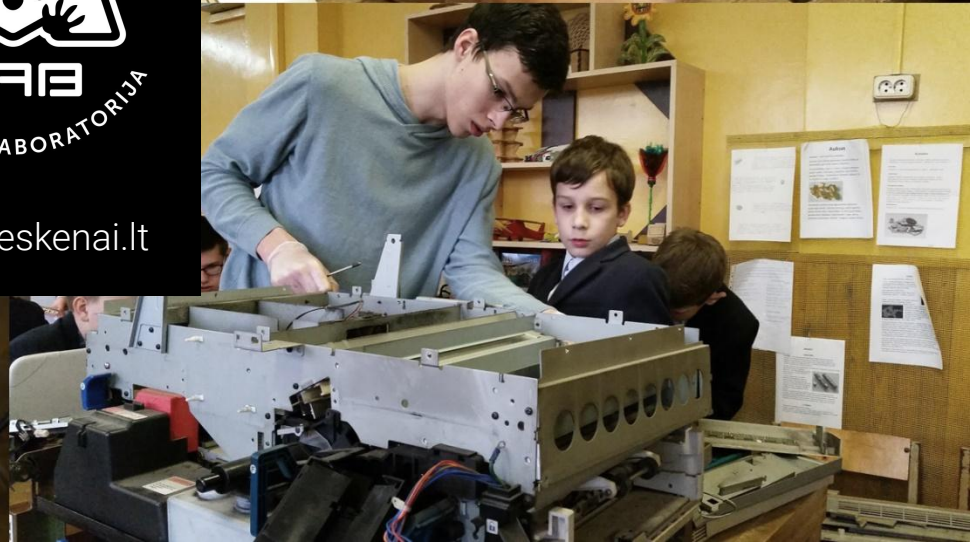
Raccoons in Lithuanian Schools

Leading a Network of School FabLabs in Lithuania

LAB

MEŠKĖNŲ LABORATORIJA

www.meskenai.lt



Meškėnų Laboratorija (Raccoons Lab):

Started in 2015

Over 5 years of experience while piloting, testing, applying different educational content in collaboration with Lithuanian Schools and teachers

Meškėnų Laboratorija:

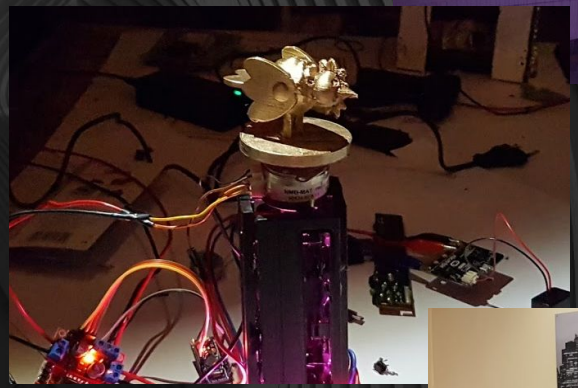
Mobile or pop-up FabLab traveling throughout various regions in Lithuania, creating a temporary digital fabrication laboratory space in the different School environments and having intense creative hands-on workshops for 1-2 weeks with local students and teachers.

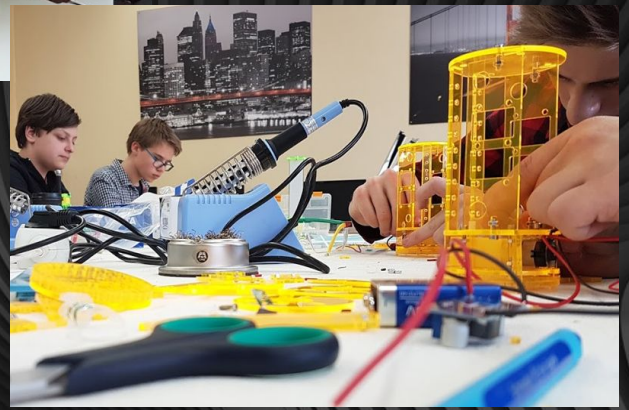
Meškėnų Laboratorija

Applying concepts and principles including such as:

Project based learning&self-learning, problem solving, STEAM, creativity&design thinking, maker education.

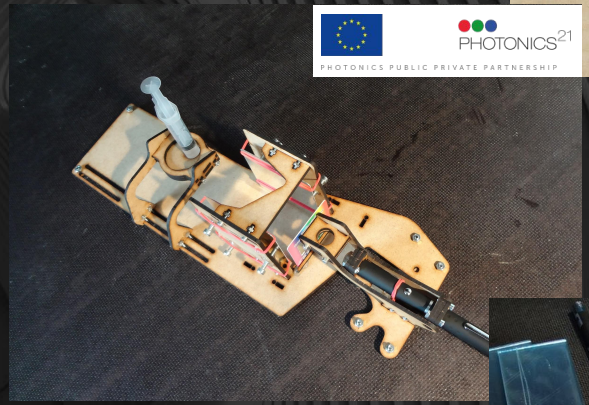
Created or adapted different types and level of educational content ranging from young minds to young entrepreneurs.





