



EU digital education policy

France Universités
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Outline

1. Context
2. EU digital education policy
3. EU funding on digital education
4. Questions

Context

COVID-19 crisis

- **Large scale shift to distance and online learning** during COVID-19 outbreak has been far from simple.
- **1.6 billion learners** in more than 190 countries were **out of school**.
- **100 million learning staff were impacted** by the sudden closure of learning institutions.
- **Mass unprecedented use of technology** for learning **revealed many opportunities** for students and educators.
- Albeit, it also **revealed significant challenges** in terms of equity and quality.

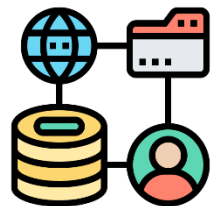
Lessons Learnt

- **High quality and inclusive education** should be viewed as a **strategic and horizontal priority** throughout education and training.
- To **transform education** for the digital age the **we must work together**.
- The **role of all key players** (public, non-governmental and private sector) is **essential in creating a truly effective digital education ecosystem**.

Lessons for higher education



- Higher level of preparedness
- Acceleration of digital transformation



- Different levels of digital capacity
- Slow system-wide take-up of effective digital education practices
- Online teaching and learner engagement

Drivers of digitalisation in higher education



- Internationalisation



- Student and Staff Exchange



- Distance, online, blended learning



- Flexible, modular learning



- MOOCs, Open Education Resources

- Digital credentials

EU digital education policy



Adopted on 30 September 2020



Focus

Common understanding and vision around high quality and inclusive digital education supported by cooperation, good practice exchange, evidence, peer learning and research.



Strategic priority 1

Fostering the development of a high-performing digital education ecosystem

Strategic priority 2

Enhancing digital skills and competences for the digital transformation



Key Characteristics

- **Deeper cooperation across borders, sectors and cultures.**
- **Longer duration 2021-2027**, in line with the programming cycle.
- **Lifelong learning** approach covering formal, non-formal and informal education.

Priority Area	Actions
Fostering the development of a high performing digital education ecosystem	Structured Dialogue on digital education and skills
	Council Recommendation on blended learning for high quality and inclusive primary and secondary education
	European Digital Education Content Framework and European Exchange Platform
	Support for connectivity and digital equipment for education
	Digital transformation plans and digital pedagogy and expertise
	Ethical guidelines on AI for educators
Enhancing digital skills and competences for the digital transformation	Tackling disinformation and promoting digital literacy through education and training
	Digital Competence Framework update
	European Digital Skills Certificate
	Improving the provision of digital skills in education and training
	Digital competence benchmark
	Digital Opportunity Traineeship
	Women's participation in STEM

European Digital Education Hub



Structured Dialogue on digital education and skills

- **Objective:** Support Member States in the digital transformation of their education and training systems in an integrated, coherent and more ambitious approach
- **Format:** bringing together different sectors of government, as well as the private sector, social partners and civil society, through bilateral and multilateral exchanges
- **When:** by end of 2022
- **Expected outcomes:** Proposals for two Council Recommendations
 - on the enabling factors for digital education
 - on improving the provision of digital skills in education and training

EUROPEAN DIGITAL EDUCATION HUB

Aim:

improve cooperation on digital education at the EU level and promote cross-sectoral cooperation

Activities:

- Community for cooperation
- Knowledge-sharing and mapping
- Accelerating innovation in digital education

