

Guidance Note

Country Network – Description and Set Up

This Document describes the role, organisation and steps for setting up a Science In Schools country network.

Purpose of Science In Schools Country Networks

Through company and industry association collaboration, provide higher leverage to the existing MST education resources from individual organisations, and thereby deliver greater benefit in schools.

It is not the intention of the country network to duplicate existing initiatives in country. The aim is to complement where appropriate, and to re-use existing educational resources rather than develop new ones.

Organisation & Roles

Science In Schools operates primarily at country level because of the very different context of each country.

Overall co-ordination and best practice sharing across Country Networks is enabled through a European Level Steering Group.

Within a country there should be:-

- A lead organisation (company or association), or a pair of organisations co-leading. The purpose of this leadership is to build momentum. (Whilst IBM is the leader of the Science In Schools laboratory, it does not aim to lead in all countries).
- A small group (approx 4-6) of organisations acting as a coordinating group to shape and execute an appropriate programme of activities for that country. This group will ideally comprise some or all of the following: companies, industry associations, government representation and teacher representatives.
- A wider network of companies who are willing to be involved in the programme of activities.

Steps to Developing a Country Network

1. Organisation(s) initially express intent to explore potential for Science In Schools. Work with laboratory leaders to assist with first steps.
2. Conduct Stakeholder Mapping (see separate Guidance Document)
3. Identify Country co-ordinating group. Agree first meeting.
4. Identify country lead organisation(s)
5. Agree aims of Science In Schools in country. Develop and run a programme of activities. (See separate guidance document)
6. Use PR to further develop Science In Schools momentum and grow the network and programme.

On-going Responsibilities

- Maintain momentum and a programme of activities through the country co-ordinating group.
- Maintain the country network.
- Participate in cross European best practice sharing.

Suggested Tracking Sheet

Based on the Steps suggested above.

1. The lead company for Science In Schools in country will be:- _____
2. The other companies participating in the Country forum will be :-
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
3. The forum has held / will hold :-
 - a. It's first meeting on:- _____
 - b. (Approximate) date of future meetings :-
 - i. _____
 - ii. _____
 - iii. _____
4. The country forum has described and written down
 - a. High level aims and programme with outline dates
(Please provide copy to share with country teams and European Steering Group)
 - b. Actions to progress
(Please provide copy to share with country teams and European Steering Group)
5. Activities / Events have been implemented
 - a. #1 = _____ held / launched on date _____
 - b. #2 = _____ held / launched on date _____
 - c. #3 = _____ held / launched on date _____
 - d. etc
(Please provide copy to share with country teams and European Steering Group)
6. "Science In Schools" media coverage has been achieved *
 - a. Where _____ date _____ published
 - b. Where _____ date _____ published
 - c. Where _____ date _____ published
 - d. Etc

* NB Here we mean events which can be mentioned within Science In Schools PR. I.e. They involve 'Collaboration' across companies. Events / Activities may have a different and higher profile under some other name.