Meškėnų Laboratorija

Topics of Bio-Sciences, Photonics, Engineering, Arts, Entrepreneurship, Design thinking, Recycling are combined with 2D and 3D design, electronics, programming of microcontrollers while creating smart things and devices or/and individual design projects with students.



Meškėnų Laboratorija

Support for establishing (mini) FabLab or digital fabrication laboratory spaces in Lithuanian Schools together with Teacher training and helping in applying the new educational content during their daily work.

Meškėnų Laboratorija

Unconventional Projects:

Art bike invasion with Art and Engineering Schools

ART BIKE INVASION

2018

Meškėnų Laboratorija

Unconventional Projects:

Art bike invasion with Art and Engineering Schools

ART BIKE INVASION

2018

Meškėnų Laboratorija

Unconventional Projects:

Italo Calvino “Invisible Cities” with Art Schools

Meškėnų Laboratorija

Unconventional Projects:

Vilnius city and School “Maker Faire” events

Meškėnų Laboratorija

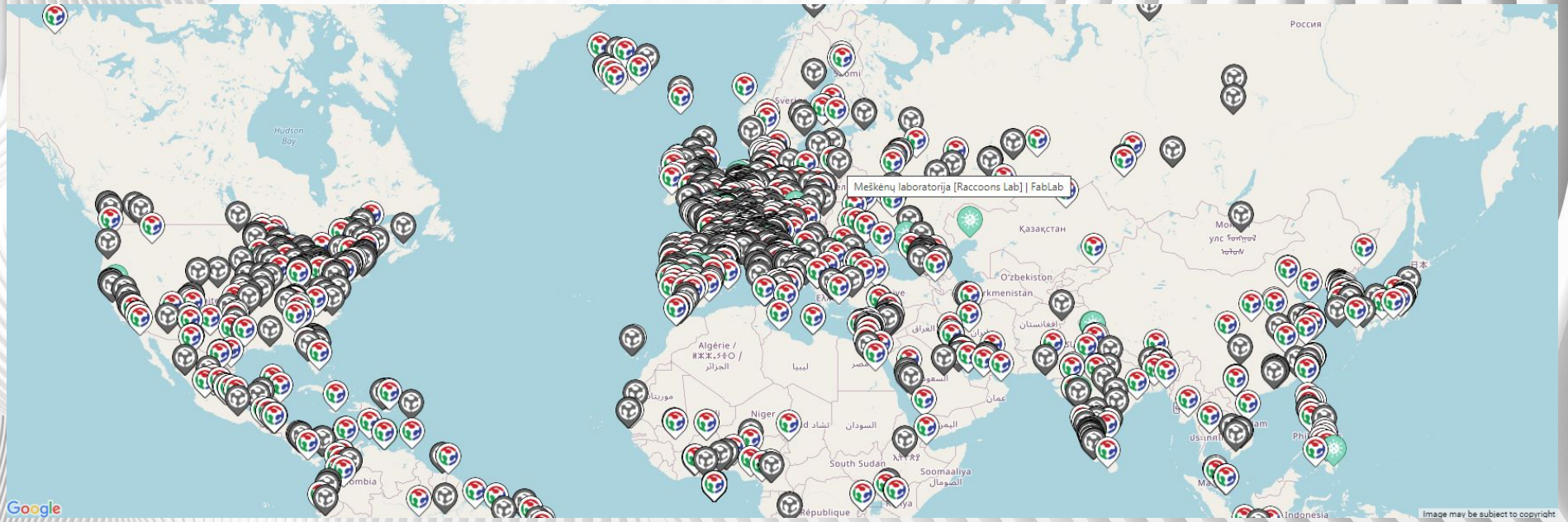
“Raccoons” had been recognized in EU and locally for bringing the innovation in Education

“Most innovative in STE(A)M”, Lithuania, 2016

European Commission “DG Connect”- ICT2018 “European Digital Skills Awards” finalists.

The best Award - grateful, motivated teachers and students.

