DIGITAL EDUCATION ACTION PLAN

Policy brief

Weblink	https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0624
Relevance	☐ National policy x EU policy ☐ other: _____
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Short summary of the policy

The Digital Education Action Plan (2021-2027) is an EU initiative promoting high-quality, inclusive, and accessible digital education. Adopted on 30 September 2020, it encourages European cooperation to address digital education challenges, especially after COVID-19. It aligns with the EU's digital transformation goals, supporting the Recovery and Resilience Facility and Next Generation EU. A public consultation from July to September 2020 gathered input from citizens, institutions, and organizations to shape the proposal.
In line with its two strategic priorities "Fostering the development of a high-performing digital education system" and "Enhancing digital skills and competences for the digital transformation", a set of actions to support these priorities is defined. The aim is to ensure a coordinated effort at EU level to support education/training systems that address current challenges while providing a vision for the way ahead.

The action plan supports the objective of the European Skills Agenda on basic skills as well as it supports the council recommendation on vocational training (VET). The actions set in the Education Plan are benefiting from several programmes, the Digital Europe Programme (DEP) is one of them.

Main objectives of the policy

To support the high-performing digital education system, the EC defines 14 actions under the Education Action Plan which can be considered as the main objectives and can be found online.

In summary, the idea of the action plan is to make the education and training system fit for the digital age. This includes making the whole society (everyone and everywhere) capable to participate in the digital transformation and benefit from the digital transformation. Further it targets also the economic side by forcing appropriate investments in connectivity and equipment combined with a strong focus on educating the workforce. The consideration of ethical aspects and the protection of personal rights and data is fundamental.

Context and relation to DIGITAL EUROPE

The Digital Education Action Plan (2021-2027) and the DEP (2021-2027) are both EU initiatives aimed at advancing digital transformation, but they address different aspects of this goal. The Digital Education Action Plan focuses on enhancing digital skills, education systems, and infrastructure to ensure that all citizens can benefit from digital opportunities, while DEP funds projects that build strategic digital capacities, including AI, cybersecurity, and supercomputing. They complement each other by ensuring that

a well-trained digital workforce, developed through education initiatives, can effectively engage with and contribute to the cutting-edge digital technologies funded under DEP.

What parts of the Policy are directly related to specific objectives (SO) in DEP

Fully in line with both priorities of the Action Plan in general, by having a closer look at the actions, the following are identified as the most related ones to activities funded under DEP.

- **Action 12** – Digital opportunity Traineeship**s**
- **Action 13** – Women´s participation in STEM

Both actions belong the second priority of the Action Plan with the aim to enhance digital competences. They are supported by activities funded under DEP Advanced Digital Skills (SO4).

Which activities in the current DEP Work Programme contribute to meeting the objectives of the policy

As in former Work Programmes also the DEP WP25-27 funds activities under SO4 that contribute to the Action Plan´s goals.

Please match any specific activity mentioned in the policy with concrete call topics from the current/upcoming DEP Work Programme

In past years, the Cybersecurity Skills Academy, Short term training courses, Job Placements in key capacity areas were activities funded under DEP and linked to Action 12.

Action 13 was supported by topics like Boosting digital skills of young people, in particular girls, Girls and Women in Digital and also the biggest topic under SO4 the Specialised Education Programmes set its targets aiming to reach a better gender balance.

Funded projects (without any claim to completeness):

- WIDCON Connecting Women in Digital (DIGITAL-2024-ADVANCED-SKILLS-06-WOMEN)
- CHIPS of Europe (DIGITAL-2023-SKILLS-04-SEMICONDUCTORS)
- RESCHIP4EU (DIGITAL-2023-SKILLS-04-SEMICONDUCTORS)
- Code4Europe (DIGITAL-2023-SKILLS-04-BOOSTINGDIGIT)
- Tech Time 2 Skill (DIGITAL-2022-TRAINING-02-SHORT-COURSES)
- REBOOT SKILLS (DIGITAL-2022-TRAINING-02-SHORT-COURSES)
- DigiAdvance (DIGITAL-2022-TRAINING-02-SHORT-COURSES)

Plus, several projects funded under the Specialised Education programmes in 2021, 2022, 2023 and C4DD (2024) plus the CSA LEADSx2030

Currently under WP25-27 several activities promoting the access of females to digital fields and increasing the number of ICT graduates are funded.

Under SO4 the Sectoral digital skills academies have a focus on women. Further, in continuation to past activities, a CSA on Advancing Girls and Women in Digital will address the goals for Action 12, by tackling the underrepresentation of women in the ICT sector. And like in the past, higher education programmes funded under DEP in key digital areas also require ideas to increase female students' participation.

Events

For finding related events, please check out the following online calenders: Shaping Europe's digital future, HADEA, Digital Skills & Jobs Platform