

Documents that should be attached:

- [ImplementationProposal.pdf](#)
- [Activities.pdf](#)
- [TradingCards.pdf](#)
- [BioluminescentMark.pdf](#), [BioluminescentMark.pptx](#)

Dear [insert name],

My name is [insert your name] and I am a member of an international team of 10 science and design students from the University of Groningen and Hanze University of Applied Science [in the Netherlands]. We have prepared a series of one-page comics for children aged 6-11 with which we would like to introduce them to the world of synthetic biology. **I would like to know whether your school would be interested in using our comics as educational materials.** You can currently find the first episode of our comic [online](#). Please see the rest of this email for more information.

## Why did we create these comics?

We are competing in the iGEM (International Genetically Engineered Machine) 2021 competition. The iGEM competition is a global event allowing more than 360 student teams from all around the globe to have an opportunity to find solutions for real-world problems by using synthetic biology. Synthetic biology is an area of research that seeks to create new biological parts, devices, and systems, or to redesign systems that are already found in nature. As a part of the competition, we must fulfil a number of tasks and one of these tasks requires us to develop and implement education and science communication materials related to synthetic biology. Find out more about us and our project on this [link](#).

## What do our education/science communication materials include?

Our materials include a series of four, one-page comic strips. The comic strips include six different types of microorganisms as the main characters. In each episode, the microorganisms are faced with a different problem and only one of them has the right “superpower” to solve it. That microorganism then shares its “superpower” with the other microorganisms and they will then solve the problem together. All the superpowers are inspired by the actual characteristics of microorganisms and the act of sharing the superpowers is inspired by the fundamental principle behind synthetic biology. Depending on your preference, we can offer our materials as a PowerPoint presentation and as a PDF (to be used on tablets).

# How to implement our education/science communication materials?

We believe that applying the concepts is the best and most effective ways of learning. By presenting complex concepts like synthetic biology in a story-telling manner and stimulating the children to have fun, we want to make science more accessible. Therefore, we suggest a way in which the material could be used in a group of students so that cooperation, creativity and scientific thinking are encouraged. A document providing more information about the implementation of our materials can be found attached to this e-mail (file name: ImplementationProposal.pdf).

As a part of the competition in which we are participating, we would need to have proof of how our materials were used before the **15th of October**. In the case that you decide to implement our materials, we would kindly appreciate it if you could provide us with some graphic outcomes of the activity (pictures of the drawings of the kids, filled questionnaires, but please do not send any pictures of kids, we would like to respect their privacy and infancy). We understand that the time is limited and we apologize for that, it is beyond our control.

If you like the sound of our project and would like to use these materials in your classroom, please reply to this email (igemteam@rug.nl) confirming your interest and we will be in touch shortly with further information. Furthermore, if you have any questions about our materials or project, then please do not hesitate to ask.

Thank you in advance.

On behalf of iGEM team Groningen 2021,

[your name]