Deliverable 2.1 - Report from the annual conference in Brussels

WP2 - ORGANISATION OF CONFERENCES

European Digital Learning Network ETS, November 2023

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1. Introduction

Digit Edu 2023 (Promoting cooperation and research to address the digital needs in the area of education and training in Europe–Year 1) is a project funded by the European Union under the Erasmus+ programme, Civil Society Cooperation in the fields of Youth, Education and Training.

The **European Digital Learning Network ETS (DLEARN)** participates in this project, which runs from January 2023 and December 2023, **as a single partner**.

DLEARN is a non-profit association aimed to embrace the challenges brought by the digital revolution in terms of digital skills mismatch, toward an inclusive digital society. DLEARN pursues the aim of contributing to the objectives defined in the "Digital Agenda" through the implementation of what is necessary for the creation of the so-called "Digital Skills in the economy and European society" pillar. In addition, DLEARN's activities are designed and implemented to be in line and to concretely and positively contributing to the Digital Education Plan 2021-2027 to generate new opportunities for the education and training organisations, policy makers, researchers at national, EU and international level.

In Digit Edu 2023 project, **DLEARN is committed to the following objectives**:

1. To raise awareness and contribute to the realisation of the European Education Area and the Digital Education Plan.
2. To contribute to the development of policies at European level on the topic of digital skills and digital transformation.
3. To promote cooperation between EU organisations for the promotion of digital education and digital needs.
4. To promote the participation of organisations in the Erasmus+ programme, the European Solidarity Corps and other EU programmes.
5. To facilitate exchange of good practices, results and experiences among stakeholders for an inclusive digital society.
6. To increase stakeholder commitment and cooperation with public authorities for the implementation of policies and reforms in line with the European Education Area objectives.

The **Digit Edu 2023 Work Plan includes in total 6 Work Packages (WPs)**, listed as follows.

Two are horizontal:

- **WP1 - Project Management and Coordination**, which will ensure smooth application of activities.

- **WP6 - Dissemination, Sustainability and Impact**, which will ensure DLEARN's outreach.

The other four WPs are for implementation:

- **WP2 - Organisation of Conferences**, which will organise 1 annual DLEARN conference in Brussels and 2 satellite conferences hosted by DLEARN members.
- **WP3 - Networking**, which will organise 2 networking events and participation of DLEARN in EU wide networks.
- **WP4 - Research**, which will launch 2 researches, one on "Digital Skills and Jobs", and one on "Digital Footprint".
- **WP5 - Training**, which will organise three training courses and four webinars.

This document represents the **Deliverable 2.1 - Report from the annual conference in Brussels**, which contains the conference proceeding and the participants' inputs on the thematic areas of the conference. This report is in English.

2. Preparation of the event

The preparation of the event started in late spring 2023 with some preliminary research conducted by DLEARN staff about current trends in the educational world at all levels. The thematic framework of the Annual Conference was then established: the conference, panned for October 2023 in Brussels, Belgium, is meant to focus on the Future of Education with a particular emphasis on disruptive technologies such as Augmented Reality and Artificial intelligence and their effects on didactics and education in general. The Agenda was then drafted accordingly and speakers contacted on the basis of their professional expertise: those have been selected among the following categories, that is to say European Commission policy officers (from DG EAC); civil society organisations representatives (LLLP, OBESSU); School and University principals and professionals of the educational sector (both public and private); national government representatives (Ministries). The selection of speakers has been made taking into consideration the willingness and need to be as representative and inclusive as we could, trying to have a representative of each actor moving within the Education field. The speakers were hence contacted via email by DLEARN staff and preparatory conversations and online calls took place to better coordinate their speeches in terms of topics treated, length, etc. In parallel with this content creation effort a logistical one was made: a conference room was booked in Brussels, materials were prepared – badges, roll ups, posters, leaflets, printed copies of DLEARN researches, summaries of the researches, physical copies of the finalised agenda, etc.- to insure the promotion of DIGITEDU 2023 and the dissemination of its results; travel arrangements were done and official invitations were sent to confirmed keynote speakers. In a second step the conference was further promoted outside DLEARN members' network through the use of the several channels available: social media *in primis,* newsletter's, red booth working spaces and other platforms *in secundis.* The registration of participants was executed through Eventbrite: a specific page was opened for such purpose and completed with specifics about the event such as agenda, speakers' names and visual banner.

