

STEM COMMUNITIES NETWORK

(SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, MATHEMATICS)



The project



This is a project by IDESCOM Association to create a Network of STEM Communities through Regional and Local Hubs, with the aim of promoting systematic, coordinated, broad and sustainable multidisciplinary collaboration for the effective development of skills in the much-needed areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

The promotion of scientific literacy, employability, and innovation, in alignment with national and European agendas and programs, and with a focus on inclusion (girls, rural areas, NEETs, people with disabilities) are the goals to be achieved.

The most immediate impact of a Stem Communities Network

- ❑ Connection to networks, structures, and partnerships that, at the national level, focus on the development of STEM approaches, whether through school/academic or professional channels.
- ❑ Access to educational, technological, and scientific research resources at the national, European, and international levels—exclusive resources, with greater breadth and modernity, and proven success across different learning models.
- ❑ Integration of best practices and experiences, particularly through cross-cutting initiatives and/or projects that are scientifically, culturally, and/or geographically related.
- ❑ Active contribution to the development of STEM skills, identified as necessary for human capital to be recruited by industry, through differentiated training proposals within an appropriate timeframe.



What motivated IDESCOM to launch this project?

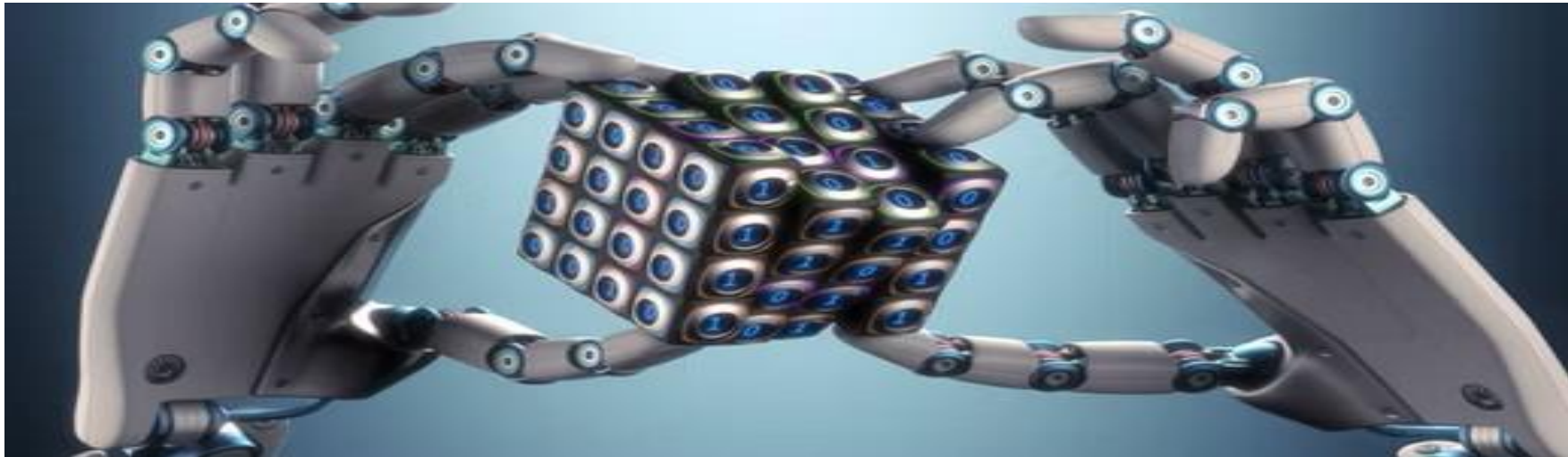
Over more than a dozen years of activity in educational projects, IDESCOM has identified as one of the main challenges to be overcome by the education system—which, it's important to keep in mind, is aligned with EU Member States—a proven deficit in STEM skills and the lack of attractiveness of training aimed at acquiring these skills among a significantly growing number of young learners.



What exactly do we want with this project?

To create a Network of STEM Communities (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), which aims to promote the training of diverse groups in scientific, technical, and technological fields, as a stimulus for employability and a determining factor for innovation.

We believe that, through a network of STEM communities, structured with people and institutions dedicated to the advancement of these disciplines—from local and regional authorities and decision-makers, teachers and students, professionals and investors—by joining forces, we will create greater and better learning opportunities, foster the growth of successful partnerships, and develop projects that will contribute to the appreciation of STEM in society.



How does this initiative differ from other existing STEM projects?