Join:
<https://bit.ly/3BRur4y>

European Strategy for Universities: Skills for the digital transition

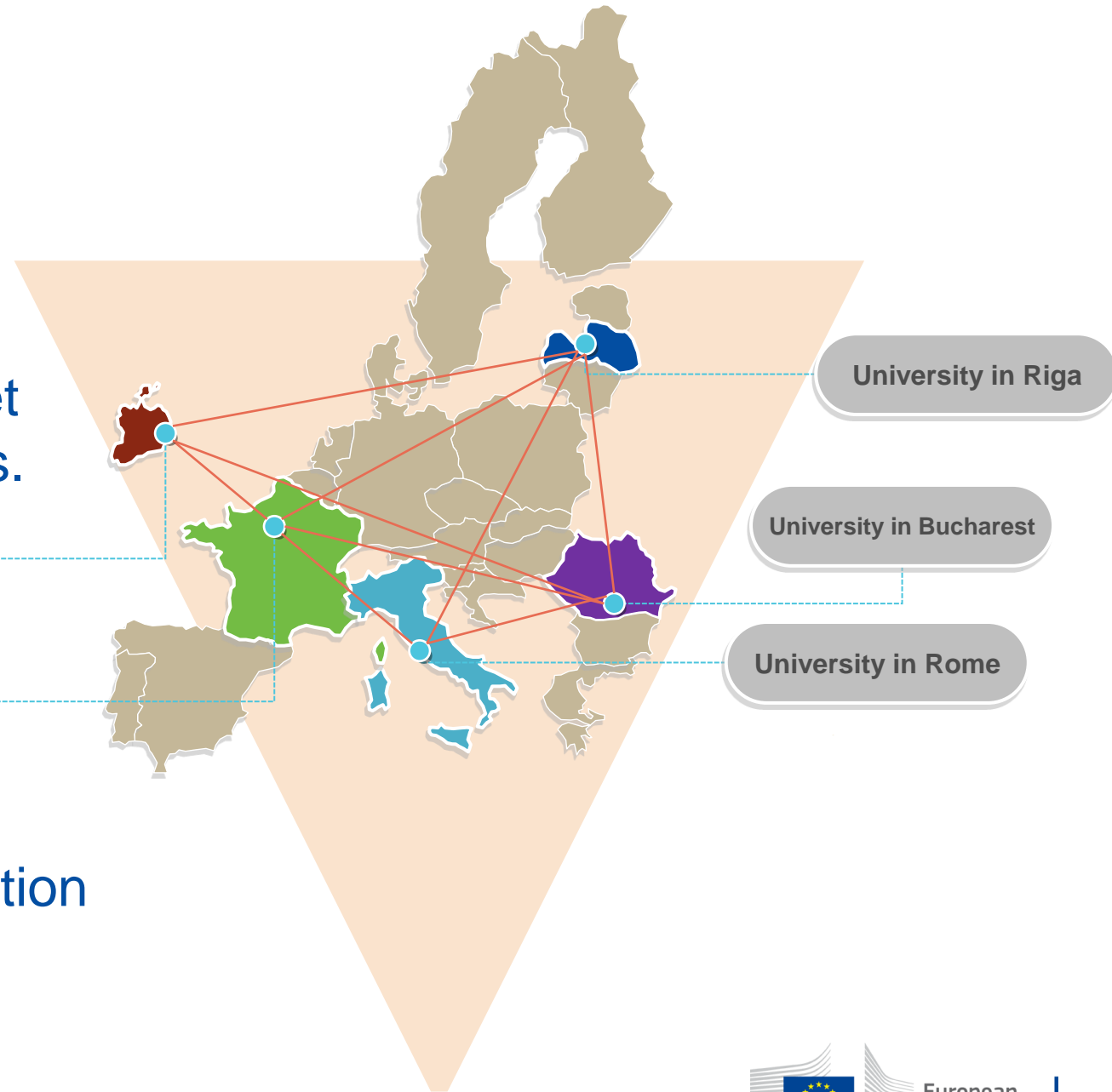
- Provide **support to transnational cooperation to develop the digital skills** and competences of students of all ages, staff and researchers, in line with the Digital Education Action Plan.
- Through the Digital Europe Programme, provide support to **specialised education and training programmes in cutting-edge digital technologies** and for multi-disciplinary courses in artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, microelectronics and high performance computing.
- As part of the Erasmus+ Jean Monnet activities, support dedicated measures to **recognise at EU level the efforts of universities driving the digital transformation** across the EU.

Virtual Campus

- refers to an online (international) location for learning and an internet tool for exploring education options.

University in Dublin

University in Paris



- refers to the (international) information center that allows their students to access online courses and degree programs.

Making connected virtual campuses a reality

- **technological and organisational** challenges
 - student and staff information systems
 - identity and access management
 - digital credentials
 - content and course data exchange
 - Data exchange between universities
 - general infrastructural challenges
- **pedagogic and operational** nature.

European Strategy for Universities: Digital transformation of HEIs

- As a follow up to a feasibility study conducted in the context of the Digital Education Action Plan, support the **launch and rollout of a targeted European platform to promote cooperation between higher education institutions**, compatible with the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) and interoperable with other European standards.
- Lead universities in **co-developing guidelines and principles for allowing mutual access to services and enabling seamless knowledge and data exchange**, reflecting the need for interoperability and openness.

EU funding for digital education

RRF and digital education

- **Most Member States** have **identified digital education** as a **strategic priority** in their **RRF plans**.
- **Relative share of planned expenditures** in the RRFs allocated to **digital education varies** from **country to country**.
- **Share of spending**
 - **Education ~10% of total spending**
 - **Digital education ~30% of education spending**

Higher education measures

- Modernising study programmes
- Stimulating STEM/STEAM specialisation
- Improving funding, governance and QA
- Internationalisation

Erasmus+ programme (1)

Key Action 1 (individual mobility):

- **Digital Opportunity Traineeships** for students and recent graduates: (DOTs) to boost digital skills necessary for the future including in forward-looking fields, such as programming, cybersecurity, data analytics, digital marketing, development of apps, software and websites, as well as training of robots and artificial intelligence applications;
- DOT scheme for HE **staff**, encompasses training with a focus on boosting digital (pedagogical) skills.

