



Educational Conference entitled “Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction Education into the Teaching of Different Subjects: STEAME Approaches, Practices and Examples”

The Cyprus Pedagogical Institute of the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth, in collaboration with the Cyprus Mathematical Society, organised an Educational Conference entitled “Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction Education (DRRE) into the Teaching of Different Subjects: STEAME Approaches, Practices and Examples” on Saturday, 6 June 2026, at the Institute’s premises in Nicosia. The Conference was held within the framework of the European project “STEAME for Saving Life: Guidelines for Developing and Implementing Disaster Risk Reduction Education in the School Curriculum” and aimed to familiarise educators at all levels of education with contemporary scientific and pedagogical approaches, methods and practices for integrating DRRE into curriculum subjects.

At the opening of the Conference, a welcome address by Dr Elena Hadjicacou, Director of the Cyprus Pedagogical Institute, was read by Dr Christina Papasolomontos, Head of the Institute’s Documentation Department. Dr Gregoris Makrides, President of the Cyprus Mathematical Society, also delivered a welcome address. The speakers highlighted the pivotal role of education in developing the knowledge, skills and attitudes that strengthen prevention, preparedness, safety and resilience within both the school and the wider community. They also emphasised the importance of DRRE as a dynamic, cross-curricular field that can be meaningfully embedded in the teaching of existing subjects.

The conference continued with a keynote presentation by Dr Christos Dimopoulos, Associate Professor at the European University Cyprus, Director of Scientific Affairs for Civil Protection and co-founder of the CERIDES Centre of Excellence, entitled “Managing Disasters Caused by Natural Hazards: The Need to Integrate Relevant Educational Activities into Basic Education”. Dr Dimopoulos presented the scientific framework for risk management, stressing that the consequences of a natural hazard are shaped by the exposure and vulnerability of individuals and communities, as well as by social, technical and organisational factors. He

further underscored the need to move away from an approach focused primarily on responding to consequences and towards a culture of prevention, preparedness and resilience. Within this context, basic education can make a decisive contribution by fostering, from the earliest school years, an understanding of risk, responsible decision-making and the skills required for a safe and appropriate response.

Building on this scientific framework, Dr Eleni Papageorgiou, Education Officer at the Cyprus Pedagogical Institute, delivered a presentation entitled “Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction Education into Curriculum Subjects: Guidelines and Examples”. A pedagogical learning model was presented in which natural hazards serve as an authentic context for achieving both curriculum objectives and objectives related to prevention, safety and responsible behaviour. The principal stages of instructional design were examined, with particular emphasis on inquiry, problem-solving, storytelling, simulation, mapping, and the use of digital tools and augmented- and virtual-reality applications. These approaches were illustrated through specific examples drawn from a range of curriculum subjects, demonstrating in practical terms how DRRE can be integrated into classroom teaching. Examples of learning products included thematic maps, graphs, experiments, digital representations, three-dimensional models and action plans, all of which provided evidence of both the achievement of learning objectives and an understanding of prevention and safety issues.

A particularly important part of the Conference was devoted to presentations of teaching interventions by educators who had participated in the “STEAME for Saving Life” project training programme. The educators presented activities and teaching scenarios that they had designed and implemented in their schools, linking subject-specific learning objectives with prevention, preparedness, safety and resilience. These interventions demonstrated the potential of inquiry-based, collaborative and problem-based learning, as well as the contribution of digital tools to the exploration of authentic social and environmental issues. They also showed that DRRE can make a substantial contribution to the development of skills in data analysis, critical thinking, collaboration and responsible decision-making, while simultaneously strengthening students’ active citizenship.

The Conference marked the completion of the project’s educational activities in Cyprus. A corresponding conference was subsequently held in Kozani, further supporting the dissemination of the project’s ideas across the two educational communities. The event

provided a valuable opportunity for scientific updating, pedagogical reflection and the exchange of experience, while highlighting the role of schools in fostering an enduring culture of prevention, safety, social responsibility and resilience. Through its participation in the “STEAME for Saving Life” project, the Cyprus Pedagogical Institute continues to support the educational community by providing evidence-informed resources, contemporary pedagogical approaches and practical examples of implementation. The Institute also extends its sincere thanks to all educators who participated in the Conference.