NETWORKING FOR SUCCESS

A national network for science communication in Ireland

Dr. Mairéad Hurley
Education & Learning Manager, Science Gallery Dublin
Sci:Com, December 2019
@Mairead_Hurley

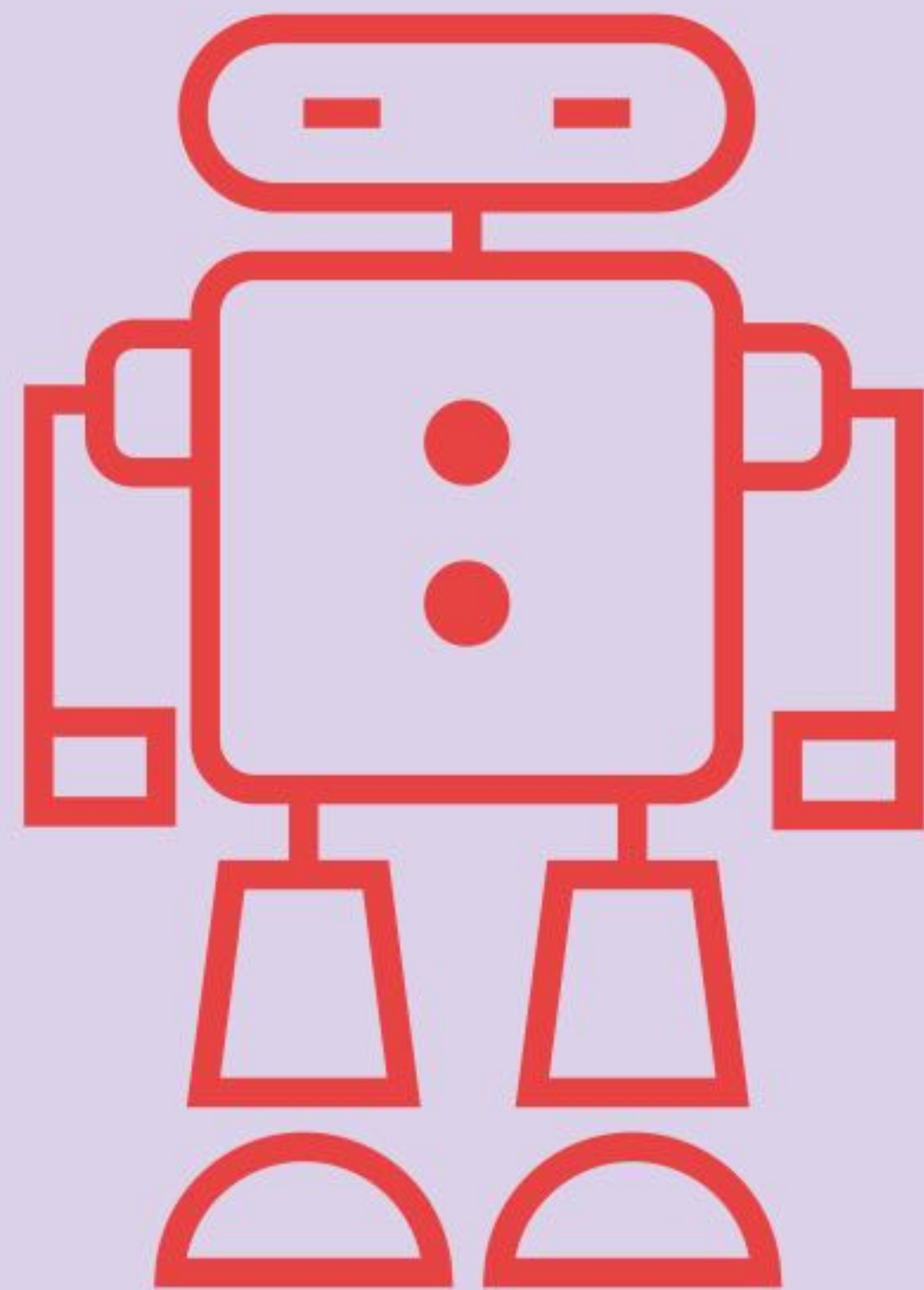IGNITE CREATIVITY & DISCOVERY WHERE SCIENCE & ART COLLIDE

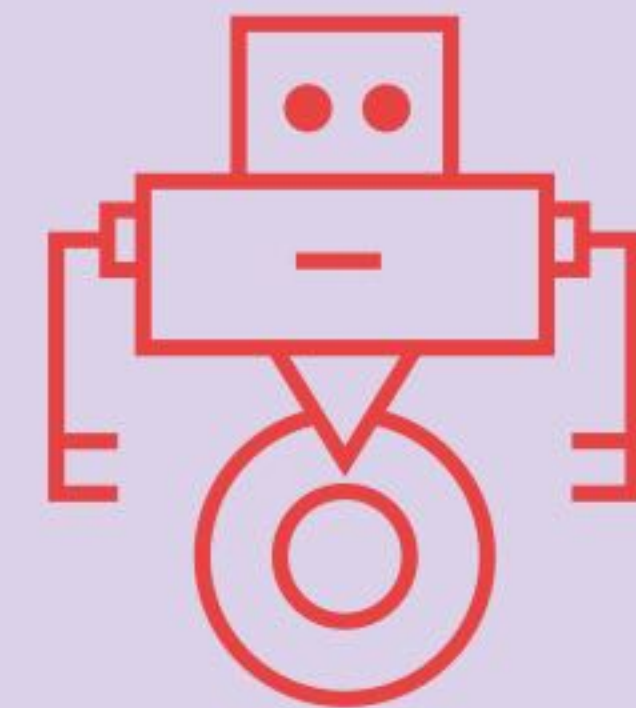EXHIBITIONS
EVENTS
LEARNING & RESEARCH

RESEARCH & PRACTICE

LIFELONG, LIFE-WIDE, LIFE-DEEP LEARNING

LEARNING ECOLOGY MODEL

SCIENCE
LEARNING
OUTSIDE
THECLASSROOM

