

Science in Schools – November Country Update

PORTUGAL Network

Lead organisation(s) and contact details

1. IBM Portugal
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2. Siemens Portugal
 - Mafalda Melo; mafalda.melo@siemens.com; (+351) 214 178 944
3. DGIDC (Innovation and Curricular Development) - Ministry of Education
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Organisations making up the co-ordinating forum

Companies & Industry Organisations	Education Organisations Inc Government and Not-for-Profit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IBM • Siemens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Education (DGIDC) • Alive Science Network

Other organisations in the wider Science In Schools network

Companies & Industry Organisations	Education Organisations Inc Government and Not-for-Profit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Montepio 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSE Portugal

Maths, Science and Technology Education in Portugal

Within Portuguese Technological Plano for Education, it is our government's intention to develop, promote, execute and evaluate integrating and mobilizing ITC initiatives and education resources. These are directly related with the empowerment of students' capacity for project execution and scientific literacy awareness.

The national reading plan has also been one of the principal initiatives of the Ministry of Education. Ministry of Science Technology and Higher Education's main goal is to increase the experimental teaching of science and at the promotion of scientific education at schools, as well as to attract private and foreign investment towards research and development activities.

Priorities and aims of Science In Schools Network in Portugal

To increase the attractiveness of Science, Maths and Technology and the promotion of scientific education in the school, by helping students and teacher plan and execute science projects, the themes of which are proposed by the companies and supported by MoE and Science Centres. Aimed at primary education, namely 7th, 8th and 9th grades within annual science projects, volunteers will provide expertise, knowledge and will develop

activities/workshops to enlighten students' perspective on science/engineering towards the achievement of structured scientific outcomes.

The main priorities are the accomplishment of this year's science project at 3 partner schools close to each partner company and to grow the SiS network with direct collaboration in eWeek 2009 programme activities.

Completed activities

PowerUp Challenge,

Five IBM volunteers made a presentation on renewable energy and developed a quiz activity. This activity was linked to a brief challenge to teachers for the adoption of the Power Up lesson plans as well as for students towards the exploration of the game. Four 8th grade classes and one 7th grade (80 students) enjoyed this activity which took place in their school auditorium. SiS partners were also at this activity, namely MoE representatives Ana Paiva and Rita Zurrapa along with João Festas from Siemens. The 7th grade teacher accepted the challenge, and therefore together with a team of volunteers we have planned several workshops for the following year.

SiS at Forum Ciência Viva – Science Fair

SiS network was invited by Ciência Viva to exhibit the initiative at the National Science Fair on 22nd and 23rd of November, within the activities of the National Science and Technology Week. 83 kindergarten, primary and high schools were at this event, along with 60 university investigation departments, companies, scientific and teacher associations as well as 15 Science Centers.

Planned activities

Science Projects – during the school year

IBM – Technology Engineering and Renewable Energies for alternative transportation
Accomplishment of this year's science project at 3 partner schools close to each partner company

Montepio – Making Values Grow

Financial literacy activities, increasing the attractiveness for maths by making use of daily examples. Warning students on the need for healthy consumption, saving habits and values.

Siemens – Create your own Energy

Help students plan, create and execute all phases of an energy power plant project.

Final outcome expected is the involvement of companies' expertise volunteers helping students to accomplish their science projects as well as planning a wrap up event at which students will present their projects.

eWeek 2009

The intention of eWeek 2009 is to grow from this successful base with further companies, more students and schools and to grow the network and the programme of activities.