

SCIENCE EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN EUROPE (ERAWATCH)

Innovative Youth, best ideas contest for students

Jugend Innovativ, der Wettbewerb für kluge Köpfe

Keywords	<p>best ideas in business, design, science, engineering, ICT;contest;creativity;project work;pupils, students</p> <p>Jugend Innovativ is a competition for pupils' and students' innovative ideas in business, design, engineering and science and thematic fields of ICT and climate protection. Jugend Innovativ has been launched in 1987 and pursues the following programme objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• to reduce reservations against new technologies• to enhance project-based activities at schools (in contrast to ex-cathedra teaching) and• to increase the number of students in natural sciences and engineering at Austrian universities on the medium to long run.
Overview (nature, goals)	<p>Pupils between 15 and 10 years of age studying at any kinds of secondary school in Austria can participate in the competition. Every eligible project submitted is supported with up to €500. The top three projects in each category receive prizes of up to €5,000 and selected teams receive travel grants to participate in international events, e.g. the European Union Contest for Young Scientist.</p> <p>The Jugend Innovativ contest is jointly financed by the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture (BMUKK) and the Ministry of Economy, Family and Youth (BMWFJ) and managed by Austria Wirtschaftsservice (AWS). The thematic awards for ICT and climate protection are sponsored by a private company each.</p> <p>The underlying challenge addressed by Jugend Innovativ is to meet the growing demand for highly qualified human resources. Austria still has a low share of tertiary education graduates, compared to the OECD average, and the Austrian education system so far has failed to fully integrate children with a migration background or from deprived families (see, for example, the Analytical Country Report 2008 for Austria, chapter 5).</p>
Background and rationale	<p>The main ambitions of the Jugend Innovativ contest are to show the excellent ideas of pupils and to award exceptional achievements, to motivate young talents and to promote their ideas, to showcase the potential of creativity and innovation of the Austrian schools, and to develop perspectives. The participants gain useful experience by the intensive project work within a team. Moreover, they gain insight into the economic workflows as well as the scientific processes, which is a good training for their professional life. This hands-on experience is complemented by the participation in workshops, fairs and events.</p>
List of policy priorities	<p>3.1.1 Awareness creation and science education;1.2.1 Strategic Research policies (long-term research agendas);3.1.2 Relation between teaching and research;5.1.2 Innovation prizes incl. design prizes</p>
Targeting specific sector	<p>Not sector specific</p>
Targeted Research and	<p>Prices are awarded in the categories (i) business, (ii) design and (iii)</p>

Technology Fields	engineering and science. These prizes are thematically open. In addition, projects in the fields of ICT and climate protection are awarded.
Selected research and technology fields	No specific thematic focus
Country	Austria
Start date	Before 1995
Expected end date	No end date planned
Relationship to other support measures	This programme is novel and has no relation to a previous programme
How does the measure relate to other measures?	Inspired by an existing measure of another country
Additional details 2	Students' contest have a long tradition in other European countries, e.g. in Germany. Austria.
Geographic coverage	Prize winners receive grants to participate in similar contests on the international level.
Targets or beneficiaries of the measure	Other: (teams of) pupils and students between 15-20 years old
Groups eligible for funding	Other: (teams of) pupils and students between 15-20 years old The target groups of Jugend Innovativ are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (teams of) pupils and students between 15-20 years old and attending a secondary school in Austria • apprentices of the same age group from the second year of their apprenticeship on Indirectly, their teachers are also addressed, mainly to share the basic concept and ideas of the contest.
More details on the target groups	
If more than one target group is eligible	Co-operation/networking optional (e.g. associating SMEs as users)
Aspect of innovation process addressed by the measure	Not applicable/Other
Type of Research Activities targeted	Human resources development Jugend Innovativ is financed by the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture (BMUKK) and the Ministry of Economy, Family and Youth (BMWFJ) and it is organized by Austria Wirtschaftsservice (AWS).
Overall implementation structure of the measure	The contest takes place once a year. The first step is the submission of a project idea by an individual student or a team. The ideas positively assessed will receive up to €500 of project support funding. For participation in the actual competition, a project report has to be submitted in time. AWS evaluates and ranks these projects according to the selection criteria for each category. The best ranked project teams / participants present themselves to

