

Press Release

Subject: Launch of the Educational Programme STEAME-DRREC in Schools in Greece and Cyprus

We are delighted to announce the launch of the European programme, Erasmus+, **STEAME-DRREC (STEAME - DisasterRiskReductionandClimateChangeEducation)**, which aims to integrate education on reducing risks from natural disasters and climate change into the education system of primary schools in Greece and Cyprus.

The STEAME-DRREC programme aims to empower students, teachers and the wider educational community with the skills and knowledge necessary to understand and address the impacts of natural disasters and climate change. Through the STEAME methodology, which combines the sciences with the arts and entrepreneurship, students will be able to develop critical thinking, creativity and practical skills in an interdisciplinary and collaborative environment. The STEAME-DRREC programme includes a series of carefully designed actions, aiming to integrate education on reducing risks from natural disasters and climate change into primary school. These actions will be implemented in schools in the Regional Unit of Kozani in Greece and in schools in Cyprus, seeking to create a model educational framework that can be extended to other educational communities.

The first meeting of the project was successfully held on 20 September 2024, in Kozani. The meeting was attended by the following partners: the Competence Center for a Sustainable and Resilient Built Environment Using Smart Technologies (SURE), a spin-off of the University of Western Macedonia, represented by Dr Olga Markogiannaki, Dr Sotiria Stefanidou and Dr Anna Karatzetzou; the Directorate of Primary Education of Kozani, headed by Dr Athanasios Papaevangelou, together with representatives of the educational community; the Cyprus Mathematical Society, represented by Dr Grigorios Makrides (President-Coordinator) and Andri Charalambous; and the Cyprus Pedagogical Institute, represented by Dr Eleni Papageorgiou.

Initially, the development of interactive and collaborative activities combining science, technology, engineering, arts, mathematics and entrepreneurship (STEAME) with education for addressing natural disasters and climate change (DRREC) is planned. These activities will be designed to meet the needs of primary school students (from grade 1 to grade 6), promoting their active participation through innovative teaching methods. At the same time, digital tools such as educational software, digital learning platforms and multimedia will be used to enhance student interaction and engagement in the learning process.

Subsequently, a training seminar will be held for teachers, school principals and heads of educational organizations. Through this seminar, teachers will acquire the necessary

knowledge and skills to teach topics on natural disasters and climate change in creative and interdisciplinary ways. The seminar will include theoretical training, practical examples and guidance on integrating the activities into the curriculum, as well as the use of digital tools and educational materials.

The pilot implementation of the activities will take place in selected primary schools in the Regional Unit of Kozani and in Cyprus. This implementation will allow the evaluation of the effectiveness and acceptance of the programme by students and teachers. During the pilot implementation, data will be collected through questionnaires, interviews and classroom observations, in order to record the reactions of students and teachers, as well as the challenges and advantages observed during the implementation of the new activities. The evaluation findings will be used for the final improvement and revision of the guidelines and activities, before the wide-scale implementation of the programme in more schools.

Timeline

The programme will begin in September 2024 and will be completed in August 2026. The main milestones of the project are the training of teachers, the pilot implementation of the activities in schools, and the dissemination of the final results.

Collaborating Organizations

The programme is coordinated by the Cyprus Mathematical Society and implemented by the Competence Center for a Sustainable and Resilient Built Environment Using Smart Technologies SURE, a spin-off of the University of Western Macedonia (CompetenceCenterforaSustainableandResilientBuiltEnvironmentusingSmartTechnologies), with the participation of the Cyprus Pedagogical Institute and the Directorate of Primary Education of Kozani.

Benefits of the Programme

The programme offers multiple benefits, such as strengthening teaching staff by equipping them with innovative tools and methods for teaching topics related to natural disasters and climate change, developing students' skills to prepare them for future challenges by focusing on collaboration, critical thinking and innovation, as well as increasing social awareness of environmental issues and climate change in the wider community.

For more information about the STEAME-DRREC programme, you can contact us at info@cc-sure.com