3. Detailed description of the event

The Annual conference of DLEARN took place on 18th October 2023. The originally foreseen venue was the Martin's Brussels EU Hotel, at the heart of the European Quartier in Brussels. Unfortunately, a terrorist attack causing the death of two Swedish citizens happened in the Belgian Capital just two days before the conference, making obvious for DLEARN organisers the switch to the Conference in a remote, online modality instead of face to face as initially conceived. This hard and difficult decision has been taken by consulting all the speakers and after some long discussions the online modality was preferred to insure the safety of all, in particular to avoid psychologically tense situations such as panic, anxiety attacks and the overall feeling of threats that travelling to a city put on alert level 4 may undoubtedly cause. Despite this emergency, DLEARN staff managed to promptly transfer the Conference to an online setting and to successfully inform and coordinate all the registered people.

The Conference covered different thematic areas all part of the bigger topic of education. The underlying framework was the future of education, while digitalisation and future trends for ensuring digital readiness were also covered. The conference dedicated time for discussion around the role of Artificial Intelligence, mainly its opportunities and potential challenges. The Selfie for teachers as didactic digital tool was as well as explored and some chances for direct intervention through Questions & Answers sessions were provided to the audience in order to stimulate a participative approach and the rise of fruitful ideas exchanges and brainstorming.

The 18th October Annual conference agenda foresaw a one-day long event, hosted online on Zoom, starting with the welcome words by the President of DLEARN, Mr. Coppola and his introduction on the Future of Education. This first moment made possible the reference to the two most recent research conducted by DLEARN about LINK. The Panel session 1: "Formal education and digitalisation; key aspects and drivers towards achieving digital readiness and capacity within educational institutions" started right after the introduction. This first session gathered important keynote contributors: Ms. Petridou, Policy Officer at DG EAC - Digital Education Unit of the European Commission took the floor presenting insights about digital education area and European policies. Her speech was followed by the contribution of Prof. Titko, Vice Rector for Science at University of Applied Sciences of Riga; other interventions were made by Mr. Frank, Policy and Advocacy Coordinator at Lifelong Learning Platform, a Brussel based civil society organisation. This long and interesting panel was also animated by the words of Mr. Chatzimichail, External Affairs Manager at the Organising Bureau of European School Student Unions (OBESSU) and Mr. Papadopoulos, School principal and teacher at Platon Schools of Katerini, Greece. The last speaker closing the session and providing some new inputs was Mr.De Craemer, Belgian Education Ministry representative from Belgium. The panel was structured as a flowing open discussion among keynotes whom had the chance to present their speeches through PowerPoint resources and

