



Minutes – General Assembly Science on Stage Europe e.V. - 25-26 June 2014

Location: Queen Mary University London, Mile End Road, E1 4NS London

Participants: see page 9-10

1. Welcome and Regulations

Stefanie Schlunk, chair of Science on Stage Europe, opened the General Assembly at 16:00h on 25 June 2014. After welcoming the members and guests, Stefanie Schlunk remarked that the invitation of the members of the national steering committees has respected the time limit (four weeks prior to the Assembly) and that therefore according to German law the General Assembly had a quorum. The participants adopted the agenda and had no further amendments to make.

The minutes from the General Assembly on 27 April 2013 were approved.

2. Activities in 2013/2014 and outlook 2014/2015

Stefanie Schlunk presented the activities of Science on Stage Europe in 2013 and gave an outline of the activities in 2014 and 2015.

a) **Science on Stage festival 2013**

Evaluation

- Stefanie Schlunk presented the results of the follow-up test of the evaluation by Tanja Tajmel and Ingo Salzmann (Humboldt Universität zu Berlin). Some results:
 - 23% of the participants made more than seven international contacts.
 - Half of the participants were still in contact with 2-4 colleagues 8 months after festival.
 - 47% conducted 1-3 teacher trainings after the festival, 50% of the projects in these teacher trainings were taken from ideas seen at the festival.
 - More than a third of the participants implemented more than 3 ideas in own lessons.

For more details see Dropbox at bitly.com/TE16T7 and PowerPoint of General Assembly.

- One remark of the evaluation was that biology, chemistry and primary projects were underrepresented at the festival 2013.
- **NSCs should make sure to also nominate biology and chemistry projects if possible.**
- Science on Stage Europe will provide an evaluation sheet with the results which can be useful for NSCs to address supporters.

Stefanie Schlunk showed the image film made at Science on Stage festival 2013.

b) **National activities, members**

New member countries / certificates

- Stefanie Schlunk introduced the new member countries and warmly welcomed the Netherlands, Portugal, Switzerland and Turkey. She handed over certificates of membership of Science of Stage Europe to every present member.

Short reports from the countries

- Robert Tatsis (Netherlands) asked how to attract supporters and how industry can benefit from Science on Stage. Wolfgang Gollub (main supporter think ING.) said that

NSCs should make clear that good STEM teachers will encourage more school children to consider a career in science or engineering. This way, industry will benefit from qualified students. Explain the long-term effect. Arlette Dambremez (Belgium) added: Make a 15 min. personal appointment with your potential partner.

- Stefanie Schlunk **recommended inviting supporters and potential partners to national events and to the festival.** Collaboration with industry might result.
- **NSCs shall bear in mind that pupils are only allowed at the festival in performances of the host country.**
- Marc Montangero (Switzerland) and Paul Nugent (Ireland) reported from their activities... (see national websites for more information)
- **Stefanie Schlunk reminded the members to keep SonSEu up to date about their activities. She asked everyone to send information and pictures about activities to the office.**

The representatives undertook a campus tour of Queen Mary University London (17:10h-17:45h).

c) **Follow-up activities**

Take a workshop to your country

- **Each SonS-country should organise a workshop in their country and invite a teacher/project from abroad seen at the festival. Stefanie Schlunk pointed out there are six free places left and encouraged NSCs to apply.** SonSEu funds up to 300€.
- NSCs should send a report with pictures after the activity.
- Take a workshop to your country will also take place after the festival 2015.

Travel scholarships:

- All ten teacher exchanges took place after the festival 2013. SonSEu also funds this follow-up with up to 300 € after the festival 2015.

Further amendments:

- **NSCs should all make use of the follow-ups, they guarantee the sustainability of SonS.**
- **The NSCs should explain the activities to their delegates: "It is not just another conference, it is the beginning of a long relationship".**
- The ideal SonS-teacher takes part in the whole activity chain: national event – festival – workshop – scholarship – joint project – next festival.
- There will be a timeslot at the festival 2015 for teachers to report on stage about their exchange/workshop experiences abroad.
- National events: guidelines, materials and support are available from SonSEu-office.
- Consider to invite neighboring country's teachers to your national event.

