STEM DISCOVERY WEEK 2017
Press release

EMBARGO: 24 April 2017 – 9.00 AM CET

SCIENTISTS, ENGINEERS AND STEM PROFESSIONALS GO BACK TO SCHOOL TO RESPOND TO SKILLS GAP

STEM Discovery Week 2017 is being celebrated on 24-30 April with various face-to-face and online events that underline the importance of school and industry collaboration, to address the current shortage of STEM students and professionals in Europe.

The brand new “Professionals Go Back to School” scheme of STEM Alliance, a joint initiative of 13 major companies, coordinated by European Schoolnet and CSR Europe, brings schools and industry closer together.

This scheme has developed a tool that helps representatives of schools and industry to get in touch with each other to organise joint activities and events where schools are introduced to the work of professionals in the field of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

While the number of STEM graduates has dropped up to 20% between 2006 and 2014, in some sectors such as ICT, the European Commission predicts 7 million job openings in STEM related professions. The “Professionals Go Back to School” scheme seeks to revert this trend by raising awareness about STEM careers from an early age through a dialogue between STEM professionals and students.

In addition to celebrating the first visits organised as part of the scheme, The STEM Alliance will host two webinars in cooperation with its partners on the impact of STEM teaching on students’ motivation and attainment in these fields. These webinars are open to the public and will be recorded allowing those interested to access them online at any time.

The first one, “Open Webinar - Skills for a sustainable future” will be organised by CSR on the 25th of April and the second one, “Stories from Amgen Scholars & the transition from school-to-work”, will be organised on the 27th of April by STEM Alliance in cooperation with Amgen Teach as part of the “Opening Minds To STEM Careers” MOOC.

“Collaboration between schools and industry makes teachers more aware of current role models in the field of STEM, as well as study paths and careers. Industry can also offer teachers options for placements in companies, in-service training and teaching resources,” explains Marc Durando, Executive Director of European Schoolnet, a network of 31 European Ministries of Education.

“The STEM Alliance “Professionals Go Back to School” scheme is a great example of how business-education partnerships can have a significant impact on the employability of young people. Industry can play a leading role in reducing the existing STEM skills gap and we would
urge more companies to take their commitment a step further to forge long-term partnerships to enhance the skills of young people”, says Stefan Crets, Executive Director of CSR Europe.

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FURTHER INFORMATION:

Follow #STEMDiscoveryWeek on Twitter for live updates and announcements

Website: http://www.stemalliance.eu/stem-week-2017

For further information, please contact:

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About the STEM Alliance

The STEM Alliance (http://www.stemalliance.eu/) 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 (www.europeanschoolnet.org) 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.

About CSR Europe

CSR Europe (www.csreurope.org) 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.