

NEWSLETTER

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Strengthening collaboration for gender equality in STEM: European partners meet in Lisbon within the STEAM Coach project



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STEAM Coach partners meet in Lisbon to advance inclusive STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) pathways across Europe.

The STEAM Coach partnership brings together organisations with complementary expertise from across Europe, including Brainport Eindhoven (Project Lead – The Netherlands), Bimec Ltd. (Bulgaria), Mindshift (Portugal), Internationaler Bund (Germany), and AMUEBLA (Spain). Together, they are working to support systemic change in vocational education and training by developing innovative coaching approaches and inclusive learning solutions.

On 8–9 May 2025, the partners of the European project STEAM Coach gathered in Lisbon, Portugal, for their first face-to-face transnational project meeting. Hosted by Mindshift, the meeting represented a significant step forward in strengthening collaboration among consortium members and aligning strategic efforts to support gender-inclusive pathways in STEM education and vocational training.

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From vision to action: Shaping the STEAM Coach methodology and digital tools

The meeting provided an important opportunity to review progress achieved during the initial phase of the project and to jointly plan the next stages of implementation. A central focus of the discussions was the first draft of the STEAM Coach Methodology and the accompanying resource kit, both designed to equip educators, trainers and organisations with practical tools to promote diversity and encourage more women and girls to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics.

Partners also explored the development of the project's digital learning hub, which will serve as an accessible platform for training materials and collaborative learning resources. In parallel, the consortium examined the structure and content of the continuous professional development programme for diversity, aimed at strengthening the competences of leaders, teachers and human resources professionals in fostering inclusive educational and workplace environments.

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Bridging national expertise for European impact

An important aspect of the meeting was the clarification of the role of the national expert task force groups, whose contributions will support the validation and refinement of project outcomes. The consortium emphasised the need for coordinated and consistent feedback across national contexts to ensure that the STEAM Coach tools respond effectively to real challenges faced by learners and institutions across Europe. Beyond the substantive work, the sessions addressed key organisational aspects, including communication, coordination and risk management. Partners recognised that clear timelines, transparent collaboration and proactive information sharing are essential to maintain momentum and ensure timely delivery of results.

The meeting also served as a valuable space for strengthening interpersonal connections within the consortium. Through interactive activities and collaborative discussions, participants were able to build trust, exchange experiences and reinforce their shared commitment to promoting equality and diversity in STEM-related education and career pathways. With this first transnational meeting successfully completed, the consortium continues to move forward with renewed motivation and a clear roadmap for the upcoming months. Through collaboration, innovation and a strong focus on gender equality, STEAM Coach aims to contribute to building a more diverse and future-oriented STEM ecosystem across Europe.

By breaking down barriers and fostering diversity, STEAM Coach empowers women leaders