

Elevator Pitch

Hello. My name is Stavroula Skiada. I am an ICT and Computer Science teacher at the 8th Primary School of Nea Filadelfeia in Athens and I am the representative of my school colleagues.

International humanitarian crises are changing the nature of classroom dynamics. In our school a significant percentage of student force is refugees fleeing war in countries such as Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq. These students present poor academic performance and inadequate socialization due to poverty, language barriers and low levels of preschool enrollment even if they often hold high aspirations for themselves. This can change with our STE(A)M Education policy.

And how exactly this is going to happen?

With STE(A)M workshops, extra-curricular activities and teamwork using an instructional approach that builds from their home languages and cultures with the help of the municipality's translators and the welcoming class teacher.

With co-teaching implemented with older refugee students with previous STE(A)M learning experiences and the teacher of the class, taking advantage of their rich cultural and linguistic resources in order to engage them in developing STE(A)M literacy.

With teacher training at the beginning of the school year. A team of 4-5 teachers will be introduced to the STE(A)M educational policy and STE(A)M methodologies, and the planning of activities will be implemented with the collaboration of the translators and the welcoming class teacher.

With new digital and scientific equipment financed through the funds of our school and donations from the parent-teacher association.

We want our refugee students to improve their academic performance and to obtain a deep appreciation for and interest in STE(A)M, and a sense of self-efficacy in being capable of pursuing STE(A)M career if they choose to.

The proposed STE(A)M educational policy will take place from January until June each school year. The preparation of the STE(A)M activities, the teacher's training and the programming of the translators' visits to school will take place from September to December.