similar tools but also to perform roundtables discussions. The Moderator was Mrs. Mazzaggio, an experienced project manager at DLEARN, who successfully guided speakers with detailed questions covering their presentations topics and linking each contribution harmonically. The first session was followed by a coffee break. The second session named "Perspectives on Future trends in European Education area. An open discussion with a focus on the role of Artificial Intelligence: which opportunities Vs. challenges?" saw a panel of experts from different fields discussing the role and impact of advanced technologies within the didactic sectors, stressing particularly the innovation of Artificial Intelligence and its potential consequences. The panel, also in this case moderated by Mrs. Mazzaggio, followed the same structure in terms of speakers already implemented in the previous one: it was in fact opened by Mr. Thillay, Policy Officer from DG-EAC-C4 Digital Education Unit at European Commission and continued with presentation by school representative as Mr.Papadopoulos (same person as in the Panel session 1); the speech and PPT by Prof. de Castro Soeiro, President of the XU Exponential University of Applied Sciences of Berlin, Germany; the contribution of another expert in technologies, Dr.Ivković; PhD at Information Technology School–LINK Group Center of Serbia; and concluded by the intervention of Prof. Titko, Vice Rector for Science at University of Applied Sciences. This panel as well was conducted as a roundtable brainstorming, in order to have not only frontal presentation from speakers but inputs and insights from all the participants as well. Panel session 3, titled "Supporting teachers and education leaders: Guided presentation of SELFIE FOR TEACHERS tool for favouring digitalised pedagogy" was dedicated to the illustration and practical explanation of the SELFIE FOR TEACHERS tool by Mr. VAN DER WEELE, Policy Assistant at DG EAC Unit C4 of the European Commission. The day continued then with some breakout sessions where participants could discuss further the thematic areas and inputs raised during the three panel sessions and debate and discuss the lessons learnt and insights offered by keynote speakers through their contributions. The breakout rooms were implemented in order to follow the original agenda of the Conference that – if held in presence- had foreseen workshops and networking moments for the audience. The conference was finally closed in the afternoon with the Main messages and lessons learnt from the 3 Panel sessions: all the invited speakers took part to this wrap up session and closing remarks were made by Mrs. Mazzaggio, the talented Moderator of the day and by Mr. Coppola in quality of President of DLEARN.

A total of 10 speakers participated to the Annual Conference. Speakers came from European Institutions, specifically DG EAC of the European Commission, representing policy stakeholders level, either from Higher educational world such as Universities and Research fields, both public and private; either form the organisations active in civil society representation and engagement and from Institutional bodies focusing on education policies. For what concerns the attendees, the Conference welcomed 90 attendees with a plethora of profiles: first of all, members of DLEARN, but also policy makers, education sector stakeholders, teachers and trainers, project managers in private and public spheres, researchers and academics, people simply interested in the world of education and many others registered and enthusiastically took part to the Annual Conference.

The video recording of the Conference is available here: C:\Users\asus\Eurocrea Dropbox\DL PROGETTI IN CORSO\DIGIT EDU 2023_SGA\2. IMPLEMENTATION DIGIT EDU 2023\WP2 ORGANISATION OF CONFERENCES\T2.1 Organisation of annual conference in Brussels

4. Follow-up

The Annual Conference organised on the 18th October 2023 was evaluated by participants through an online questionnaire created on Google Form. The goal of such evaluation was to gather inputs, feedbacks, perceptions and ideas to further ameliorate future similar events and to understand the impact of this deliverable. The survey covered four areas:

- Quality of the Conference,
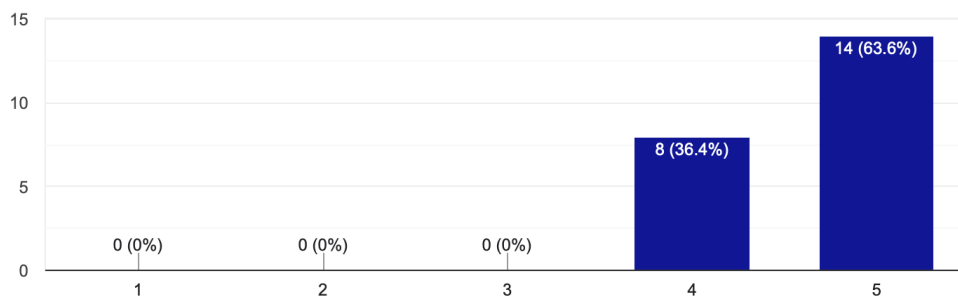- Speakers and Panelists,
- The analysis of the Conference sessions,
- The Overall score.

Out of 90 participants only 22 replied to the online questionnaire and here you can have a report of the general findings emerging from the results collected from the participants.

