Digital Education

The turning point of digital education: policies and practices in Europe today

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At the start

The need for a new Action Plan, building on the first [Digital Education Action Plan](#) (2018-2020) was expressed in the [Political Guidelines](#) of European Commission President, President Ursula von der Leyen, in July 2019.

Policy context

CORONAVIRUS
(COVID-19)

A Europe fit for
the digital age

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DIGITAL EDUCATION ACTION PLAN

2021 - 2027

Resetting education
and training for
the digital age

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Achieving the
EUROPEAN EDUCATION AREA
by 2025

2030
DIGITAL
COMPASS

THE EUROPEAN WAY
FOR THE DIGITAL DECADE

Next
Generation
EU

#NextGenerationEU
#EUBudget

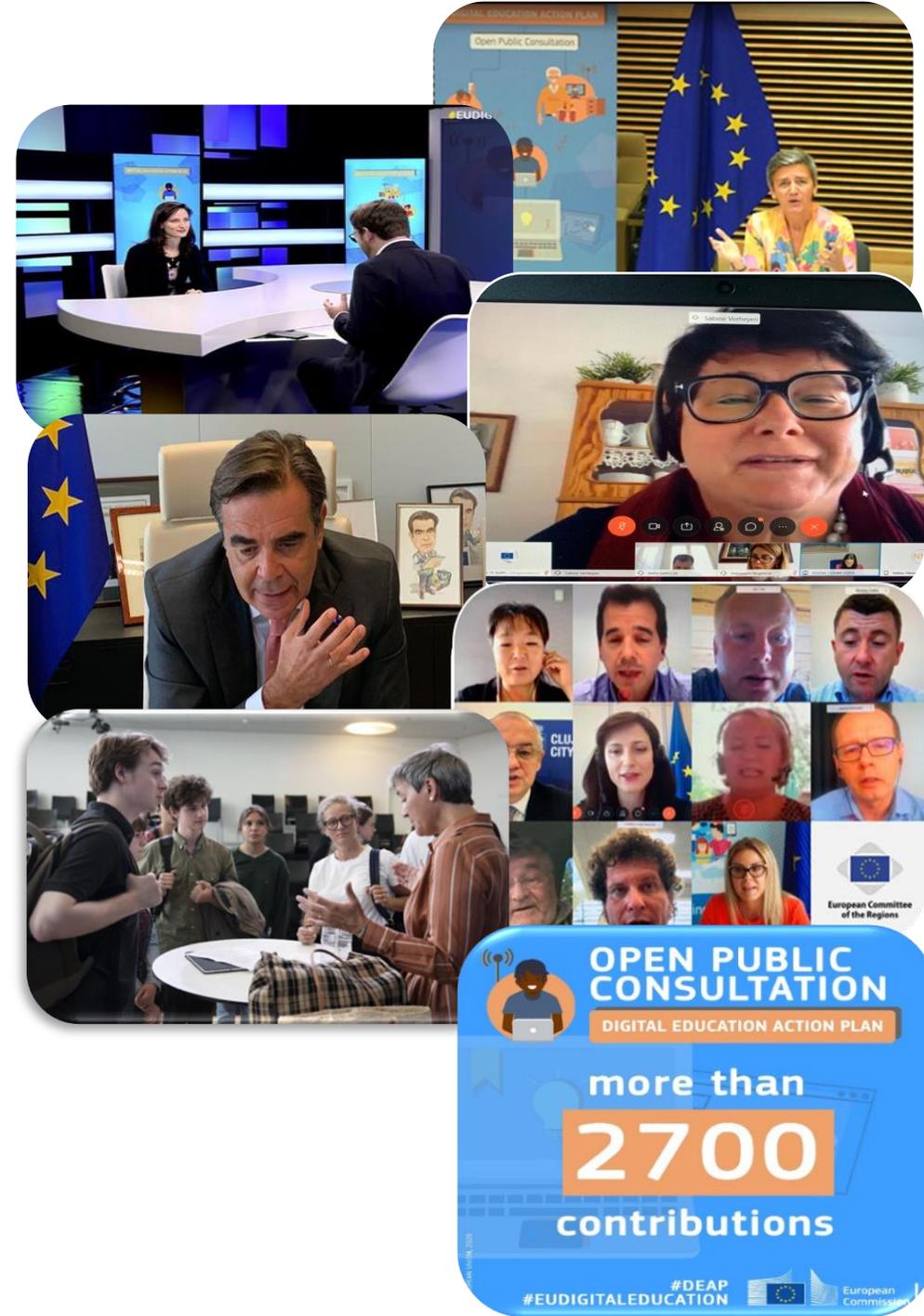*Adopted by 30 September 2020*

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Digital Education Action Plan (2021-2027)

> Addressing the **implications of the COVID-19 crisis** for education and training, while outlining **a long-term vision** for high-quality and inclusive education and training in the digital age;

> An integrated approach for **technology use in education and improving digital skills**;

> Wide scope- beyond formal education and **including lifelong learning;**

> Duration of **seven years, aligned with the programming period of the EU** (Erasmus+, Horizon Europe, RRF, ESF+, CEF, etc.);

> Coordinated effort by **6 DGs** (EAC, CNECT, EMPL, RTD, GROW, JRC) and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT).

