STEAM activities with KIKS format

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Abstract:

Most European countries have adapted their curricula towards the acquisition of Key competencies in education. This implies students applying school knowledge to solve a problematic situation, being themselves responsible for their own resolution process. In Spain, this way of learning is regulated by Order 65/2015, January 21. To promote the training of high school students in STEAM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics), the Open STEAM Group (https://www.opensteamgroup.unican.es/) has promoted different initiatives. These initiatives are based on the elaboration of activities with KIKS format: students in groups of 3-4 members solve activities that involve at least two STEAM areas supervised by several teachers. Each group develops at least two activities over a period of two years in the English language and presents them in different events to a variety of audiences (Blanco, Ortiz-Laso & Diego-Mantecón, 2019; Diego-Mantecón et al., 2017). These activities are framed in different projects according to the characteristics of the subjects to be instructed. For example, the STEMforYouth project (https: //stemforyouth.unican.es/, Horizon 2020) is aimed at secondary school students who follow the regular curriculum, while the EAMARE-STEAM project (https://www.inclusivemathsthroughsteam.unican.es/, Spanish Ministry of Education) seeks to motivate secondary school students at risk of exclusion. In evaluations of both projects it has been observed, though at different levels, a significant improvement in the development of the main key competences highlighted by the European Union. Importantly, both project rely heavily on the design and students' elaboration of High-Tech activities (Diego-Mantecón, Arcera, Blanco & Lavizca, 2019).

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