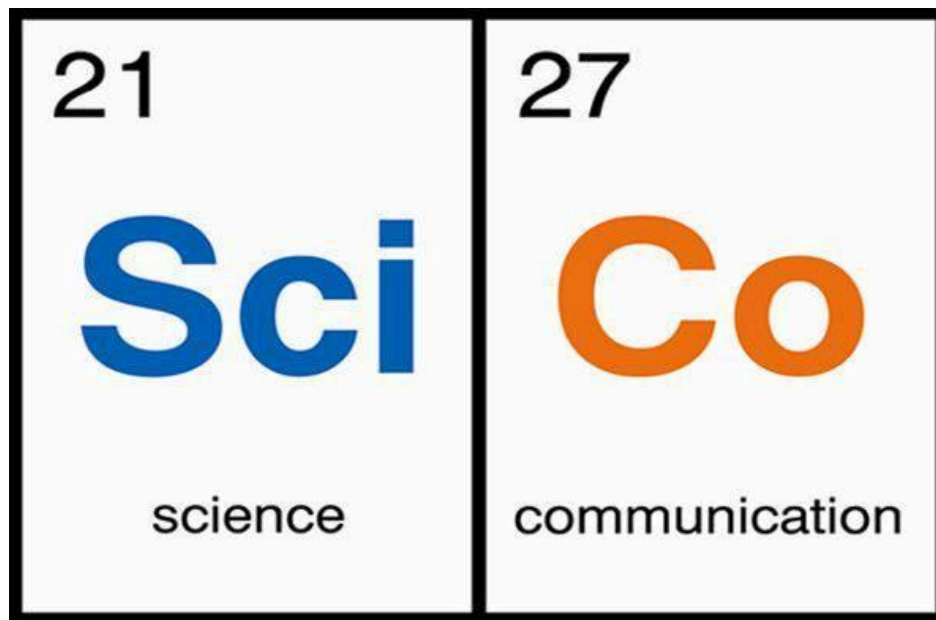


Science Communication - SciCo

# ANNUAL REPORT

2023



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# SCICO PROFILE

***Science Communication - SciCo remains committed to its mission of promoting science literacy and engagement through innovative communication strategies. The organisation's progress reflects its dedication to excellence and its impact on fostering a scientifically informed society.***

SciCo - Science Communication is a non-profit organisation, focusing on scientific engagement and empowerment, through innovative, interactive, and entertaining means. It was founded in 2008, and consists of scientists, academics, educators, artists, and people with an interest in everyday science. Today, it operates as a social enterprise.

Through numerous high-impact outreach activities, such as science festivals, digital platforms, and workshops, SciCo has reached more than 400.000

people all over Greece. It has also reached audiences outside Greece by expanding some of its own projects internationally and by participating in EU Programs and Networks.

General goals of SciCo are to:

- Promote communication of science and technology
- Scientifically engage and empower teachers, students, and citizens
- Strengthen the image of the researcher/scientist in society
- Disseminate STEM education and inspire young people to pursue a STEM career
- Help people develop knowledge and skills to make responsible environmental decisions

Most of SciCo's initiatives are funded by EU grants, foundations either found in Greece or the EU, Corporate social responsibility (CSR) and sponsorship strategies mostly of telecommunications companies or corporations that refer to technology and sciences. Some examples are the EEA Grants, of MSCA and Horizon EU grants, multinational companies (eg. Vodafone, Cosmote, Pfizer, GSK, Novartis, Sanofi), International and Greek Foundations and funds with a focus on science and society (eg. Bayer Foundation, Onassis Foundation, Jane Goodall Foundation, Falling Wall Foundation, Cyclades Preservation Fund) and other non-profit organisations (eg. Action Aid, National Geographic, Civil Act, Impact Hub).

# ANALYSIS

SciCo creates initiatives based on two pillars, on the one hand is on raising awareness campaigns and on the other is the general empowerment of citizens.

