WIMI Open: Wide Minds will Find Eco Virtual STEAM Solutions towards Climate change WORK PACKAGE 5 Award Framework Methodology
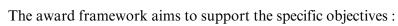
By EIRD

Objective of the Award Framework

The award framework aims to support the specific objectives :

- Enhancing students' climate change knowledge and critical thinking through STEAM activities.
- Providing an innovative approach to assessment and motivation.
- Encouraging students' engagement in collaborative learning, creative problem-solving, and active climate action.
- Promoting EU values, language diversity, and democracy through cross-national cooperation.

Methodology Overview

The award framework will include three key phases:

1. Preparation Phase: Setting up the criteria, processes, and materials.

2. Implementation Phase: Running national and international award competitions.

3. Evaluation Phase: Reviewing outcomes and impact.

Phase 1: Preparation of Award Process

1.1. Develop Award Criteria and Framework (Led by EIRD)

- Award Criteria: Establish criteria aligned with WP objectives, including:
    - Climate Change Relevance: Addressing climate-related challenges.
    - STEAM Integration: Application of STEAM knowledge and skills.
    - Innovation and Creativity: Originality and feasibility of solutions.
    - Impact and Sustainability: Potential for real-world application.
    - Teamwork and Collaboration: Effective group dynamics and peer communication.
    - Presentation and Communication: Clarity and effectiveness in delivering project ideas.
- Scoring Rubric: Create a rubric with a 1-5 scale for each criterion, allowing judges to assess projects objectively.

1.2. Define Award Categories

- Local and National Level Awards: Categories to recognize excellence in specific areas, such as Best Overall Project, Most Innovative Solution, Best Use of STEAM, and Community Impact.
- International Level Awards: Overall excellence awards, open only to national winners.

1.3. Partner and Jury Roles

- Teachers as Judges: STEAM teachers from each partner country will serve on national and international judging panels.
- Partner Responsibilities:

  - EIRD: Oversees development of criteria and framework, organizes virtual and face-to-face meetings, and leads the international competition.
  - Other Partners (P1, P4, P5, P6): Organize national competitions and contribute to framework development.

1.4. Integration into Educational Program

- Partners integrate the award framework and processes into their educational activities, ensuring alignment with curriculum and broader project goals.

Phase 2: Organization of Award Procedure

2.1. Local Level Award Process

- School-Level Competitions: Each participating school selects 40-50 students to create Community Science Projects on climate change.

  - Group Formation: Students are grouped into teams of 4-5, developing projects that address climate challenges.
  - Project Presentations: Each team presents its project to local judges (teachers) based on the award criteria.
  - Selection of Finalists: Top projects from each school advance to national-level competitions.

2.2. National Level Award Competitions

- National Competitions (Organized by Partners P1, P4, P5, P6)

  - Each country organizes an award ceremony, bringing together school-level winners.
  - National judges assess projects using the award framework and scoring rubric.
  - Winning teams qualify for the international competition.

- Multiplier Effect: National competitions serve as community events, engaging teachers, students, and local stakeholders, and raising awareness of climate change.

2.3. International Award Competition (Led by EIRD)

- Virtual Competition: National winners participate in an international virtual award ceremony.

  - Presentation and Judging: Projects are presented to an international panel, which scores them based on the framework.

☒ Recognition: Top-scoring teams receive awards and certificates, with additional recognition for teamwork and innovation.

Phase 3: Implementation of Award Process

3.1. Award Implementation and Recognition

☒ Award Presentations: Winning projects receive certificates, trophies, or special prizes to recognize their achievements.

☒ Feedback and Reflection: Each participating team receives detailed feedback from the judges to understand areas of strength and improvement.

3.2. Documentation and Reporting

☒ Track key indicators, such as:

   ☒ Number of Projects Developed: Aiming for 20 community science projects.
   ☒ Participation Levels: Engaging at least 200 students across national competitions.
   ☒ Newsletter Outreach: Distributing 6 newsletters, viewed by at least 300 people.
   ☒ Skill and Motivation Metrics: At least 90% of students showing increased motivation, interest in STEAM, and improved communication and collaboration skills.

3.3. Dissemination of Results and Impact

☒ Publish winning projects and success stories on partner websites, social media, and newsletters.

☒ Share project outcomes with the EU community to highlight students' contributions to climate change action.

Budget Allocation for Cost-Effectiveness

☒ Local Competitions: National partners (P1, P4, P5, P6) use funds to organize local competitions, covering event logistics, prizes, and materials.

☒ International Competition: EIRD manages international virtual awards, using allocated funds for digital platform setup, event coordination, and additional prizes for international winners.

Quality Assurance and Evaluation

1. Assessment of Framework Effectiveness

   ☒ Gather feedback from students, teachers, and partners to assess the award framework's effectiveness and fairness.
   ☒ Use both qualitative and quantitative indicators, such as participation levels and skill improvement rates, to evaluate impact.

2. Continuous Improvement

☐ Based on feedback, refine the award framework for future project cycles to ensure ongoing relevance and effectiveness in motivating students and addressing climate change.