

Country Focus: Suriname

With the help of an ITEN Seed Grant, the **Stichting CEentrum voor NAscholing in SUriname** (CeNaSu), is providing STEM-focused teacher professional development, "**Getting Moengo STREAM-ing**", across October and November 2021. CeNaSu, an entity of the **Ministry of Education, Science and Culture of Suriname**, aims to support the professionalization of educators across the country.

Starting with the district of Marowijne, CeNaSu worked with Ministry officials to identify the specific kinds of supports teachers needed due to the pandemic. What resulted was the development of a six-part training experience focused on **digital competencies** and **STREAM**.



Understanding the importance of administrator support and building-level teams, CeNaSu shared the opportunity with school directors across the province, asking them to nominate five basic education / primary teachers per school to participate.

The strategic approach used by CeNaSu aims to disseminate digital competencies in a sustainable way, meeting real needs expressed by teacher participants themselves. With feedback from 47 teachers, they ultimately created **a program to help teachers learn basic computer skills to facilitate teaching and learning**, from digitizing lesson plans, to managing materials and student records. Objectives included learning how to make annual and quarterly lesson plans and student assignments using tools such as Google Drive and Google Classroom, creating announcements, and tracking student grades.



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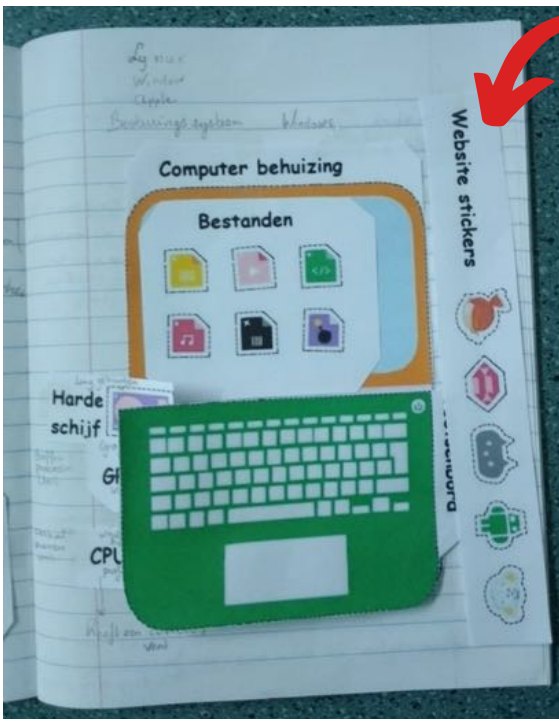
teachers from six different schools ultimately committed themselves to the program.

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additional **teachers** will be mentored by the original 36 participants on the use of Google Classroom.

"It is a pleasure seeing the growth of the teachers. We have head masters and other school personnel asking when the spin off will be in their schools. I feel very privileged to be able to work on this project."

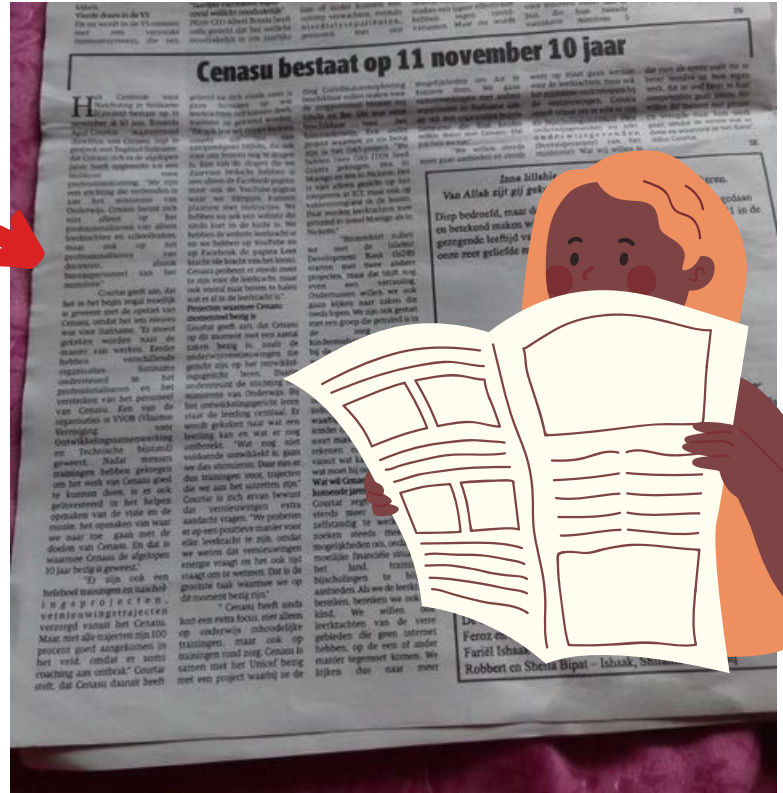
- Rosanda Apai, Director of CeNaSu



After learning about digital tools, including Google Drive, Google Classroom, and fundamental computer hardware and software, teachers were asked to complete a final assignment to prepare an environmentally-focused lesson integrating all aspects of STREAM, present the lesson to their students, and prepare a reflection video to be submitted via Google Classroom.

As a follow-up, each participant was expected to mentor at least three other colleagues to follow the same protocol, supporting their lesson planning, implementation, and digitization, collecting evidence of execution.

This Seed Grant project with ITEN is a part of numerous initiatives of CeNaSu to celebrate their 10th anniversary. CeNaSu documented this achievement with a public article, noting their working with ITEN, in a 30 October 2021 edition of the **Dagblad Suriname** newspaper.



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CeNaSu has enjoyed collaborations across the region through ITEN Project Team work, including with George Mason University (USA), the Ministry of Education of Antigua and Barbuda, and the Jamaica Ministry of Education, Youth and Information. CeNaSu's efforts also fit into a push from the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture to integrate information and communication technologies and STREAM across the entire country. From October to December, the **Probitas Foundation**, an ITEN partner, has been collaborating with the Ministry to advance the **iSTREAMS** (Innovation, STREAM, services) program.

300 teachers have participated thus far in Probitas Foundation's hands-on STREAM workshops in 2021.