	<p>the public at regional events in the Austrian Federal States and to the jury at the finale, when the final decision is taken by the jury.</p>
Management structure	<p>The programme is managed by Austria Wirtschaftsservice (AWS) with one contest per year.</p>
Review of progress	<p>The agency managing the programme reports to the financing ministries. All winners are presented on Jugend Innovativ's website.</p> <p>The evaluation criteria are specified as follows:</p> <p>Creativity and originality are assessed for all participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovation and applicability • Advance in knowledge and / or benefits for the user(s), society, the environment • Documentation of the project preparation, e.g. definition of objectives, planning of resources, research, taking gender issues into account • Project report (written presentation of results) • Documentation of the course of the project (e.g. project diary, documentation of interaction in the project team) • Presentation of the project to the jury (finalists only)
Selection criteria	<p>For the special award in climate protection, these additional criteria apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effectiveness for climate protection • Practice orientation <p>For the special award in ICT, these additional criteria apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complexity • Practice orientation • Economic practicability.
Openness to EU countries	<p>Only pupils and apprentices in education in Austria can participate.</p>
Openness to third countries	<p>Only pupils and apprentices in education in Austria can participate.</p> <p>Jugend Innovativ takes place once a year during a specified period for applications.</p>
Selection of projects/participants	<p>Project ideas are first assessed by AWS for their eligibility to participate. Upon submission of a project report after a second deadline, AWS ranks all projects according to the criteria presented above. The final decision is taken by a jury comprising members from ministries, research institutes, universities, the Austrian Patent Office, and industry.</p>
What state aid framework is applied to the measure?	<p>no specific aid framework, it is an award; along the national economic policy for technology and innovation in consideration of the Lisbon strategy</p>
Mode of funding	<p>Other: small project grants, awards</p>
Eligible costs	<p>Equipment;Other: any material needed for the project</p>

Sources of co-financing	Co-financed by the private sector
Overall budget	not applicable
Year 1	----
Year 2	----
Year 3	----
Year 4	----
Year 5	----
	Participating projects receive up to €500 of financial support.
Further Information	Winners receive awards of up to €5,000, some of which are sponsored by private companies.
Indicators specified ex ante	No
Support measure evaluation	Ex-ante: No On-going / Mid-term: Yes Final / Ex-post: No
	Jugend Innovativ has been evaluated in 2007. The evaluators confirmed that Jugend Innovativ is an effective and unique programme, that it should be extended with more mentoring and consulting support after the awarding process and provide more activities for alumnis. The report is not publicly available.
Main conclusions of the evaluation(s)	Jugend Innovativ has also been assessed in a comprehensive evaluation of all programmes managed by AWS. This report is available for download in German. It analyses the development of participation over time, confirms the success of the programme, and makes some suggestions for improvements, e.g. improving PR activities, supporting contacts to companies, setting specific measures at regional level.
	As shown in the comprehensive evaluation of all AWS programmes mentioned above, approximately 4,000 project ideas have been submitted since the beginning of Jugend Innovativ, and about two thirds of these projects have received financial support. The number of projects submitted annually has increased steadily over the years, engineering being by far the most popular category. This also reflects that by far the most active participants are students of the Austrian 'Höhere Technische Lehranstalten (HTL)' (Secondary Technical and Vocational Schools), making the inclusion of students from Grammar Schools a particular challenge.
Results	
Further developments	The programme is ongoing.
Website in original language	http://www.jugendinnovativ.at
Launching agency	The programme Jugend Innovativ is jointly financed by the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture (BMUKK) and the Ministry of Economy, Family and Youth (BMWFJ) and managed by the Austria Wirtschaftsservice (AWS).
Agency administering	see above.
Funding Agency	see above.

Manager responsible for the measure For contact details, please see the Jugend Innovativ website.

This information was last updated on 2009-04-22

innovatives-oesterreich.at

Keywords Awareness;Rublic Relations;Dialogue;Media;Public understanding of science

Innovatives-oesterreich.at was an initiative to enhance the public understanding of users of innovation, research and technological development.

Overview (nature, goals)

More than 50 events and activities in all regions, advertisements in journals and a mobile question-team invite the population to ask questions concerning innovation and research. A priority was set for any innovative format that intensifies the dialogue between research and the public.

The programme is finished now but this template is kept for documentation purposes. In fact, innovatives-oeserreich.at has contributed to moving the issue of public understanding of science up on the R&D policy initiative, mainly because of its visibility at high levels of policy making. Follow-up activities in the area are now initiated by several different ministries.

