BHAK Wien 10 on the European Schoolnet Scene in Brussels, Belgium

Creating Innovative Teaching Materials Guarantee our Future

On March 2-4, 2018, the 20th Science Project Workshop in the Future Classroom Lab co-organised by the Scientix and BLOOM project took place in Brussels, **Belgium**.

BLOOM (Boasting European Citizens' Knowledge and Awareness of Bio Economy) targets to establish open and knowledgeable dialogues, which is co-created by European citizens, the civil society, bio economy innovation networks, local research centres, business and industry stakeholders and various levels of government including the European Commission.

The **BLOOM Project** is assigned for the duration of three years (2018-2020) and will elaborate five communities of practice that will allow for an iterative process with all stakeholders through various cycles of value development, enabling idea generation on bio economy and STEM through shared fundamental knowledge and experiences. These interactions and activities intend to (1) raise awareness and knowledge on bio economy, (2) build and strengthen a bio economy community, (3) provide consistent insights into the topic, its practices, benefits and implications, and (4) foster learning and education in Europe.

What does the BHAK Wien 10 have to do with the BLOOM Project? A team of two colleagues – **Mag. Dr. Nikolinka Fertala** and **MMag. Bernhard Weikmann** – had the pleasure to win the BLOOM EU-Project for Austria and to work on creating teaching materials on bio economy and natural sciences together with STEM-teachers from Germany, Spain, Sweden, Poland, Italy, Belgium, Portugal, Israel and Croatia.

However, **Dr. Fertala** as a co-ordinator of the project was the pleasure to attend the first meeting and to be sensitised on bio economy. The bio economy is an economy using renewable resource from land and sea – such as crops, forests, fish, animals and micro-organisms – to produce food, materials and energy. In Europe, for instance, it is already worth more than two trillion euros annually and employs over 22 million people (9 % of the total)[1]. Consequently, the education system has to consider this development and to produce teaching materials that will prepare the young generation for its future.

Finally, the interactions took place in the **Future Class Lab (FCL)**. The FCL is a learning environment in Brussels, challenging visitors to rethink the role of pedagogy, technology and design in the classroom. It consists of six learning zones that provide visitors with the opportunity to explore the essential elements in developing 21st century learning.

Retrospectively speaking, Dr. Fertala was inspired by her attendance at the 20th Science Project Workshop in the Future Classroom Lab for her next teaching and research activities in STEM.

Contact: nikolinka.fertala@bhakwien10.at

[1] Please see for further statistics https://assobiotec.federchimica.it/en/biotechnology/what-is-bioeconomy.