

Project title: Teachers Training Programme to Support Gifted and Talented Students (GATE) –
2021-1-LT01-KA220-SCH-000027713

GOOD PRACTICE

1	Title	“Gifted” program
2	Country	Lithuania & Israel
3	How is/was it promoted?	International project/program
4	Context of implementation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> large city <input type="checkbox"/> small city <input type="checkbox"/> village
5	Goals of the activity	The program aims to increase the children’s cognitive and emotional skills.
6	Description	<p>The “Gifted” program is an open learning environment in which teachers become partners in children's intellectual and emotional growth. It is based on the 1986 model established by the Israeli gifted school, Ron Vardi Center. The whole methodology is based on the belief that children should always be respected and listened to, as a person in him/herself. The program in 2022 included 7 modules, divided according to the age of the students they address. They are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preschool module - 3rd grade - 4th grade - 5th grade - 10th grade - 11th grade - 12th grade <p>The activities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lessons to GATE children aged between 4 and 18 years old - Psychological session and IQ testing - Winter and summer camps for advanced lessons in STEAM subjects - Consultations and seminars for parents - Research activities on gifted education - Training for pedagogues and heads of educational institutions aimed at expanding teachers and other staff members’ competences <p>Through this program, the participants will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop competencies in STEAM subjects, also including literature and law - Increase their motivation to learn, and develop life skills, such as critical thinking, analytical skills, communication skills, and socio-emotional competencies.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop multidirectional thinking, and interdisciplinary vision, by linking topics from different subjects - Learn about citizenship, social sensitivity, and responsible behaviours 		
7	Implementation choices	<p>The lessons are administered by professionals trained specifically in education for gifted children. The main beneficiaries of the program are the pupils themselves, whose age is between 4 and 18 years.</p> <p>The program takes shape through extracurricular lessons taking place once or several times a week in the specialized centers of the Vytautas Magnus University, in Kaunas and Vilnius. Each lesson lasts about 2 and a half hours and takes place for the entire duration of the school year, respecting the same breaks and holidays assigned to schools.</p> <p>In addition to providing educational activities for pupils and young students, the program also provides training courses for teachers interested in strengthening their pedagogical skills. This training takes place together with consultations with psychologists and other professionals that the university provides to parents, to also support them in creating a home environment that can stimulate and support the gifted children in the development of their full potential. In this sense, the program is very comprehensive.</p> <p>The teaching methodology comprises a mixture of STEAM and SEL methodology, paying particular attention to the specific needs and aspirations of each child, who is perceived as a person.</p>		
8	Materials	There is no specific material as the program is updated every year. Usually, the material does not differ so much from the one that is adopted in traditional classes.		
9	Who runs the activity	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> mentors <input type="checkbox"/> a school <input type="checkbox"/> an NGO </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> an organization/institution <input type="checkbox"/> an informal group <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other </td> </tr> </table>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> mentors <input type="checkbox"/> a school <input type="checkbox"/> an NGO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> an organization/institution <input type="checkbox"/> an informal group <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other
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10	Benefits and results	<p>Students improve both their academic results and SEL skills.</p> <p>Teachers and parents also improve their pedagogical skills with GATE students.</p> <p>At a systemic level, many children who take these classes reach excellent results in their future careers, contributing greatly to society.</p>		
11	Relevance for the GATE Project	<p>STEAM and SEL are overarching components of the whole methodology that put each child at the center of the educational process. In this perspective, teachers are there to help children express their full potential and they overcome the traditional distinction between subjects that often occurs in schools. Concerning 21st Century Skills, the whole program aims to help students become independent, thought-provoking, and resilient individuals. This part certainly involves different 21st Century Skills, such as creativity, critical thinking, leadership, analytical skills, etc.</p>		



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12	Website/E-mail /Other contact info + References, if any	https://www.vdu.lt/lt/skelbiamas-priemimas-i-tarptautine-programa-gabiu-vaiku-ugdymui/ https://gifted.vdu.lt/apie-mus/
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