

E-newsletter USCH

No.01/2024



Project overview

Business and Administration is the undergraduate higher education program whose curriculum will be modernized within the project *Developing and improving the STEAM skills of students and teachers for curriculum innovation and sustainable development of higher education institutions and local businesses*, 101081787 – ²skills4future².

The general objective of the Skills4future project consists in the integration of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) skills through the Economic, Environmental and Social aspects, in the curricula for the students of the "Business and administration" specialty, first cycle bachelor.

Through the implementation of the project, 5 university courses will be modernized at USC: Entrepreneurial Basics, Human Resources Management, Quality Management, Innovation Management, Production Management, 2 teacher training sessions will be organized in Romania and Poland and a Center for "STEAM" learning that will enable the formation, development and implementation of STEAM skills.

The specific objectives of the project aim to involve representatives of the entrepreneurial environment in promoting curricular innovation and STEAM skills education. At the "Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu" State University in Cahul, these objectives will be achieved in partnership with the Cahul Business Incubator. Business și Administrare este programul de studii superioare de licență al cărui curriculum va fi modernizat în cadrul proiectului *Developing and improving the STEAM skills of students and teachers for curriculum innovation and sustainable development of higher education institutions and local businesses*, 101081787 – ²skills4future².



Skills4future project

ERASMUS-EDU-2022-CBHE-STRAND-2

Developing and improving the STEAM skills of students and teachers for curriculum

Cahul State University

"Bogdan Petriceicu

Hasdeu" from Cahul

Republic of Moldova





Economic: On Thursday, April 06, 2023, within the Faculty of Economics, Engineering and Applied Sciences, the Workshop on STEAM fields and the ECONOMIC challenges faced by the business environment in the region was held. The activity was focused on the tripartite meeting - the business environment - teachers - students of the study program Business and Administration and Engineering and Management in the Food Industry. The representatives of the business environment described the challenges and risks they are currently facing and what skills need to be developed in future graduates. The workshop discussions focused on the transfer of knowledge and the exchange of best practices to better adapt bachelor's programs in business and administration to the needs of the local market and to design innovative solutions to the challenging problems of sustainable development and Industry 4.0.

Environmental: For the workshop on May 10, 2023, the theme was chosen: Sustainable use of natural resources: resource use, pollution and environmental impact. The activity was attended by representatives of the agricultural and industrial sectors, specialists in the field of environmental protection. The meeting was focused on the exchange of experience between representatives of the business environment, specialists and environmental students and teachers. Farmers and experts in the field of environmental protection, presented the environmental problems they face, but also solutions that we can develop together. Following the discussions, new research themes for the year and undergraduate theses in STEAM fields will be formulated.



**WORKSHOPS
on Steam Fields**

**ECONOMIC, SOCIAL
and ENVIRONMENTAL
Challenges**

Social: The event took place at the Business Incubator Cahul, 21-22 September 2023, bringing together representatives of the local public administration, NGOs, business associations, entrepreneurs, teachers and students. During the Workshop, social challenges at the local, regional and national level were discussed and analyzed in the context of sustainable development. The works of the Workshop provided the opportunity to proactively interact in an interdisciplinary environment and to achieve a knowledge transfer with colleagues, experts and practitioners in the field. The results of the workshop demonstrated the importance of developing the STEAM skills of students and future specialists in the field of business administration, in order to be able to face multiple social challenges, which are oriented towards a sustainable, collaborative and innovative development. In this context, the STEAM skills instilled in students, based on the integration of knowledge and skills in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics, will certainly prepare them to face these challenges in the labor market.



Innovation and STEAM skills development for Industry 4.0

October 16th – 21st, 2023



1ST TOT SESSION FOR PROFESSIONALIZATION OF ACADEMIC STAFF

Between October 16 and 21, 2023, 6 members of Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu State University in Cahul, the members of the implementation team, together with a group of professors from 5 partner universities from Republic of Moldova, participated in the training course, intended for teaching staff, with the generic "Innovation and development of STEAM skills for Industry 4.0" at Technical University of Lodz (Poland). During this session, participants learned and collaborated closely with international experts, for improvement the quality of education and the future preparation of students. These learning opportunities open up new horizons and fuel the desire for knowledge, especially regarding the progress in sustainability, innovation and the transformation brought about of Industry 4.0.





