



Deliverable 2.2 - Report from the satellite conference in Greece

WP2 - ORGANISATION OF CONFERENCES

IDEC SA, 7/11/23



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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 2.2 - Report from the satellite conference in Greece**, which contains the conference proceeding and the participants inputs on the thematic areas of the conference. This report is in English and available in Greek.

Printed copies will be sent to selected high key opinion leaders as well.

2. Preparation of the event

The DIGITEDU satellite conference was organised by IDEC SA in Greece, on the 24th of October, in the framework of the 5th DISCUSS LEARNING Conference on “Digital Skills and the Labour Market”. DISCUSS LEARNING is an annual conference on Education, organised every year by IDEC.

For the preparation of the event, a preliminary framework and a draft agenda with suggested speakers was prepared during summer 2023. The framework, included the focus of the conference, its thematic areas, objectives and target groups. The framework and the draft agenda was sent to suggested speakers, as an invitation to participate in the conference. The invitations were sent through emails and personal contacts. In September 2023, the agenda was finalised.

A dedicated website was developed for the event, found in <https://discuss-learning.eu/> and was disseminated through social media ([Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#)). An email campaign was also launched for inviting participants to the conference.

IDEC SA also contacted the Hellenic Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports and submitted an application for the conference to be put under the aegis of the General Secretariat for Vocational Education, Training and Lifelong Learning, which was accepted.

3. Detailed description of the event

The conference was organised on the 24th of October 2023, at Stratos Vasilikos hotel, in the centre of Athens, under the aegis of the General Secretariat for Vocational Education, Training and Lifelong Learning, of the Hellenic Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports and in the framework of the European Year of Skills 2023.

The registrations started at 9:30 am, at a dedicated secretariat, which was set up outside of the conference room. People who registered would receive a folder with the conference agenda, promotional materials about DLEARN and the DIGITEDU project, information about IDEC SA, the organiser of the event, as well as promotional DIGITEDU gadgets (antistress ball and an umbrella).

More than 40 people registered and participated in the conference. Participants were representatives from different levels of education, including VET education, policy makers, researchers, students and representatives from the labour market.

The conference started at 10am, with the objective to discuss topics related to new technologies and their impact on qualifications and jobs, the transformation of vocational education and training in the digital age, and digital skills in education.

Mr Chronopoulos Aris, President of IDEC SA welcomed all participants and opened the conference.

The first session of the conference started with a speech by Mr. Gianluca Coppola, President of DLEARN, who presented the results of the pan-European study on digital skills and the labour market. Mr Coppola pointed out that according to the study, 48% of European citizens lack the necessary digital skills and there is a mismatch between education and the skills required by the labour market. He also mentioned the most necessary digital skills according to the survey, which are a) managing digital content, b) evaluating digital data and c) solving technical problems.

Then, Mr. Papamanolis-Dozas, President of the Piraeus Chamber of Crafts, took the floor, who informed us that more than 40% of SMEs in Greece are struggling with digital transformation and that only 10% are fully digitized. Most SMEs only have a website.

Ms. Makri, Scientific Officer of the Small Enterprises' Institute of the Hellenic Confederation of Professionals, Craftsmen, and Merchants (IME GSEVEE) spoke about the correlation between technological change and skills as a factor of labour market transformation. Ms Makri presented the European framework for digital skills DigComp and pointed out how emerging technologies have brought to light new needs for digital skills. She also talked about the skills mismatch (horizontal and vertical) between the jobs on offer and the qualifications of workers.

Mr Tsardanidis, Director at the Institute of International Economic Relations and Professor of International Relations, informed us that Greece is ranked 25th (out of 27) in the DESI digital

maturity index and talked about the Greek Digital Citizens Academy that offers online courses for the development of digital skills, the national framework for digital skills and the design of the future framework for their certification.

The floor was then taken by Ms. Kafetzopoulou, Head of the Directorate for Planning and Development of Vocational Education and Training and Lifelong Learning, DG VET & VET - Ministry of Education and Culture, who presented the Strategic Plan for Vocational Education and Training 2022-24. The Plan's main objectives is to make VET a conscious choice and Lifelong Learning a tool for upgrading skills. Ms. Kafetzopoulou presented the Ministry's funding plans for the upgrading of VET in laboratories, information systems and equipment.