1. Quality of the Conference

The Annual Conference of European Digital Learning Network ETS organized in the framework of DIGIT EDU 2023 project on the 18th October 2023 was very well organized: appropriate venue, clear and balanced agenda, satisfactory speakers and panelists, appropriate time schedule, good interactions, etc.): express your opinion on a scale from 1 to 5 where 1 is 'totally disagree' and 5 is 'totally agree'
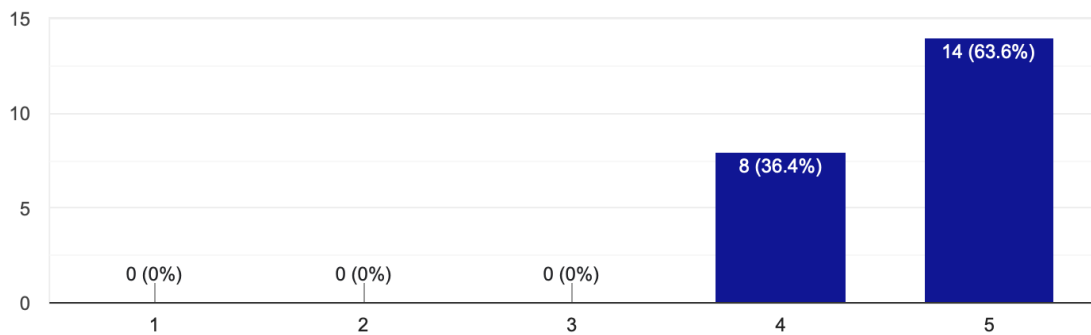
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22 responses

2. The Speakers and Panellists

The Speakers and Panellists as well as the Moderator(s) were effective, skilled and helpful and the topics/issues illustrated and discussed are clear: express your opinion on a scale from 1 to 5 where 1 is 'totally disagree' and 5 is 'totally agree'
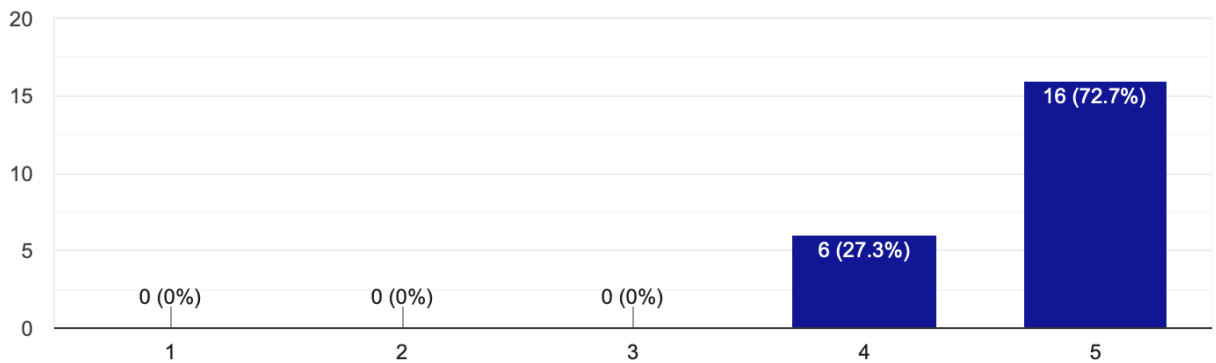
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22 responses

Generally, the Conference was of good quality and the topics covered interested you: express your opinion on a scale from 1 to 5 where 1 is 'totally disagree' and 5 is 'totally agree'
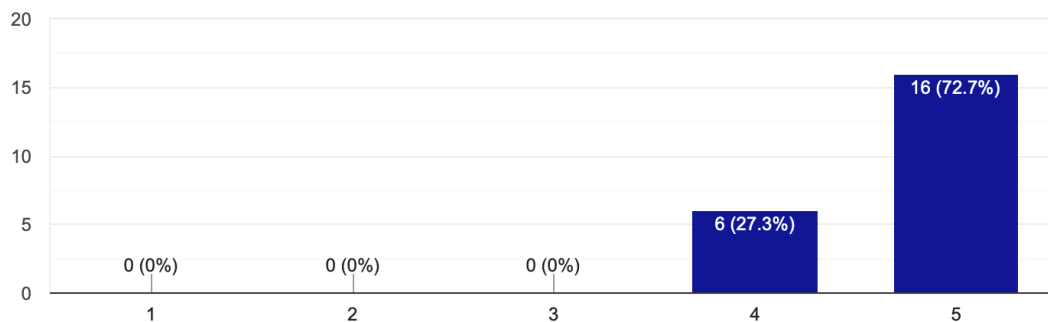
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22 responses

