

Science on Stage Europe
The bottom-up Science Teaching Community
Focus on Teachers

One of the greatest challenges in contemporary school education is to create the best conditions that enable our pupils to realise their full intellectual potential and obtain the best possible results. In this process, it is often emphasized that teachers are the most important factor for successful schools. Indeed, the teachers' skills are vital for the pupils' success at school and form the basis for stimulating the students' interests in science and technology – whether they aim to pursue a career as a researcher or engineer, or 'simply' wish to become informed citizens in a technology-driven, knowledge-based society. How can we, at a European level, work together to foster the skills of Europe's teachers? This is the aim of the Science on Stage initiative, which has focused on teachers since its beginning:

Science on Stage (SonS) and its predecessor Physics on Stage were multi-annual activities, established in the year 2000. These activities aimed to stimulate innovative approaches to science teaching in Europe's schools through the active participation of science educators and by:

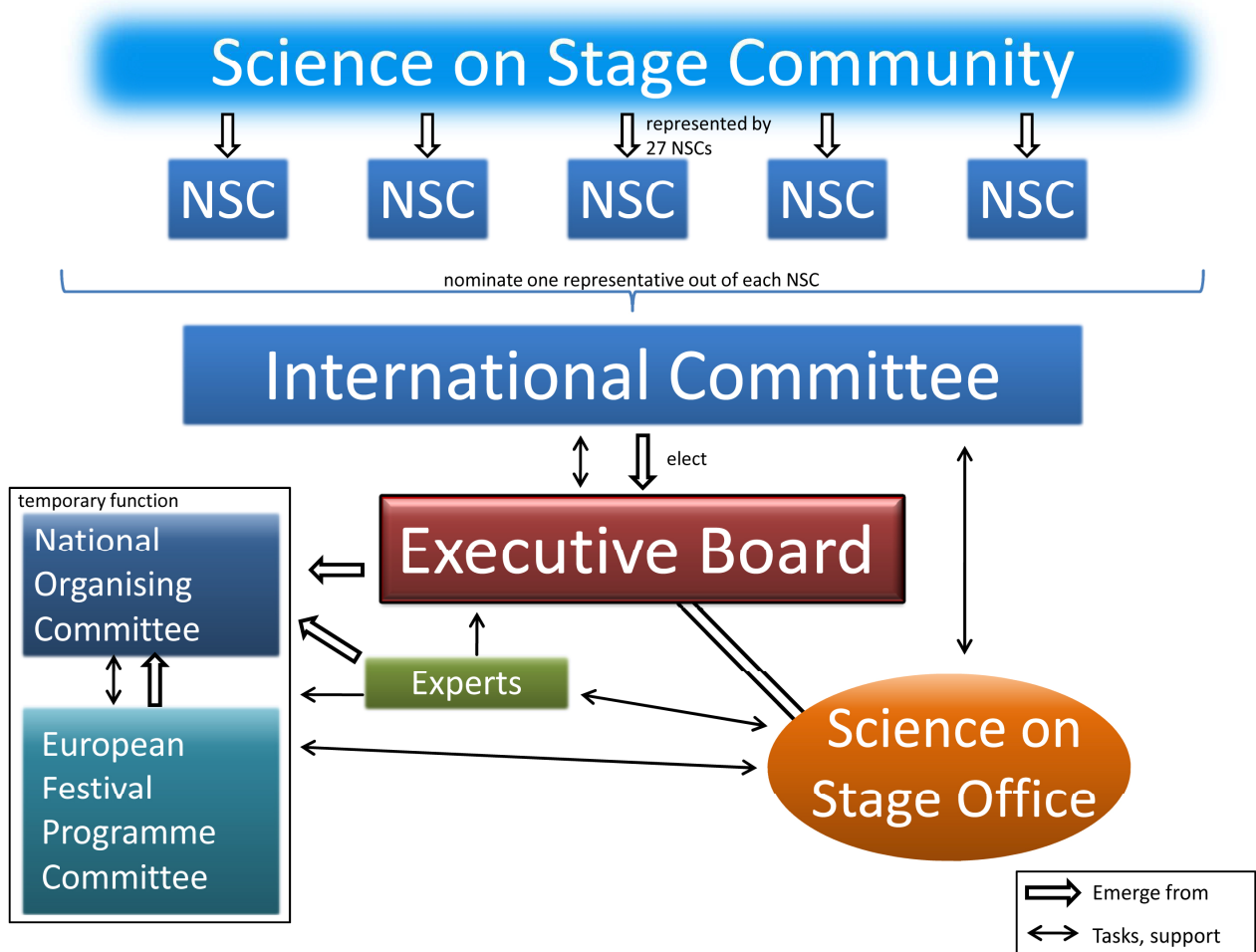
- fostering the exchange of 'good practice' examples/methods between teachers and curriculum developers;
- supporting the dialogue between teachers and education policy makers, and
- enabling Europe's primary- and secondary-school teachers to explore modern scientific knowledge by bringing together teachers and active scientists, notably at Europe's leading research facilities.

