



September 2023

DigiEduHack Webinar: Advancing Digital Education (06/09/2023)



Organiser

Tallinn University, Estonia.

Guests

- **Charlotte Graham**, author of the book *Transformative Education* (Routledge, 2022), school principal, Sweden
- **Jukka Sinnemäki**, transformative teacher, Finland;
- **Pablo Melón Jiménez**, author of PhD thesis “Application of STEM education in the field of experimental science didactics”, Spain
- **Päivi Häkkinen**, vice-director of Finnish Institute of Educational Research, Finland

Webinar

The DigiEduHack webinar of September 6 was a comprehensive exploration of digital education, divided into several key sections:

Section 1: Collaboration and Sharing Best Practices

The seminar opened with Kristof Fenyvesi and Janika Leoste introducing themselves as hosts and outlining the objectives of the webinar. They emphasised the importance of digital education and the role of collaboration. A panel of experts, including Pablo Melon, Charlotte Graham, Jukka Sinnemäki, and Päivi Häkkinen, joined the discussion. The speakers highlighted the significance of collaboration, especially among teachers, in embracing digital education. They shared their experiences, with Jukka Sinnemäki from Finland emphasising the importance of supporting teachers in making innovations and involving students in the educational community. Charlotte Graham discussed her book, “Transformative Education”, which stressed the need for a balanced approach to technology in education. This section underscored the importance of collaboration, the role of students, and the balance between technology and human interaction.

Section 2: Accessibility in Digital Education

The focus shifted to accessibility in digital education. Päivi Häkkinen and Pablo Melon, experts in the field, discussed the digital divide and ways to make digital education accessible to all. They stressed the importance of ethical and practical solutions to address this issue. Pablo Melon shared insights from his project, emphasising accessible STEM education. Päivi Häkkinen highlighted the need for collaboration and involving diverse voices in technology development. This section emphasised the importance of inclusivity and collaboration in digital education.

Section 3: Digital Transformation in Finland

The discussion turned to Finland's digital transformation in education. Jukka Sinnemäki and Päivi Häkkinen shared their insights. Jukka emphasized the importance of encouraging students to explore digital tools and creating a supportive learning environment. Päivi pointed out that while Finland has good technological infrastructure, integrating technology into pedagogy effectively is a challenge. The discussion also touched on using virtual reality for inclusive education. This section highlighted the need for effective integration of technology into teaching practices.

"Ask Me Anything" Section

The panel engaged in a rich discussion on the role of technology in education. Topics included the extent to which teaching could be automated, the ethical use of technology, data literacy, and the transformative potential of technology. The panelists emphasized the importance of responsible technology use, the complementarity of AI and human teachers, and the significance of values and ethics in technology. They discussed how technology can enhance learning experiences while stressing the importance of critical thinking, collaboration, and emotional learning. This section provided a comprehensive view of technology's potential and ethical considerations in education.

Overall, the webinar covered collaboration, accessibility, digital transformation in Finland, and various aspects of technology in education, emphasising the need for inclusivity, responsible use, and a balanced approach to technology in the educational landscape.