- ❑ First, the concept of community. Secondly for creating new STEM projects from scratch, but also integrating, deepening, and coordinating with ongoing projects in this field, with the aim of serving as inspiration and driving force for the effective creation of STEM communities.
- ❑ Furthermore, it focuses on three aims that we consider essential:
 - Inclusion: of disadvantaged groups, or those receiving less attention (women, rural areas, NEET youth, people with disabilities, unemployed youth, and older youth, etc.);
 - Sustainable partnerships: between schools/universities/other training institutions and the business community in close proximity, with identified human capital needs for scientific, technical, and technological capabilities;
 - Alignment: with national and European agendas and programs, within the framework of a training ecosystem with a strong and decisive presence at the local, municipal, and intermunicipal levels.

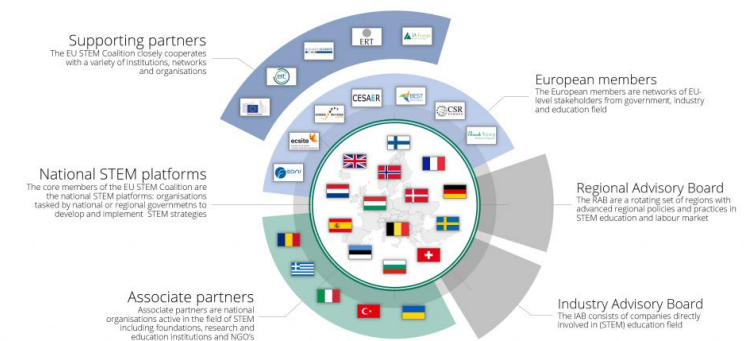


How do we intend to implement this project?

- ❑ The project should be:
 - based on an extensive portfolio of activities and programs;
 - framed within strong strategic partnerships;
 - under scientific and pedagogical guidance;
 - within a scope that, being objectively targeted at communities in our country, does not exclude the possibility of becoming a frontline partner in a supranational project, with entities with similar orientation and objectives.

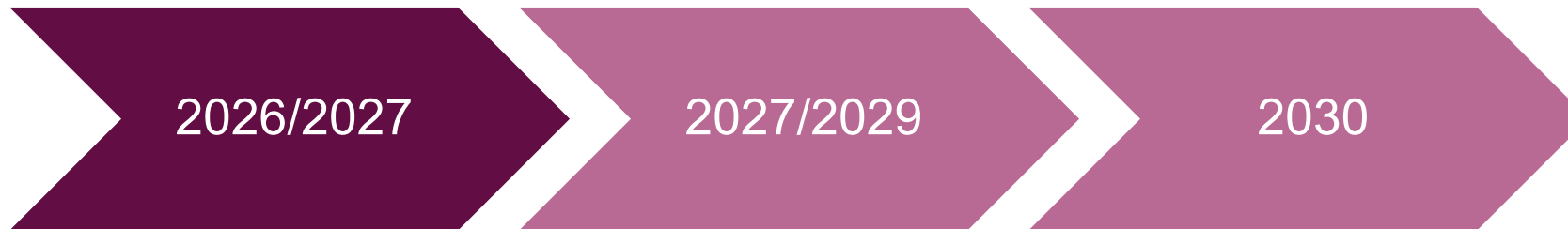


The EU STEM Coalition Network



What is the expected duration of this project?

- ❑ While our goal, as the successful outcome of this project, is for the STEM communities to be created to follow their own path after the project's development, we intend to implement it within a 48-month timeframe: with a 12-month pilot phase and a 36-month in-depth and expansion phase. The project aims that the network of STEM communities created be active in 2030 and beyond.
- ❑ The pilot phase, which we understand can begin as early as 2026, will essentially consist of publicizing the project, obtaining support and defining/establishing partnerships for its implementation
- ❑ Development of the Project between 2027/2029



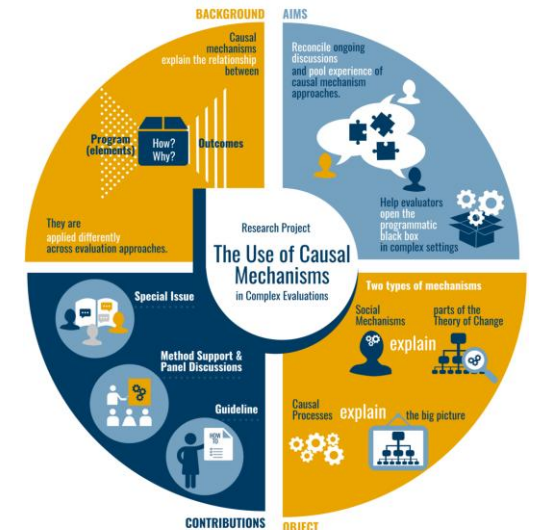
What are the project's anticipated funding sources?