In the awareness pillar, a wide range of innovative projects (festivals, science fairs, actions, etc.) is developed. Indicatively, in the last 10 years, SciCo has created and co-organized 17 Science Festivals in Athens, Thessaloniki, Larissa, Patras, Ioannina and Lemnos, reaching more than 300.000 visitors.

In the empowerment pillar, educational programmes for all ages are developed with STEM and STEAM education and interactive, experiential learning at its core (e.g. Generation Next, Open Science Hub, STEM STARS Greece, Citizen Science in the Cyclades, etc.).

SciCo's activities benefit 30,000 people per year, the majority of whom are students and young people. These actions reach out to outlying and remote places where students have fewer opportunities than in urban centers, such as Lemnos, Mytilene, Pomakochoria in Thrace, Cyclades, Dodecanese, Eptanisa and Crete. SciCo's activities are also expanding outside Greece, reaching Albania, Tanzania, Cyprus, Germany, Scotland, Spain, etc.

SciCo is staffed by scientists, academics, teachers, trainers and artists (10 full-time, 2 part-time), and is supported by a wider network of external partners. Its activities are supported by a network of SciCo Ambassadors—trained volunteers in public engagement and science outreach who have participated in many of SciCo's initiatives. On top of that, a strong network of over 400 volunteers has been created over the years, including students, educational actors and in general citizens that are willing into aiding SciCo's purpose on promoting science and technology literacy.

SciCo also has a strong network of partners that continued to form and cooperate with, that comprises important institutions in Greece and abroad, such as the British Council, the General Secretariat for Research and Technology, the Ministry of Education, the Athena Research Centre, the National

Geographic Society, the Jane Goodall Foundation, the Vodafone Foundation, the Falling Walls Foundation, etc.

The beneficiaries that have been participating into SciCo's initiatives are the following:

- Educational actors (e.g. teachers from preschool, primary, secondary and vocational education)
- Students (in varying ages including tertiary education)
- Minorities (Pomak children which are considered, ethno-confessional minority in northern Greece, children in Kara Tepe refugee camp in Lesvos)
- Scientific community (senior and junior researchers, academic staff)

The following report outlines the progress made by SciCo in fulfilling its mission during the reporting period of 2023:

## *Projects Overview:*

### *Train the Trainer Activities:*

SciCo conducted a series of science communication educational workshops that are formed in the format of the train-the-trainer approach. These include the **STEM4Equality** program for kindergarten teachers in Greece, funded by the EEA grants. Additionally, several programs have been developed for primary and secondary education teachers, focusing on digital literacy such as **Generation Next**, circular economy (**Circular Economy in action** and **Sustainable Thinking**), as well as thematic areas such as climate change and plastic pollution (**Roots and Shoots** and **EcosySTEM: Bridges of Science**).

### *Science Communication Workshops*

These workshops equipped on the one hand scientists and researchers with the skills necessary to effectively communicate their work to diverse audiences. Such examples runned by SciCo are **Falling Walls Lab Greece** and **Make it Open**. On the other hand, educators that are having trouble communicating science or engaging their classrooms actively with science are upskilled through these workshops. These kind of initiatives are **OS Hubs** and the **Community Center of Northern Evia**, in the borderlines of Greece. Internationally, similar workshops are part of the **STEM in Africa** project, where teachers in Tanzania have changed their approach to explaining science to their students.

### **Science Festivals:**

SciCo organized and hosted several science and technology festivals, such as the **Athens Science Festival** and the Mediterranean Researchers Night, **Mednight**. These festivals have approached thousands of citizens across Greece and have showcased a wide array of activities coming from R&I institutes, universities and research centers exploring scientific themes, attracting audiences and citizens in order to engage with science in creative ways.

### **Citizen Science Projects:**

SciCo initiated collaborative citizen science projects, including **Citizen Science for Cyclades Paths** and **MicroplaSTEAM**. These projects enabled members of the public to contribute valuable data to scientific research while fostering a sense of environmental stewardship and community engagement.