3. The Conference sessions

The session "*Perspectives on Future trends in European Education Area. An open discussion with a focus on the role of Artificial Intelligence: which opportunities Vs. challenges?*" was very useful in illustrating how new technologies, practices and trends are arising nowadays and in the near future and how those can impact and affect European Education: express your opinion on a scale from 1 to 5 where 1 is 'totally disagree' and 5 is 'totally agree'
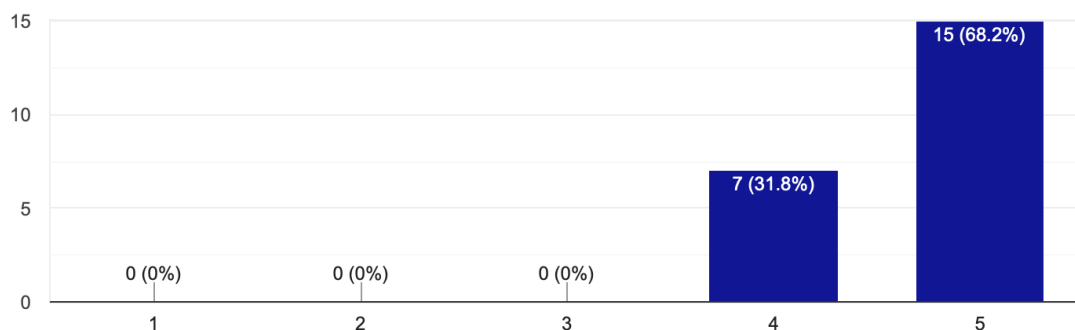
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22 responses

The session 2: "*Formal education and digitalisation; key aspects and drivers towards achieving digital readiness and capacity within educational institutions*" was effective in showing new ways to foster digital literacy and boost formal educational roles' competences and skills: express your opinion on a scale from 1 to 5 where 1 is 'totally disagree' and 5 is 'totally agree'
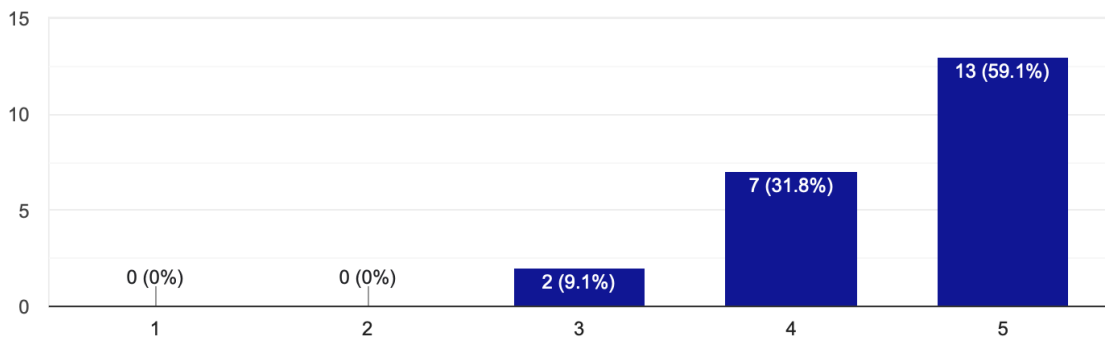
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22 responses

