STEM School = School with a clear STEM strategy

STEM School Key Elements And Criteria*

**Instruction**
- Personalisation of learning (Instructional approaches intended to address the different learning needs, interests or cultural backgrounds of students)
- Problem and project based learning (PBL) (Student-centred pedagogy in which students learn about a subject through solving open-ended problems and/or projects, either individually or collaboratively)
- Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) (Learning process in which questions, problems and scenarios are presented to students, including case studies, field-work, investigations or research projects, etc.)

**Curricula implementation**
- Emphasis on STEM topics and competences (School developing a curriculum emphasizing STEM subjects or topics and STEM key competences)
- Interdisciplinary instruction (Teaching methodology aimed at giving instruction across different curricular disciplines, STEM subjects, including the preparation within interdisciplinary teacher groups.)
- Contextualization of STEM teaching (Connection of the lessons in the classroom to real world experiences)
- Highly qualified professionals (Specialisation in STEM)
- Existence of supporting (pedagogical) staff
- Professional development (Initial and continuous professional development for teachers, Heads of School and/or career counsellors)

**Assessment**
- Continuous assessment (Assessment typology where students are examined continuously)
- Personalised assessment (Assessment typology framed in demonstrating whether pupils have met specific educational goals, according to their personal development)

**Professionalisation of staff**
- School leadership (Existence of governing boards, management teams, etc.)
- High level of cooperation among staff
- Inclusive culture (Sharing of success, respect for colleagues' ideas, etc.)

**School leadership and culture**
- Access to technology and equipment
- High quality instruction classroom materials

**Connections**
- With industry
- With parents/guardians
- With other schools and/or educational platforms
- With universities and/or research centers
- With local communities

*It must be noted that all criteria mentioned do not operate alone but are connected to each other. When referring to a "STEM School", these criteria should always be considered in regards to STEM education. When the criteria are fulfilled for all subjects and at whole school level, we would be referring to a "Leading School".