



## STIMEY: a challenge to education and a response to it



Since September 2016 Polotsk State University (PSU) has been implementing an international European Union project under the HORIZON-2020 programme, which supports research in Europe. The project titled STIMEY “Science Technology Innovation Mathematics Engineering for the Young” unites researchers, media people, NGO, producers, target groups and stakeholders from five countries.



This is a truly international project combining research and practice of eight work teams in Belarus, Finland, Germany, Greece, and Spain, that are jointly exploring theoretical fundamentals, analysing the resources and methods, and building up practices to bring science and society together in Europe, and consequently increase the continent’s international competitiveness. The attempts are made to enhance STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering

and Mathematics) education and its attractiveness to European youth to raise their interests and involvement in STEM careers.

For the implementation of the project each partner's work group is planned to collaborate with a number of schools in the respective regions to ground the partners' research on the educational cultures and realities at schools.



The observations made at schools and the conclusions driven during the theoretical investigations were reported to a wider audience during the STIMEY Project Information Day that took place at PSU on 26 April 2017, in which representatives of scientific circles in the region, schools, higher education institutions, enterprises, and educational authorities participated. A lot of issues were raised during the presentations made by the STIMEY work group at PSU. Some of the most outstanding and prominent ones were:

- ✓ How the project will contribute to the increase in school children's interest in STEM and STEM-related careers?
- ✓ What will be the benefits of international undertakings in the field of children's creativity and entrepreneurship through the foreseen platform and robots?
- ✓ How effective will the communication of children from the 5 participating countries be and whether or not more synergies will be ensured for building more ties between these countries?

The project also envisages transition from a child's creativity to their entrepreneurship with gaming as a constituent, finally leading to their motivated interest in science and technology. The project has already made its first but robust steps towards these goals.



*Siarhei Piashkun, STIMEY coordinator at PSU, making a presentation at the Information Day*

The success of all the following steps depends much on the efficient collaboration of all the parties involved or effected: the partner institutions, schools in the respective regions, parents, regional authorities, enterprises, and a wider society. This is aimed at sustaining the STIMEY project’s results and flourishing of Europe.



Taking STEM Education Forward  
[www.stimey.eu](http://www.stimey.eu)



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