Key Action 2 (cooperation partnerships): Digital as one of the horizontal priorities but also very present in the HE specific ones

- E.g. developing and/or implementing **Digital Transformation Plans** of higher education institutions.

Erasmus+ programme (2)

➤ Key Action 2 (Forward-Looking Projects):

- Forward-Looking Projects are large-scale projects that aim to **identify, develop, test and/or assess innovative (policy) approaches** that have the potential of becoming **mainstreamed**, thus improving education and training systems.
- Proposals for the digital priority under Lot 1 (Call 2022), will support **high quality and inclusive digital education**, in line with the aims of the **Digital Education Action Plan**, and projects will address specifically at least one of the following three areas:
 - **Key success factors for inclusive and high quality digital education and training;**
 - **Artificial Intelligence in Education;**
 - **High quality digital education content.**

DIGITAL programme (1)

EUR 166 Million

1st Call

- 1. Specialised Education Programmes in key capacity areas (Master's courses)
- 2. Coordination and Support Action (CSA) on skills analysis
- 3. Preparatory Action for a Data Space on skills



2nd Call

- Short-term training courses, including Crash Courses for SMEs
- CSA on transformation of digital education



3rd Call

- Specialised Education Programmes in key capacity areas

NOW OPEN

DIGITAL programme (2)

NOW OPEN

Objective:

- Support excellent specialised education programmes in key digital areas

Scope:

- Joint design of curricula and delivery of the education programme
- Improving technical facilities and purchasing equipment
- Attracting students and teaching staff
- Supporting cooperation between research and businesses

Budget

EUR 56M
10M per project

Duration

4 years

EU co-financing

50%

Beneficiaries: consortia of universities, research centres and businesses

Thank you



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First two years of implementation (1)

- **Council Recommendation on blended learning** approaches for high-quality and inclusive primary and secondary education – *adopted in November 2021*
- **High-speed connectivity** for schools supported through Connecting Europe Facility 2 and Recovery and Resilience Facility
- **Digital transformation plans** and development of **digital skills for teachers**:
 - **Erasmus+ Partnerships for Cooperation for institutions at all levels of education (KA2)** - *annual calls*
 - **SELFIE tool** – *3.3 m users – 88 countries*
 - **SELFIE for TEACHERS tool** – *launched in October 2021*
- **Digital Education Stakeholder Forum** – *March 2022*
- **Ethical guidelines on artificial intelligence and data** usage in teaching and learning – *published in October 2022*



First two years of implementation (2)

- **Digital Competences Framework (DigComp 2.2)** – *updated on 22 March 2022*
- **Digital Opportunity Traineeships scheme** – *for higher education and VET students and graduates; also higher education, VET, school and adult teachers and staff*
- **Attracting more girls and women** to pursue studies and careers in STEM and digital- *Girls Go Circular initiative reached c. 8 000 girls in 2021;10 000 more in 2022 expected*
- **Common guidelines for teachers and educators on tackling disinformation** and promoting digital literacy through education and training – *published in October 2022*



CR on the enabling factors for digital education

- **DEAP 1st priority:** developing a high-performing digital education ecosystem
- **Focus:** key elements needed to develop and implement an ecosystem that delivers accessible, high-quality and inclusive digital education
- **Problems:**
 - Connectivity and equipment gaps, including gaps in accessibility and availability of assistive technologies
 - Gaps in the digital skills of teaching staff
 - Gaps in the capacity of education and training institutions to adapt and digitise in an inclusive manner
- **Objective:** set out what needs to be done for each of these enabling factors (in the form of investment and policy reforms) and how to monitor the progress on route to achieving the goal of ensuring universal access to high-quality digital education and training.

CR on improving the provision of digital skills in education and training

- **DEAP 2nd priority:** promoting digital skills and competences for the digital transformation
- **Focus:** tackling the low level of digital skills of different segments of the population
- **Problems:**
 - Stagnation in basic digital skills of adult population (2021 data: 54%)
 - 1/3 of the EU labour force lacks the basic digital skills required in most jobs
 - 1/3 of 8th-graders lack basic digital skills, when directly tested
 - Shortage of digital experts, strong gender imbalance in the sector
- **Objective:** promote a quality, inclusive, coherent and coordinated approach to the provision of digital skills in all levels of education and training
 - Integration of informatics into school education and VET
 - Development of HE courses in cutting-edge technologies
 - Representation of women in the sector
 - Upskilling teachers' pedagogical-content knowledge
 - Synergies with private sector and civil society