

E-newsletter USCH

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Round table for preliminary defending of students' License Theses

On May 22-23, 2024, Third-year Bachelor of Business and Administration students presented their thesis topics, focusing on issues related to social, economic, and environmental research themes through the lens of STEAM competencies. The students' work was peer-reviewed by professors from European universities. They received feedback on their research and recommendations for improvement.



Scientific Conference for Students

Alecu Russo Balti State University hosted 1st Round of the Students Conference on Sustainable Development and Students STEAM Skills. The event featured presentations and research by students from Moldovan universities, focusing on economic and environmental issues related to STEAM fields. Key sessions included discussions on eco-innovation, sustainable tourism, and practical solutions for local sustainability challenges. Participants benefited from expert insights and collaborative discussions aimed at enhancing their research capabilities and developing practical skills for sustainable development. The conference aims to improve students' abilities in scientific research, design practical solutions for sustainability, and address economic and environmental issues linked to STEAM fields. **Aim of the Conference:** to improve the students' competence in scientific disciplines and the ability to carry out research and to design the research solution for tackling local sustainability issues.



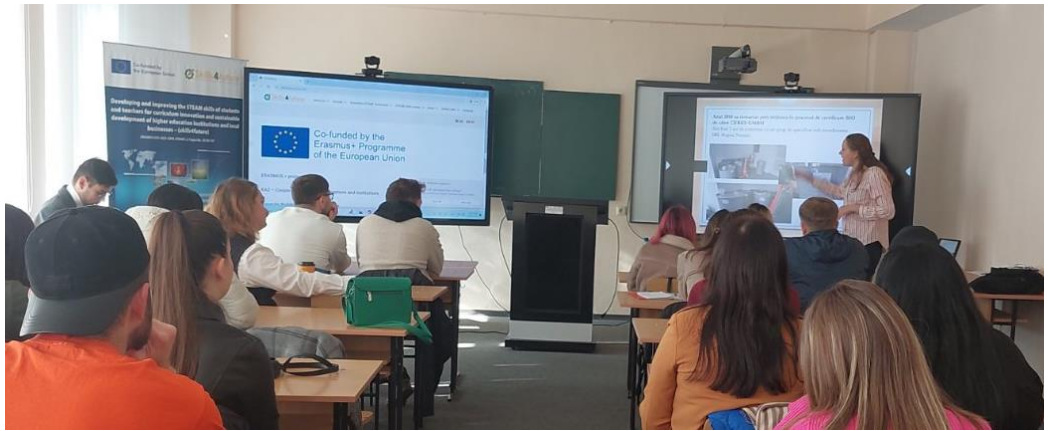
Skills4future project

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**

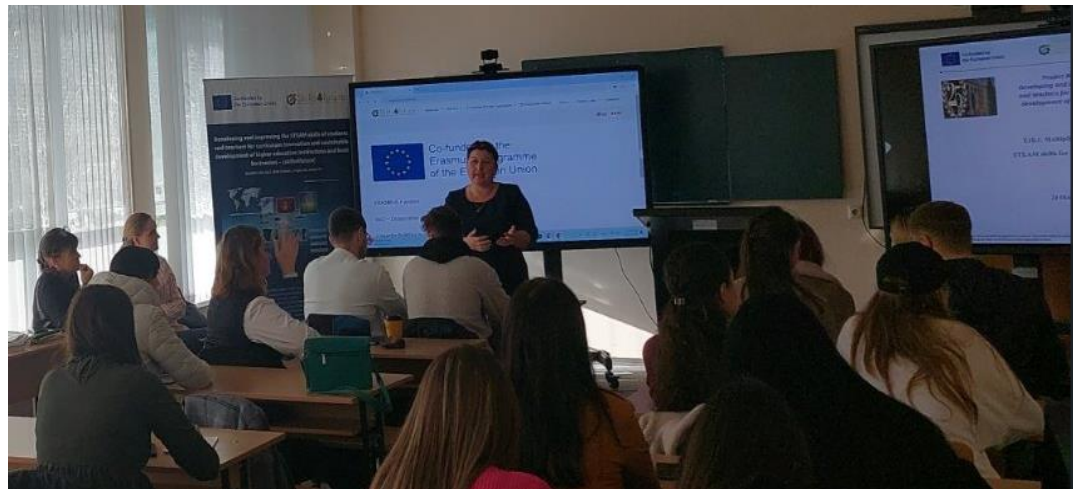




On October 24, 2024, the **STEAM Center** within the Faculty of Economics, Engineering and Applied Sciences hosted the **Multiplication Event on the Development of STEAM Competences: *Aligning the Curriculum to Local Development Needs for Sustainable Economic Growth***. This event was organized within the framework of the ERASMUS+EDU-CBHE project “*Developing and improving STEAM competences of students and teachers for curricular innovation and sustainable development of higher education institutions and local businesses*”.

The multiplication event **aimed to: raise awareness of the role of STEAM education in solving local societal challenges and build a network at local and national level, which would facilitate the further exploitation of the project results.**

MULTIPLICATION EVENT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF STEAM COMPETENCES



Guests at the event, Gheorghe Moisa, president of the Public Association "Regina Codrilor Tigheci" and president of the Entrepreneurial Cooperative "Honey Farm", shared his experience regarding the economic problems he encountered in his activity, on the path to economic growth, as well as proposed ways to develop STEAM skills for local development needs, and Olga Moisa, entrepreneur in the beekeeping field, founder of the peasant household, spoke about the path taken from the business idea to the successful company, the obstacles encountered on the path to economic growth.

At the end of the event, future perspectives were outlined regarding the integration of economic competition with sustainable development.

In this sense, the Multiplication Event demonstrated that sustainable economic development is not only a global necessity, but also a business opportunity.