Stakeholder consultations

➢ **Extensive targeted stakeholder consultations** (March- September 2020);

➢ **Outreach events** with participation at highest political level;

➢ **Open Public Consultation** on the lessons learnt from the COVID-19 crisis (18 June - 4 September) targeting **all parts of the society.**

Key findings

➢ For 90% of the respondents, the COVID-19 crisis was a **turning point** for the use of technologies in education;

➢ **Deepening socioeconomic inequalities** and **creating new divides** were seen as a main concern;

➢ The importance of **digital skills and competences for life and work** was greatly recognized;

➢ Reinforced **cooperation** and **stakeholder engagement** as a prerequisite for success.

> *We need to develop better online platforms for learning. The ones we had to use were acceptable but still had massive limitations. We really need to develop better tools."*
>
> **— Student**

> *We live in a digital era and this is a huge advantage. Digital literacy and skills are essential and should no longer be ignored. These skills should be constantly developed hand-in-hand with the digital infrastructure. This is the only way that investment in technology will prove to be efficient."*
>
> **— Industry representative**

> *Students have improved their digital skills, and for the most part grew to like online learning. Many said their communication and digital skills had improved in leaps and bounds."*
>
> **— Teacher**

Two strategic priority areas

Priority Area	Objectives
Fostering the development a high performing digital education ecosystem	o Boosting peer learning and policy cooperation o Investing in infrastructure and connectivity o Fostering digital capacity building o Supporting high-quality and inclusive digital content, platforms and tools
Enhancing digital skills and competences for the digital transformation	o Fostering the development of basic digital competence o Promoting digital literacy for informed choices as citizens o Boosting the development of advanced digital skills

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Priority 1: Developing a high performing digital education ecosystem

1. **Strategic Dialogue with Member States** on enabling factors in digital education.

2. **Proposal for Council Recommendation on blended learning** high quality and inclusive primary and secondary education

3. **Better connectivity in schools** under the Connecting Europe Facility. Encourage Member States to make the most of EU support with regard to internet access, purchase of digital equipment and e-learning applications and platforms for schools, including through the national Recovery and Resilience Plans.

4. **European Digital Content Framework** and possible **European Exchange Platform.**

5. **Digital transformation plans in education and training** supported through Erasmus+ cooperation projects. Digital pedagogy and expertise in the use of digital tools for teachers, through **Erasmus+ Teacher Academies** and the launch an online self-assessment tool for teachers, **SELFIE for Teachers.**

6. **Ethical guidelines** on **artificial intelligence and data usage** in teaching and learning.

Priority 2: Enhancing digital skills and competences for the digital transformation

7. **Common guidelines** for teachers and educational staff to **foster digital literacy and tackle disinformation** through education and training.

8. **Updated European Digital Competence Framework** to include AI and data-related skills and support the development of **AI learning resources** for education and training.

9. **European Digital Skills Certificate.**

10. **Supported cross-national collection of data on student digital skills** and a **EU target for student digital competence.**

11. **Scaled up Digital Opportunity Traineeships.**

12. **Better provision of digital skills in education and training,** including computer education;

13. **Encouraged women's participation in STEM** in cooperation with the European Institute of Innovation and Technology and support for the EU STEM Coalition to develop new higher education curricula for engineering and information and communications technology based on the STEAM approach.

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European Digital Education Hub

➤ **Continuous** and **boosted multi-stakeholder** discussion**- a community on digital education**;

➤ **Link** national and regional digital-education initiatives and strategies and stakeholders, including a network **national advisory services** to exchange experience and good practice;

➤ **Share good practices** by contributing to research experimentation and systematic collection and analysis of empirical evidence;

➤ Agile development of policy and practice in digital education-

a **think-and-do-tank.**

Recovery and Resilience Facility

Key facts and figures

- The Recovery and Resilience Facility is advancing reforms and investments that will boost the **modernisation of education** systems, improve their **resilience**, and accelerate their **digital and green transitions**.

- Measures put forward by Member States aim to improve the **quality**, **inclusiveness** and **effectiveness** of education and training, across all levels and sectors.

- Based on the 22 RRPs currently adopted, investments and reforms related to education account for approximately **10%** of the total package ~ **EUR 45.5bn**,
  Of which,
    - Early childhood education and care ~ EUR 7.29bn
    - General, vocational and higher education ~ EUR 38.26bn
  A breakdown of investments/reforms by country can be found in Table 1.

- **30%** of the total spending on education (~ EUR 13.8bn) is devoted to **digital education**, a key focus of nearly all national plans.

Thank you!

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