

Education and industry collaboration expand teachers' STEM and business related-skills

The STEM Alliance has just published a "Teacher Placement Initiatives – Collection of Best Practices" publication, containing 15 initiatives from 10 countries around the world, providing inspiring examples of STEM teacher placements in industry which really work to the benefit of all actors.

STEM teacher placements in industry are work placements or internships that provide opportunities for teachers to upgrade their knowledge, skills and competences in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), as well as to improve their teaching of STEM subjects.

One of the main aims of this "Teacher Placement Initiatives – Collection of Best Practices" is to help overcome the lack of awareness of career development opportunities for teachers, taking into consideration the urgent need to bridge employment gaps by sustaining cooperation between school and industries.

The publication contains precious insights for industry on how to attract new generations of students into STEM careers while understanding the workforce available, allowing a tailored targeting of specific candidates.

Teacher placements are one of the best means to ease the integration of company-sponsored programmes in school curricula, helping policy makers meet the challenge of a lack of resources in schools and expand their knowledge about STEM subjects.

TEACHERS CAN BETTER CONVINCING YOUNGSTERS

Through this collection of best practice teacher placement initiatives, which highlights the benefits for teachers and the supporting structures, teachers are understood as STEM mediators who can convincingly convey to the youngsters they teach the importance of STEM studies and careers.

A number of companies are already active in providing teacher placements or willing to develop such programmes further. These companies include STEM Alliance partners such as CA Technologies, IBM, Microsoft and Shell, as well as other companies, such as Engie and Accenture.

The publication has been developed within the Teacher Discovery Placement scheme, an initiative of the STEM Alliance, in collaboration with the SYSTEMIC project. The most important objective of the scheme is to highlight existing programmes and to set up and run a common analysis framework that will help ensure the success, promotion and development of these placements, federating the work done across Europe and beyond and defining the conditions of success and the needed support structure to set-up these work placements.

"Teacher Placements in industry provide up-to-date knowledge on STEM careers and familiarise educators with an entrepreneurial mind-set that contribute to an increase in teachers' confidence in transmitting knowledge to peers and students" says Marc Durando, Executive Director of European Schoolnet.

"This publication fits perfectly in the European Pact for Youth. Through collaborative action, companies make business-education partnerships the new norm in Europe", says Stefan Crets, Executive Director of CSR Europe.

The STEM Alliance scheme aims at providing an ecosystem for Ministries of Education to engage teachers in such placements, and a framework for companies welcoming teachers involved in work placements on their premises.

Improving the teaching and learning of STEM subjects can be effectively achieved through developing links and cooperation between schools and businesses at European level, allowing for mutual learning experiences for the benefit of all stakeholders.

Follow: @stemalliance_eu on Twitter for live updates and announcements

Website: http://www.stemalliance.eu/teacher_placement

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About STEM Alliance

The STEM Alliance brings together industries, Ministries of Education and education stakeholders to promote Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics education and careers to young Europeans and address anticipated future skills gaps within the European Union. The STEM Alliance builds on the success of the EU-funded inGenious initiative (2011-2014) to increase the links between STEM education and careers, by involving schools throughout Europe.

About European Schoolnet

European Schoolnet is the network of 31 European Ministries of Education, based in Brussels. As a not-for-profit organisation, we aim to bring innovation in teaching and learning to our key stakeholders: Ministries of Education, schools, teachers, researchers, and industry partners. European Schoolnet's mission is to support relevant education stakeholders in Europe in the transformation of education processes for 21st century digitalized societies. Our remit is to identify and test promising innovative practices, share evidence about their impact, and support the mainstreaming of teaching and learning practices aligned with 21st century standards for the education of all students.

About CSR Europe

CSR Europe is the leading European business network for Corporate Social Responsibility. Through its network of 45 corporate members and 41 National CSR organisations, it gathers over 10,000 companies, and acts as a platform for those businesses looking to enhance sustainable growth and positively contribute to society. Improving STEM skills and promoting quality business-education partnerships is a key priority for CSR Europe, as is reflected in the Pact for Youth launched in 2015. As co-leader of the STEM Alliance, CSR Europe welcomes the STEM Discovery week as a key contribution to the Pact for Youth.

About SYSTEMIC

SYSTEMIC is a strategic partnership project funded by the European Commission under Key Action 2 of the Erasmus+ programme. The overall objective of the SYSTEMIC project ("Say Yes to STEM In the Classroom") is to increase young Europeans' interest in maths, science, engineering and technology education and careers and to provide teachers with the appropriate pedagogical tools to teach STEM topics differently and in a more attractive way.

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