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ENGINEER AND TRAINER

HEART Project

(Help educators to teach through robotic tools)

no. 2021-1-PL01-KA220-ADU-000035164

Database and Guide on Educational Robotics

WEBSITE:

- [Please, introduce yourself](#)

I am 46 years old and for a long time I have dedicated my work to training adults, who then have to work with children. I myself am the father of 2 children, 8 and 15 years old. My two children study in different schools, but there is one child in each of their classes who suffers from autism. Although I have observations on children with autism and I will be happy to share with you a few initiatives in which I took part.

- [Have you ever worked with robots during your work with adult learners?](#)

I have knowledge of working with the robot Roberta, which was implemented by the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. The robot itself was purchased by a French institute, but in Bulgaria there are modifications and it can also use Bulgarian.

- [Can you tell us more about the type of robot you worked with?](#)

It is a robot and an educator, helping children with special needs, but in reality he has other fields of application. After all, I define it as a training robot.

- [How many times did you use the robot?](#)

I have been dealing with it for more than a year and a half, I use it to show educators how they can work with it in their daily practice with children.

- [How and in what contexts your robot be used?](#)

The robot can sing songs, tell stories and most often teachers use it while singing, children can do gymnastics with it. Helps teachers to attract children's attention, to get involved with games.



Co-funded by the
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- [If not confidential, what was the costs for implementation](#)

I do not have such information, because the improvements on the robot are Bulgarian and in general we are constantly working on improving this type of robot. I am very interested in robotics, I know that there are many opportunities in Europe to buy such robots, the price being between 15,000 and 20,000 euros. It is very relative, because it depends on what the robot will be used for, what software is implemented.

- [Have you experienced any problem\(s\) with the robot?](#)

I have never had any problems.

- [From your point of view, is this robot suitable for teaching children?](#)

As this is still more of a prototype, we cannot say that every school or center can use it permanently. We do a lot of demonstrations in schools that contact us, specialized centers for working with children with disabilities, a number of scientific forums and more. There is no exact distribution of who will use it and for how long, but it is a matter of prior agreement with specific organizations. Representatives of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences presented their robots on national television years ago and this has prompted the community to take an interest in this alternative approach for children.

- [From your point of view, is this robot suitable for teaching adult learners with disabilities too?](#)

Unfortunately, I cannot say that in the coming years this will become widespread in Bulgarian education. I see interest in pedagogues, in specialists, in university lecturers. They are aware of the benefits and advantages of robots, but each school has a budget that is quite limited compared to their European colleagues. I think a lot of people want to have some kind of educational robot, but they don't have the finances to do it independently.