Erasmus+ BLOOMING Project: LTT (Teacher Training) Report
Project Website: www.erasmusblooming.eu
Training Event: Palermo, 11-13 December 2024
Grant Agreement: 2022-1-EL01-KA220-HED-000088745

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1. Overview of the Training Session
The BLOOMING project's teacher training in Palermo aimed to promote inclusion and diversity in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) education by empowering educators with resources and strategies to foster equitable learning environments. The initiative is designed to inspire educators to challenge gender stereotypes, close the gender gap in STEAM, and encourage young women to pursue STEAM careers.
The training focused on providing educators with practical tools, such as the **BLOOMING Toolkit** and **Storybook**, to facilitate engaging, inclusive, and culturally sensitive STEAM teaching.

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2. Participation Overview
- **Total Participants:** 19 teachers/educators/staff
- **Countries Represented:**
    o Italy: 21%
    o Greece: 37%
    o Ireland: 21%
    o Romania: 21%
- **Training Format:**
    o Face-to-face: 100%

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3. Background

This face-to-face international training took place in Palermo, from 11 to 13 December 2024.

Based on this training, and taking into account the feedback from team members and participant teachers, a training package has been developed, to be adapted and used in each country to hold face-to-face and online training programs for educators and graduate students in education about the importance of promoting inclusion and diversity in a STEAM classroom. The training program should be adaptable to work as a standalone course for continuous professional development of educators, or to be incorporated in the curriculum of teachers' initial education.

Objectives

- Raise awareness among educators on the importance of promoting inclusion in STEAM
- Introduce the resources produced in the Blooming project and especially Blooming toolkit and Blooming storybook, as tools for promoting inclusion and diversity in STEAM
- Develop the competencies of educators to implement in their classrooms activities that promote inclusion and diversity in STEAM for ages 14 and above

In particular the three-day training activities has been organized in the following way:
Day 1

Understanding the need for promoting inclusion in STEAM

Day 2

Practical tools and resources to promote inclusion in STEAM provided by the Blooming project

Day 3

Planning and evaluating educational activities to promote inclusion in STEM

PROGRAM

Day 1 – 11 December 2024

"**Aula Capitò**", Department of Engineering -Polytechnic Campus, Building 7 – Viale delle Scienze, 90128, Palermo

09.00 – 09.30	Arrival and welcome
09.30 – 10.00	Introduction to the training, objectives, agenda, and practical aspects. Introduction of participants and of their context of work (Ice-breaking activities)
10.00 – 11.00	The gender gap in STEAM
11.00 – 11.30	Coffee Break
11.30 – 13.00	Causes of the gender gap in STEAM
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch at the Sturìa Coffee Food & Drinks

14.00 – 15.30	Strategies and approaches to address the gender gap and promote inclusion and diversity in STEAM
15.30 – 15.45	Break
15.45 – 17.00	Strategies and approaches to address the gender gap and promote inclusion and diversity in STEAM
17.00	Feedback and closing of the day

Day 2 – 12 December 2024

"**Aula Capitò**", Department of Engineering -Polytechnic Campus, Building 7 – Viale delle Scienze, 90128, Palermo

09.00 – 09.30	Overview of the Blooming project and resources
09.30 – 11.00	Blooming Toolkit (hand in instructions document to the teachers)
11.00 – 11.30	Coffee Break
11.30 – 13.00	Blooming Toolkit (Blooming Storybook and instructions document to the teachers)
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch at the Sturìa Coffee Food & Drinks
14.00 – 15.30	Using Blooming resources in practice
15.30 – 15.45	Break

15.45 – 17.00	Evaluating the impact of the activities aimed at promoting inclusion and diversity in STEAM
17.00	Feedback and closing of the day and the evaluation forms ready for the teachers to use in their classroom - plan for the 3rd day for teachers

Day 3 – 13 December 2024 (TPM in the morning & Training in the afternoon)

2nd TPM :

"**Sala riunioni**", First floor, Department of Engineering -Polytechnic Campus, Building 7 – Viale delle Scienze, 90128, Palermo

AGENDA **TPM** (only staff)

09.00 – 09.30	WP1- Discussion
09.30 – 10.00	WP2- Discussion
10.00 – 10.30	WP3- Discussion
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee break
11.00 – 11.30	WP4- Discussion
11.30 – 12.00	WP5- Discussion
12.00-13.00	Reporting planning and final remarks

13.00 – 14.00	Lunch at the Sturìa Coffee Food & Drinks

Day 3 – 13 December 2024 (TPM in the morning & Training in the afternoon)

In the Hotel (only teachers):

10.00 – 11.00	Work to plan future activities	All teachers in country teams
11.00-11.30	Break	
11.30 – 13.00	Work to plan future activities	All teachers in country teams

"**Aula Specializzazione Fisica Medica**", Department of Physics and Chemistry "E.Segré", Viale delle Scienze Building 7, 90128- Palermo

14.30 – 15.30	Presentation and discussion of the plans with the whole group. Ideas for overcoming challenges and mobilizing local support
15.30 – 15.45	Break
15.45 – 17.30	Feedback and evaluation of the training
17.30	Closing of the training

4. Conclusion

The teacher training in Palermo demonstrated significant progress in promoting gender inclusion within STEAM education. The 12 participating teachers, representing different European countries, engaged actively in both the theoretical and practical sessions, and their feedback highlighted the relevance and applicability of the BLOOMING resources to diverse school contexts. Participants found the training impactful and expressed a high level of preparedness to implement the BLOOMING materials in their classrooms, emphasizing that the hands-on methodology and the sharing of experiences among peers were particularly valuable.

Beyond strengthening teachers' confidence, the training fostered a sense of belonging to a wider European community of practice, where educators are united by the shared mission of advancing gender equality in STEAM. This collaborative spirit was reinforced by the exchange of best practices, discussions on classroom challenges, and the co-creation of lesson ideas tailored to different cultural and educational settings.

To build on this momentum, it is crucial to further enhance the interactivity and adaptability of the resources, address gender stereotypes more explicitly in classroom practices, and provide continuous mentoring and follow-up opportunities for educators. Sustained professional development, combined with ongoing peer networking, will help ensure that the impact of the training extends well beyond the initial sessions.

This initiative not only supports the goals of the EU Gender Equality Strategy 2020–2025 but also contributes directly to the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG4 (Quality Education) and SDG5 (Gender Equality). By equipping teachers with inclusive pedagogical tools and fostering a culture of equity, the project helps pave the way for a sustainable future where all students—girls and boys alike—can fully participate in and contribute to STEAM education.