Stefanie Schlunk thanked all NSCs for organising follow-ups. SonSEu has made a big effort in initiating such additional forms of activities besides the festival. **Stefanie encouraged all members to continue and to even focus more on these follow-ups.**

Network meetings – results

- Three network meetings of the festival 2013 have not been developed further:
 - Hands on experiments
 - Science events
 - Sharing workshop ideas across borders
- Three network meetings resulted in projects carried out by SonSD (Details: see PowerPoint)
 - iStage 2: Smartphones in Science Teaching
 - Teachers & Scientists
 - Digital Media in Primary School

- The brochure iStage 1 – ICT in Science Teaching has been translated in seven languages (<http://www.science-on-stage.de/page/display/en/7/7/66/ikt-in-den-natuwrissenschaften>), teacher trainings took place in several countries. Further translations are welcome. **Interested countries should address the SonSEu office.**
- **NSCs should keep their eyes open for exceptional schools in their countries and tell the SonSEu-office about them.**

d) **PR**

Homepage, examples of national homepages and templates

- **Stefanie Schlunk showed the new homepage and asked the NSCs to send information about their activities for the homepage.**
- The newsletter is now sent out monthly to inform shortly about activities in the network. **Stefanie Schlunk encouraged the countries to send information for the newsletter.**
- SonSEu will make a new flyer which can be used to address supporters.
- SonSEu builds up a European press mailing list. **NSCs should also send their journalist contacts to SonSEu office.**
- SonSEu will provide press releases before the festival 2015. **NSCs should translate them and forward them to media in their country.**
- **Stefanie Schlunk encouraged the NSCs to create an own national website.** For logos, designs and support they should contact the SonSEu office.

Social Media

- Stefanie Schlunk informed the meeting about the development of the Social Media platforms Facebook and Twitter.
- When tweeting about the festival, please use #sons2015.

3. Priorities for 2014/2015

Science on Stage festival 2015

Charlotte Thorley (SonSUK) presented Queen Mary University as host of the next festival (see PowerPoint)

- Accommodation will be on campus.
- Delegates can arrive one night earlier and leave one night after the festival. An extra night costs approx. 62-74 €.
- A full-coverage participation outside the delegation costs 630 € (incl. accommodation, conference material, catering). 100 € goes to emergency fund of SonSEu.
- Open Day charge will be 12 €
- New formats at the festival:
 - Collaborative Performance – ten people develop a science show together.
 - Small stage: A room will be set up for spontaneous performances (open-mic area).
 - On one evening, SonSUK is planning a campus festival. There will be different science spots like comedy science shows, Maths busking, a social dance etc.
 - Idea to develop a policy paper about science education in Europe.

Remarks: Michalis Hadjimarcou (Cyprus) remarked that developing such a paper within the festival would be difficult to achieve. He suggested working on general statements. Central idea: Teachers from 25 countries to meet and recommend specific ways in science teaching.

The General Assembly agreed that Charlotte Thorley should send further information before the board will decide. All agreed that the preparation process of such a paper should start before the festival.

Timeframe festival 2015

- Stefanie Schlunk reminded the meeting of the timeframe of the festival preparation (see below).

Start	Complete	Action	Responsibility
January 2014	November 2014	National events and selection processes	Participating countries
15 December 2014		NSCs submit delegates for the fair to the festival organising committee (project descriptions in English as Word-file, list of participants in Excel-sheet). See Dropbox at bitly.com/TE16T7 .	Participating countries
February 2015 (end)		Jury meeting, Selection of workshops, performances and seminars	Festival Committee (SonSEu/SonSUK)
March 2015	May 2015	Registration for participants via SonSEu	Participants/SonSEu
March 2015 (2 nd week)		Announcement of programme	Festival Committee (SonSEu/SonSUK)
17 – 20 June 2015		Science on Stage festival 2015	SonSUK
June 2015	July 2015	Evaluation	SonSUK
September 2015		Reports, press clipping	SonSUK
June – December 2015 / 2016		Follow-up activities: teacher trainings, workshops, travel exchange	All countries

- **NSCs to hand in lists of their national delegates by 15th December 2014.** SonSEu provides an Excel-list for the delegation and a Word-file for project descriptions on www.bitly.com/TE16T7
- **NSCs are responsible to recommend their best projects for workshops, seminars and performances and check if the projects are appropriate for each category.**

Selection process, criteria

- **NSCs should recommend up to 50% of the delegate's projects to win a prize at the festival 2015 and mark the projects as 4* and 5* projects in the Excel-file provided. This will simplify the jury selection process. The delegates should not know if they are recommended. At the festival, NSCs can adjust their selection of 5* projects if they think it is necessary.**
- The Jury will award the "European Science Teaching Award" (one per guiding theme by supporters, one for joint projects supported by think ING./Gesamtmetall) at the festival.
- Selection of joint projects at the festival: SonSEu board will decide on the participation of joint project applications in January 2015.
- Workshops and seminars can also be offered by supporters of the festival.
- Registration of the participants will be open from March 2015 on SonSEu-website.