Meškėnų Laboratorija: *is just one of the many Labs as a part of a Worldwide network and community*



FabLab community

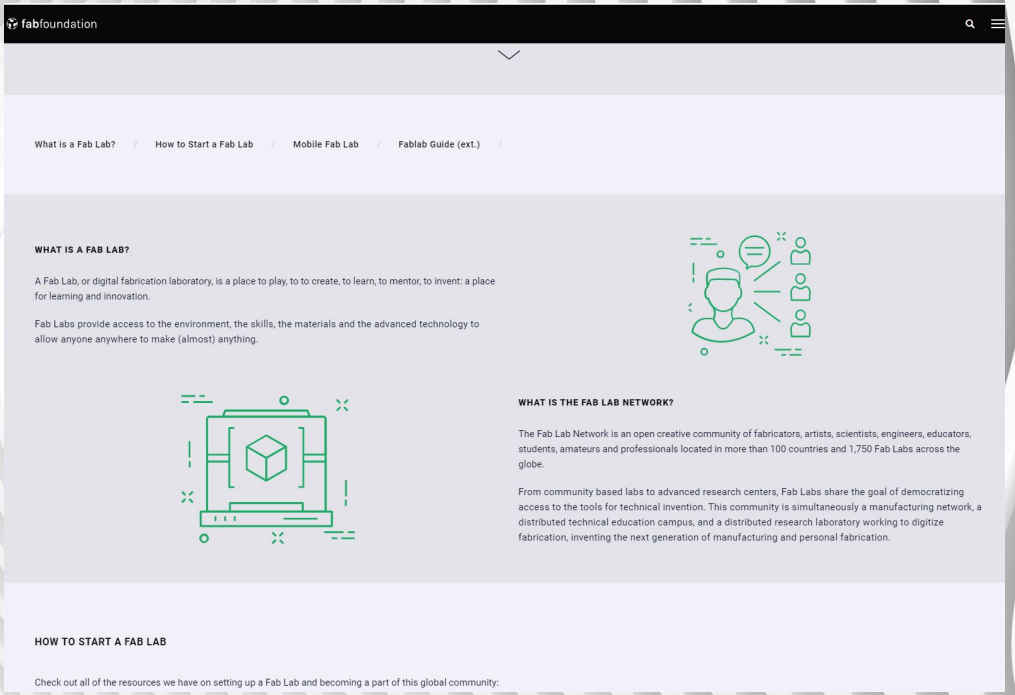
The Fab Foundation

https://fabfoundation.org/

FabLabs.io

https://fablabs.io/labs/map

Fab Academy
https://fabacademy.org/

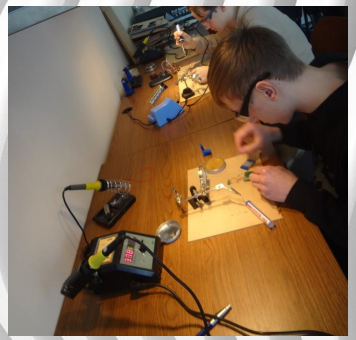


School FabLabs in Lithuania

2018 School FabLab idea had been successfully presented to Vilnius and Alytus cities municipalities, followed by the first pilot “School FabLab” spaces opened in Schools.
2021 (as for today) there are over 40 School FabLabs in Lithuania.
The network of independent and different School FabLabs with their teachers and students opens new opportunities for the local Education system.

Integrating the possibilities of digital fabrication laboratories into the Curriculum is a day-to-day work and experiment.

