

## STEM in Early Childhood and Care (Greece)

### NATIONAL POLICIES



In the framework of the Pre-primary School Timetable, Skills Workshops are integrated into the classroom's educational program and are implemented during the morning operation. The Skills Workshops are an innovative, dynamic, didactic, educational activity, which consists of adding new units, with a focus on skills, utilizing modern and innovative learning methods. Skills of technology, engineering, and science are included in those skills with robotics (Modeling and simulation skills, Scientific/computational thinking) being a separate Thematic Unit.

### GOOD PRACTICES

- STEM.EDU.GR
- eTwinningSTEM "Yes! I Can Do It"
- Stem Tales
- Stem around for safety in town
- Let's go code



### CPD



STEM FOR TEACHERS (Training and Lifelong Learning Center - University of Western Macedonia): The program is addressed to teachers who wish to be trained and become certified robotics trainers

Kids First Coding and Robotics robotic kit: STEM Education (Organization of Educational Robotics, Science, Technology & Mathematics) develops comprehensive educational programs of annual duration for all levels of education.

## GAPS & ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENTS

- Existence of the appropriate material and technical equipment
- Creation of appropriate educational material, activities, software
- Existence of rooms for group collaboration activities
- Creation of training programs for teachers



## MAIN CHALLENGES

STEAM education and robotics are currently mostly focused on as extracurricular activities

- Almost half of preschool teachers are not aware of the STEAM approach
- The teacher's belief that the implementation of such programs should not be made mandatory, which contradicts the will of parents who believe that the approach should be implemented



## MORE

Some proposals are for the State to give the appropriate care for education, taking into account the approach and designing a framework for its inclusion at an optional or mandatory level, by training teachers, by providing the appropriate STEAM material for actions or laboratories or by giving incentives to private companies that have them. In the field of research, more studies should be done, especially in preschool education but also at younger ages, for children in kindergarten.