

Policy in Focus: European Education and Training in the Age of AI

*(Learning Innovations
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The age of AI in education : no longer a futuristic concept

Strong promise for AI to transform all areas of life, including teaching, learning, and assessment.

Some trends since the launch of ChatGPT in Nov 2022:



- **Exponential usage** – About 80% of young people interact with AI multiple times a day (UN). 86 % of university students use AI in their studies- 54% at least weekly. Most frequent uses : information search, grammar check, document summary. (Digital Education Council, 2024)
- **Challenges for educational institutions** – only 7% of schools and 13% of the universities have institutional policies on the use of generative AI (UNESCO, 2023)
- **Skills needs** – 67% of the citizens think they have a good understanding of AI. Younger people tend to be more confident - 72% of Gen Z, 71% of Millennials, 58% of Baby Boomers. (IPSOS, 2023).
- **Polarised attitudes:** 27% of people say that AI will have a more positive impact than negative and 25% now saying the opposite.

Unprecedented disruption bringing along numerous opportunities and challenges for education

- Need for a balanced approach to AI in education - human-centered & innovative use.
- Leveraging the opportunities for innovative, interactive and personalised education.
- AI enhancing productivity and teacher's work, allowing more time for people-centered tasks.
- Essential to address risks, e.g. data privacy, ethics, transparency, equity, etc.
- Build preparedness and capacity at education and training system and institutional level (schools, universities, etc.). Support teachers, educators, leadership and learners in the process.
- Foster the development of appropriate skills (critical thinking), but also AI skills and literacy to live and work with AI.
- Inclusion as a key prerequisite for success - no one should be left behind.
- Broader challenges related to EU's competitiveness and digital sovereignty. Need to foster the development of EU values-based EdTech solutions.
- Implications to continue unveiling ...

The EU strategy for just and effective digital transformation in education, prepared to address new and evolving demands, including such related to disruptive technologies like AI.



How does the Digital Education Action Plan work?

1. Goal

High-quality and inclusive digital education

- Fostering the development of a **high-performing digital education ecosystem**
- **Enhancing digital skills** and competences for the digital transformation

2. Strategic priorities

3. Horizontal priority

Boosting cooperation and exchange

Evolving policy and political landscape

- Landmark legislation with no global precedent – **the EU Artificial Intelligence Act** – putting forward the European human-centric approach to AI to boost innovation and uptake, while ensuring safety and compliance with fundamental rights.
- Call for **stronger EU cooperation and exchanges on AI in education by the Member States:**
 - AI as a key strategic topic for strengthened EU exchange and cooperation in the **Council Recommendations on digital education and skills**
 - **Policy Debate at May Education Council & BE PRES Digital Education Dialogues** (May 2024)



Support for teachers: Ethical guidelines on the use of AI and data in teaching and learning for educators

- Helping to **understand the potential** of AI application and data usage in education & to **raise awareness** of the possible risks
- Targeted at **teachers and educational staff**, mainly at primary and secondary levels of education. Of use also for the broader education community (students and parents, policymakers), as well as all the stakeholders involved in digital education
- **Hands-on guidance** and support via examples of AI and data use in education; ethical considerations and requirements, guiding questions, emerging competences, glossary, etc.
- Launched on 25 October 2022 in all EU languages. Almost 30 000 downloads!



Also...

- Updated **Digital Competence Framework for Citizens** (DigComp 2.2) to better reflect evolving skills related to AI
- Study on the **implications of flagship digital legislation on education and training**, including the AI Act
- Platforms for discussion and exchange: the **European Digital Education Hub** (two squads on AI)
- Empowering young people to experiment with AI : **DigiEduHack & Women and Girls in STEM Forum**



Funding for AI in education

• Erasmus+

- Ongoing support for grass-root projects on AI&data in education – c. 22 MEUR since 2021
- AI focus on large-scale centralised projects
 - AI in education – priority of the Forward-looking projects 2022 - 7 large-scale projects funded
 - Data literacy - priority of the Policy Experimentations 2024
- Stay tuned for the Erasmus+ Annual Work Programme 2025



What comes next?

- Ongoing Digital Education Action Plan (2021-2027) Review – taking stock and looking into areas that would require further attention.
 - ➔ ongoing call for position papers until 15 Sept: [Have your say about the Digital Education Action Plan | European Education Area \(europa.eu\)](#)
- Education to have a key role in addressing AI disruption to ensure that young people are prepared to live and work in the AI age.



European
Commission

THANK YOU!

Digital Education

Action Plan

2021-2027

Unlock your digital potential



Interested to know more?

Get in touch by email:

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