



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 27.7.2018
C(2018) 5131 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion concerning the Digital Education Action Plan {COM(2018) 22 final}.

The Digital Education Action Plan contributes to an ambitious vision of education that is forward looking and reaps the benefits of technology. With the Digital Education Action Plan, the Commission wants to support Member States in their efforts towards digitisation and innovation in education. It is part of the Commission's wider vision for a European Education Area.

The Commission welcomes the position of the Camera Deputaților which confirms the importance of digital education for Romania and for mobility between Member States. It is pleased with the emphasis that the Camera Deputaților puts on the human factor in education. The Commission wishes to underline that digital technologies need to improve the teaching and learning experience and that the well-being of educators and learners alike should always be a priority.

The Commission agrees that the modernisation of education is, and should remain, a priority for all educational organisations and agrees with the Camera Deputaților on the fact that the priorities set out in the Digital Education Action Plan are also relevant for non-formal and informal education. In this context, the Commission welcomes the suggestion to recognise the work of libraries, museums, and other centres of non-formal learning, which are indeed important actors for the development of digital skills and competences of the entire population. To this end, the Commission is engaged in dialogue with different stakeholders, in particular through the expert Working Group of Digital skills and competences.

The Commission also agrees that raising awareness is crucial to achieve a greater impact. As a matter of fact, campaigns were carried out from 2010 to 2016 with a focus on careers in the field of Information and Communication Technologies (the 'eSkills for Jobs' campaigns). A campaign to encourage more schools to take part in the European Union Code Week will be carried out in October 2018 and in 2019. It will also provide teachers with easy-to-use learning resources. Furthermore, through various actions of

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members of the Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition¹ over a million citizens have become more aware of the importance of digital skills for employability, competitiveness and participation in society.

The Commission shares the conviction that media literacy and critical thinking are core elements of digital competence and that digital skills should be defined in their broader sense, for instance as outlined in the European Digital Competence Framework for Citizens².

The Commission also shares the view that further information is needed on specific actions of the Action Plan. This is why the Commission recently published factsheets on each action³. The Commission wants to foster an open dialogue on the issues tackled in the Action Plan and organised an Info Day in Brussels on 5 June 2018 where the various initiatives contained in the Action Plan were discussed more in depth with Member States representatives.

In fact, the Commission already supports Member States in a variety of ways, notably through the School Education Gateway and the Teacher Academy, and through common work, together with educational stakeholders, in the different Working Groups within the context of the strategic framework of cooperation on education and training. Moreover, in the area of science, technology, engineering and mathematics education, the Commission provides support through the Scientix portal, which brings together a wide community for science education in Europe.

As regards the timeframe for the implementation of the Action Plan, the Commission wishes to underline that the Plan will mainly be implemented between 2018 and 2020. Regarding the funding of the specific actions, the Plan foresees the use of funding within the existing financial framework, such as the Erasmus+ programme.

The Commission also thanks the Camera Deputaţilor for the useful areas of reflections on the possible dialogue between the public and the private sectors.

The Commission hopes that these considerations address the issues raised by the Camera Deputaţilor and looks forward to continuing the political in the future.

Yours faithfully,

Věra JOUROVÁ

Member of the Commission

¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/digital-skills-and-jobs-coalition-reaches-100-pledges-and-offered-training-almost-4-million>

² http://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/bitstream/JRC101254/jrc101254_digcomp%202.0%20the%20digital%20competence%20framework%20for%20citizens.%20update%20phase%201.pdf

³ https://ec.europa.eu/education/initiatives/european-education-area/digital-education-action-plan_en