

Education Policy Forum 2021 of the Leibniz-Education Research Network (LERN) on STEAM education

Position paper

Abstract

The Leibniz-Education Research Network (LERN) aims to identify and develop the potential of and for education and to contribute to its better exploitation. This year's Education Policy Forum will focus on STEM education, a topic that has affected society, the economy, business, and science for decades. It is undisputed that successful educational processes in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics are a necessary prerequisite for successful individual development throughout the lifespan. It is also undisputed that STEM education secures innovation and prosperity in Germany and contributes to solving major global problems such as the energy transition, climate change, and pandemic control. Many institutions in the Leibniz Education Research Network (LERN) dedicate their research and development to STEM education processes across the lifespan. STEM education begins in kindergarten and then continues through the various stages of education into further and continuing education. Rapid social transformation processes (Industry 4.0, Society 6.0) as well as acute crises (e.g. COVID-19 pandemic) are driving LERN members to better understand in their work how people can be successfully prepared for such transformation processes and crises and how they can successfully shape or overcome them.

What challenges will arise in the STEM sector in the coming years? Which problems are still virulent and need to be addressed? To answer these questions, four forums will be held as part of the Education Policy Forum, resulting in various demands.

[Using this link you can access the full position paper \(German only\)](#)