



How to become a member of the European Schoolnet network

Contents

PRESENTATION OF EUROPEAN SCHOOLNET	2
BENEFITS OF BECOMING A MEMBER	4
HOW TO APPLY FOR BECOMING A MEMBER	5

PRESENTATION OF EUROPEAN SCHOOLNET

[European Schoolnet](#) (EUN) is a network of 33 European ministries of education. As a non-profit organisation, the aim of the network is to bring innovation in teaching and learning to ministries of education, schools, teachers, researchers and industry partners. EUN is positioned as a Knowledge Building Brokering Platform and Ideas Lab that is able to help its Ministries develop policies to support the educational reform process at European level based on evidence and facts. Founded in 1997, the organisation is based in Brussels and counts around 70 staff and experts. The mission of the organisation is to support ministries of education, schools, teachers and relevant education stakeholders in Europe in the transformation of education processes for the digitalised society of the 21st century.

You will find the last report of activities which presents all developments and projects developed by European Schoolnet and its Ministries of Education all over Europe [here](#).

European Schoolnet also published two reports providing you with a comprehensive overview of its activities:

- [Driving innovation in education](#)
- [The Open book of Educational innovation](#)

EUN works on three strategic areas:

- Providing usable evidence and data in the area of innovation in education to inform policy recommendations (via peer exchanges, policy experimentations, surveys and reports and via its various working groups)
- Supporting schools and teachers in their teaching practices (via the animation of three European networks - eTwinning, Scientix and Better Internet for Kids (BIK))
- Developing and sustaining a network of schools engaged in innovative teaching and learning approaches (via the activities organized around the Future Classroom Lab and also via the FCL Ambassadors scheme).

Regarding the first activity on evidence-based activities, European Schoolnet is developing a certain number of particular activities, such as the development of policy experimentations, supported within the Erasmus+ programme. More particularly, European Schoolnet finished the [Mentep](#) project on the assessment of digital skills of teachers, and is conducting a specific project on online teacher training in new competences ([TeachUp](#)), and has just been selected for a new project on digital formative assessment, Assess@Learning. In order to provide evidence to ministries of education, the network has created four working groups:

- The Interactive Classroom WG (ICWG) is addressing issues related to personalizing learning and developing flexible learning spaces in schools and already provided guidelines (BYOD for Schools: Technical Advice for School Leaders and IT Advisers, Guidelines for Adapting Learning Spaces in Schools, teacher professional development resources on personalizing learning). In 2019, a particular priority was given to the development of FabLabs and Makerspaces concepts within schools (developing a toolkit, case studies, videos and recommendations on how schools can set-up these sorts of learning spaces and/or leverage community-based initiatives).

- The Ministries of Education STEM WG supports the STEM education strategies to be developed at the level of European Schoolnet, with potential developments in the following areas: the importance of supporting primary schools with the teaching of STEM; the limited information on STEM careers; how to get leading schools from different countries to work together and share their expertise; how to mainstream practices, validation and piloting from different initiatives; how to make science research results more accessible to teachers and students; providing a platform for Ministries of Education to share their expertise and support each other in any weaker areas.
- The Indicators WG has been created to evaluate the degree of comparability between existing national data collections about ICT in education, and the identification of a possible common core of key indicators (15-20) throughout it. The WG also is investigating the definition of new indicators about qualitative processes related to teaching and learning practices, space learning environment, teacher training and school leadership.
- The Digital Citizenship WG is steering and advising the entire digital citizenship pillar of EUN's activities. In 2019, the Working Group will engage in further discussions on how EUN should approach and prioritise the different themes identified under the concept of digital citizenship, while exploring best practice examples on how education can foster media literacy, critical thinking and civic participation.

Regarding the second activity, European Schoolnet animates three major networks at European level.

The first network is [eTwinning](#), which is the community for schools in Europe. European Schoolnet acts as a service provider to the European Commission, to offer a free and safe platform for teachers to connect and develop collaborative projects and share ideas in Europe.

The second network is the [Scientix](#) network, which is a community for science educators in Europe. This activity is supported by DG Research under the Science with and for Society programme. In addition, European Schoolnet conducts a public-private initiative called [STEM Alliance](#), which brings together Industries, Ministries of Education and education stakeholders to promote Science, Technology, Engineering and Math education and careers to young European's and address anticipated future skills gaps within the European Union.

Finally, European Schoolnet animates the [Better Internet for Kids](#) platform, whose objective it is to empower young people to use the internet safely. European Schoolnet also offers schools an [eSafety label](#).