2nd Training of Teachers session for professionalization of academic staff, October 7-11, 2024



During *October 7-11, 2024*, the institutional team (P8USCH) participated in the **2nd ToT session** for knowledge transfer and experience sharing - "*Education for Sustainability and Innovation in HEI Systems*", which was hosted by the *Academy of Economic Studies from Bucharest, Romania*.

The aim of the training session was to *increase the capacity of higher education institutions, from the Republic of Moldova, to integrate sustainability and innovation in their programs and operations, aligning with sustainable development objectives at the global level.*

The 2nd ToT session allowed addressing the proposed goal of:

- the theoretical perspective, which emphasized the interdisciplinary approach, which favors the integration of different disciplines and which contributes to the incorporation of sustainability themes in different teaching areas. This approach is crucial to preparing students to face real-world challenges.
- the practical perspective, which was achieved through study visits: visits to organizations such as Hewlett Packard, the National Bank of Romania and Genpact, Biofarma. Visits that provided valuable information on how businesses apply sustainable practices. These real-world examples illustrated the practical application of the concepts discussed during the training.
- the prospect of consolidating knowledge gained through hands-on, expert-led workshops: sessions led by renowned teachers and experts, such as those on crisis decision-making, socio-technological controversies and strategies for teaching green skills, were particularly inspiring. They provided advanced methodologies that can be directly applied in teaching practice.

This session allowed teachers to develop their entrepreneurial skills, creativity and innovation, as well as to improve their ability to redesign curricula with multidisciplinary STEAM approaches and to develop their competences specific to teaching areas, also teachers were supported in gaining hands-on experience related to successful local companies operating in various sustainability sectors, who in turn will support students by providing practical real-life examples.



2nd TOT SESSION FOR PROFESSIONALIZATION OF ACADEMIC STAFF



2nd FOLLOW-UP WORKSHOP

On May 17, 2024, the Faculty of Economics, Engineering and Applied Sciences of the "Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu" State University of Cahul organized, together with the Cahul Business Incubator, the second follow-up session within the skills4future project, an initiative dedicated to the development and improvement of STEAM skills of students and teachers. The workshop was attended by students of the faculty, teachers, local entrepreneurs and representatives of local governments and NGOs.

The students were trained in several practical activities in which they applied the new knowledge obtained during the academic year, as well as STEAM skills. The interactive activities carried out were designed to bridge the gap between academic theories and real-world business practices, ensuring that students gain practical experience that is directly relevant to the needs of local enterprises. Local entrepreneurs who were actively involved in the pilot phase shared their views and invaluable feedback. Their contributions are essential in refining the curriculum. The discussions highlighted the successes and challenges they face, providing a clear path for future improvements.