Background and rationale

The Austrian Council for Research and Technology Development had launched a first initiative www.innovatives-oesterreich.at in 2003/2003, in order to increase the public understanding for the usefulness of innovation and research activities. At the same time the initiative aimed at encouraging personal involvement in these areas. In its recommendations of August and November 2003 as well as of November 2004, the Austrian Council has underlined the priority of theses fields and thus supported a follow-up of the public awareness programme. 2% of the so-called special funds ("Sondermittel") for research and development have been allocated by the Austrian Council to complement to the federal budgets spent on awareness measures. A coordination committee has been installed in order to coordinate the awareness activities of the three federal ministries in charge of research and development issues. The European programme "Science and Society" has been taken as a reference programme for the definition of goals and programme lines.

Overview of policy priorities

The key priorities are to promote public understanding of science and to enhance the dialogue between science and the public.

List of policy priorities

3.1.1 Awareness creation and science education;3.1.2 Relation between teaching and research;5.1.1 Support to the creation of favourable innovation climate (ex. roadshows, awareness campaigns)

Targeting specific sector

Not sector specific

Targeted Research and Technology Fields

There is no priority for any specific research theme.

Selected research and technology fields

No specific thematic focus

Country	Austria
Start date	2004
Expected end date	2006
Relationship to other support measures	This programme replaces programme(s) being phased-out or discontinued
How does the measure relate to other measures?	Inspired by national policy debate (e.g study, consultation)
Replacing existing measure(s)	innovatives-oesterreich.at (2001 - 2003)
Additional details 2	<p>Soon after its foundation in autumn 2000, the Austrian Council for Research and Technology Development called for an extension of the activities aiming at an enhancement of public understanding of science. The Austrian Council proposed to allocated 2% of the so-called special funds for research to activities in these fields, in the framework of a coordinative approach of all ministries concerned. The programme innovatives-oesterreich.at has been implemented in 2 phases.</p>
Geographic coverage	Austria
Targets or beneficiaries of the measure	Other: Target: general public or parts of it; funding was given tor organisers of related measures
Groups eligible for funding	Other: Target: general public or parts of it; funding was given tor organisers of related measures
Additional comments on the targeted fields	<p>The programme did not fund research activities as such. The main focus of the programme is the interaction between science and the public, and to communicate the importance and value of research. There are no preferences with respect to the type of research to be communicated.</p>
Overall implementation structure of the measure	<p>The programme has been initiated by the Austrian Council for Research and Technological Development (Austrian Council), and involves the three ministries in charge of research and development, i.e. Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology (BMVIT), Federal Ministry for Science and Research (BWF, formerly FM for Science, Education and Culture, BMBWK), and Federal Ministry of Economics and Labour (BWA). Representatives of these 4 institutions constituted the steering committee, who took the decisions on the strategy and contents of the initiative.</p> <p>The initiative is firstly to be understood as an umbrella covering any awareness activity of the involved ministries, and in addition it financed joint activities of all three ministries.</p>
Sub-measure structure and activities	<p>50% of the budget were allocated to joint projects of the three ministries involved. The remaining 50% were allocated to activities of the individual ministries, distributed among them according to the general distribution key applied for the "Sondermittel" (specific funds) for research and development. No further subprogrammes were defined.</p>
Management structure	<p>The programme was managed by the steering committee, which consisted of one member per ministry involved and one representative of the Austrian Council, who chaired the steering committee. The joint activities funded by the programme also had some "umbrella functions", notably concerning public relations and the web-page. The FFG (Austrian Research Promotion</p>