SYSTEM 2020

Map current informal learning structures across Europe

1175 STE(A)M organisations layed out by: GEO LOCATION

↗ SHARE THIS   ⊞ DATA API
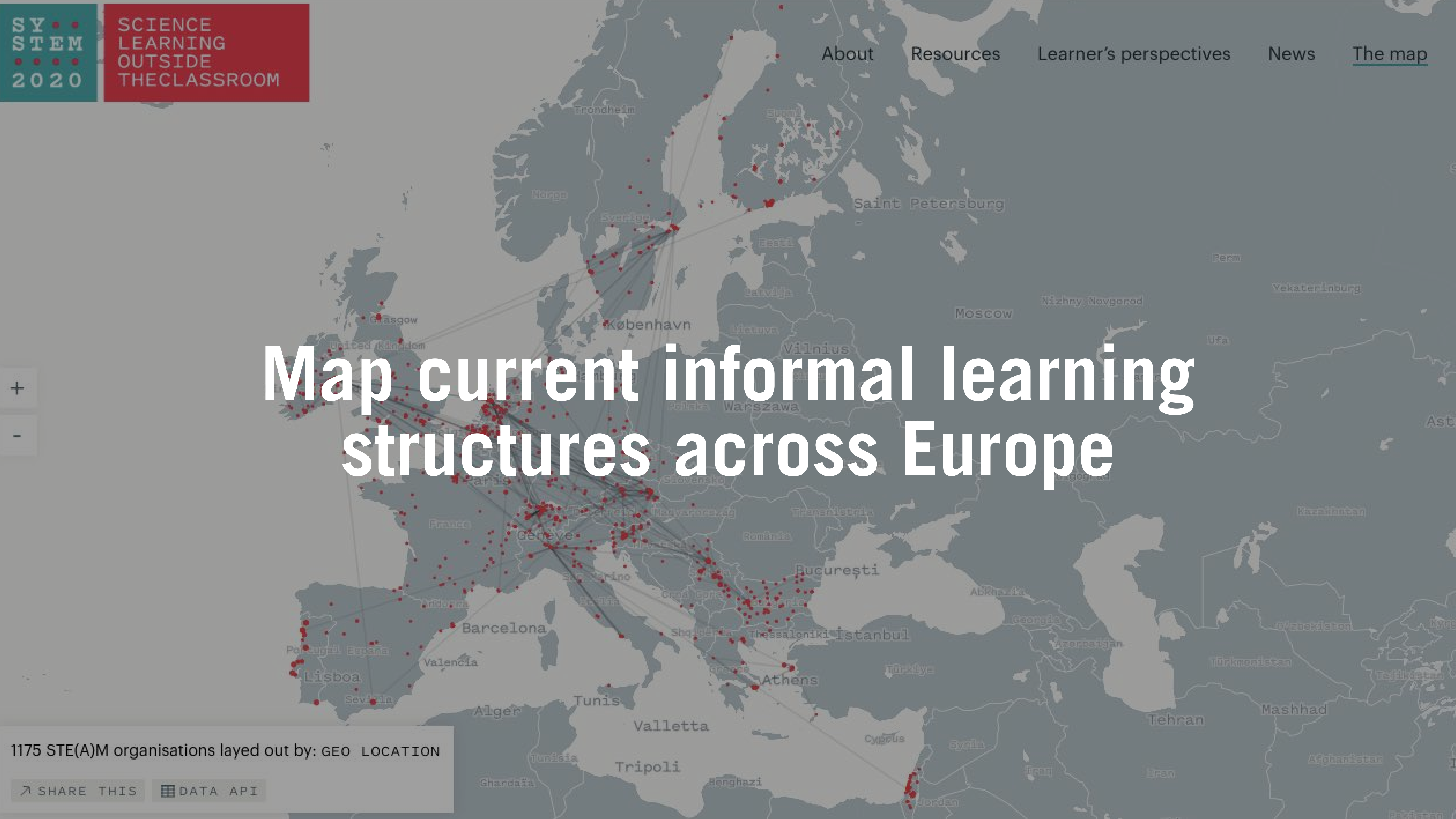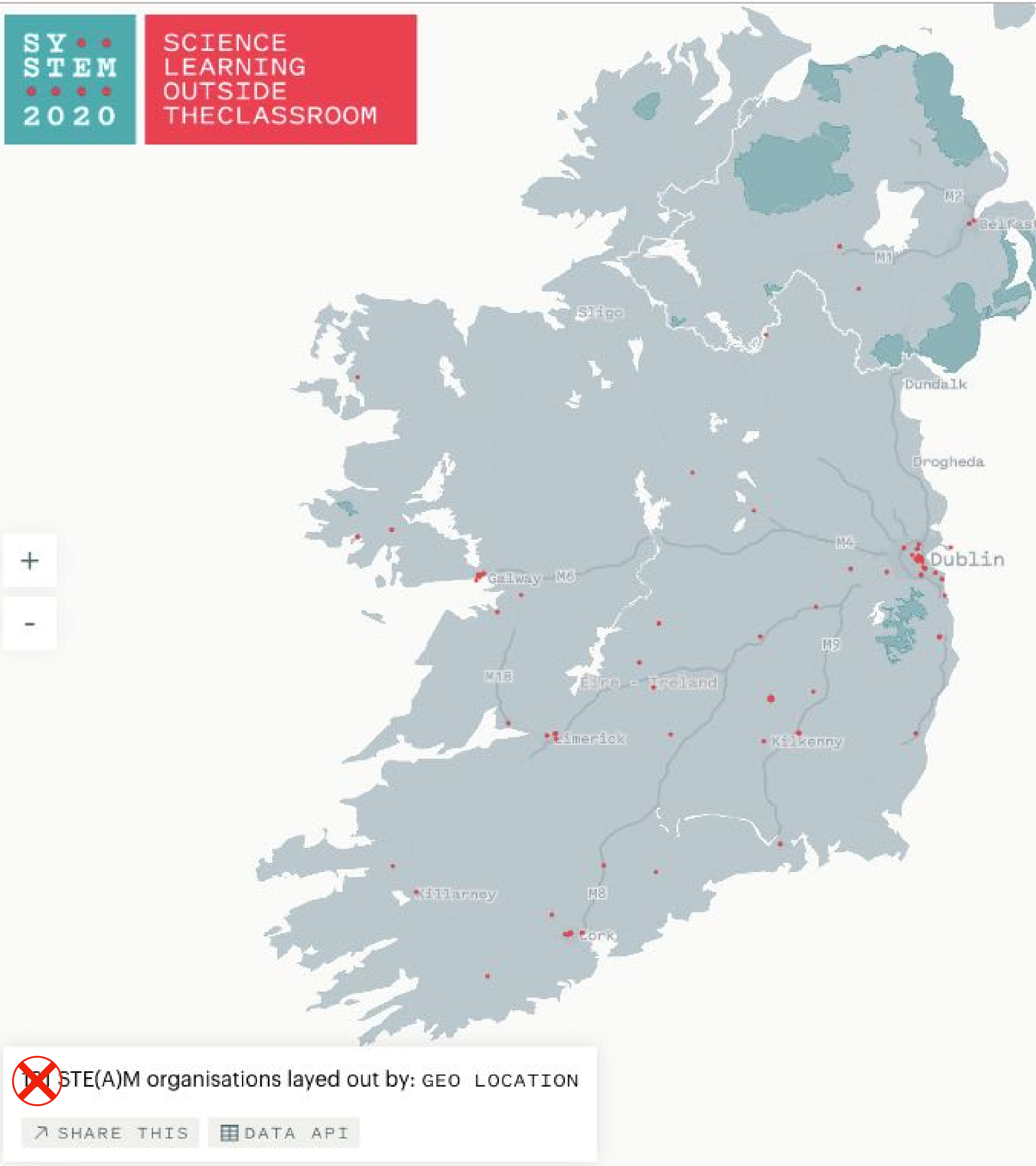
IRELAND: 84 ORGANISATIONS

