis of this call for proposals.

Why become an NCP under Scientix 4

- You will be part of the main European network dealing with STEM related issues
- You will actively contribute to the development of national strategies for the wider uptake of inquiry-based and other innovative approaches to science and maths education
- You will have the possibility of using a dedicated space on the Scientix platform for promoting the Scientix project in your national community
- You will receive training on how to use the platform and be provided with a technical manual and editorial guidelines
- You will have access to a Scientix helpdesk which will support your work with the platform and/or other tasks
- You will benefit of the other services Scientix offers

Main tasks

- NCPs will support the dissemination of Scientix at national level (via social media, newsletters, presentations, etc.)
- NCPs will organise a number of online and face to face activities to promote STEM education at the national level, depending on the needs and situation of each country
- NCPs will meet six times during the Scientix 4 project duration, the first meeting taking place online in early October 2020
- NCPs will support schools to develop their STEM School Strategies
- The NCPs and the MoE STEM representatives Working Group will work together to ensure the exchange of knowledge between different countries in terms of STEM education, as well as dissemination and support of STEM practices
- NCPs through their representatives, should report and provide feedback and suggestions to the Project Management Team on the different aspects of the project, from the portal to the events
- Optional: Up to 4 NCPs will be testing the setting up of STE(A)M European partnerships at national level. These NCPs will be asked to launch and coordinate national STE(A)M partnerships. These partnerships will:
 - Develop a research and testing programme for new approaches for creative and innovative science, technology, engineering and maths teaching and learning opportunities, connected to existing national practices
 - With the support of European Schoolnet, test these approaches across Europe

The STE(A)M partnerships would work with the support of Future Classroom labs established at national, regional, or local level and the conditions for large scale deployment of these approaches will also be investigated. The results will be shared during three international STE(A)M European partnership meetings planned for Scientix 4.

Who can apply?

Organisations (universities, associations, foundations...) with a capacity to run the programme in their respective country, and with extensive knowledge of the situation of STEM education in their countries and in the development of national strategies in the STEM area, possessing:

- Experience and expertise in developing and running professional development programmes focused on STEM learning and teaching
- The capacity to facilitate and encourage teacher engagement and practitioner groups at the national level

Eligible countries²

- Belgium, Luxembourg, Denmark, Poland, Serbia, Romania, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Latvia, Netherlands, Germany, Slovenia, Kosovo, Switzerland, Bulgaria, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Albania, Moldova, Ukraine, Faroe Islands, Tunisia, Armenia, Ireland, Cyprus, Croatia, Lithuania, Greece, Israel

Economic model and the budget

The economic model for NCPs selected from the open call will be defined on a shared funded basis³ meaning that NCPs will be expected to cover the costs and the organisation of some specific STEM events jointly with Scientix. NCPs will be awarded based on the 'best value for money' principle while any conflict of interest will be avoided. NCPs will be associated to the project under Article 13 (Implementation of action tasks by subcontractors) of the Grant Agreement.

A total budget of 12,000 EUR has been reserved per NCP, in order to support either the staff costs associated to carrying out their activities as NCPs, or operational costs (travel and subsistence, printing, venues, etc). The Scientix funding would be paid as a fee upon receipt of an invoice and report of the activities done.

Prior to execution of the activities, each NCP will sign an agreement with European Schoolnet outlining their main tasks and responsibilities.

26 NCPs are expected to be part of Scientix 4 and will meet six times (either face to face or online) during the Scientix 4 period (the travel and subsistence to attend the meetings is budgeted under European Schoolnet's Other costs, and not included in the 12,000 EUR of the NCPs).

Additional budget of 5,000 EUR has been reserved for up to four NCPs who will pilot STE(A)M European partnerships as a new Scientix activity.

Proposal to be submitted and information to be provided

A proposal to act as National Contact Point needs to be submitted by e-mail by 31st of August 2020, latest, including:

- Information on the applicant including legal name, certificate of registration, VAT number or declaration that it is not subject to VAT
- The importance of Scientix for the applicant's country and summary of the situation of STEM education at national level
- The type of activities the applicant is offering in regards to the main tasks listed above and how they will be adapted or developed for the purposes of this project

² Countries where Ministries of Education request to act as National Contact Points will be prioritised

³ The activities implemented by NCPs should be joint national/Scientix activities. Scientix can support but cannot fund new projects. NCPs will contribute to the implementation of Scientix activities with at least 50% of their co-financing.

- The type of pedagogical resources and pedagogical material the applicant is able to provide regarding these activities
- The applicant's knowledge and experience with respect to STEM teaching and learning. In that regards, CVs and the number of people involved in the foreseen activities should be provided
- A detailed requested budget for running the foreseen activities taking into account the maximum overall fee of 12,000 EUR/NCP (excluding the travel and subsistence for one participant per NCP, to the 6 NCP meetings planned, which will be organized and covered by European Schoolnet)
- Specification of the approximate provisional dates of the foreseen activities during the period September 2020 - December 2022
- Description of the applicant's connections with their respective Ministry of Education

Expected length of proposal: 5 – 20 pages.

European Schoolnet has the right to reject any application which is not complete, or which does not contain the above information.

Additional Information

- A maximum of 14 NCPs are expected to be identified in Scientix 4 from the countries listed above
- A subcontracting agreement will be signed between European Schoolnet and each successful STEM organization which will cover key issues, such as; monitoring, reporting, payment schedules, etc.
- Payment to the NCPs will be conditional on them carrying out their tasks in accordance with the conditions specified in the subcontracting agreement. Please note that in order to be reimbursed, NCPs need to provide receipt of an invoice and report of the activities done
- European Schoolnet keeps the right to cancel completely or modify any of the conditions related to this call. No obligation will arise under this call until a subcontracting agreement has been signed by both European Schoolnet and the NCP concerned
- Applications should be sent by e-mail to the attention of
 - TO: Antonija Grizelj (antonija.grizelj@eun.org)
 - CC: Noelle Billon noelle.billon@eun.org and, Dr Agueda Gras-Velazquez aguada.gras@eun.org
- Indicative calendar:
 - Deadline to apply: 31st of August 2020 at 12.00 PM (Brussels time – CEST). Applications received later than the above mentioned date and time will not be eligible for funding
 - The NCPs will be informed by email on the results of their application
 - The activities should start from September 2020

- **Selection Criteria:**

Each proposal will be scored according to the following criteria:

- 'Best value for money' principle
- Proven experience in the field
- Experience and knowledge of key staff
- The clarity and relevance of the financial proposal
- Clear demonstration that:
 - The foreseen activities correspond to the objectives and the main tasks listed above
 - The activities will be performed in close cooperation with the corresponding STEM Ministry of Education

Please note that the selection decision of European Schoolnet is final and is not subject to appeal. European Schoolnet will not enter into detailed discussions or exchanges with any applicant as to why their application was not successful.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact:

- **Antonija Grizelj, antonija.grizelj@eun.org Scientix National Contact Points Coordinator**
- **Noelle Billon, noelle.Billon@eun.org Scientix Deputy Project Manager**
- **Dr Agueda Gras-Velazquez, agueda.gras@eun.org Scientix Project Manager**