	Agency) was in charge of the implementation of some parts of the programme, mainly the organisation of a public call for proposals, the organisation of the evaluation and selection, and the contracting with the successful tenderers from this call.
Review of progress	<p>An accompanying evaluation of the programme had been started in October 2005 and was finalised after the end of the programme in 2006.</p> <p>Projects could be submitted during a call for proposals. The selection procedure and criteria had been published. The following selection criteria and their weighting had been applied:</p>
Selection criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Price: 30% • Concept: 25% • Adequacy and innovativeness of the instruments: 20% • Qualification of the collaborators, experience and references: 25%
Openness to EU countries	The activities took place in Austria and proposals had to be submitted in German, no further limitation had been defined concerning the nationality of proposing persons or companies.
Openness to third countries	The activities took place in Austria and proposals had to be submitted in German; no further limitation had been defined concerning the nationality of proposing persons or companies.
Selection of projects/participants	<p>Within the programme, 2 different modes for the selection of activities were applied for the joint activities and the individual activities of the ministries respectively:</p> <p>For the projects of the individual ministries, the general rules of public procurement and project support of the ministries were applied.</p> <p>For the joint projects, a single call for proposals was published in 2004 and closed in January 2005. Some projects had already started during the previous programme were extended in the second phase; the decision for this had been taken by the steering committee.</p>
Mode of funding	Other: Public procurement: Financing of services and awareness activities in the public interest
Eligible costs	Labour costs (including overheads); Equipment; External expertise (consultants, studies, etc.)
Sources of co-financing	Other co-financing: Several projects were co-financed by both public and private institutions. Strategic partnership with the public broadcasting company (ORF)
Overall budget	12.000.000
Year 1	----
Year 2	----
Year 3	----
Year 4	----
Year 5	----
Further Information	The overall budget is for 3 years, therefore about 4 million are spent per year, including management fees and the evaluation of the activities.
Indicators specified ex ante	No

Details on indicators specified ex ante	An impact analysis has been included in the accompanying evaluation.
Support measure evaluation	Ex-ante: No On-going / Mid-term: Yes Final / Ex-post: No
Main conclusions of the evaluation(s)	The accompanying evaluation has been completed in December 2006. The evaluation report is available for download on the website of the Austrian Platform for Research and Technology Policy Evaluation FTEVAL (pdf-format, in German only).
Further developments	innovatives-oesterreich.at has not been continued as such. Instead, the Ministries involved formerly are now performing or commissioning various measures for the public understanding of science, generally targeted at specific groups, e.g. students or pupils.
Legal basis	The programme is a joint initiative of 3 ministries and the Austrian Council.
Launching agency	The activities have been launched partly by the participating ministries, by the Austrian Council, and by external partners selected through a call for proposals. Funding was managed by the Austrian Research Promotion Agency FFG.
Agency administering	The programme is finished.
Funding Agency	The programme is finished.
Manager responsible for the measure	The programme is finished.
This information was last updated on	2009-04-17

Wallonia - Diffusion of science and technologies

Keywords	Science centres;Science promotion;Technology diffusion
Overview (nature, goals)	<p>A service within the DGO6 (Directorate General operational for Economy, Employment and Research) of the Walloon Public Service is responsible for managing and coordinating a series of initiatives in favour of the diffusion of science and technologies. Several objectives are pursued:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the creation of a favorable climate for innovation amongst the economic actors but also the wider public • the raising of awareness of young people with a view of orienting this population to technological and scientific studies and careers • the promotion of the scientific culture and scientific leisure activities • an increased visibility of the competences of all Walloon actors involved in research activities.

In addition to the support granted by the region to projects introduced by external promoters (exhibitions, conferences, scientific animations, etc.), the DGO6 runs its own awareness-

raising actions:

- a website presenting on an interactive way the actors involved in science promotion and the activities they undertake in Wallonia and in Brussels;
- the monthly magazine 'Athena' aims at spreading intelligible, quality and diversified scientific and technological information;
- the competition 'L'odyssée de l'objet' (the odyssey of the object) which aims at increasing the visibility of scientific careers and at developing the entrepreneurial spirit amongst the young population;
- thematic events aiming at strengthening the links between awareness-raising actors, students, researchers, enterprises and the wider public in general. They also aim at demonstrating on an entertaining way the importance and omnipresence of science and technology in daily activities.

Key actions funded include: permanent science promotion centres (PASS, Museum of Science and Technology at Parentville, Science Adventure Parcs); temporary exhibitions or events to promote science and technology; and media based promotion (TV programmes, monthly science, research and innovation magazine).

In 2007, the region has supported awareness-raising activities of external actors for a total amount of €6.5m (out of this €4.5m for the Science Adventure Parcs) and has carried out its own actions for €0.5m.

The measure can be considered as contributing to raising the awareness of young people and the general public with respect to scientific studies and careers to face the identified challenge of a deficiency of PhDs and graduate in S&T disciplines. All official regional documents highlight the importance of technological innovation for increasing the competitiveness of the regional economy.

Background and rationale

As highlighted in the annual report of the DGTRE (regional institution existing prior to the DGO6) the creation of the website dedicated to the diffusion of science and technologies in Wallonia is a result of the willingness to make more visible to the wider public the activities undertaken in the region. There was as well a need to federate the actors around a common project to get them know each other better, to coordinate their actions and to develop projects in partnership. The region has first launched a survey to take inventory of the organisations involved in these activities. Hundred organisations have been listed as 'actors of scientific and technological diffusion' in the region, the database remaining open to new additions.