### **Outreach and Engagement:**

#### **Awareness Campaigns:**

SciCo launched impactful awareness campaigns both in social media and on several other means of disseminations like press releases, newsletters etc, such as the EU funded programs (MSCA, Horizon and Erasmus+ grants) on new emerging technologies in education **augMENTOR** and **XR4ED** in order to engage followers with captivating science content and facilitate discussions on important scientific topics.

#### **Collaborative Partnerships:**

SciCo forged strategic partnerships and continued its collaboration with most organizations that it has been working with for the past almost 15 year including the British Council, Municipality of Athens, National Geographic, and the Vodafone Foundation. These partnerships extend SciCo's reach and enhance resources for joint projects, such as celebrating 10 years of the Athens Science Festival, initially prepared in 2023 and celebrated in 2024.

### **Impact and Evaluation:**

#### **Participant Feedback:**

Participants in SciCo workshops and events consistently provided positive feedback, citing increased confidence and skills in science communication as a result of their involvement. All of these participant's contributions and feedback are always handed over as progress reports to its respective project.

### **Metrics and Analytics:**

SciCo analyzed metrics such as website traffic, social media engagement, and event attendance to assess the impact of its initiatives, with notable successes observed across projects like ASF and "STEM4Equality.

### **Future Directions:**

#### **Expansion of Programs:**

SciCo aims to expand its program offerings to include specialized workshops for even more special audiences, like refugees and migrants, or special education children, or even elderly people, catering to the evolving needs and interests of its audience.

#### **International Collaborations:**

Building on its success, SciCo plans to strengthen international collaborations through initiatives like "Global Science Communication Summit" and "Science Diplomacy Exchange Program," fostering cross-cultural dialogue and knowledge exchange in the field of science communication.

SciCo's dedication to excellence and innovation in science communication is evident in the present activities report of 2023 in its diverse range of projects and initiatives. By fostering collaboration, engaging audiences, and empowering scientists, SciCo continues to make significant strides towards its mission of promoting science literacy and engagement on a global scale.

**General manager and Founder**  
**Theodoros Anagnostopoulos**



# SCICO STATISTICS

SciCo in its lifetime has completed more than 300 programs and initiatives such as Workshops, Awareness campaigns, Festivals, Citizen Science projects and more, based on the basic pillars that were mentioned above.

## 18 INITIATIVES

### TOTAL NUMBER OF INITIATIVES

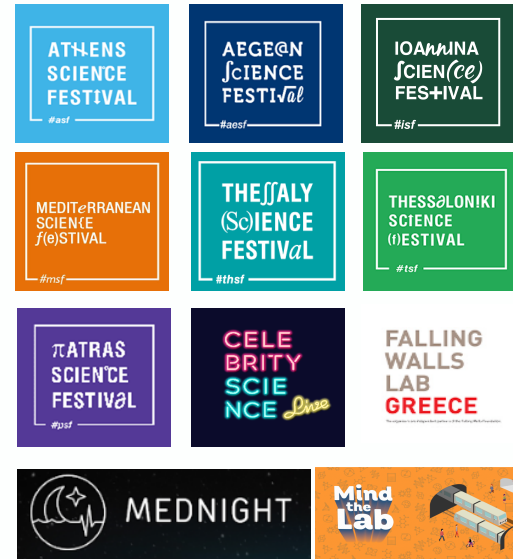
In the 2023 report, SciCo has initiated and continued the implementation of 6 initiatives funded by the EU, 1 funded by the EEA Grants and 11 programs that are funded from Greek foundations and Corporate social responsibility strategies.

# 30.000

### TOTAL NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES

Approximate number of beneficiaries that were informed, sensitized and/or upskilled by SciCo's initiatives. These beneficiaries are students of all ages, teachers of primary, secondary and vocational education, academic staff, scientists, educational actors, policy makers and the general public at large.

## AWARENESS



## EMPOWERMENT