- Every country gets delegate's places according to a quota of inhabitants **plus** one representative per NSC as delegation leader. Non-European countries can send max. five delegates. The Quota document see Dropbox: bitly.com/TE16T7
- Stefanie Schlunk reminded the NSCs that they should take care of their own travel costs. Until now only Cyprus requested financial support for travel costs from SonSEu.

Stefanie Schlunk informed the participants about the agenda of the next day and called on the participants to brainstorm about new projects. The first day of the General Assembly ended at 19:35h.

Welcome 26 June 2014

Chair Stefanie Schlunk welcomed the participants to the second day of the General Assembly on 26 June 2014 at 9:00h.

Stefanie Schlunk asked Paul Nugent (Ireland) to report about his experiences in approaching supporters with the videos Science on Stage Ireland produced after the 2013 festival.

4. Brainstorming

Paul Nugent (Ireland) said that Science on Stage Ireland produced 35 simple experiment videos with projects of Science on Stage festival 2013. They have uploaded them to the website, which now offers 65 videos. They also burned CDs with the projects. They used the CD to approach supporters for workshops. The projects are now the base content for 14 workshops all over Ireland. Paul Nugent agrees to write a case study about the procedure and forward this information to all NSCs.

Stefanie Schlunk asked the participants about their ideas for new Science on Stage projects.

Festival lunch topics

- David Featonby (SonSUK): Define and offer topics at the festival 2015 to which teachers can get together in informal groups over lunch for discussion.
- The General Assembly came up with some ideas for these lunch topics:
 - Science and Magic
 - Sports and Science
 - Physics and Girls
 - Science and Art
 - Waste and Science
 - Science and History
 - Science and Space
 - Inclusive Science
 - Science in Preschool/Kindergarten and before
 - Science and the Public
 - Science and ICT
 - Life Sciences
- David Featonby suggested that about ten pairs of teachers might be found who shall network further on regarding their chosen topic after the festival and develop a project together.
- Wolfgang Gollub proposed to hang up suggestions for topics in a central spot in the morning. People can then vote for their favourite topics by sticking dots on the board.
- David Featonby added: At the lunch topics, teachers should create new projects together and think about how to mingle their own topics to create something new.

Unconference

- Lina Canas (Science on Stage Portugal) suggested the model of ‘unconference’ for meetings the festival.
- Charlotte Thorley will see how to integrate the point in the festival programme.

“Typically at an unconference, the agenda is created by the attendees at the beginning of the meeting. Anyone who wants to initiate a discussion on a topic can claim a time and a space. Unconferences typically feature open discussions rather than having a single speaker at the front of the room giving a talk, although any format is permitted. This form of conference is particularly useful when the attendees generally have a high level of expertise or knowledge in the field the conference convenes to discuss.”

(Source: Wikipedia)

Science on Stage online community

Robert Tatsis (Science on Stage Netherlands) proposed to offer teachers an online platform for exchange.

- The online platform should enable reactions of other teachers to project descriptions.
- Other teachers should be able to comment on teaching materials.
- Teachers should be able to exchange teaching materials via the platform.
- The platform should integrate existing social media.
- Wolfgang Gollub added that here, Science on Stage teachers could offer webinars; live-streaming videos that could also be used further on.
- Stefanie Schlunk remarked that past experiences have shown that a participation of teachers in such a community is hard to achieve. Teachers have to be active and upload material regularly.

Videos

Marc Montangero (Science on Stage Switzerland) supported the idea of making videos of festival projects.

- The videos should be produced professionally.
- Charlotte Thorley (Science on Stage UK) agreed that this could be a task for a Queen Mary University student film team.
- There was a common concern that the fair noise is too loud for good videos. It is also too difficult to make videos in a separate room as teachers would have to bring their whole stand to a different room.
- Maija Pollari (Science on Stage Finland) remarked that producing videos should not be mandatory for the teachers.
- Michalis Hadjimarcou (Science on Stage Cyprus) remarked that it is up to every NSC to make videos of projects or not.
- Paul Nugent (Science on Stage Ireland) stated that Ireland is willing to share the videos they plan to make after the festival.

A decision about the new ideas mentioned above will be made by the Board of SonSEu in their next meeting and the communicated to all NSCs.

5. Outlook host country 2017/2019

Stefanie Schlunk encouraged the member countries to think about hosting a Science on Stage festival in the future. SonSEu can provide an information guideline how to do a festival. Science on Stage Sweden and Science on Stage Hungary have already shown interest in hosting the festival 2017.