List of policy priorities

3.1.1 Awareness creation and science education; 3.1.3 Stimulation of PhDs; 5.1.1 Support to the creation of favourable innovation climate (ex. roadshows, awareness campaigns)

Targeting specific sector	Not sector specific
Selected research and technology fields	No specific thematic focus
Country	Belgium
Start date	Before 1995
Expected end date	No end date planned
Relationship to other support measures	This programme is novel and has no relation to a previous programme
How does the measure relate to other measures?	Inspired by national policy debate (e.g study, consultation)
Additional details 2	Science awareness-raising actions in the region clearly aim at tackling the issue of a lack of PhDs and graduates in science and technology disciplines.
Geographic coverage	The measure operates within the Walloon region of Belgium.
Targets or beneficiaries of the measure	All companies; Scientists / researchers (as individuals); Higher education institutions research units/centres; Other non-profit research organisations (not HEI); Other public education institutions (secondary, etc...); Private institutions for education / lifelong learning; Technology and innovation centres (non-profit); Business organisations (Chambers of Commerce...); New technology based firms/new knowledge intensive service firms; Other: The general public, non-profit organisations, university and higher education centres, research centres and professional associations.
Groups eligible for funding	Other: The general public, non-profit organisations, university and higher education centres, research centres and professional associations.
More details on the target groups	The general public, non-profit organisations, university and higher education centres, research centres and professional associations.
If more than one target group is eligible	Other: Funding is allocated to specific organisations without specific calls.
Aspect of innovation process addressed by the measure	Awareness raising amongst firms on innovation; Not applicable/Other
Type of Research Activities targeted	Networking
Additional comments on the targeted fields	Awareness-raising activities The Regional government funds projects and initiatives on a case by case basis - sometimes within the framework of the Structural Fund programmes in the region.
Overall implementation structure of the measure	In addition to the support granted by the region to projects introduced by external promoters (exhibitions, conferences, scientific animations, etc.), the DGO6 runs its own awareness-raising actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a website presenting on an interactive way the actors involved in science promotion and the activities they

undertake in Wallonia and in Brussels;

- the monthly magazine 'Athena' aims at spreading intelligible, quality and diversified scientific and technological information;
- the competition 'L'odysee de l'objet' (the odyssey of the object) which aims at increasing the visibility of scientific careers and at developing the entrepreneurial spirit amongst the young population;
- thematic events aiming at strengthening the links between awareness-raising actors, students, researchers, enterprises and the wider public in general. They also aim at demonstrating in an entertaining way the importance and omnipresence of science and technology in daily activities.

Key actions funded include: permanent science promotion centres (PASS, Museum of Science and Technology at Parentville, Science Adventure Parcs); temporary exhibitions or events to promote science and technology; and media based promotion (TV programmes, monthly science, research and innovation magazine).

In 2007, the region has supported awareness-raising activities of external actors for a total amount of €6.5m (out of this €4.5m for the Science Adventure Parcs) and has carried out its own actions for €0.5m.

Management structure	Funding is allocated to specific organisations without specific calls. The Regional government funds projects and initiatives on a case by case basis - sometimes within the framework of the Structural Fund programmes in the region. Key actions funded include: permanent science promotion centres (PASS and the Museum of Science and Technology at Parentville); temporary exhibitions or events to promote science and technology; and media based promotion (TV programmes, monthly science, research and innovation magazine).
Selection criteria	Key actions funded include: permanent science promotion centres (PASS and the Museum of Science and Technology at Parentville); temporary exhibitions or events to promote science and technology; and media based promotion (TV programmes, monthly science, research and innovation magazine).
Openess to EU countries	These actions target actors in the Walloon region.
Openess to third countries	These actions target actors in the Walloon region.
Selection of projects/participants	Projects are funded on a case-by-case basis. The whole set of measures to foster innovation and development in Wallonia has been notified to the European Commission in 2007 (N 583 / 2007) in the framework of the revision of the decree covering research and innovation activities in Wallonia, which dated back from 1990. The decision from the European Commission has been published in the Official Journal on 12 March 2008.
What state aid framework is applied to the measure?	
Mode of funding	Grants
Eligible costs	Other: The Regional government funds projects and initiatives on a case by case basis, depending on the nature of intervention.
Sources of co-financing	Other co-financing: sometimes within the framework of the Structural Fund programmes in the region
Overall budget	38300000
Year 1	2003: 6400000

Year 2	2004: 8700000
Year 3	2005: 9500000
Year 4	2006: 6700000
Year 5	2007: 7000000
	Overall budget for 2003-2007: €38.3m.