Participants discussed the successes achieved and identified areas for improvement, ensuring the continued development and relevance of the B&A program, and emphasized the need to strengthen the links between academia and industry. Continued collaboration between academia and industry will lead to the development of a skilled and adaptable workforce, ready to meet the demands of the modern market.



2nd OUTREACH SESSIONS

On May 16, 2024, the Faculty of Economics, Engineering and Applied Sciences of the Cahul State University "Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu" organized together with the Cahul Business Incubator the second outreach session within the **Skills4future** project, an initiative dedicated to the development and improvement of STEAM skills of students and teachers. This session brought together representatives from business, NGOs, academic staff and students eager to learn about the fascinating fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) and contribute to the innovation and sustainable development of educational institutions superior and of local business.

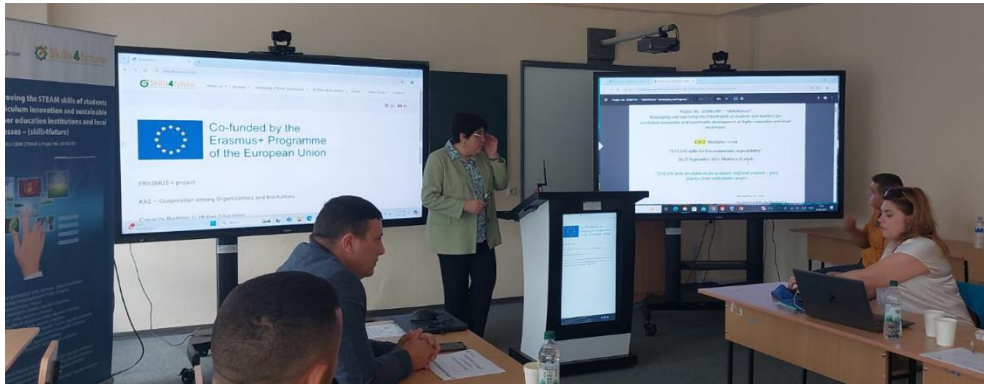
The event kicked off with an engaging presentation of the "skills4future" project, where all guests learned about the project's ambitious goals, the benefits of participation, and the personal and professional development opportunities it offers. Also, the results obtained from the moment the project was launched until now were presented, as well as what activities are to be carried out in the next period, and this outreach session will contribute significantly to stimulating students' interest in STEAM fields and to their preparation for to become key players in the innovation and sustainable development of society.

The event ended with the signing of a collaboration agreement between the Cahul State University "Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu" and the Cahul Branch of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in order to establish collaboration links in all fields of mutual interest by facilitating joint educational and research.



MULTIPLICATION EVENT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF STEAM COMPETENCES

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During 26-27 SEPTEMBER 2024, the **STEAM Center** within the Faculty of Economics, Engineering and Applied Sciences, hosted the **Multiplication Conference activity at the local level** with the generic – **STEAM Skills for Environmental Growth**.

The multiplier event **aimed** to: raise awareness of the role of STEAM education in solving local societal challenges and build a network at local and national level to facilitate further exploitation of the project's results.

Invited to the event, representatives of the **Environmental Protection Inspection**, an administrative authority subordinate to the Ministry of the Environment, shared their experience regarding **The environmental problems of contemporary society**, as well as **proposed ways to develop STEAM skills for local development needs** and representatives of the **Prosecutor's Office of the Cahul district**, they talked about **ecological crimes**, which also represent the group of crimes provided for in chapter IX of the Special Part of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Moldova, amended and entered into force on 7 September of this year, as well as, they discussed **The perspectives and challenges** with faced by law enforcement agencies in **combating environmental crimes**.



The European partners from the Politehnica University of Bucharest and the Academy of Economic Studies from Bucharest, Romania shared the best practices for developing STEAM skills in higher education, both for academic staff and students.

Discussions included ways to align the curriculum with local development needs, as well as lessons learned from STEAM internships at various partner universities.