The session 3: *"Supporting teachers and education leaders: Guided presentation of SELFIE FOR TEACHERS tool for favouring digitalised pedagogy"* has been a great opportunity to know more and discover features of a digital tool which may help educators, tutors and actors in the educational sphere; favouring the transition to an increasingly digitalised didactic: express your opinion on a scale from 1 to 5 where 1 is 'totally disagree' and 5 is 'totally agree'
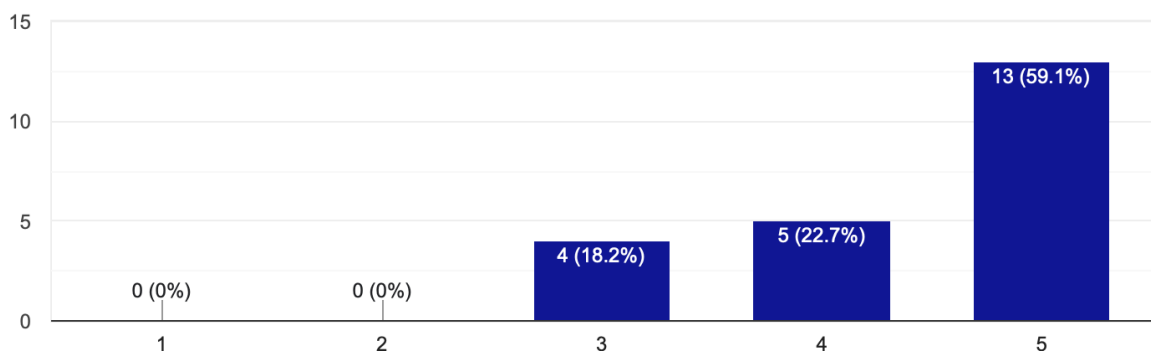
22 responses

The Conference sessions aiming at stimulating contribution and active brainstorming among attendees triggered interesting reflections and inspiring inputs concerning the education related topics covered all along the day as well as offered the opportunity to network and exchange ideas among attendees: express your opinion on a scale from 1 to 5 where 1 is 'totally disagree' and 5 is 'totally agree'
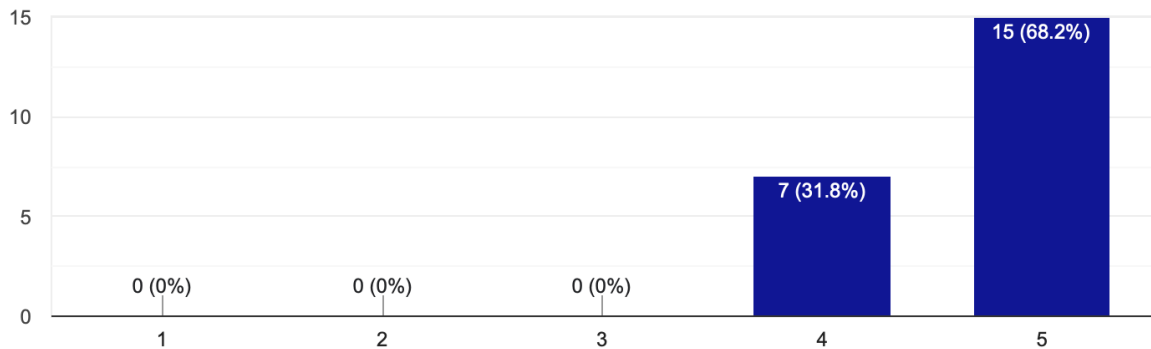
22 responses

4.The overall score

Kindly rate the 18th October2023 European Digital Learning Network ETS Annual conference in the framework of DIGIT EDU 2023 project with a final score where 1 is very low/bad and 5 is extremely high/very good:

22 responses

5. List of Annexes

Annex 1 - The AGENDA

Annex 2 - The ATTENDANCE LIST (or the LIST OF PARTICIPANTS if the event was held online)

Annex 3 - PHOTOS

Annex 4 - QUESTIONNAIRES FILLED IN

Annex 5 - MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED DURING THE EVENT

