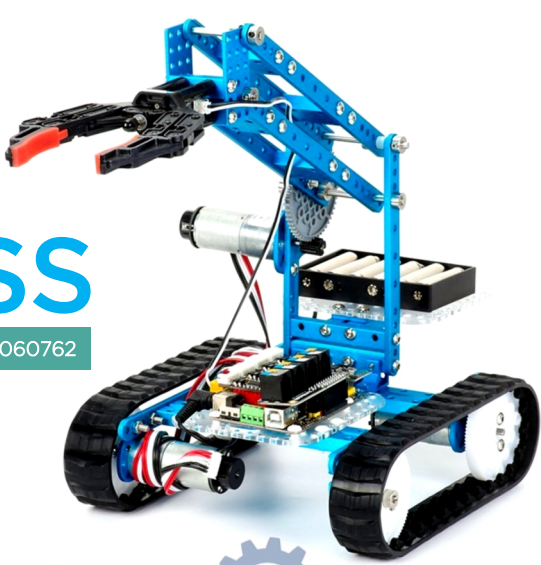










IN PROGRESS

A newsletter on Project 2019-1-PT01-KA201-060762

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INTRODUCTION



Our partnership combines the efforts of 8 organizations from 6 countries, representing different regions in Europe to enhance schools' capacity to provide inclusive and efficient STEAM education to students with special educational needs in order to enrich their learning experience and employability opportunities.

The figures and statistics show that the education system needs to create new educational approaches by providing learning activities to train and prepare students to deal with this reality. So, in STEAM4SEN project we put our efforts in the development of educational materials and guidelines for secondary school teachers, managers and students.

OBJECTIVES

The key objectives of the STEAM4SEN are:

- to implement a holistic approach in adopting innovative technologies and pedagogies in school education by defining an education kit that will encompass specific aspects regarding the practical application of STEAM subjects (with particular focus on robotics).
- to realise the implementation of the educational kit that will be focused mainly on developing skills deriving from STEAM education, with a further focus on empowerment of students with SEN.



INTELLECTUAL OUTPUTS



1. EDUCATIONAL KIT
for secondary school teachers aimed at providing both teachers and students with STEAM education.



2. LABORATORY: STEAM FOR ROBOTICS
which will provide experiential learning on an innovative pedagogical practice (robotics) allowing students to experiment and acquire new skills.



3. GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS
with main focus promotion of social inclusion through the adoption of innovative learning practices, addressing directly managers and policy makers, makers responsible for effective change and policy implementation at national and transnational level.

CURRENT STATE



STEAM 4 SEN is an Erasmus project that focuses on the need to enhance Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) education in schools, teachers' professional development and quality of teaching in this area. The project timeline is 2019 - 2022.

Partners met on a transnational meeting in October 2019 while monthly online meetings are organised to keep in touch and discuss the way forward on the current Intellectual Outputs.

So far, the project has focused on IO1, which involves the development of an Educational Toolkit. This toolkit will be used mainly in secondary schools aimed at providing both teachers and students STEAM education. Its focus will be on developing training materials and activities that suit students with special educational needs (SEN) in order to allow inclusive and efficient STEAM education. This will in turn help to enrich their learning experience and employability opportunities through the development of educational materials and guidelines for secondary school teachers, managers and students.

The Educational Toolkit is being developed by the DIMITRA, with the main support of MCAST and EFFEBI. Moreover, all partners are providing their expertise and support in order to effectively develop a relevant toolkit. Following the initial partner meeting, a report was compiled on the current state of play as regards to STEAM education in the individual countries taking part in IO1. The aim of the report was to compare the results of the research studies regarding STEAM education with a special focus on SEN students of the partner countries (Portugal, Malta, Greece, Bulgaria, Lithuania and Italy) and a list of challenges was compiled.

The main recommendations of the partner countries included:

- rethinking the curriculum and professional development for teachers about STEAM in terms of pedagogical approaches
- skills to successfully meet the modern demands of the STEAM community
- promotion of innovative teaching
- the development of appropriate equipment, materials and software programs to assist children with SEN.

The partners working on IO1 are currently exploring possible tools that could be incorporated within the toolkit.

Further information will be given in the next edition of this newsletter.



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