

Introduction and aims of the conference

Martin Gradl

Head of Sector Erasmus+ Higher Education

OeAD, Austria's Agency for education and internationalisation

Aspect No 1 - Historical Context of STEM:

Originated as “SMET” in the 1990s by the **U.S. National Science Foundation**, the acronym was restructured to “STEM” in the early 2000s to make it more accessible and the disciplines more interconnected.

Source: EC, Joint Research Centre, Pokropek, A., STEM competences, challenges, and measurements: a literature review, Editors: Mazzeo-Ortolani, G., Karpinski, Z., Biagi, F., Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2024, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2760/9390011>, JRC138618.

Aspect No 2 - Union of skills (Strategy by the EC, March 2025)

Investing in people for a competitive European Union

„The European Union needs skilled people to respond to new challenges and stay competitive. (...) That is why the European Commission is introducing the union of skills, a plan to improve high quality education, training, and lifelong learning.”

Source: https://commission.europa.eu/topics/eu-competitiveness/union-skills_en

Aspect No 2 - Union of skills (Strategy by the EC, March 2025)



c) European Commission https://employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/document/download/915b147d-c5af-44bb-9820-c252d872fd31_en?filename=Communication%20-%20Union%20of%20skills.pdf

Aspect No 3 - The STEM Education Strategic Plan proposes new 2030 EU-level STEM targets (= part of the Union of skills)

- The share of students enrolled in STEM fields in initial medium-level VET is at least 45%; at least 1 out of 4 students are female
- At least 32% of HE students are enrolled in STEM; at least 2 out of every 5 are female
- At least 5% of students are enrolled in ICT PhD programmes; at least 1 out of 3 are female

Source: https://commission.europa.eu/topics/eu-competitiveness/union-skills_en

Aspect No 3 - The STEM Education Strategic Plan proposes new 2030 EU-level STEM targets (= part of the Union of skills)

- **LEAD:** Anchor STEM as a strategic pillar in the EU's education and skills policy
- **LEVEL UP:** Build a stronger and more inclusive EU STEM talent pipeline
- **LIFT:** Advance women in STEM and inspire future innovators

Source: https://commission.europa.eu/topics/eu-competitiveness/union-skills_en

Aspect No 4 - Priorities of Erasmus+ 2021-2027

- Inclusion and Diversity
- Green Erasmus+
- Digital Transformation
- Participation in democratic life, common values and civic engagement



Programme

- Input sessions & expert presentations
- Workshops
- Panel discussions
- Networking & Collaboration
- Cultural & Social Programme



The aims of our event:



Sharing trends, experiences and good practices on facilitating STEM mobilities.



Address challenges related to mobility and develop practical skills through workshops on recognition procedures, facilitating mobilities, etc.



Strengthen the knowledge about key practices & processes and showcase successful models from across Europe.



Provide a platform for networking & developing international partnerships.



Foster long-term cooperation in STEM education mobility and increase the exchange of Erasmus+ students and staff.

But do not forget



...to have **fun**,

enjoy **collaborating** and revel in
the **European spirit** at this
event!



Thank you for your attention!

Martin Gradl

Head of Sector Erasmus+ Higher Education

OeAD, Austria's Agency for education and
internationalisation