The conference session continued with the speech of Mr. Kyriakos, Director of DIEK STEAM Aigaleo (public post-secondary VET centre), who presented Greece's participation in the European Euroskills 2023 competition, and the speech of Mr. Mouratidis, Director of the Model EPAL of Perama (public secondary VET school) and member of the Production and Labour Market Liaison Committee of Western Athens, Piraeus, Islands and Western Attica (SPPAE), who stressed that it is important to train teachers in digital skills and the systematic activation of SPPAE.

Mr. Tzimogiannis, President of the Department of Social and Educational Policy of the University of Peloponnese, stressed that teaching and learning should be based on learning outcomes and competences and that education should prepare first and foremost citizens and then professionals. Mr. Tzimogiannis pointed out that knowledge, skills and attitudes are all interrelated.

Finally, Mr Bekiaridis, Director at Active Citizens Partnership, presented a very interesting European platform for linking education and the labour market.

After the end of the conference, lunch was offered in the hotel's restaurant to all the participants, where they discussed on the conference topics and networked.

4. Follow-up

At the end of the conference, participants were asked to complete a satisfaction questionnaire. Moreover, a few days after the conference, a follow up email was sent to participants, which included a small description of the event, a certificate of participation and the link to an online satisfaction questionnaire.

Approximately 40 people completed the satisfaction questionnaire (results in ANNEX 4). From their responses, we could say that the vast majority of participants were very satisfied with the organisation of the conference, the conference topics and the conference venue. Moreover, participants agree that the conference helped raise awareness about the needs for digital skills and their impact in the labour market and education.

The topics that participants liked the most in the conference include information on developments in digital transformation in relation to vocational training; each speaker's initiatives and proposals to close the skills and job requirements gap; the Euroskills European Competition speech; the link between digital technologies and vocational training; and the link between VET and the labour market.

Participants also shared what they liked the least: limited time for interaction with participants; the fact that speakers sometimes ran out of time resulting in the whole programme going backwards.

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



Conference

Discuss learning 2023

Athens, 24 October 2023

Under the Aegis of the General Secretariat for Vocational Education, Training and Lifelong Learning of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports

9:30 – 10:00	Registrations
10:00 – 10:15	Opening of the Conference <i>Aris Chronopoulos, President IDEC SA</i>

DLEARN – DigitEdu «Digital skills and the labour market»

10:15 – 11:15	<p>New technologies and their impact on skills and jobs</p> <p>Presentation of a Europe-wide study on digital skills and the labour market <i>Gianluca Coppola, President of DLEARN</i></p> <p>New digital skills required by the labour market <i>Giorgos Papamanolis-Dozas President of Piraeus Chamber of Small and Medium sized Industries</i></p> <p>The link between technological change and skills as a factor in labour market transformation <i>Ioanna Makri, Scientific Officer of Small Enterprises' Institute of the Hellenic Confederation of Professionals, Craftsmen, and Merchants (IME GSEVEE)</i></p> <p>Are Greek companies ready to absorb digital skills specialists? <i>Dr. Charalambos Tsardanidis, Director at the Institute of International Economic Relations and Professor of International Relations</i></p>
11:15 – 12:00	<p>The transformation of Vocational Education and Training in the digital age</p> <p>Promoting digital transformation of Vocational Education and Training and Lifelong Learning <i>Olga Kafetzopoulou Olga, Head of the Directorate of Planning and Development of Vocational Education and Training and Lifelong Learning, Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports</i></p>