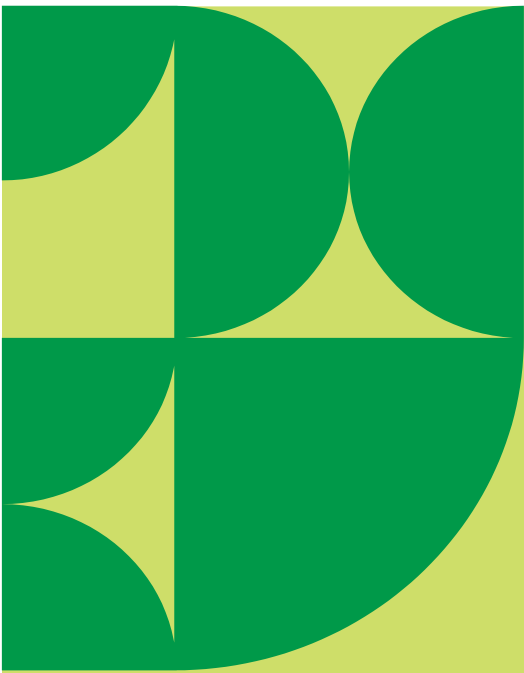
1st FOLLOW-UP WORKSHOP

On March 20, 2024, the Faculty of Economics, Engineering and Applied Sciences of the "Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu" State University in Cahul, held the first follow-up session within the Skills4future project. In this session students, teachers and entrepreneurs discussed the connection between educational content with STEM elements (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and entrepreneurship and how these two fields intersect and complement each other. Also, during this follow-up session, the possibilities for entrepreneurs to access grants from the Organization for the Development of Entrepreneurship (ODA) were discussed, and among the priority directions are the STEM Industries: science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The participants in the discussions were thus able to confirm that STEM education fosters the cultivation of critical thinking and problem solving, provides knowledge and technical skills necessary for technological development and innovation, and entrepreneurs who understand these concepts can create innovative products and services that meet market demand and can identify business opportunities in STEM fields such as technology, biotechnology or engineering and build successful businesses in these sectors. In conclusion, integrating STEM elements into educational content and promoting entrepreneurship among young people can generate innovation, economic development and solving complex social and technological problems in contemporary society.



1st OUTREACH SESSIONS

On February 26, 2024, the **First Outreach Sessions** took place. This session aimed to share the institutional experience regarding the measures taken regarding the modernization of the curriculum of the Business and Administration program with STEAM elements, as well as to carry out relevant discussions about the importance of STEAM skills for modern companies to connect to the values of sustainability and Industry 4.0.



STEAM DISCOVERY WEEKS

LEAN CANVAS BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION



Friday, March 15, 2024, 4 USCH teams, composed from the II and III year students of the Faculty of Economics, Engineering and Applied Sciences, from the study programs Business and Administration and Engineering and Management in the Food Industry, participated in the Interuniversity Business Plan Competition. Students from five universities from the Republic of Moldova participated as competitors: ASEM, USM, UASM, USARB and USCH with 20 plans. The audience and the jury, consisting of representatives of European partner universities involved in the Skills4Future project as well as in the sponsors of the event, were impressed by the efforts made and student-created products, highlighting not only the business ideas, but also the concrete result. During the competition, 4 business plans were presented:

1st team: UNCIUC Alina, GÎSCĂ Ian, IEȘANU Natalia, Business and Administration study program, third year, name of the business plan "Entrepreneurship as a way of socio-economic inclusion of disadvantaged people: cultivation and commercialization of mushrooms"

2nd team: UNCIUC Alina, IEȘANU Natalia, ISUMBELI Tatiana, PREPELIȚĂ Ionela, Business and Administration study program, third year, name of the business plan "Car wash - Eco Friendly"

3rd team: GARBUZ Victor, CHIRILENCO Aculina, RANEA Eduard, MUNTEANU Elena, Business and Administration study program, 3rd year, name of the business plan "Launching a milk processing line"

4 team: CÎRLAN Cătălin, RUSU Ludmila, MURGOCI Octaviana, Engineering and Management in the Food Industry study program, third year, RAȘCENCO Mihaela, GANCEA Livia, Business and Administration study program, name of the business plan "Valorization of by-products by obtaining bio-compost"



The Business Plan Competition was not an ordinary one, but addressed STEAM issues, i.e. from the environmental, social and economic fields, thus, the students came to solve the problems identified through the elaborated

plans.

At the same time, CONGRATULATIONS to the teams for the results obtained:

1st place in the Economic category - the business plan "Launching a milk processing line", this plan also received support from the event's partners First Funding and Moldinconbank, a 3rd degree diploma and a cash prize.

3rd place in the Environment category - the business plan "Valorization of by-products by obtaining bio-compost".

3rd place in the Social category - the business plan "Entrepreneurship as a way of socio-economic inclusion of disadvantaged people: growing and selling mushrooms".

We would also like to thank the teaching staff who guided these wonderful students: dr.hab., prof.univ. POPA Andrei, Ph.D., associate professor TODOS Irina, dr., associate professor Roșca-Sadurschi Ludmila, dr., associate professor CECLU Liliana.

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