

The new Digital Education Action Plan

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A Summary
EDDIE Consortium

The European Union (EU) has launched a new Action Plan focusing on the longer-term digital change in education and training: the new Digital Education Action Plan (DEAP) is a key enabler to achieving a [European Education Area \(EEA\)](#) by 2025. The priority areas and actions outlined in the Action plan are the following: “Fostering the development of a high performing digital education ecosystem” and “Enhancing digital skills and competences for the digital transformation”

This topic is particularly relevant for the EDDIE project which aims at fostering the digital transformation in the Energy sector through the creation of an integrated education ecosystem. The article will shortly describe the DEAP and the two above mentioned priorities.

In the first DEAP (2018), the EU addressed digitalisation in education with several measures which has shown to be not sufficient when the public health crisis shook the whole world (COVID-19). The EU has thus launched a [new Action Plan](#) focusing on the longer-term digital change in education and training to support the achievement a EEA by 2025.

Firstly, the DEAP will focus on the deployment of digital technologies (apps, platforms, software) to better support education and training in different forms (online, distance and blended learning).

Secondly, as announced in the [European Skills Agenda](#) and in the [EEA Communication](#), the DEAP (2021-2027) aims at supporting digital literacy, skills and capacity at all levels of education and training and for all levels of digital skills (from basic to advanced). The DEAP is related with the [Council Recommendation on vocational education and training \(VET\)](#): published on July 2020, this last recommendation has a strong focus on digital transformation in the VET sector.

The action plan sets out a coordinated policy response at EU level with actions, investment, and support measures designed to have greater impact than isolated initiatives at Member State level. In order to improve cooperation on digital education at the EU level, the EC will establish a European Digital Education Hub.

The priority areas and actions outlined in the Action plan are the following:

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

The full description of the DEAP (2021-2027) is constantly updated by the EC. Following the main aims of the two priorities as detailed in the DEAP Communication.

PRIORITY 1. Fostering the development of a high performing digital education ecosystem

The priority 1 will:

- Launch a strategic dialogue with Member States to prepare a possible proposal for a Council Recommendation by 2022 on the enabling factors for successful digital education
- Propose a Council Recommendation on online and distance learning for primary and secondary education by the end of 2021
- Develop a European Digital Education Content Framework: launch a feasibility study on the creation of a European exchange platform
- Encourage Member States to include broadband in investment and reform projects in national recovery and resilience plans under the Recovery and Resilience Facility

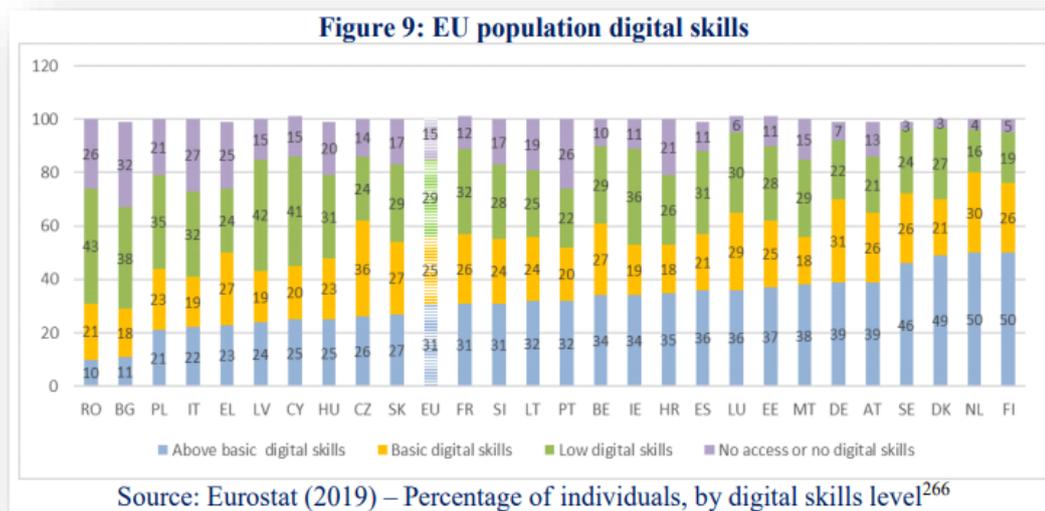
- Use Erasmus cooperation projects to support the digital transformation plans of primary, secondary, vocational education and training (VET), higher, and adult-education institutions.
- Support digital pedagogy and expertise in the use of digital tools;
- Develop ethical guidelines on artificial intelligence (AI) and data usage in teaching and learning for educator.

PRIORITY 2. Enhancing digital skills and competences for the digital transformation

The priority 2 will:

- Develop common guidelines for teachers and educational staff to foster digital literacy and tackle disinformation through education and training.
- Update the European Digital Competence Framework
- Develop a European Digital Skills Certificate (EDSC) that may be recognized and accepted by governments, employers, and other stakeholders across Europe
- Propose a Council recommendation on improving the provision of digital skills in education and training
- Improve monitoring and support the cross-national collection of data on student digital skills through participation in the ICILS
- Incentivize advanced digital skills development through targeted measures including scaling up the Digital Opportunity traineeships by extending them to VET learners and apprentices, and offering professional development opportunities for teachers, trainers and other educational staff in school, VET, adult and higher education
- Encourage women’s participation in STEM.

As it can be seen in the figure below, the digital skills levels in EU are increasingly slightly over time. However, major disparities still exist between Member States: the share of people with basic or above basic digital skills ranges from 29% in Bulgaria and 31% in Romania (despite noticeable progress in both countries) to 80% in the Netherlands and 76% in Finland.



In the supporting actions established by the EC is included the use of Erasmus cooperation projects to support the digital transformation plans of primary, secondary, vocational education and training (VET), higher, and adult-education institutions.