



NEWSLETTER ASEM

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Developing and improving the STEAM skills of students and teachers for curriculum innovation and sustainable development of higher education institutions and local businesses – (skills4future)

ERASMUS-EDU-2022-CBHE-STRAND-2, Project No. 101081787

Partners:

1. UNIVERSITY POLITEHNICA OF BUCHAREST (UPB), Romania – project coordinator
2. ACADEMY OF ECONOMIC STUDIES FROM BUCHAREST (ASE), Romania
3. LODZ UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY (TUL), Poland
4. ALECU RUSSO BALTI STATE UNIVERSITY (USARB), Republic of Moldova
5. MOLDOVA STATE UNIVERSITY (USM), Republic of Moldova
6. ACADEMY OF ECONOMIC STUDIES OF MOLDOVA (ASEM), Republic of Moldova
7. TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF MOLDOVA (TTUM), Republic of Moldova
8. CAHUL STATE UNIVERSITY "BOGDAN PETRICEICU HASDEU" (USCH), Republic of Moldova
9. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY OF MOLDOVA (CCI), Republic of Moldova
10. THE BUSINESS INCUBATOR CAHUL (ICAH), Republic of Moldova
11. NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH (INCE), Republic of Moldova

Associated Partners:

1. THE CENTER OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC POLICIES CONSENS (CSEP), Republic of Moldova
2. ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP (APA), Republic of Moldova
3. THE MOLDOVAN TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER NETWORK (RTTM), Republic of Moldova
4. CAHUL BUSINESS CENTER (CBC), Republic of Moldova
5. IFAD CONSOLIDATED PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION UNIT (CPIU IFAD), Republic of Moldova

Skills4future – “Developing and improving the STEAM skills of students and teachers for curriculum innovation and sustainable development of higher education institutions and local businesses“

PROJECT DURATIONS:

**01.01.2023/
31.12.2025**

Skills4future is a response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in a joint attempt to induce transformational change toward innovating curricula and promoting institutional reforms in HE Institutions in the Republic of Moldova (MD). It addresses the regional priority of sustainable growth and jobs, and fulfils the needs of local target group (students, teachers and practitioners), channels energy to generate solutions for lasting effects, improves peer-learning and transfer of experience, and strengthens the capacities of HEIs to be more responsive, especially in recent trends of a decline in human development, and economic inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis.

These are translated into impactful, measurable and scalable results and enhance the relevance of education with regard to the offer and uptake of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths (STEAM) skills, address the issues of unemployment, equipping local beneficiaries with competences for innovation and sustainable growth, as per:

- 71 local firms involved in need analysis and set up of Innovative STEAM curriculum.
- 240 students in B&A benefited from Innovative STEAM curriculum, per phase, by which 8 % disadvantages students.
- 120 trainee students enrolled in modernized internships, per phase.
- 60 academic staff from MD with STEAM skills and knowledge of new university governance systems.

These address the offer and uptake of local STEAM skills, in coherence with national priorities set by Moldova National Strategy for Education 2030, and contributing thereof to the fulfilment of overarching priority set by EU.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

O1. Improvement of existing bachelor curricula in B&A and introducing innovative STEAM skills elements enabling sustainable development and involvement of business in teaching and research, by active engagement of local students, teachers and stakeholders from business, labour market, education & research and civil society.

O2. Strengthen the innovation potential of HEIs from MD by institutionalization of Innovative STEAM curriculum in Business & Administration, enabling involvement of business in teaching and research, innovate internships within local enterprises, sustainable development, and enhancing the social impact of intervention.

O3. Build up the institutional capacity of HEIs from MD, and transfer of knowledge for innovation and sustainable development enabling institutional reforms, networking in research and academia, and modernization of university governance systems. 5 newly established Centres on STEAM Skills & Innovation, modernized and operational in the network of research, scientific and technological knowledge transfer in the Northern, Central and Southern parts of Moldova (1 new centre/each MD HEIs).

O4. Engagement in promoting curriculum innovation and STEAM skills education by fuelling local business, labour market, research, and community with entrepreneurial knowledge and practices to drive innovation and sustainable development of local businesses and organization.

COURSES UPDATED WITHIN THE PROJECT

Within the **skills4future** project, 5 university courses will be modernized:

- Entrepreneurship
- Business Culture;
- Business Risk Management;
- Innovation Management;
- Production and Operations Management.

Also, practical learning schemes will be modernized for:

- Specialty Internship.
- License Internship.