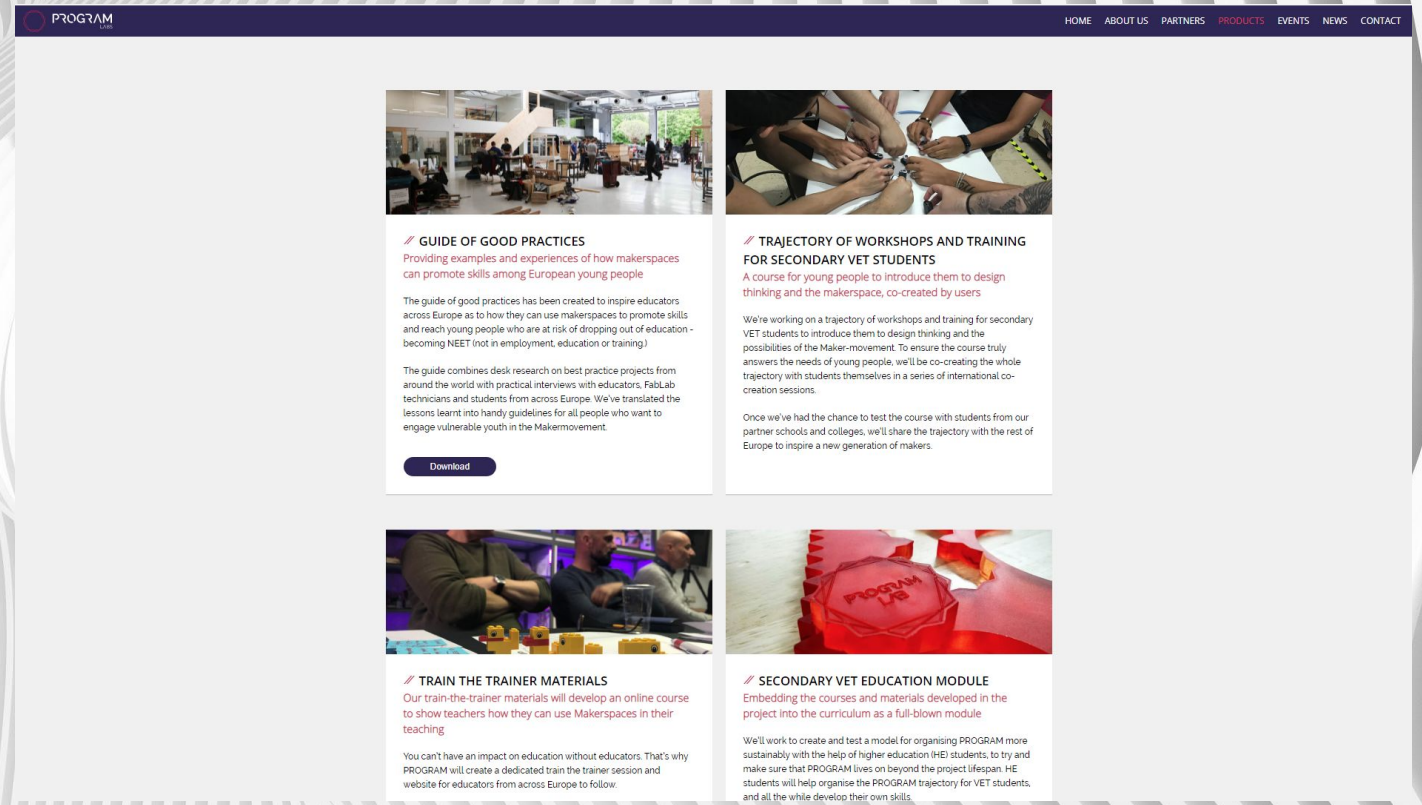
Even if sometimes it could be seen as a longer process which has its own challenges, still it can be very dynamic for making an impact to the Education system in a smaller country like Lithuania.



Education during the Covid period

P.R.O.G.R.A.M.

www.programlabs.eu



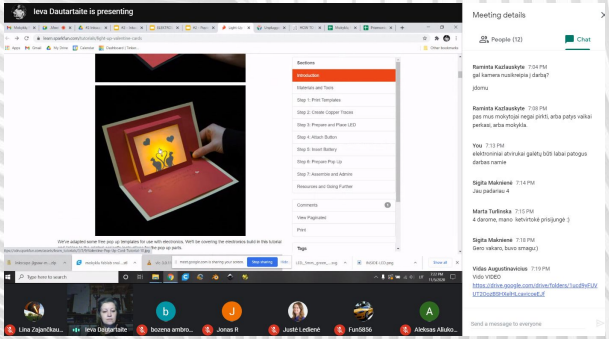
Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

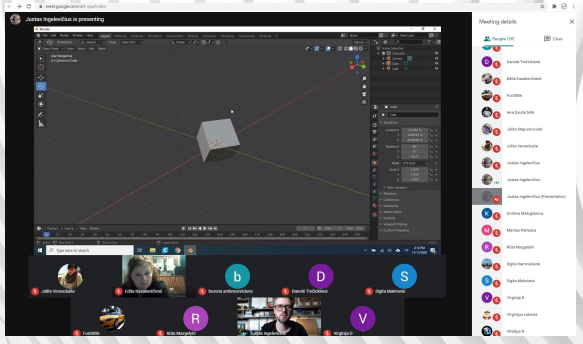
Education during the Covid period

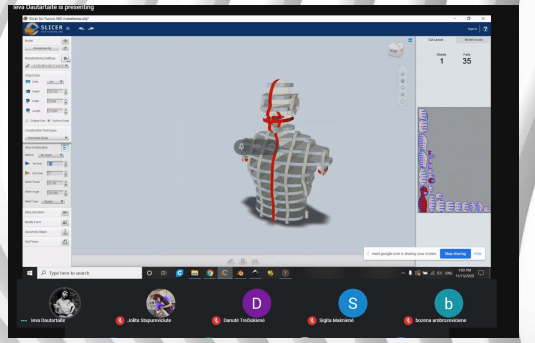
Remote lessons/sessions with free and available to download and install at home opensource software (e.g. Blender, Inkscape)

Project “kits” - set of materials and components for creating the projects at home

Digital designs sent (uploaded) to be fabricated in the Lab by teachers







Thank you!

Giedrius Kavaliauskas, Meškėnų Laboratorija
www.meskenai.lt
giedrius@meskenai.lt