- ☐ National and EU programs (education, inclusion, digital, STEM).
- ☐ Municipal budgets and CIMs (spaces, utilities, co-financing).
- ☐ Companies (sponsorships, donations, on-the-job training programs, use of facilities and laboratories, merit awards, etc.).
- ☐ Fundraising and crowdfunding for local projects; donations; financial contributions from professional associations, representatives of economic sectors, and others.
- ☐ Revenue from events organized by STEM communities.
- ☐ Other...

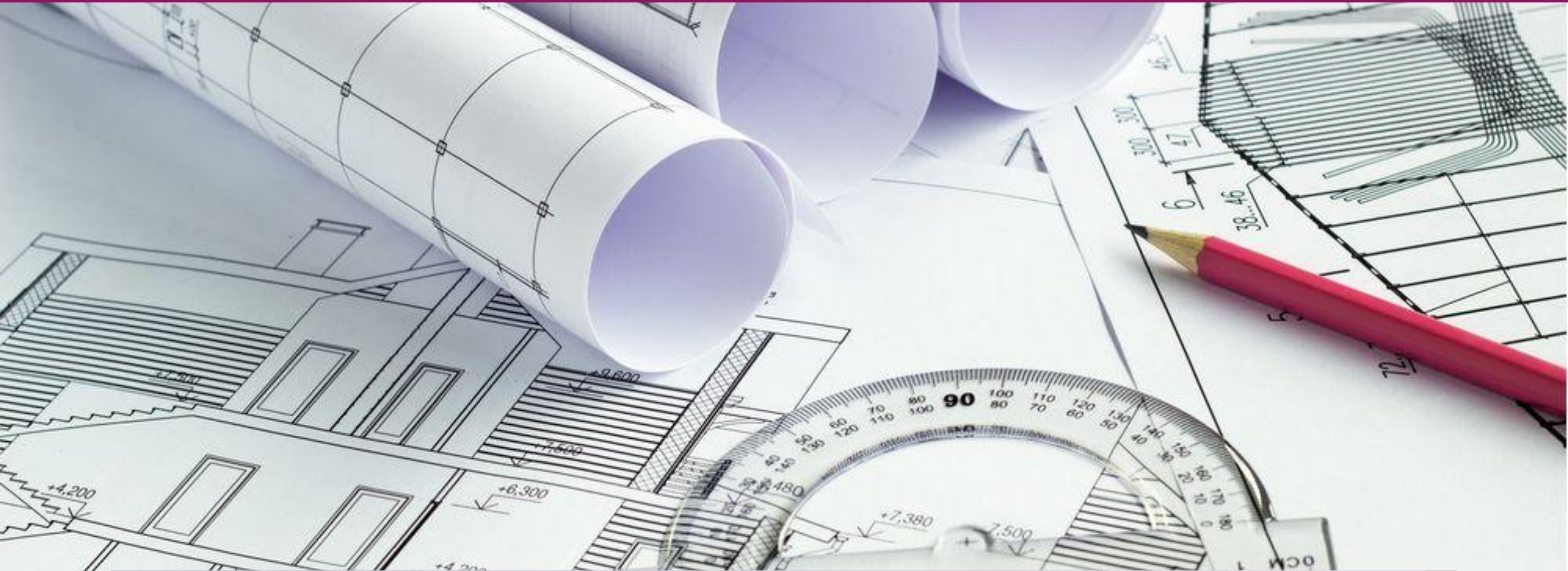


What monitoring, evaluation, and learning mechanisms are in place?

- ❑ Pedagogical audits;
- ❑ Periodic surveys;
- ❑ Focus groups;
- ❑ Public reports (half-yearly and annual);
- ❑ Continuous improvement cycle to monitor key indicators (e.g., number of communities created, number of students served, inclusion, retention, and learning rates, pre- and post-STEM pathways, employability, satisfaction, etc.);
- ❑ Other applicable...



How is the project's sustainability planned?



Specific criteria established by each STEM community.

Appropriate response within the framework of the autonomy and resources of each community to identified needs, goals and projects.

IDESCOM team

Associated partners



Isabel Soares Carneiro
President



Carlos Rebelo Peres
Vice-President



Teresa Marto Augusto
Vice-President