

POLICY DIGEST #1



Open Schooling for science education and a learning continuum for all



THE SLEs EU PROJECT

STE(A)M Learning Ecologies (SLEs) is a EU-funded project creating partnerships that promote lifelong learning, collaboration, interdisciplinarity, and the integration of STEM and non-STEM subjects –STE(A)M– into holistic learning experiences.

An SLE is a multi stakeholder, multi actor Open Schooling (OS) partnership

OPEN SCHOOLING AND STE(A)M IN EUROPE

OS policies and initiatives linked to STE(A)M are present in Europe but still need to be **mainstreamed** and **implemented in a structured way** to advance towards sustainable and long-term learning models.

CHALLENGES

- Lack of support for partnerships-building among stakeholders
- Rigid school curriculum not conducive to interdisciplinarity
- Difficulty to access adequate pedagogical resources
- Decreasing funding for OS initiatives
- Reduced capacity for key stakeholders to engage in OS ventures.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

EUROPEAN POLICY LEVEL

- Provide policy support and guidance to national ministries on OS in science education
- Increase funding for research and science education
- Mainstream existing approaches and results on OS and STE(A)M
- Adopt a coordinated approach between Directorate-Generals to align EU-funded projects with broader holistic approaches.

NATIONAL POLICY LEVEL

- Formulate national STEM/STE(A)M policies
- Integrate OS and interdisciplinarity into the curriculum
- Boost funding for school collaboration
- Strengthen teacher training for effective STE(A)M implementation.

EDUCATION AUTHORITY LEVEL

- Develop a shared vision and goals for STE(A)M education
- Promote female role models in STEM
- Integrate innovative approaches into the curriculum through collaborations between schools, universities, and industry
- Co-create policies with relevant stakeholders to include funding for curriculum development, continuous professional development (CPD), school facilities and raising public awareness around OS and STE(A)M.

EDUCATIONAL PRACTICE AND EDUCATOR LEVEL

- Implement innovative learning approaches merging STEM, humanities, and other subjects
- Foster creative, supportive, and contextualised learning environments
- Develop and implement CPD programmes for teachers and other educators
- Maximise the use of existing OS and STE(A)M resources available on European platforms
- Cultivate collaborative school partnerships with community organisations.



**Read the full
policy brief**