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Skills4future project

ERASMUS-EDU-2022-CBHE-
STRAND-2

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

<https://skills4future.utm.md/>

**TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF
MOLDOVA
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA**

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT: UTM STUDENTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL SKILLS4FUTURE COMPETITION

Third-year students from the Business and Administration study program at the Technical University of Moldova (UTM), under the guidance of Dr. Alina STRATILA, Associate Professor, participated on March 13-14, 2025, in a key stage of the international Skills4Future project. This initiative focuses on developing entrepreneurial skills by creating sustainable business plans. The project offers students the opportunity to apply their theoretical knowledge through innovative solutions designed to contribute to the sustainable development of businesses and society from economic, social, and environmental perspectives.

During the event, students presented their business ideas before a panel of national and international experts. UTM students demonstrated an original and creative approach, proposing diverse and innovative solutions. The jury highly appreciated the presentations, providing valuable feedback, clarifying questions, and offering recommendations for refining business plans ahead of the final competition. This stage allowed students to perfect their ideas and strengthen their implementation strategies.



NATIONAL BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION WITHIN THE ERASMUS+ “SKILLS4FUTURE” PROJECT AT FIEB – UTM

The Faculty of Economic Engineering and Business of the Technical University of Moldova organized the 3rd edition of the National Business Plan Competition under the theme “Competitiveness and Innovations in Business Development for Youth,” which took place on March 21, 2025. For the past two years, this event has been organized in partnership with the Erasmus+ Skills4Future Project – “Developing and improving the STEAM skills of students and teachers for curriculum innovation and sustainable development of higher education institutions and local businesses.” The competition featured 21 innovative STEAM Business Plans developed by students specializing in “Business and Administration” from five universities. The participants presented ingenious, well-argued ideas covering various fields of entrepreneurship, highly appreciated by the jury members. The evaluation of students’ business plans was based on six criteria. The evaluation committee consisted of experts in entrepreneurship. The organization of this significant event for FIEB and UTM was made possible thanks to private enterprise sponsors. The event’s visibility was ensured by media sponsors, including TRM television and Agrobiznes portal.

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UTM_4TH OUTREACH/INFORMATION SESSION

On 24.03.2025, the Centre for STEAM Skills and Innovation within the Department of Economics and Management, FIEB, UTM, organized the fourth Outreach/Information Session about the Erasmus+ project “Skills4future – Developing and improving the STEAM skills of students and teachers for curriculum innovation and sustainable development of higher education institutions and local businesses“. The event was attended by business representatives, teachers and students from the Business and Administration, Finance and Banking study program. The Outreach Session was opened by the Dean of the faculty Rafael CILOCI, who mentioned the positive impact of the project on the quality of the study process in the faculty. The project member Mrs. Ala OBERȘT informed the participants about the results of the project. The discussion was also attended by the entrepreneurs, who mentioned that they are open for collaboration and thanked for the opportunity to participate in such an event.



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MULTIPLICATION EVENT: STEAM SKILLS FOR SOCIAL GROWTH

On March 24, 2025, the STEAM Center hosted the third multiplication event with the theme “STEAM Skills for Social Growth”, dedicated to the promotion and dissemination of good practices in the development of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) skills in higher education. The event brought together academic staff, researchers, students and representatives from the socio-economic environment interested in educational innovation and the social impact of interdisciplinary education.

The main goal of the meeting was to highlight how STEAM approaches can contribute to the development of transversal skills, such as critical thinking, collaboration, creativity and empathy, essential for the integration of young people in ever-changing societies. Through networking sessions, participants explored examples of good practice from university programs that integrate STEAM principles into academic curricula.

A central point of the event was the presentation of the results of pilot projects, which demonstrated the efficiency of the STEAM approach in developing civic and social engagement skills. Strategies for strengthening partnerships between universities, local communities and the economic environment were also discussed to create contexts of applied learning with real social impact.

The event highlighted the essential role of STEAM centers as innovative educational hubs, capable of connecting science with the needs of society. The common conclusion was that promoting STEAM education is a strategic direction for the sustainable and equitable development of higher education.



SKILLS4FUTURE_UTM_THE FOLLOW-UP SESSIONS

On March 25, 2025, at the Technical University of Moldova (UTM), a session dedicated to strengthening relations between academia and the business sector was held as part of the Erasmus+ project “Skills4future – *Developing and improving the STEAM skills of students and teachers for curriculum innovation and sustainable development of higher education institutions and local businesses.*”

The event focused on analyzing the lessons learned by the project’s beneficiaries. The session was opened by the Dean of the Faculty of Economic Engineering and Business (FIEB), Mr. Rafael CILOCI, who emphasized the necessity of active business sector involvement in ensuring the quality of university education.

Mrs. Rina ȚURCAN, Head of the Department of Economics and Management, expressed gratitude to business representatives for their openness and valuable contributions to this constructive dialogue. She highlighted that collaboration with the business environment facilitates the development of study programs and extracurricular activities. Business representatives played a significant role in the event, including Cristina FLOREA (MAIB) and Liudmila BOTNARI (“Autogrup Expres SRL”).

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They presented current requirements for the skills and competencies of future specialists, while also offering concrete opportunities for internships, thesis development, and workforce integration.

The event brought together professors, students, and business representatives, emphasizing the importance of aligning students' competencies with the dynamic demands of the labor market. The session once again demonstrated that a close collaboration between universities and companies is key to training well-prepared specialists and ensuring the sustainable development of both the local and international economy.