TRENING COURSES FOR TEACHERS

Between October 16 – 21, 2023, 6 members of the Management and Entrepreneurship Department of the ASEM, Faculty of Business and Business Administration, together with a group of professors from 5 partner Universities from the Republic of Moldova, participated in the training course "Innovation and STEAM skills development for Industry 4.0" at the Technical University of Lodz (Poland).

During this session, the participants learned and collaborated closely with international experts, for the improvement of the quality of education and the future preparation of students. These learning opportunities open up new horizons and fuel the desire for knowledge, especially regarding advances in sustainability, innovation and the transformation brought about by Industry 4.0.

WORKSHOPS on Steam Fields and ECONOMIC, SOCIAL and ENVIRONMENTAL Challenges

ECONOMIC: On Wednesday, April 5 2023, the Department of Management and Entrepreneurship, ASEM organized a **WORKSHOP on the current economic challenges** and the modernization of the curriculum for the students of the Business and Administration study program, bachelor level, by integrating STEAM skills. The event brought together representatives of the business environment, teachers and students of the Business and Administration study program. Discussions at the workshop focused on knowledge transfer and exchange of best practices to better adapt undergraduate curricula in Business and Administration to the needs of the local market and to design innovative solutions to the challenging issues of sustainable development and Industry 4.0.



ENVIRONMENTAL: The Department of Management and Entrepreneurship, ASEM successfully organized a workshop with the theme "**STEAM and Environmental Issue**". The event took place on May 15, 2023 and brought together representatives from the business environment, teachers and students interested in addressing ecological issues within the Business and Administration study program. The main objective of the workshop was the transfer of knowledge and the exchange of best practices to better adapt the curricula in Business and Administration to the needs of the local market and to contribute to solving the ecological problems facing our society. Two special guests with relevant communications in the field were present at the workshop: Dr. Aurelia Buhнару, director of the "E-CIRCULAR" TRAINING AND CONSULTING CENTER, and Mr. Sergiu Aftenev, director of Caparol Moldova. Their presence brought valuable insights and examples of good practices on the circular economy, innovative business models and green strategies.



SOCIAL: On September 27, 2023 the Management and Entrepreneurship department, ASEM hosted a workshop entitled "**STEAM Competencies and Social Challenges**". The workshop generated a special interest among the participants through the presentation by business experts of certain examples of good practices applied in our country. Nadejda DAVID, Chief Accounting Officer at ACE Cabling, Angela TOMAC, Recruitment Specialist at DRÄXLMAIER Group, and Diana BOGNIBOV, Human Resources Director at Zernoff, brought up topics related to STEAM skills and how they can contribute not only to sustainable development of business, but also of the community as a whole. During the workshop, research topics were identified in the STEAM fields, which are to be proposed to the students of the Business and Administration study program at ASEM.



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1st Follow-up Workshop

On December 14, the department of Management and Entrepreneurship, FBAA, ASEM hosted a special event – a Follow-up Workshop dedicated to the improvement of internships and the development of STEAM skills for students of the undergraduate program in Business and Administration. The discussions focused on the organization of internships for students and the identification of the essential skills that need to be developed in order to provide them with a meaningful formative experience. The students' experiences in the internships were also an essential part of the dialogue. By sharing these experiences, students brought up practical details and concrete situations encountered, also revealing their expectations from the internship.



1st Outreach Sessions



On 20.02.2024, the Center for Competences and Innovation "STEAM Innovation", the Department of Management and Entrepreneurship, FBAA, ASEM, successfully organized an information session about the Erasmus+ project Skills4future. Initially, the director of the Center for Competences and Innovation "STEAM Innovation", Irina Dorogaia, informed the public about the particularities of the Skills4future project, the basic objectives, the activities carried out during the first year of the project's launch. Mr. Șavga Ghenadie presented the results of the study carried out within the project and emphasized the importance of working with the business environment in order to achieve the expected results. Special guest, Mr. Felix Andreas Faehre, representative of the company Kaufland Romania&Moldova, addressed topics with reference to the particularities of business scaling in the age of digitalization.

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<https://skills4future.utm.md>

Lean Canvas Business Plan Competition, 2024

On Friday, March 15, 2024, 4 ASEM teams, composed of 2nd year students of the Business and Administration study program, participated in the Inter-university Business Plan Competition, part of the Erasmus+ Skills4Future project. Students from five universities from the Republic of Moldova participated in the competition: ASEM, USM, UASM, USARB and USCH with 20 plans. Contest participants had to develop business plans, within which all three aspects related to sustainability must be reflected: economic, social and environmental. The audience and the jury, made up of representatives of the partner European universities involved in the Skills4Future project, as well as the sponsors of the event, were impressed by the efforts and products created by the students, highlighting not only the business ideas, but also the concrete results



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