



EUROPEAN YOUTH POLICY INITIATIVES

What is the EU doing for youth? Have a look!

Topic: Digital

Tackling disinformation and promoting digital literacy through education and training

The **new Digital Education Action Plan** puts forth a dedicated action aiming to develop common guidelines for teachers and educators to foster digital literacy and tackle disinformation through education and training. The guidelines will seek to **support teachers in developing digital literacy among their students** and reflect the dynamic environment of the digital world. The aims of the action are further to generate a broader understanding of digital literacy achieved through education and training, to promote **responsible and safe use of digital technologies amongst young people**, and to foster a better public awareness and knowledge regarding disinformation.

As much of the online world is shaped by larger society, the Guidelines will be informed by a dedicated Commission Expert Group bringing together the education and training community, **journalists, broadcasters, technology companies, civil society, and public authorities**, as well as the views of **young people to help them feel empowered and safe online**.

Lastly, the action addresses the findings of the 2019 Eurobarometer that state that 41% of **young people think that critical thinking, media and democracy are not sufficiently taught in schools**. This links with the results of the Digital Education Action Plan Open Public consultation which outlines identifying facts from fake information online, managing overload of information and navigating safely online (protecting personal data and privacy) as the three digital skills needed for the 21st century.

The guidelines will be launched as part of a 'Back to school' campaign in September 2022, which would raise awareness across the European education and training community, including teachers and young people.

What's in it for young people?

The action focuses on promoting **digital literacy and developing skills to tackle disinformation among young people**. In particular, it aims to develop practical, age and context appropriate guidelines for teachers and educators, thus establishing education and training as the space of empowerment for young people. This will benefit young people and contribute to the world of online debate and discussion, helping them critically engage with information on one side and creating and sharing their own content, on the other.

By supporting their teachers, this action **ultimately aims to equip young people with the critical thinking skills required to exercise judgment**, analyse complex realities and recognise the difference between opinion and fact, whilst taking into consideration all specificities of the online world, such as algorithms, informational bubbles and echo chambers.

When online, young people need to understand what they read so that they can assess and evaluate it in view of making informed choices: Is this information trustworthy? Is this from a trusted source? Should this be shared further? It is this reflex that we need to help our young people develop to make them truly digitally literate.

Relevant links

[Digital Education Action Plan \(2021-2027\) | Education and Training \(europa.eu\)](#)

[Digital Education Action Plan - Action 7 | Education and Training \(europa.eu\)](#)