The Digital Education Action Plan (2021-2027) has two strategic priorities:

1. To foster a high-performing digital education ecosystem, we need:
   - infrastructure, connectivity and digital equipment
   - effective digital capacity planning and development, including effective and up-to-date organisational capabilities
   - digitally-competent and confident educators and education & training staff
   - high-quality content, user-friendly tools and secure platforms, respecting privacy and ethical standards

2. To enhance digital skills and competences for the digital age:
   - support the provision of basic digital skills and competences from an early age:
     - digital literacy, including management of information overload and recognising disinformation
     - computing education
     - good knowledge and understanding of data-intensive technologies, such as AI
   - boost advanced digital skills: enhancing the number of digital specialists and of girls and women in digital studies and careers

ACTIONS TO TAKE

- Launch a Strategic dialogue with Member States to facilitate successful digital education
- Make recommendations for online/distance learning in primary & secondary education
- Develop a European Digital Education Content Framework and check feasibility of a European exchange platform to share certified online resources and link existing platforms
- Launch a Connectivity4Schools initiative and encourage Member States uptake of EU support for broadband, internet access and digital tools like SELFIE for Teachers
- Develop ethical guidelines on artificial intelligence (AI) and data usage in teaching and learning and support-related research & innovation activities through Horizon Europe.

- Develop common guidelines to foster digital literacy and fight disinformation
- Include AI and digital skills in the European Digital Competence Framework; support the development of AI learning resources for education & training providers
- Develop a European Digital Skills Certificate recognised by governments, employers and other stakeholders across Europe
- Make recommendations on improving digital skills provision and introduce an EU target for student digital competence
- Promote advanced digital skills development; scale up Digital Opportunity traineeships and encourage female participation in STEM
WHY MUST WE TAKE ACTION?

The COVID-19 crisis led to an unprecedented shift to online learning and digital technologies. Almost 60% of respondents to the open public consultation on the Digital Education Action Plan had not used distance and online learning before the crisis. 62% of respondents felt that they had improved their digital skills during the crisis. More than 50% of respondents plan to take action to further enhance their digital skills. 95% of respondents consider that the coronavirus crisis marks a turning point for how digital technology is used in education and training.

Access to broadband internet varies significantly across the EU, ranging from 74% of households in the lowest-income quartile to 97% in the highest-income quartile.

Only 39% of teachers in the EU feel well prepared for using digital technologies in their daily work.

More than one in five young people fail to reach a basic level of digital skills across the EU. The COVID-19 crisis led to an unprecedented shift to online learning and digital technologies. Almost 60% of respondents to the open public consultation on the Digital Education Action Plan had not used distance and online learning before the crisis. 62% of respondents felt that they had improved their digital skills during the crisis. More than 50% of respondents plan to take action to further enhance their digital skills. 95% of respondents consider that the coronavirus crisis marks a turning point for how digital technology is used in education and training.

Strengthening cooperation and exchange in digital education at EU level

The EU can play a more active role in:

- identifying, sharing and scaling up good practice
- supporting Member States and the education and training sector with tools, frameworks, guidance, technical expertise and research
- fostering cooperation between all stakeholders

by creating a new European Digital Education Hub to:

- link national and regional digital education initiatives and actors
- support cross-sector collaboration and new models for exchange of digital learning content, addressing issues such as common standards, interoperability, accessibility and quality-assurance

The Hub will serve as a think-tank, supporting the development of policy and practice, and monitor the development of digital education in Europe, including the implementation of the new Digital Education Action Plan. The Hub will also support user-driven innovation and engaging through the Digital Education Hackathon.*

3. The consultation attracted more than 2700 respondents from 60 countries.

* https://digieduhack.com