

FUTURE-PROOFING ADULT LEARNING IN CITIES



AVEIRO, Portugal

The STEAM project

Key facts

The City of Aveiro, Portugal, is running a project known as the Aveiro STEAM City project, to help establish a digital, knowledge-based economy in Aveiro. Central to the project is providing skills training, education and resources development in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM).

Timeframe and funding	The project started in 2018 and is co-funded by the local government, UIA (Urban Innovative Actions) and the European Regional Development Fund.
City population	78,450
Governing body	Aveiro City Council
Link	AVEIRO STEAM CITY :: Aveiro Tech City AVEIRO STEAM CITY - Urban Innovation Action

Main objectives

The project has a dual approach to making Aveiro a digital economy; the first is ensuring that the education system adequately meets labour market needs and the second is experimenting with 5G and IoT technologies, to encourage the development of new products and services in the city. As the City of Aveiro develops digital talent and works towards integrating new technologies into the city's activities, the ultimate goal is to create a local economy that has more productive, better-paid and more sustainable jobs in an economy that is more competitive nationally and globally.

Content and mode of delivery



Under the project's initial approach, related to education and training, the City of Aveiro will establish 31 tech-labs and a STEAM educational programme for primary schools. The City will also open two other labs in its Municipal Citizenship House and municipal library. Other project activities include setting up a labour observatory to match labour demand with supply and coding boot camps.

To ensure that educational institutions produce graduates who are equipped with STEAM skills to meet local demand, Aveiro's labour observatory will assess the skills needed for the local economy and this would influence the design and implementation of short-term courses to meet labour market needs. In addition, there will be coding boot camps to give unemployed people, students and professionals who are changing careers, the opportunity to work as software developers in local companies. One such boot camp is the 28-week Java Script coding boot camp organised by the City of Aveiro and Academia de Código, which combines classroom and on-the-job training. Participants fund part of the programme cost, while the City and local companies fund the remaining cost.

Stakeholders



The main stakeholders in the project are:

- The City of Aveiro
- Instituto de Telecomunicações (R&D Institute),
- Altice Labs (R&D Institute),
- Universidade de Aveiro (University and Research Centre),
- CEDES (University and Research Centre) and
- INOVARIA (an association of businesses).

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