

Local STE(A)M education policy (SteamonEdu 2020/2021 Blended Course Assignment)

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Title: STE(A) practices for the Hellenic Open University

(‘At the moment this is not an officially approved policy. It is an assignment done as part of the STEAMonEDU Blended Course 2021. It contains useful insights and might be adopted at a later stage by national or local authorities’)

Hi. I am Dr Margarita Kefalaki and I am an member of the Hellenic Open University educators. To be more precise I teach at the master course of cultural units’ management, which I actually represent.

Because of the current situation (COVID-19), the system of higher education understood the need of remote learning promotion and innovation. At my university academics and students need to be specialized in STE(A)M techniques and procedures. STE(A)M education policy should be taught, used and promoted in a more official way by all the different stakeholders of my university (administrators, educators, students...)

We want to reach out all interested stakeholders (administrators, educators, students) and make them understand the importance of integrating STEAMS as they (we) would all benefit from such an innovative learning approach.

Integrating such an innovative practice is actually a need, especially when remote teaching and learning has entered our education practice. The organization of workshops/ seminars, conferences, and campaigns on this them is important to start the process. Of course we should engage people that are familiar with STEAM practices, who are able to well promote it and also impact the needed stakeholders.

Workshops should be organized in primary, secondary schools and universities. The initial team can start by initiating a group of people with knowledge on themes like

communication, educational promotion, etc. Additionally contacts with the ministry of education is needed.

About 20 thousand Euros is a good start for initiating the program that can come from European projects, the Greek government and some private institutions and individuals that are interested to implicate.

The time required cannot be more than two (2) years, as we have understood extreme important need of such innovative practices.

The workshops/ seminars (remote or face to face) will take place three times a year (March- June- November) and it will require 2 month organizing.

The conference (remote or face to face) will take place once a year on October.

The campaigns will be organized by each different school and will be promoted throughout the year (posters, press releases, informative notes to all academics ...)

Delays of this policy are not something we are afraid of, judging from the urgency of providing to our students and educators a better future. In case there is actually any negative publicity on the theme, we will provide press releases and informative notes that will resolve any fake news or effort to promote negative impacts out of this practice.