Science on Stage Festival 2024 – information for UK teachers

Science on Stage is a European organisation, with its headquarters in Berlin, which has the aim of spreading good STEM teaching practices across Europe and beyond https://www.science-on-stage.eu/. Its main vehicle for this is a biennial festival which brings around 450 teachers of the STEM subjects together to share ideas in its festival fair. The next festival takes place in Turku, Finland on 12-15 August 2024 https://www.science-on-stage.eu/science-stage-festival-2024. In addition, Science on Stage organises webinars, the production of teaching resources, and supports activities in its member nations https://www.science-on-stage.eu/events, https://www.science-on-stage.eu/teachingmaterials.

In the UK, ASE oversees Science on Stage activities and selects the delegation to represent the UK at the biennial festivals. Each member country has a limited number of places, the UK having eleven, so selection of delegates is through a competitive application process, see https://www.ase.org.uk/events/science-stage-europe-festival-2024 for further information.

The deadline for applications to attend the festival in Turku is 15 July 2023. Teachers with good quality, innovative work or projects fitting the following broad themes are being sought for the festival in Turku:

**Science for the Youngest** (projects for early years and primary school)

**STEM Education for Sustainable Development** (projects that show how STEM can contribute to achieving the SDGs)

**Digital Technologies in STEM education** (projects involving coding, ICT, big data, AI, VR, network security, etc.)

**Diversity in STEM Education** (projects including the variability of teaching methods, for talented students, for inclusive learning, cooperation between younger and older students etc.)

**STEAM in Education** (e.g. projects combining STEM with other disciplines – i.e. arts, music, sports, history, etc.)

**Low-Cost Experiments in STEM Education** (e.g. projects involving practical work with low-cost and everyday materials)

**STEM for Teachers in Training** (e.g. projects for teachers during initial teacher education)

All teachers are required to exhibit in the festival fair. This includes producing a poster about their activity using a template provided by Science on Stage and exhibiting materials on a table.

A very small number of the projects judged to be the best, on average fewer than one per member country, will be asked to contribute a longer workshop activity if the successful applicant is willing to do so.

Part of the purpose of the Science on Stage is to build international links between participants. Participants at previous festivals, e.g., Prague 2022, Cascais 2019, who have gone on to collaborate with others from another country can apply to present their ‘joint project’ at the festival fair in Turku.

Participants at Science on Stage festivals are expected to disseminate their own projects and other good practice they have seen on attending a festival at ASE and other events following the festival. For example, several of the participants in Prague in March 2022 are presenting sessions at the ASE Annual Conference in Sheffield in January 2023.