Host country 2019

- Anders Blomqvist (Science on Stage Sweden) reported that Sweden favours preparing to host the festival in 2019.

- SonSSE is looking for funding, and supporters for the 2019 festival.
- Sweden will invite VIP guests to the festival in London to attract and convince political parties and supporters.
- The main supporter of the festival 2019 would be to be the City of Stockholm.

Expression of interest Hungary

- Guest Zsolt Fülöp (Atomki Hungary, Debrecen) introduced Debrecen in Hungary as possible host for the festival 2017.
- The festival would take place at the university (ATOMKI) in cooperation with the new science museum AGORA.
- Zsolt Fülöp admitted that receiving funding by the government is difficult. He suggested having an Open Day on two days in the afternoon to solve the issue.
- High school students and general public should be able to visit the festival.
- Science on Stage Hungary could finance follow-ups by the expected EU-funding.
- Dates of the festival should be end June.
- The Hungarian NSC welcomed the proposal.

Feedback from the General Assembly:

- Stefanie Schlunk thanked Mr Fülöp and acknowledged the efforts and plans he already made.
- The General Assembly felt the basic idea of the Science on Stage festival is endangered if the event is open on two days for the general public and students are allowed to participate.
- Wolfgang Gollub feared the festival spirit will be drowned and emphasizes that supporters must be found that support the idea of the festival and enable the exchange among teachers.
- Stefanie Schlunk remarked that the teachers have to get to know each other first. There can be no Open Day on the first day.
- Bryony Frost (Science on Stage UK) affirmed that teachers will focus differently on presenting their projects if they present it to other people than colleagues.

Michalis Hadjimarcou stated that a common ground has to be found. The board of SonSEu provides regulations that must be complied with when organizing the festival. Zsolt Fülöp has to speak to the supporters of the festival 2017 and make sure to stick to the guidelines of a Science on Stage festival.

- **Stefanie Schlunk underlined that other countries can still apply to host the festival 2017 and to hand in a proposal.** She recommended inviting potential partners and ministries to the festival in London. Ministers travel and stay overnight at own cost.
- The decision on the festival 2017 could be postponed to autumn 2015.
- There will be a room for VIP-meetings at the festival 2015, where Science on Stage is presented. NSCs should try to invite investors from their countries to London.
- David Featonby (SonSUK) remarked that below the Science on Stage logo the phrase “from teachers for teachers” should be added. This was agreed as a good idea.

6. Finances

Stefanie Schlunk presented the revenues and expenditures of 2013 and the estimated expenditures of 2014. For more details see materials General Assembly.

- Ida Regl (auditor) informed that the audit took place on 15 May 2014. The General Assembly accepted her report and the accounts unanimously (see report).
- **The General Assembly unanimously confirmed Ida Regl as auditor for 2015.** The General Assembly thanked Ida Regl for her work in the last year!
- The General Assembly agreed on the estimated costs until the end of 2014.

Stefanie Schlunk offered Wolfgang Gollub from Gesamtmetall/think ING sincere thanks for the generous financial support in 2013! This was echoed by all delegates. She affirmed that actions for further support are taking place (Erasmus+ Programmes, EU-Funding). SonSEu is also aware of further EU calls.

7. Discharge of the board

The General assembly voted unanimously to discharge the board. The board has fulfilled all delegated tasks in accordance to the statute of the association. Furthermore, all financial means of the association have been properly managed.

8. Further points

Review of site QMUL for SonS2015

Charlotte Thorley asked for the General Assembly members to tell her any feedback and concerns about Queen Mary University hosting the next festival.

- Paul Nugent: Let teachers know about communal areas (kitchen in accommodation etc.), provide mugs in the kitchens.
- Paul Nugent: The rooms for the fair might be tiny if they are very full.
- Wolfgang Gollub: Link the exhibition areas as close as possible together.
- Wolfgang Gollub: Make sure the supporters' stands are integrated among teacher stands.
- Stefanie Schlunk: Host should provide a document with background information (bring adapters etc.)

Paul Nugent: Co-founder of Physics on Stage Wubbo Ockels recently passed away. Condolence news has already put on SonSEu website on 4th June 2014.

David suggests providing a document about the history of SonSEu and our guidelines.

Farewell

Chair Stefanie Schlunk thanked all attendees and the NSCs for the work in their countries. Especially she thanked the Executive Board of SonSEu for their support. She also thanked her colleagues from the office, and closes the General Assembly at 12:00h.

Participants

34 representatives, 19 countries
 One vote per country, members are highlighted

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