



June 2023

# DigiEduHack Webinar: People at the Centre of Digital Education (19/06/2023)



## Organiser

Tallinn University, Estonia.

## Guests

- **Georgi Dimitrov**, Head of Unit 'Digital education', DG EAC, European Commission,
- **Luciano Zickler**, winner of DigiEduHack 2020, Researcher affiliated to the Interdisciplinary Science and Research Center (ISRC) at ISEP Porto, Portugal.
- **Piedad Tolmos**, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Economic and Business Administration Sciences, King Juan Carlos University, Spain.
- **Branko Andjic**, scientific researcher on inclusive STEAM education at Johannes Kepler University, Linz, Austria.

## Webinar

On June 19, the [second DigiEduHack webinar](#), titled "Unlocking the Potential of Digital Education: Exploring the [European Digital Education Action Plan](#)," brought together educators, experts, policymakers and other stakeholders to delve into the realm of digital education and its implications. The webinar offered an overview of the Digital Education Action Plan of the European Commission and explored the integration of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) education. The discussions emphasized the importance of creativity, project-based learning, technical readiness, and teacher training in implementing digital education. The speakers recognized the gaps in digital education and urged collaborative efforts to bridge them. The impact of digital education on inclusive learning environments and the role of technology in supporting teaching practices were also addressed. The "Ask me Anything" session covered topics such as Europe's preparedness for digital transformation, the challenges and opportunities in digital education post-pandemic, and the intersection of digital education, business, and human rights. Overall, the webinar provided valuable insights into the significance of digital education and its potential in preparing students for the future.

The European Digital Education Action Plan:

The webinar highlighted the Digital Education Action Plan, as the EU key strategic policy document on ensuring effective and inclusive digital transformation of education and training. The Action Plan addresses key elements of ensuring that this transformation is in place: infrastructure, connectivity, devices, teacher digital skills, and student digital skills. It acknowledged existing gaps in digital readiness among schools, regions, and teachers, emphasising the need for improvement. Recent guidelines for teachers and educators were introduced to tackle disinformation and the use of AI and data in education and training. The Digital Education Hackathon was also discussed as a platform for innovative education solutions, promoting technical skills, soft skills, creativity, and cooperation. The involvement of society, particularly teachers, students, and parents, was emphasized in driving change and implementing new initiatives. The importance of entrepreneurship and market application of ideas was highlighted, along with the need for continued efforts in the digital education hackathon community. In particular, Georgi Dimitrov, Head of European Commission's "Digital Education" unit, stressed that the DigiEduHack Hackathon has proved itself as a key vehicle for innovation in the Action Plan.

Challenges and Opportunities in Digital Education:

The webinar addressed the challenges and opportunities in digital education post-pandemic. The pandemic accelerated the adoption of new technologies and methodologies, such as flipped learning,

problem-based learning, blended learning, remote learning, and augmented reality. However, the challenge lies in overcoming the fear of using new technology and determining which tools will be sustainable in the long run. Teachers were encouraged to embrace experimentation and learn from failures. The importance of supporting networks involving parents, students, and communities was emphasised in enhancing digital education. Training programs and resources for teachers, including initiatives like the Digital Education Hub, were highlighted.

#### Digital Education, Business, and Human Rights:

The discussion highlighted the connection between digital education, business, and human rights. Access to digital education was recognised as a matter of human rights, with inclusive and quality education being a goal in the UN Charter for Sustainable Development. It was emphasised that ensuring accessibility should not be solely driven by commercial interests. The webinar stressed the need to address accessibility as a societal need and the importance of aligning technology with social values.

#### "Ask Me Anything" Session:

The "Ask me Anything" session covered Europe's preparedness for digital transformation, the challenges and opportunities in digital education after the COVID-19 pandemic, and the intersection of digital education, business, and human rights. The speakers emphasised Europe's active preparation for digital transformation and the efforts made by the European Commission to ensure ethical technology development. The pandemic was seen as an opportunity to explore new technologies and methodologies, but overcoming the fear of using new technology and determining sustainable tools remain challenges. Teacher training, support networks, and collaboration were highlighted as crucial in enhancing digital education. The session also emphasised the need for training programs and resources for teachers and the role of communities in sharing experiences and best practices. The importance of addressing accessibility as a societal need and the connection between digital education, business, and human rights were acknowledged.