

UNLOCKING CODING: EMPOWERING TEACHERS AND STUDENTS WITH Coding4Kids

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Abstract

The "Coding for Kids" project aims to address the growing need for digital literacy among primary and secondary school students by providing a comprehensive and accessible coding education program. This project, funded by the European Commission under the Erasmus+ programme, focuses on empowering both teachers and students with essential programming skills that are increasingly important in today's digital society.

Recognizing the lack of coding education in early schooling and the importance of digital skills, the project targets primary and secondary education. It aims to equip teachers with the necessary tools and training to teach coding, regardless of their prior technical background. The objectives include making coding education accessible, promoting creative and logical thinking among students, and preparing them for a technology-driven future.

The project involves a multi-phase approach. Initially, it engages schools and teachers through local networks to develop and integrate the "Coding for Kids" platform into their curricula. This platform includes a variety of educational materials, video manuals, and a "train the trainer" module, all designed to be user-friendly and accessible. The project also leverages existing online tools like FreeCodeCamp, Codecademy, and Scratch to provide diverse learning resources.

Activities include workshops, training sessions, and collaborative projects where teachers and students can explore coding. The project employs modern communication and open-source technologies to ensure effective coordination and resource sharing among partners. It aims to reach 2,000 children directly and many more through regional and national dissemination efforts.

The anticipated outcomes include enhanced coding skills among students, improved teacher competency in digital education, and broader implementation of coding in school curricula across Europe. The project addresses gender disparities in STEM by encouraging participation from all demographics, including girls, who often feel less inclined to pursue technical subjects. Long-term benefits include sustained access to the coding platform and materials, promoting continuous learning and adaptation to future digital challenges.

In summary, "Coding for Kids" aspires to make coding a fundamental part of early education, fostering a generation of digitally literate and technologically adept individuals ready to navigate and innovate in the digital world.