



European Commission



Digital

EDUCATION

Action Plan

Heads of State and Government discussed education and training at the Gothenburg Social Summit on 17 November 2017, guided by the Commission's Communication 'Strengthening European Identity through Education and Culture'. This resulted in the European Council conclusions of 14 December 2017 calling on Member States, the Council and the Commission to take the agenda discussed in Gothenburg forward. These conclusions highlight in particular the need to address the skills challenges linked to digitalisation, cybersecurity, media literacy and artificial intelligence. The Digital Education Action Plan follows up on that political agreement.

"I believe that young Europeans can become true digital natives, with the ability and creativity to lead the global digital transformation. To make this happen, we need to give them the best chances to learn - and of course this starts in the classroom, and specifically with teachers."



Tibor Navracsics, Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport

The Foundation of Our Digital Future, Digital Festival 2017, Brussels, 1st June 2017

Digital competences have become key for citizens to participate in today's social, economic and civic life. Like previous major technological advances, digitalisation is transforming the nature of work, and poses new challenges:



90% of future jobs will require digital skills.



44% of Europeans lack basic digital skills.

"While 90% of future jobs require some level of digital literacy, 44% of Europeans lack basic digital skills. The Digital Education Action Plan we propose today will help Europeans, educational institutions and education systems to better adapt to life and work in increasingly digital societies."



Less than 20% of ICT professionals are female.



More than 48 000 schools lack broadband connection.



Mariya Gabriel, Commissioner for The Digital Economy and Society



Digital wellbeing is threatened by misinformation, cyber bullying, data privacy issues.

The Digital Education Action Plan proposes three priorities:

PRIORITY 1: MAKING BETTER USE OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING

To fill today's gap between the use of digital technology in everyday life and in education, the Commission, working with Member States and stakeholders, will:

- Launch a new online tool, **SELFIE**, to help schools and vocational education and training institutions use new technologies more effectively.
- ◆ Encourage the uptake of **high speed broadband** through the EU network of Broadband Competence Offices which will run an information campaign for schools, in particular in disadvantaged regions.
- Support the **digital readiness** of both general and vocational schools with the aim of reaching one million teachers, trainers and learners by the end of 2019 in all EU Member States and the Western Balkans.
- ◆ Provide a framework for **digitally-certified qualifications** that is fully aligned with the European Qualifications Framework.

16,500
primary and secondary schools will get ultra-fast broadband access in Spain thanks to the Connected Schools Programme, co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund

PRIORITY 2: DEVELOPING RELEVANT DIGITAL SKILLS AND COMPETENCES FOR DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

As European citizens need a wide mix of digital competences (knowledge, attitudes and skills), the Commission, working with Member States and stakeholders, will:

- Create a Europe-wide **platform for digital higher education** supported by Erasmus+.
- ◆ Develop a pilot project dedicated to training on **open science** and **citizen science**.
- Increase the number of schools taking part in **EU Code Week**, a grassroots movement run by volunteers who promote coding in their countries as Code Week Ambassadors.
- ◆ Launch an EU-wide **awareness-raising** campaign targeting educators, parents and learners to foster online safety, cyber hygiene and media literacy.
- Promote digital and entrepreneurial competences of **women and girls**.

The cybersecurity teaching initiative will support educators in understanding the risks involved and teaching pupils to use new technologies safely and confidently. Several Knowledge and Innovation Communities supported by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology will run a "Teach the teachers" programme, training **6,000 teachers by 2020** through online and face-to-face courses.

PRIORITY 3: IMPROVING EDUCATION SYSTEMS THROUGH BETTER DATA ANALYSIS AND FORESIGHT

To better cooperate in data collection, data analysis and exchange of best practices, the Commission will:

- Publish a reference study assessing progress made in mainstreaming **ICT** use in education.
- ◆ Launch **artificial intelligence and learning analytics pilots** in education to make better use of the huge amount of data which is already available.
- Initiate strategic foresight on **key trends in digital transformation** for education systems.

Through the launch of **artificial intelligence and learning analytics pilots**, the Commission will explore how the analysis of data can enhance policy-making in the area of education.