GOOD PRACTICES IN STEM EDUCATION

Title	Sustainable Cities – IBSE activities
Brief description	Students from Portuguese schools carried out activities that involved identifying problems in their cities and looking for solutions based on Science and technology. Activities were designed according to IBSE (Inquiry Based Science Education) principles.
Site	www.cienciaviva.pt/cidades
Level	High Elementary and secondary education schools
Advantages Why is it innovative/ attractive to students?	The following factors guaranteed attractiveness for students: Identifying problems in their cities (starting point for their work); carrying out field work in the city; thinking and exchanging ideas in group; interacting with the local community; getting the scientists' support; creating objects; communicating their proposals (in the Town Hall, in conferences, in exhibitions); getting involved in decision-making.
Teachers' opinion	Teachers reported that the students have shown a sense of fulfillment as they have managed to present solutions. The fact that they had to identify the problems and present their proposals made them feel that were studying subjects that, instead of being imposed by the teacher, were their own needs. The teachers felt comfortable because they could rely on the support of scientists.
Students' opinion	Students reported that doing work in a different way.

With the support of the Lifelong Learning Programme of the European Union

Difficulties	Coordinating the project activities meant the more time spending than the time spent with the traditional lessons.
Further information / Case Studies	

Partner / author	Ciência Viva, Portugal Within the MARCH project