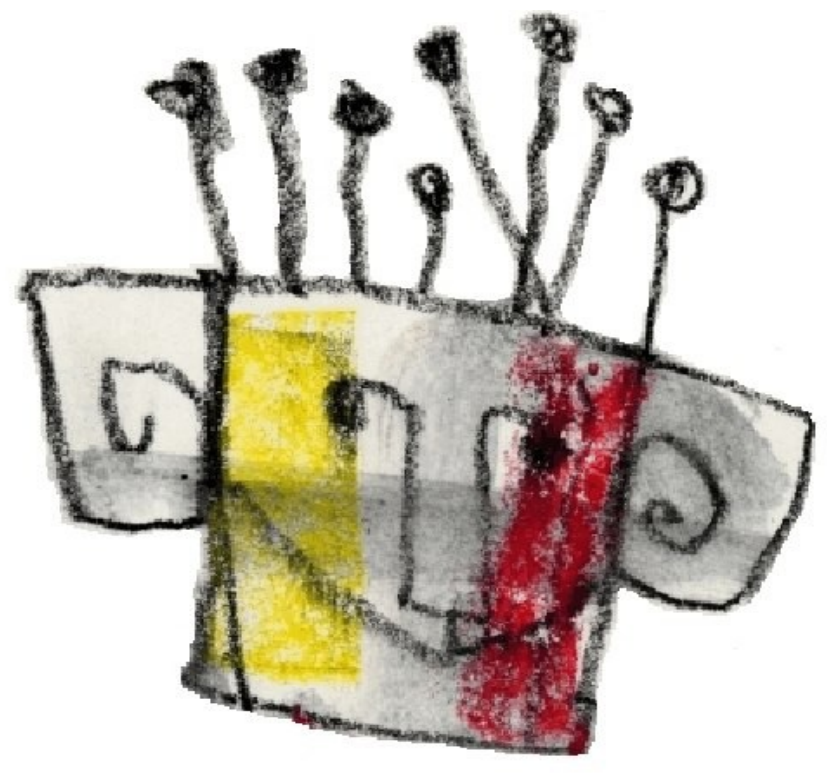


ROBERTA, girls discover robotics

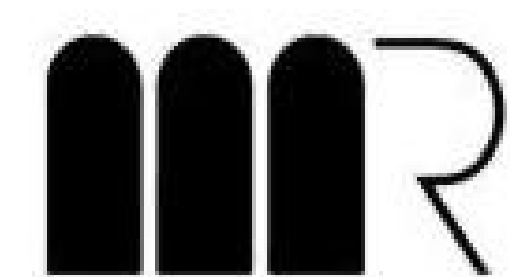


The project *Roberta, Girls discover robots* was initiated by the Fraunhofer Institute IAIS in 2003. Its aim is to encourage girls to get interested in technoscientific subjects. Girls taking part in the “Roberta” courses can use Lego Mindstorm kits and the corresponding software to design, build and program robots. The essential element of the “Roberta” concept is to consider gender specific aspects in the planning and accomplishment of courses by designing the courses in a gender balanced way.

The main focus of *Roberta* is to gain gender awareness and gender sensitivity, which means, firstly, to recognize and identify gender related aspects of facts and situations in education. Then, to think of specific gender sensitive behaviour. In the last step this gender sensitive behaviour should be transferred in any teaching situations. Girls are not interested in programming armoured vehicles, combat or football robots. They are excited in programming robots to simulate and study animals’ behaviour; and, they need to understand the global teleological objectives of the project. They have a genius for involving kids and mates with different competencies in the team group.



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Diversity in science and technology

Diversity is a crucial issue in technology development and technical culture. In the process of development it is essential to consider the specific target groups with all their needs, requirements and wishes. It is necessary to make technology developers aware of such diversity issues. Mixed teams can be an advantage by emphasising the needs of target groups. Diversity in technology development is an approach which assumes all these that processes, from semantic content to the development of the technoscientific products. *Roberta* project goes in this direction.

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