PREVENTIVE DEFENSE OF BACHELOR THESES AT UTM: A KEY STEP TOWARD FINAL SUCCESS

On May 6, 2025, the STEAM Center for Competence and Innovation, part of the Department of Economics and Management within the Faculty of Economic Engineering and Business (FIEB), UTM, organized the preventive defense of bachelor theses for third-year students. This activity is part of a strategic initiative aimed at enhancing the quality of final papers and supporting students throughout the final stages of writing and presentation.

The event provided students with the opportunity to publicly present their research findings, receive constructive feedback from faculty and peers, and identify any methodological or conceptual gaps. The defenses were conducted in a rigorous format, simulating the conditions of an official defense, which helped reduce performance anxiety and boost participants' confidence.

This preventive phase represents a model of academic best practice focused on excellence and educational performance, underlining UTM's commitment to the full professional development of future economists and managers.

The event was organized within the framework of the Erasmus+ project "Skills4future – Developing and improving the STEAM skills of students and teachers for curriculum innovation and sustainable development of higher education institutions and local businesses." Faculty members and students from the Business and Administration study program participated in the event.



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THE WORKSHOP “SMART INVESTMENT METHODS AND RESPONSIBLE INVOLVEMENT OF THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT” AT UTM: A STEP TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

On May 12, 2025, the Center for STEAM Competences and Innovation, part of the Department of Economics and Management within the Faculty of Economic Engineering and Business (FIEB), UTM, successfully organized the first workshop with the theme: “Smart investment modalities and responsible involvement of the business environment in economic development”.

The event aimed to strengthen the dialogue between the academic and economic environments, bringing together students, teachers, entrepreneurs, representatives of public institutions and the private sector. The workshop provided an interdisciplinary framework for the exchange of ideas, good practices and experiences regarding the integration of sustainability and social responsibility into business strategies.

Participants discussed current trends in smart investments, with a focus on digitalization, energy efficiency, circular economy and social innovation. Special emphasis was placed on the need to develop business models that are not only profitable, but also ethical and sustainable, adapted to the constantly changing global economic context.

At the same time, students benefited from direct interaction with industry professionals, gaining real insights into the challenges and opportunities existing in the market. The workshop stimulated critical thinking and entrepreneurial spirit, contributing to the formation of a generation of responsible economists and managers, well-anchored in social and economic realities.

The event highlighted UTM’s commitment to curricular innovation and education oriented towards sustainable development, while strengthening partnerships between the university and the business environment. The workshop was a concrete example of active collaboration between education, research and industry.



GREEN WEEK AT UTM

Between September 15 and 19, 2025, the STEAM Center for Competence and Innovation within the Department of Economics and Management, FIEB, UTM organized various events under the title Green Week. These events included meetings with the business community and students, where the importance of maintaining a balance between the main pillars of sustainability was highlighted. Entrepreneurs such as Caraman Dumitru, Cerlinca Cristina, Sasu Svetlana, and Copacinschii Petru emphasized the importance of preserving the environment. They talked about business sustainability from the perspective of environmental protection. The entrepreneurs shared their experiences with the students. The students were very actively involved in the discussions. These meetings added value to the educational process at UTM.

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WORKSHOP ON “NEW GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS FOR SUSTAINABLE HE INSTITUTIONS” AT UTM

On October 6, 2025, the STEAM Center for Competence and Innovation, part of the Department of Economics and Management within the Faculty of Economic Engineering and Business (FIEB), UTM, successfully organized the third workshop on the theme: “New governance and management systems for sustainable HE institutions.” The event took place in an interactive setting, bringing together teachers, students, and representatives of the economic environment in a constructive dialogue on new models of governance and sustainable management in higher education institutions. The workshop aimed to strengthen the capacity of universities to innovate and strategically adapt to changes in the current socio-economic environment, as well as to identify modern institutional management mechanisms that can ensure the sustainability and competitiveness of higher education institutions. Special guests at the event were Ms. Ana Cucus, Head of Recruitment and Development at EXIMBANK S.A., and Mr. Eduard Berdaga, Small Business Customer Relations Manager, representatives of the banking sector actively involved in promoting educational initiatives and collaboration with the academic sector. They shared their experiences regarding modern organizational management models, professional skills development, and mechanisms for stimulating innovation in financial institutions, offering students a practical perspective on how sustainable governance principles can also be applied in the academic environment. Discussions focused on best practices in strategic management, the digitization of decision-making processes, and university-industry partnerships, highlighting the essential role of participatory governance in achieving sustainable development goals. The event demonstrated once again the commitment of FIEB and the STEAM Center to fostering an academic culture based on innovation, collaboration, and responsibility, contributing to strengthening UTM’s position as a promoter of modern and sustainable education.



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ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION “STEAM SKILLS FOR SOCIAL GROWTH” – A STEP TOWARDS THE EDUCATION OF THE FUTURE

On October 30, 2025 – The Center for STEAM Skills and Innovation within the Department of Economics and Management, FIEB, UTM, organized the round table “STEAM Skills for Social Growth,” a multiplier event held as part of the Erasmus+ project “Skills4future – Developing and improving the STEAM skills of students and teachers for curriculum innovation and sustainable development of higher education institutions and local businesses.” The event brought together representatives of academia, the business sector, and research institutions from the Republic of Moldova and abroad. The round table aimed to promote cooperation and the exchange of good practices on the development of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) skills – a fundamental pillar for innovation, competitiveness, and sustainable growth. In conclusion, participants made recommendations for integrating STEAM skills into higher education programs, strengthening university-business partnerships, and modernizing management and curricular processes in line with the requirements of the knowledge-based economy.



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