**JUNE 2022** 

# NEWSLETTER

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT THROUGH SUSTAINABILITY PATHWAYS IN STEM HIGHER EDUCATION



PROJECT NO. 2021-1-SE01-KA220-HED-000032058



## Bridge the gender gap in STEM

## **INTRODUCING THE PROJECT**

WESTEM, is an Erasmus project in the area of higher education institutions (HEIs), which supports the development and implementation of a sustainable framework to address the gap in uptake of courses and careers in STEM fields by women. The STEM Gap is not easy to tackle, and requires sustainable strategies for long term impact. In WESTEM, the intention is to set the tone for such a path, through meaningful support and services.

### **ONLINE KICK-OFF MEETING**

The Consortium met online to launch the WESTEM project on January 27, 2022. The partners had the opportunity to address goals and milestones, as well as clarify tasks and responsibilities for the next steps. Since then, the <u>project website</u> was launched and activities for project results have been initiated.

## AIMS - RESULTS

The WESTEM project, broadly put, aims to:

- 1. Enable opportunities for girls and women to gain the skills and confidence to succeed in STEM.
- 2. Develop a self-assessment tool for assessing HEIs faculty readiness in promoting participation of women in STEM fields of study.
- 3. Develop and apply suitable professional development and training to HEI staff to promote inclusive STEM education and support for women coming from marginalised backgrounds.
- 4. Attract, recruit and retain women into STEM fields in HE through dedicated role model mentoring schemes.

## **MEET THE TEAM**

#### COORDINATOR



<u>KC Kompetenscenter</u> was legally established in 2017, originally as the Malmö Non-Profit Competence Center Foundation. In 2019, the name of the foundation was changed to KC Kompetenscenter Idéburen sector. The purpose of the foundation is to function as an engine and facilitator through competence-enhancing initiatives. KC always tries to start from the individual's needs and conditions. In addition to good education and great self-awareness, digital knowledge is of great value.

### PARTNERS



brainplus + Projektmanagment Schabereiter is a private company working in Austria, which is active in different fields towards learning, education and consultancy. Brainplus can be seen as a prototype centre for learning and teaching material. Brainplus works to address the needs of different specialised target groups where state-of-the-art training materials have limited success, including in STEM fields.

YNTHESIS

<u>SYNTHESIS Center for Research and Education</u> is a pioneering organisation founded in Cyprus in 2002, which initiates and implements projects of social impact, with a focus on social inclusion. The aim is a green and sustainable future, for the people and the planet. As an accredited VET center, SYNTHESIS undertakes European projects focussing on STEM and gender equality.

## S-NODI

<u>S-nodi</u> was established in Turin in 2013 by Caritas Italiana. Among others, it builts on experience in raising awareness activities on the importance of STEM Education, by: helping participants acknowledge all the different ways in which STEM Education can be implemented in everyday learning; creating a crosscultural exchange and understanding on the benefits of STEM Education; developing critical thinking skills and problem-solving strategies; bringing innovation in schools through active learning method tools; cultivating the ability to work collaboratively within teams.





<u>University of Thessaly (Panepistimio Thessalias)</u>, is a research driven HEI in Greece. The experienced team of UTH has participated with great success in a large number of programs related to STEM, inclusion, human rights, NEETS enhancement and support, innovative educational material production training, social inclusion, entrepreneurship, mobility and well-being.

## CONTACT



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https://www.westem.eu/

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