Geographical Distribution

Biggest groups are:
Science Centres
Afterschool
Festival / Fair
Makerspace
Summer Camp
Museums
May be missing individuals/small groups

All STE(A)M organisations layed out by: GEO LOCATION

⤢ SHARE THIS   ⊞ DATA API

Why a network?

Added value for members through:
- Professional Development
- Capacity Building
- Collaboration opportunities
- Joined up thinking - sharing of resource & expertise
- Professionalisation & advocating for better working conditions
- Social element

Evidence Based Approach - what are the best practices in forming a network?

National Informal STEM Education Network (USA)
Research & Practice Collaboratory (USA)
The Hive (USA)
ISOTOPE - Informing Science Outreach & Public Engagement (UK)
NCCPE (UK)
InformalScience.org

Evidence Based Inspiration
National Informal STEM Education Network (NISE NET - USA) Publication

Leading and Managing the NISE Network:
Practical Solutions for Creating a Flexible
National Network

Description

The Nanoscale Informal Science Education Network (NISE Net) created a national community of researchers and informal science educators dedicated to fostering public awareness, engagement, and understanding of nanoscale science, engineering, and technology ("nano"). This NISE Network guide was created to share what the leadership of the NISE Net did to create this national supportive network whose scope and scale were unprecedented in the science museum field. It focuses on 1) enduring values upon which the Network was built, 2) ongoing changes in structure and activities that were essential to developing the Network's capacity, and 3) some of the practical processes and tools used to run the Network.

Product category
Professional Development
For Scientists
For Educators

Audience
Scientists
Informal Science Educators
K-12 Educators

Topics
Engineering and Technology
Nanotechnology

Key Features of Networks:

• More social than markets and hierarchies, network organizations are dependent on relationships, mutual interests, and reputation.

• Successful networks involve complementarity and accommodation. Reputation, friendship, interdependence, and altruism are integral.

• Reduction of uncertainty, fast access to information, reliability, and responsiveness are paramount concerns that motivate participants in network organizations.

(Powell, 1990)

Strengths of Networks:

• Access to information, knowledge and experience

• Resiliency: "the ability to survive and thrive in the face of change"

• Credibility: participation can enhance individual members' status and the organization's reputation

• Reach: the ability to reach more people more quickly or effectively

• Diffusion of knowledge and innovation: providing a fast, reliable way to communicate learning and ideas

• Collective Intelligence: "a well-connected, trusting, and fluid network has access to the generative and creative abilities" that make the sum more than its parts

• Individual and network performance

(Anklam, 2011)

Leadership Structure:

Values:

Funding Model:

Core annual activities:

First major achievement should be:

Other thoughts?

SHARE BACK & DISCUSSION