



PROJECT „STEM – my education“

Knowledge is power, and few can confirm it better than 190 pupils and 25 teachers from three primary schools in the vicinity of Đakovo, a town in eastern Croatian region of Slavonija, part of Osijek-Baranja County. They started their path to knowledge with the aid of Kingdom of Norway, who is the primary donor of funds for project „STEM – my education“, that started on 1st of September 2022, and is scheduled to last until 30th of November 2023.

Primary school of Josip Kozarac Semeljci, from a municipality of Semeljci is a project promoter of this project, while two more schools from Slavonija are project partners; primary school of Josip Juraj Strossmayer in Trnava, and primary school Đakovački Selci in Selci Đakovački, suburb of the town of Đakovo. Special contribution in the project is provided by their Norwegian partner, Åpenhet AS from Oslo.

Opening conference of the project „STEM – my education“ was held on 21st of October 2022 in the school of Josip Kozarac, project promoter, and it was attended by project-team from three Croatian schools, pupils of schools involved in the project, representatives of municipalities of Semeljci, Trnava, Viškovci, town of Đakovo, Osijek-Baranja County, and special adress was prepared by the representative of Norwegian partner via video-adress.

Opening the conference, Ružica Primorac, school principal of project promoter, emphasized the importance of grants, without which the implementation of such project would not be possible. Project „STEM – my education“ is worth little more than 2.067.000 kuna (close to 275.000 euros). It's main goals are improvement of STEM skills of teachers and pupils of schools involved and procurement of necessary equipment for modernization of STEM classrooms. Project „STEM – my education“ is the most complex and financially most valuable of all the projects Primary school Josip Kozarac Semeljci has taken so far. It is financed through Financial mechanism of European Economic Area, via program „Local Development and Poverty Reduction“.

Interest of pupils and teachers was much greater than expected; originally it was intended to include 90 pupils and 20 teachers, but this number rose to 190 pupils and 25 teachers. Special emphasis is placed on pupils with special needs, both talented and those with difficulties.

Project „STEM – my education“ is composed of several activites. Purchase of equipment will enable teachers to provide their pupils with modernized approach. In paralel, both teaches and pupils will attend educations and workshops through which they will enhance their STEM skills. All data collected in project will finally be visualized in a user-friendly way by representatives of Åpenhet AS, Norwegian partner on the project, who will also organize a study-trip to Norway for 20 teachers of three Croatian schools.



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During the conference, a short video-message from a representative of Norwegian partner, Apenhet AS, was streamed to the audience, so they would be familiar with the part taken by the partner from Norway.

Addressing the present, Mayor of Municipality of Semeljci, Mr. Grga Lončarević commended the initiative of school administration, who recognized the potential of Norway grants. Mayer deputy of the town of Đakovo, Mr. Antun Galić, emphasized the fact that several projects are taking part in primary schools in Đakovo, but that it's surroundings, like Municipality of Semeljci, are no less important. Finally, deputy of župan, Mr. Josip Miletić mentioned the fact that Kingdom of Norway is not the part of European Union, but nevertheless it generously allocates significant funds for the development of less developed parts of the EU. Continuing his adress, Mr. Miletić pointed out the benefits of membership in the EU, who as a unique market attracts more investments and beneficial grants to finance projects, mentioning „STEM – my education“ as a good example.