The ultimate goal of strengthening the quality and attractiveness of science teaching is to permit students to achieve success in scientific and technological endeavours in the future.

Responding to the fact that the initial funding by the European Commission through the 6th Framework Programme ended in 2008, the representatives of the SonS National Steering Committees considered possible scenarios for the continuation of the SonS programme and charged the Preparatory Committee (PC) in March 2009 to propose a new operational structure for SonS, including a future board and a coordinating secretariat/Science on Stage Office.

The PC members agreed at the PC meeting in June 2009 in Berlin and during the ensuing consensual dialogue on the following structure, which will be proposed for approval by the delegates of all 27 National Steering Committees at the October meeting 2009 (22-23 2009/General Assembly) in Berlin.

The bottom-up structure of Science on Stage Europe Organigram:



Basic elements/components, tasks and formation:

Science on Stage community

The Science on Stage community comprises everyone who has been involved in a Science on Stage activity – including but not limited to teachers, educators, educational and scientific organisations. Members of the SonS community take a strong interest in science teaching in primary and secondary schools and contribute to improving its quality and attractiveness.

National Steering Committee (NSC)

National teachers, members of universities, teacher trainers, those involved in non-formal learning initiatives, the media etc.

Tasks:

To organise national Science on Stage activities including:

- Spreading information and promoting the reception of innovative ideas presented at SonS
- Organising and/or participating in national events
- Selecting participants for the European festival
- Interacting with education authorities and decision-makers to further spread the results of SonS
- Electing their main representative for the SonS International Committee.

International Committee (the SonS General Assembly)

One member from each of the participating countries (currently 27), nominated by the National Steering Committee. The annual meeting of the International Committee is called the SonS General Assembly.

Tasks:

- Discussing the ideas of the NSCs and the Executive Board
- Making decisions (usually prepared by the Executive Board)
- Defining the overall programme of the European festival and new activities
- Interfacing between National Steering Committees and Executive Board.

Executive Board (5 members + 2 substitutes)

Five members elected by and out of the International Committee, representing a variety of areas and scientific interests. The Board has 2 substitutes. The term of the membership is four years (for the first Board, two of the members are selected for two years only). Members of the Board can serve for two consecutive periods only. The Board can augment itself with additional, non-voting members as it sees fit. Non-voting members are typically 'experts' and/or represent organisations and bodies of importance to SonS. Experts support the Board, Office and European Festival Programme Committee. Decisions in the Board are normally taken in consensus. It meets at least twice a year. The Board elects from its members a chair and a deputy chair.

Tasks of the Board:

- Maintaining contact to EU/EC, lobbying for science and education
- Setting the agenda for SonS
- Developing guidelines and the selection process for the European festivals
- Formulating new activities
- Supervising the Science on Stage Office
- Budget allocation and responsibility
- Organising meetings of the International Committee (together with the Science on Stage Office)
- Representation on the Festival Programme Committee and the National Organising Committee.

Experts (non-voting members of the Executive Board)

3-4 members chosen by the Executive Board; e.g. representative of EIROforum, press etc.

Tasks:

- Supporting the Executive Board, Science on Stage Office and European Festival Programme Committee with expertise.

European Festival Programme Committee (temporary function for European festival preparation)

6 members from the Executive Board, experts and National Organising Committee.

Tasks:

- Organising the programme in collaboration with the Executive Board, National Organising Committee and chosen experts.

National Organising Committee (temporary function for European festival preparation)

6-9 members from the host country of the European festival, proposed by the National Steering Committee and approved by the Executive Board.

Tasks:

- Practical responsibility (all conference logistics, fundraising, national and local media relations, etc.).

Science on Stage Office

The Science on Stage Office, if funding is available, is set up by the Executive Board. It could be hosted, for example, by the EIROforum.

Tasks:

- General administrative support
- Interface between the Executive Board, the experts, the European Festival Programme Committee, the National Organising Committee and the International Committee
- Budget administration
- Coordination of activities
- Press and public relations, e.g. website
- Administration of the registration for activities (festival and others)
- Documentation.

Science on Stage community:

Countries: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, UK, Switzerland and Canada.



Adoption

Austria: J. Kistner

Belgium: (W. Van der Vliet)

Bulgaria: _____

Canada: _____

Cyprus: M. M. M. M.

Czech Republic: Stank Prosa

Denmark: en B. B.

Finland: _____

France: W. J. J. J.

Germany: H. Wolfgang Wetz

Great Britain: David Fectmely

Greece: _____

Hungary: W. K. K.

Ireland: Lorraine Mc Cormack

Italy: Maria Serra

Lithuania: _____

Luxemburg: F. W. W.

Malta: G. G.

Netherlands: _____

Norway: _____

Poland: *Mewa*

Portugal: _____

Romania: *Olui*

Slovakia: *Maurin kres*

Spain: ~~*Robt. R.*~~

Sweden: *Lena G. Anders*

Switzerland: _____