




## GOOD PRACTICES IN STEM EDUCATION

<b>Title</b>	<p>School Lab</p> 
<b>Brief description</b>	<p>School Lab is an innovative programme for communicating science in schools!</p> <p>Students who take part in School Lab are expected to form teams with their friends, choose a scientific topic they're interested in, present their chosen topic in an inventive and comprehensible way, record their presentation on video and upload it to the School Lab website.</p> <p>Their video should be addressed to the general public and it should be both scientifically accurate and entertaining. There are no limitations on how they can present their topic, they can choose to make a theatrical show, a series of experiments, a funny gag, a hip hop song, a cartoon using computer graphics, etc. The video can be between 3 and 5 minutes.</p> <p>The young students are guided throughout the programme by a group of scientists, called the programme's mentors. Their teachers' role is supportive to the extent that they wish.</p> <p>The videos are judged by a panel of judges that will include experts in science and in communication. The 10 best teams compete in the School Lab finals where the best videos are awarded.</p>
<b>Level</b>	<p>10- 15 years old</p>
<b>Advantages</b> Why is it innovative/ attractive to students?	<p>School Lab is a programme full of benefits for participants: apart from discovering the amazing science hidden in our world, students are also introduced to a new way of learning that combines traditional guidance from their teachers with the mentoring of the young scientists involved. The programme is their chance to get to know personally people working in the field of science and to discover whether they would actually like to follow this</p>





	<p>career path.</p> <p>In addition, through the video making process, they are learning how to present their ideas, they are getting creative, they are developing new digital skills and they build on team spirit. Instead of receiving science knowledge, students discover new topics on their own and then present them, acting as knowledge transmitters.</p> <p>Teachers who get involved are also gaining a lot from the experience, as they get familiarised with new media in science education and get to add an innovative action in their CVs.</p> <p>Furthermore, School Lab's webpage, designed to be an online community to bring students, teachers and researchers together, collects during this process high quality science videos ready to be used in a pool of educational material.</p>
<p><b>Teachers' opinion</b></p>	<p>From evaluation questionnaires:</p> <p>“Congratulations, everything was great! Your competition and everything similar gives hope to our children in these difficult times. Wishing you to keep up with innovative and pioneer projects like this and we will be there to support you!”  Anna Hadjantona, Themistoklis Educational Centre</p> <p>“A good teaching practice, interesting for the kids and useful for the colleagues”  Alexander Fragoudis, High School of Velvento</p> <p>“School Lab is a pioneer process through which school is asked to make a move towards society, to open up and interact with it”.  Alexandra Kitsou, High School of Sminthi, Xanthi</p>
<p><b>Students' opinion</b></p>	<p>From evaluation questionnaires:</p> <p>“ I wanted to participate in School Lab from the first moment our Principal told us about it. We went on extremely well with my team and with our mentor. I would love to participate again in a fun project like School Lab. Thank you for giving me the chance to have fun, learn and show you my ideas!”  Traganitsa (nickname), 12 years old</p>



	<p>“This competition brought us even closer with my friends, as we had the chance to learn something new together. We loved it!” AA Team, Ionios School</p> <p>“You have to do it again!” Watersavers Team, Arsakeion School</p>
<p><b>Difficulties</b></p>	<p>Due to its fast scaling during its six weeks process, attention should be payed to the quality of the produced videos. It is recommended that the mentors of the programme are willing and qualified to ensure high quality. More mentors might be needed to be recruited in the middle of the process in case of large numbers of participants.</p>
<p><b>Further information / Case Studies</b></p>	<p>School Lab is running since 2011, reaching more than 2000 students and 200 teachers. The last year it expanded in Cyprus and Malta and from academic year 2015-2016, Ireland also joins in.</p>
<p><b>Partner / author</b></p>	<p>SciCo, BC, EduTV</p>