Annex 1 - The Agenda

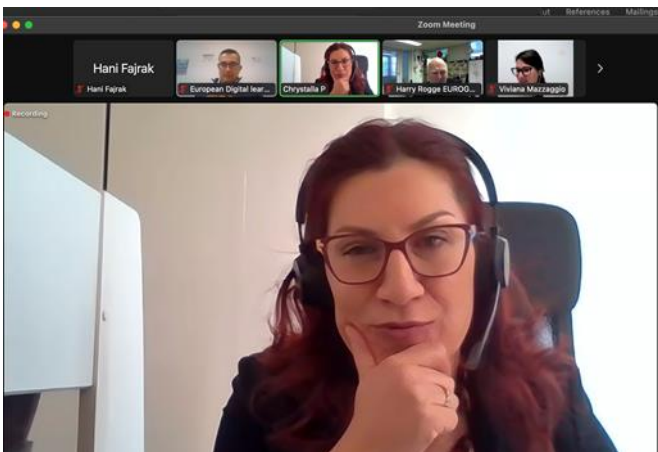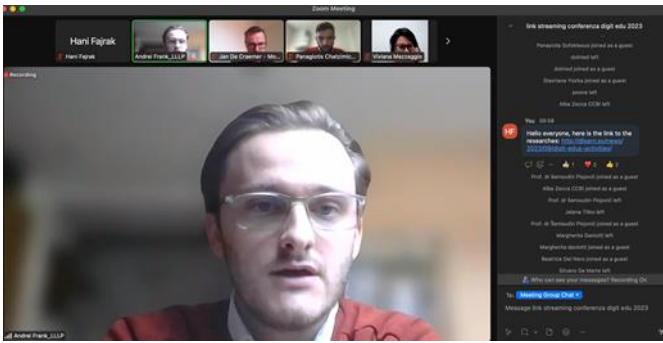LINK for the conference: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81354892215

	18 October 2023, 09:30 – 16:00 CET Venue: Martin's Brussels EU Hotel Bd. Charlemagne 80, 1000 Brussels, Belgium
09:30-10:00	**Welcome and Opening Remarks with reference to the Future of Digital Education** **Gianluca Coppola, President of the European Digital Learning Network ETS**
10:00-11:00	**Panel session 1: "Formal education and digitalisation; key aspects and drivers towards achieving digital readiness and capacity within educational institutions"** **Chrystalla Petridou, Policy Officer at DG EAC - Digital Education · European Commission;** **Prof. Jelena Titko, Vice Rector for Science at University of Applied Sciences – Latvia;** **Andrei Frank, Policy and Advocacy Coordinator at the Lifelong Learning Platform – Belgium;** **Panagiotis Chatzimichail, External Affairs Manager at the Organising Bureau of European School Student Unions (OBESSU);** **Anestis Papadopoulos, School principal and teacher at Platon Schools – Greece;** **Jan De Craemer, Belgian Education Ministry representative - Belgium**

11:00-11:30	**Coffee Break and networking**
11:30-12:00	**Panel session 2: "Perspectives on Future trends in European Education area. An open discussion with a focus on the role of Artificial Intelligence: which opportunities Vs. challenges?"** **Alain Thillay, Policy Officer - DG-EAC-C4 Digital Education Unit - European Commission;** **Anestis Papadopoulos, School principal and teacher at Platon Schools – Greece;** **Filipe de Castro Soeiro, President of the XU Exponential University of Applied Sciences, Germany;** **Dr. Jovan Ivković; PhD at Information Technology School– LINK Group center – Serbia;** **Prof. Jelena Titko, Vice Rector for Science at University of Applied Sciences – Latvia;**
12:00-12:30	**Panel session 3: "Supporting teachers and education leaders: Guided presentation of SELFIE FOR TEACHERS tool for favouring digitalised pedagogy".** **Reinier VAN DER WEELE, Policy Assistant - DG EAC Unit C4 (Digital Education)**
12 :30-14 :00	**Lunch break: buffet lunch and networking**
14 :00-14 :30	**Workshop on Panel 1: Contribution and active brainstorming** **Cooperative discussion about the session and share of ideas and inputs from attendees** **Moderator: DLEARN'S STAFF**

