

# DIGITAL EDUCATION ACTION PLAN

2021 - 2027

## Resetting education and training for the digital age

September 2020

The Digital Education Action Plan (2021-2027)  
has **two strategic priorities**:



1

To foster a high-performing digital education ecosystem, we need:

- infrastructure, connectivity and digital equipment
- effective digital capacity planning and development, including effective and up-to-date organisational capabilities
- digitally-competent and -confident educators and education & training staff
- high-quality content, user-friendly tools and secure platforms, respecting privacy and ethical standards



2

To enhance digital skills and competences for the digital age:

- support the provision of basic digital skills and competences from an early age:
  - ▶ digital literacy, including management of information overload and recognising disinformation
  - ▶ computing education
  - ▶ good knowledge and understanding of data-intensive technologies, such as AI
- boost advanced digital skills: enhancing the number of digital specialists and of girls and women in digital studies and careers



- ✓ Launch a **Strategic dialogue with Member States** to facilitate successful digital education
- Make recommendations for **online/distance learning** in primary & secondary education
- Develop a **European Digital Education Content Framework** and check feasibility of a **European exchange platform** to share certified online resources and link existing platforms
- Launch a **Connectivity4Schools** initiative and encourage **Member States** uptake of EU support for broadband, internet access and digital tools like **SELFIE for Teachers**
- Develop **ethical guidelines on artificial intelligence (AI) and data usage** in teaching and learning and support-related research & innovation activities through Horizon Europe.



### ACTIONS TO TAKE

- Develop **common guidelines to foster digital literacy and fight disinformation**
- Include AI and digital skills in the **European Digital Competence Framework**; support the development of **AI learning resources** for education & training providers
- Develop a **European Digital Skills Certificate** recognised by governments, employers and other stakeholders across Europe
- Make recommendations **on improving digital skills provision** and introduce an **EU target for student digital competence**
- Promote advanced digital skills development; scale up **Digital Opportunity traineeships** and encourage **female participation in STEM**

## WHY MUST WE TAKE ACTION?

The COVID-19 crisis led to an **unprecedented shift** to online learning and digital technologies



Access to broadband internet varies significantly across the EU, ranging **from 74%** of households in the lowest-income quartile **to 97%** in the highest-income quartile<sup>1</sup>



**More than one in five** young people fail to reach a basic level of digital skills across the EU



Only **39% of teachers** in the EU feel well prepared for using digital technologies in their daily work<sup>2</sup>



**Almost 60%** of respondents to the **open public consultation on the Digital Education Action Plan**<sup>3</sup> had not used distance and online learning before the crisis

**62% of respondents** felt that they had improved their digital skills during the crisis. **More than 50%** of respondents plan to take action to further enhance their digital skills

**95% of respondents** consider that the coronavirus crisis marks a turning point for how digital technology is used in education and training



1. Eurostat (2019). *Survey on ICT usage in households and by individuals*.

2. OECD (2019), *TALIS 2018 Results (Volume I): Teachers and School Leaders as Lifelong Learners*, TALIS. Paris: OECD Publishing.

3. The consultation attracted more than 2700 respondents from 60 countries.

## Strengthening cooperation and exchange in digital education at EU level

The EU can play a more active role in:

- ▶ identifying, sharing and scaling up good practice
- ▶ supporting Member States and the education and training sector with tools, frameworks, guidance, technical expertise and research
- ▶ fostering cooperation between all stakeholders

by creating a new **European Digital Education Hub** to:

- ▶ link national and regional digital education initiatives and actors
- ▶ support cross-sector collaboration and new models for exchange of digital learning content, addressing issues such as common standards, interoperability, accessibility and quality-assurance

The Hub will serve as a think-tank, supporting the development of policy and practice, and monitor the development of digital education in Europe, including the implementation of the new Digital Education Action Plan. The Hub will also support user-driven innovation and engaging through the Digital Education Hackathon<sup>\*</sup>.

<sup>\*</sup> <https://digieduhack.com>