Further Information

About 4% (or €6.4m) of the DGTRE (regional institution existing prior to the DGO6) operating budget in 2003 was set aside for promotion and diffusion actions. €8.7m was dedicated to those actions in 2004 and €9.5m in 2005. In 2006, a total amount of €6.7m has been dedicated to such actions, out of which €4m to Scientific Adventure Parcs and €2m to other actors. Concerning the actions conducted by the Region itself, €0.3m had been dedicated to written and audiovisual support and €0.4m to events and competitions. In 2007, out of the €7m dedicated to activities of promotion and diffusion actions, €4.5m have been allocated to the Scientific Adventure Parcs and €2m to other supported actors. Written and audiovisual support have been allocated €0.27m and events and competitions €0.23m.

Indicators specified ex ante

No

Support measure evaluation

Ex-ante: No

On-going / Mid-term: No

Final / Ex-post: No

Main conclusions of the evaluation(s)

No evaluation has taken place as far as can be ascertained.

In 2007, out of the €7m dedicated to activities of promotion and diffusion actions, €4.5m have been allocated to the Scientific Adventure Parcs and €2m to other supported actors. Written and audiovisual support have been allocated €0.27m and events and competitions €0.23m.

If no official evaluation has been undertaken is there any evidence which allows an appraisal of the success of the measure?

Two main categories of initiatives are therefore supported : permanent structures such as Science Centres on the one hand and information and awareness campaigns on the other. The first of these two categories seems to have been experiencing set backs. In particular, as highlighted again recently in the newspapers (see for instance L'Echo, 21 October 2008), the PASS (Scientific Adventure Park) in the Hainaut Province (Objective 1 Phasing out zone) might go out of business due to poor attendance figures. The PASS lost €4.46m between its launch in January 2000 and 30 June 2002. The budget for the financial year 2003-2004 foresaw a small profit of €124,000; however this was conditional on an increased public subsidy of some €1.86m; and also that the number of visitors stabilises around 85,000 per year. A major reason for the losses accumulated since the launch of the PASS has been the much lower number of visitors than originally foreseen in the business plan. The original plan foresaw 300,000 visitors in the first year. Actual numbers of visitors were 150,000 in the first year; and 100,000 in the second. In 2007, there were 45,000 paying visitors. The total investment in this organisation between 2000 and 2008 is estimated to €75m (investments, subsidies, recapitalisation, loans). In total the

region invests approximately €5m per year in this structure since its launch.

The explanation for the lower than expected results of this structure include an early opening (work continued on certain exhibits after opening), a vague marketing concept; critical attitude of the media; and technical faults with many exhibits. Another factor explaining the losses was the lower than expected sponsorship figures from the private sector (instead of 25% of the budget being supported by the private sector; only 8% has actually been covered).

On the other hand, support to activities like the Scite Network activities (network of "centres" within francophone universities dedicated to the promotion of scientific research to the general public and joining forces under specific activities) appear to have been a success.

The 2006-2007 issue (4th edition) of the competition 'The Odyssey of the Object' has mobilised 720 pupils from 43 schools and was considered as a success. At the end of the process, 70 projects have led to a realisation, with, in most of the cases, a collaboration with companies and research centres.

Results	A website has been put online which gathers information on the activities existing in the region for the promotion and diffusion of science and technologies: http://difst.wallonie.be/
Website in original language	http://difst.wallonie.be/
Legal basis	Not specified
Launching agency	DGO6 (Directorate General operational for Economy, Employment and Research) of the Walloon Public Service
Agency administering	DGO6 (Directorate General operational for Economy, Employment and Research) of the Walloon Public Service
Funding Agency	DGO6 (Directorate General operational for Economy, Employment and Research) of the Walloon Public Service
This information was last updated on	2009-05-29