14:30- 15:00	**Workshop on Panel 2: Contribution and active brainstorming** **Cooperative discussion about the session and share of ideas and inputs from attendees** **Moderator: DLEARN'S STAFF**
15:00- 15:30	**Workshop on Panel 3: Contribution and active brainstorming** **Cooperative discussion about the session and share of ideas and inputs from attendees** **Moderator: DLEARN'S STAFF**
15:30- 15:45	**Wrap up: Main messages and lessons learnt from the 3 Panel sessions** **1 rapporteur per session**
15:45- 16:00	**Closing remarks** **Gianluca Coppola, President of European Digital Learning Network ETS**

Annual Conference of European Digital Learning Network ETS in the framework of DIGIT EDU project; 18.10.2023; Evaluation form

Thank you for your participation to
the Annual Conference of European Digital Learning Network ETS organized in the framework of DIGIT EDU 2023 project on the 18th October 2023 in Brussels, Belgium.

We kindly invite you to fill in the following form, your feedback is valuable to us!

hani.fjrk@gmail.com Switch account

Not shared

* Indicates required question

1. Quality of the Conference

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	1	2	3	4	5	
Totally disagree	○	○	○	○	○	Totally agree

Generally, the Conference was of good quality and the topics covered interested you: express your opinion on a scale from 1 to 5 where 1 is 'totally disagree' and 5 is 'totally agree' *

	1	2	3	4	5	
Totally disagree	○	○	○	○	○	Totally agree

2. The Speakers and Panellists

The Speakers and Panellists as well as the Moderator(s) were effective, skilled and helpful and the topics/issues illustrated and discussed are clear: express your opinion on a scale from 1 to 5 where 1 is 'totally disagree' and 5 is 'totally agree' *

	1	2	3	4	5	
Totally disagree	○	○	○	○	○	Totally agree

3. The Conference sessions

The session *"Perspectives on Future trends in European Education Area. An open discussion with a focus on the role of Artificial Intelligence: which opportunities Vs. challenges?"* was very useful in illustrating how new technologies, practices and trends are arising nowadays and in the near future and how those can impact and affect European Education: express your opinion on a scale from 1 to 5 where 1 is 'totally disagree' and 5 is 'totally agree' *

	1	2	3	4	5	
Totally disagree	○	○	○	○	○	Totally agree

The session 2: *"Formal education and digitalisation; key aspects and drivers towards achieving digital readiness and capacity within educational institutions"* was effective in showing new ways to foster digital literacy and boost formal educational roles' competences and skills: express your opinion on a scale from 1 to 5 where 1 is 'totally disagree' and 5 is 'totally agree' *

	1	2	3	4	5	
Totally disagree	○	○	○	○	○	Totally agree

The session 3: *"Supporting teachers and education leaders: Guided presentation of SELFIE FOR TEACHERS tool for favouring digitalised pedagogy"* has been a great opportunity to know more and discover features of a digital tool which may help educators, tutors and actors in the educational sphere; favouring the transition to an increasingly digitalised didactic: express your opinion on a scale from 1 to 5 where 1 is 'totally disagree' and 5 is 'totally agree' *

	1	2	3	4	5	
Totally disagree	○	○	○	○	○	Totally agree

The Conference sessions aiming at stimulating contribution and active
brainstorming among attendees triggered interesting reflections and inspiring
inputs concerning the education related topics covered all along the day as well
as offered the opportunity to network and exchange ideas among attendees:
express your opinion on a scale from 1 to 5 where 1 is 'totally disagree' and 5 is
'totally agree' *

	1	2	3	4	5	
Totally disagree	○	○	○	○	○	Totally agree

Please, comment on your responses if your mark was 1 or 2 for any of the
statements or if you would like to make any further comment on the panels
and/or workshop sessions. *
Any further comment:

Your answer

4.The overall score

Kindly rate the 18th October2023 European Digital Learning Network ETS Annual *
conference in the framework of DIGIT EDU 2023 project with a final score where 1
is very low/bad and 5 is extremely high/very good:

	1	2	3	4	5	
Very Low/ Bad	○	○	○	○	○	Extremely High/ Very Good

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Annex 4- Materials distributed during the event

DIGITAL SKILLS AND JOBS

DIGITAL FOOTPRINT AWARENESS