

## **DIGITAL LITERACY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS: NURTURING CREATIVE THINKING THROUGH CODING EDUCATION**

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### **Abstract**

A crucial aspect of the "Coding for Kids" project is the series of pilot programmes conducted in various partner countries, including Cyprus, Greece, Ireland, Spain, and The Netherlands. These pilots serve as a practical implementation and testing ground for the project's educational modules and tools. The primary objectives of the pilots are to evaluate the effectiveness of the teaching materials, the ease of use for both teachers and students, and the overall impact on students' engagement and learning outcomes.

During the pilots, selected schools integrated the coding curriculum into their regular classes. Teachers received specialized training through a "train the trainer" module, enabling them to confidently deliver the coding lessons. The pilot programs utilized various online platforms and resources, such as Scratch, CodeMonkey, and Codecademy, to provide an interactive and engaging learning experience.

The pilot is ongoing but preliminary results show significant improvement in students' problem-solving skills, logical thinking and general enthusiasm for learning coding. Teachers reported increased confidence in teaching coding and observed increased student engagement. The pilots also highlight the importance of ongoing support and accessibility to resources for both teachers and students.

In conclusion, the "Coding for Kids" project pilots have demonstrated the feasibility and benefits of integrating coding education into early schooling. The insights gained from these pilots will inform the project's broader implementation strategy, ensuring that coding becomes an accessible and essential part of education across Europe.