The third activity is connected to the development of innovative practices at the level of schools. European Schoolnet has opened 5 years ago the Future Classroom Lab (<http://fcl.eun.org/>), which is a fully equipped, reconfigurable and inspirational learning environment, helping to rethink the role of pedagogy and technology. The Future Classroom Lab is a growing community and a collaboration between ministries of education, national agencies and industry, which support the mainstreaming of innovation in education. More than 30 industry partners are supporting this initiative. Ministries of education have nominated lead ambassadors in more than 20 countries. A number of regional public authorities are also part of this ecosystem. All this activity has generated the development of more than 40 innovative learning labs all over

Europe. In this ecosystem, a training programme is proposed for teachers all over Europe, and on a yearly basis, European Schoolnet welcomes between 400 and 500 European teachers, who follow 3 to 5 day courses in particular areas directly linked to innovation in education. As the number for face-to-face courses for teachers in Europe will de facto be limited, European Schoolnet and its ministries of education have opened three years ago the [European Schoolnet Academy](#), which is a platform offering free MOOCs for teachers, focusing on innovation in the schools and classroom.

BENEFITS OF BECOMING A MEMBER

The benefits of becoming a member of European Schoolnet are presented below:

- Join a growing network of 33 Ministries of Education in Europe and Educational Agencies sharing knowledge in bringing digital technologies to schools.
 - This is achieved in particular through the guided thematic discussions in the working groups or during ad hoc interest groups, which can be created addressing national priorities as well as yearly policy events organised by European Schoolnet in the framework of the Future Classroom Lab or its EMINENT annual conference.
- Benefit from the expert knowledge of EUN in its three strands of work: School networking and practice, ICT policy and practice, Interoperability and content exchange.
 - EUN provides specific expertise in the monitoring and analysis of policy developments and research at EU and national level by providing secondary data analysis of large-scale surveys (e.g. PISA) and summarising research evidence from key studies on innovation in education resulting in perspectives papers. EUN also coordinates and supports the drafting of Country reports on ICT in education in collaboration with the Ministries of Education being part of the network.
- Profit from the support and expertise of the EUN Office made up of 70 multilingual and multinational staff
- Access a European platform to take part in successful consortia leading large scale European projects
- Gain access to European Commission funds through joining projects designed and submitted by European Schoolnet.
 - EUN has long lasting experience in successfully drafting and coordinating large- scale European projects such as Horizon 2020 projects or Erasmus Plus Policy Experimentations. Ministries of Education benefit from the possibility of integrating issues and topics to be tackled at national level in the design of the proposal.
- Achieve new opportunities for schools in your country to communicate and cooperate at the European level
- Get first hand contact with other colleagues in other Education ministries in Europe.
 - EUN organises yearly study visits to investigate and learn from other countries implementations, strategies and school practices in providing digital services for schools. EUN specifically provides support in the

preparation, implementation and follow up of the study visit in collaboration with the host country and drafts a study visit report.

- Keep up to date with the developments in the field of ICT Policy in Education, Interoperability/standards and school practice through a variety of channels.
 - Ministries of Education can subscribe to the EUN policy newsletter, which informs about the latest EUN reports and studies relevant for policy makers. In the framework of the working or interest groups, experts input on specific topics of interest is provided next to white papers and mechanisms for knowledge exchanges resulting in concrete outputs to be further used at national level (frameworks, reports, guidelines).

HOW TO APPLY FOR BECOMING A MEMBER

The formal process to submit an application to become a member of European Schoolnet is as follows:

- First, we need to receive a formal application letter from your ministry of education. It could be signed either by the Minister or the Director at the level of the Ministry of education. This letter should be addressed to the Chair of European Schoolnet, and send to EUN office, 61, rue de Trèves, 1040 Brussels, to the attention of Marc Durando, Executive Director. You can send the scanned letter directly by e-mail (marc.durando@eun.org). This letter should ask for the Ministry of Education to become a member of European Schoolnet.
- This application letter will then be submitted to the Steering Committee of European Schoolnet, composed by one representative of each ministry of education composing the EUN network and governing European Schoolnet. The Steering Committee will take a decision on the application of the country to become a member of European Schoolnet.
- After approval by the Steering Committee of European Schoolnet, the applicant country is informed of the decision. The country will be considered as a formal member when the country will have signed the EUN agreement and will have paid the annual fee. The policy adopted by our Steering Committee members for new entering countries is to fix the level of the fee to 30.000 € a year. (Please note that for a first year, a country has the possibility to ask for the observer status, which offers the participation to the meetings of the Steering Committee, while not offering any voting rights, as no fee is paid.) In case the country enters in the course of a civil year, the annual fee will be calculated on a pro rata temporis basis.

I hope this information will be useful to you. I remain at your disposal in case you would like to investigate further a potential application of your country to European Schoolnet.

Kind regards

Marc Durando

marc.durando@eun.org



European Schoolnet (EUN),
Rue de Trèves 61, B-1040 Brussels
† +32 (0)2 790 75 75 | f +32 (0)2 790 75 85

www.europeanschoolnet.org

