What is the project about?

The Educational Robotics for Students with Learning Disabilities (Edurob) project is a 36 month Education and Culture project co-funded by the European Commission. Seven partners across Europe are developing innovative robotic mediated learning strategies for students with learning disabilities, supported by dedicated training material and validated through six pilot studies.

The Edurob Project aims to exploit the fact that cognitive development can be enhanced by means of robot mediated learning. Based on this theory, Edurob proposes a novel teaching approach that aims to encourage student learning while also addressing much needed transferable and social skills, making use of the possibilities offered by the engaging and immersive nature of robotics. The project will aim to validate innovative - robotics based - teaching and learning strategies which enable diversification and personalisation of learning pathways and let our target groups reach learning goals normally out of their range by other methods.
Robots can provide a powerful alternative learning method for students with learning disabilities. Utilising the multiple sensor arrays available in modern robots, they can be programmed to interact with students in specific ways to encourage and engage them in learning activities. Students may find robots easier to engage with and less threatening than human trainers. Robots can play a key role in enhancing the informal learning most children naturally develop as they play.

The project deploys mediated learning by using robotics as its main approach to allow people with learning disabilities to acquire social and communication skills. This approach relies on a novel teaching process that drives improvements in students' cognitive processes while addressing school curriculum topics. The innovation lies in the use of robotics as a means to engage and immerse students with learning disabilities and have them acquire social and collaborative communication skills. The project targets students with learning disabilities and aims to get them to acquire much needed skills to be able to function in today's society, especially focussing on social, communication and collaborative skills. These are not only needed for day to day living, but at a later stage are also crucial for future employment, giving these students the opportunity to lead a more independent life.