Science and Engineering Ambassadors Scheme UK

Keywords	science and engineering students mentoring; science and engineering students; students - schools scheme
Overview (nature, goals)	Top science students are expected to form links with their old school or college to provide coaching and mentoring and inspire young people to take up studies and careers in science and engineering. The Science and Engineering Ambassadors Scheme was launched at the start of Science Year in September 2001 and has continued thereafter. It is intended to bring under one banner several existing private and public sector schemes.
Background	One of the key objectives of the Ten Year Science and Innovation Investment

and rationale	Framework was to increase the number of school children pursuing careers in science and engineering. The Science Ambassadors Scheme aims to do this by enthusing schoolchildren through contact with ex-pupils who have gone on to pursue degrees and research careers in science and engineering.
List of policy priorities	3.1.1 Awareness creation and science education;1.3.3 Other horizontal policies (ex. society-driven innovation);3.1.2 Relation between teaching and research;3.3.1 Job training (LLL) of researchers and other personnel involved in innovation
Targeting specific sector	Not sector specific
Country	United Kingdom
Start date	2002
Expected end date	No end date planned
Relationship to other support measures	This programme is novel and has no relation to a previous programme
How does the measure relate to other measures?	Inspired by national policy debate (e.g study, consultation)
Geographic coverage	The scheme covers the UK.
Targets or beneficiaries of the measure	Other public education institutions (secondary,etc...)
More details on the target groups	no further details Ambassadors get involved in a number of diverse and innovative projects including:
Overall implementation structure of the measure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering activities such as Science and Engineering clubs • Helping with school competitions, events and awards • Offering mentoring and careers talks • Acting as a role model to young learners • Providing work-based placements for teachers and students <p>Since the programme was launched in 2002, Science and Engineering Ambassadors have taken part in around 24,000 volunteer activities, working with over 750,000 pupils aged between 5 and 19.</p>
Review of progress	The target for 18,000 Science Ambassadors to enthuse and inspire the next generation of scientists was reached in 2008.
Selection criteria	Science and Engineering Ambassadors (SEAs) are drawn from all walks of life, from the smallest owner-managed businesses to the largest multi-nationals. They also include full-time parents, undergraduate and postgraduate students, and retirees.
Openness to EU countries	Closed to EU countries - UK only.
Overall budget	6,506,000

Exchange rate used 0.83

Year 1 ----:

Year 2 ----:

Year 3 ----:

Year 4 ----:

Year 5 ----:

The budget for STEM Ambassadors is of £5.4m in 2008. The ambassador scheme has further £2million by 2011 earmarked by the Science Minister, to reach a total government funding of £7.4million aiming at recruiting 27,000 Ambassadors.

Further Information

Source:

<http://www.stemcentres.org.uk/Default.aspx?page=12&module=news&mode=100&newsid=3824>

Exchange rate used: 1 EURO = £0.83

Overall budget in national currency 5,400,000

Indicators specified ex ante Yes

Details on indicators specified ex ante Targets were set for the total number of Ambassadors to be in place, plus targets for numbers of after-school clubs, etc.

Support measure evaluation Ex-ante: No
On-going / Mid-term: No
Final / Ex-post: No

Main conclusions of the evaluation(s) No evaluation undertaken

If no official evaluation has been undertaken is there any evidence which allows an appraisal of the success of the measure? A May 2004 Progress Report summarises achievements to date. The importance of the interaction between the Ambassador, the teacher and the activity in making each experience exciting and inspiring to pupils is well understood. Each is crucial in making the whole mix work and ensuring that real impact is achieved. The SEA is playing a valuable role in making science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) exciting and inspiring for young people throughout the UK according to this progress report (available at: www.setnet.org.uk).

Subsequent results have been published in the series of SIIF Annual Reports and progress reports.

Results A May 2004 Progress Report summarises achievements to date. The importance of the interaction between the Ambassador, the teacher and the activity in making each experience exciting and inspiring to pupils is well understood. Each is crucial in making the whole mix work and ensuring that real impact is achieved. The SEA is playing a valuable role in making science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) exciting and inspiring for young people throughout the UK according to this progress

report (available at: www.setnet.org.uk)

Website in
original
language

<http://www.stemnet.org.uk/ambassadors.cfm>

Legal basis

1965 Science and Technology Act

Launching
agency

The then Department of Trade and Industry (2002).

The scheme is run by the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Network (STEMNET).

Agency
administering

STEMNET has received funding from the former Department of Trade and Industry since 1996 and later from the DIUS (Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills) (now Department for Business, Innovation and Skills - BIS) and DCSF (Department of Children, Schools and Families).

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