



Invitation to participate in a European research project for enabling Creativity through Science and Mathematics in Preschool and First Years of Primary Education

Science and mathematics education, creativity and innovation are areas equally recognized as important for Europe and their strengthening is seen as a vital priority. The *Creative Little Scientists* project constitutes a timely contribution to a better understanding, at the European level, of the potential available on the common ground that science and mathematics education in pre-school and early primary school (up to the age of eight) can share with creativity.

The *Creative Little Scientists* consortium, bringing together academics and researchers from 9 European countries (Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Malta, Portugal, Romania, and the UK) and comprises expertise of the highest level and quality in the areas of science and mathematics education in early childhood, creativity in education, cognitive psychology, comparative educational studies, and teacher training. The consortium has set the following overall aims for the project:

- To provide Europe with a clear picture of existing and possible practices, as well as their implications and the related opportunities and challenges, in the intersection of science and mathematics learning, and development of creative skills in pre-school and the early years of primary education (up to the pupil age of eight) and;
- To transform the knowledge generated through this into policy guidelines, as well as guidelines, curricula and exemplary materials for relevant teacher training in the various European contexts.



How to be involved

In order for the project to achieve the above aims, teachers currently working in Pre-school and Primary Education are invited to participate in either or both of:

- **the first phase**, by completing the **online questionnaire** (available from mid-May 2012 until end of June 2012), and
- **the second phase**, by taking part in the **in-depth research** conducted by the project and collaborating with researchers through classroom observations and interviews. (January - April 2013).

What to do next

- Teachers who may be interested in participating in either of the research phases should **register their interest** in the project by going to the project website, www.creative-little-scientists.eu and filling in the web form provided after clicking on the button labeled **'Participate'** (main menu at the top of the webpage).
- For more information, or if you have any queries, **teachers can contact Jim Clack** (details below).

All participating teachers will receive:

- A **certificate of participation** in the EC-funded research project Creative Little Scientists.
- A **report on practices and their implications**, which will include a set of exemplary case studies illustrating the variety of approaches observed throughout the nine European countries participating in the project.
- A publication containing exemplary **teacher training materials**, which will be selected on the basis of good practices identified in the case studies as well as being consistent with the guidelines and curricula for teacher training produced by the project.



Personal data provided by participants will only be used for research purposes and are protected according to the EC directive 95/46/EC. All data gathered during the project will be stored in a secure location accessible only to the researchers.

Research will be carried out in accordance with the British Educational Research Association's ethical guidelines (<http://www.bera.ac.uk/publications/ethical-guidelines>), with the research process having been approved by the Open University Human Research Ethics Committee.

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