	<p>The Euroskills European Skills Competition in Greece <i>Dimitris Kyriakos, Director of IEK STEAM Aigaleo (Post secondary VET institute)</i></p> <p>Digital Transformation in Vocational Education and Interconnection with Production and the Labour Market: An Expected Case Study <i>Marios Mouratidis Director of Model EPAL of Perama (secondary VET school), Production and Labour Market Liaison Committee of Western Sector Athens, Piraeus, Islands and Western Attica.</i></p>
12:00 – 12:15	Coffee Break
12:15 – 12:55	<p>Digital skills and education</p> <p>Digital Literacy and Computational Thinking in the new General High School Computer Science Curricula <i>Athanasios C. Tzimogiannis, President of the Department of Social and Educational Policy of the University of Peloponnese</i></p> <p>Innovative digital tools for career development support <i>Georgios Bekiaridis, Director at Active Citizens Partnership</i></p>
12.55 – 13.05	Closing of conference
13.05 – 14.00	Lunch break

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HELLENIC REPUBLIC
Ministry of Education,
Religious Affairs and Sports

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for Vocational Education, Training
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Annex 2 - The Attendance List (or the List of Participants)

Attached

Annex 3 - Photos

Preparation



Registrations



Aris Chronopoulos



Gianluca Coppola



Audience



Mr Tsardanidis



Ms Makri



Ms Kafetzopoulou



Mr Kiriakos



Mr Mouratidis



Mr Tzimogiannis



Mr Mpekiaridis



Annex 4 - Questionnaires filled in

Results from the questionnaire:

1) How satisfied were you with:

- The organisation of the conference?
- The conference discussion topics?
- The conference venue?

Linkert scale from 5 (Positive-Blue) to 1 (negative-Purple)

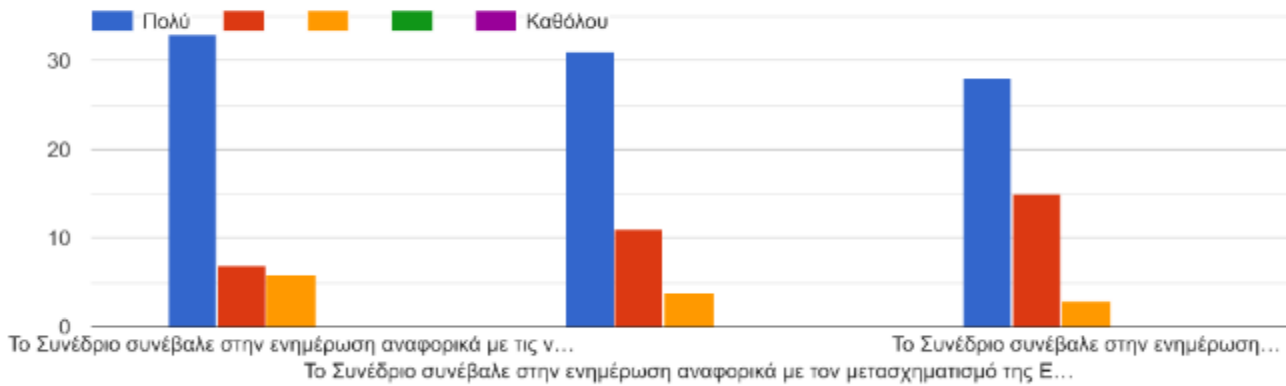


We can see that the vast majority of participants were very satisfied with the organisation of the conference, the conference topics and the conference venue.

2) The conference contributed to :

- Raising awareness about new digital skills and their impact on the labour market?
- Raising awareness on the transformation of Vocational Education and Training in the digital age?
- Raising awareness of the digital transformation of the labour market?

Linkert scale from 5 (A lot-Blue) to 1 (Not at all-Purple)



Participants agree that the conference helped raise awareness about the needs for digital skills and their impact in the labour market and education.

3) Which part of the conference did you like the most?

Open question. Most common responses were:

- *Everything*
- *Information on developments in digital transformation in relation to vocational training*
- *Each speaker's initiatives and proposals to close the skills and job requirements gap.*
- *Transforming Vocational Education and Training in the digital age*
- *Consulting on digital job search tools and the use of digital skills*
- *The Euroskills European Competition speech*
- *Linking European initiatives with skills development and the labour market*
- *Digital competences and education*
- *The presentation of the model for the integration of digital content in educational programmes*
- *The link between digital technologies and vocational training*
- *The link between VET and the labour market*
- *New digital skills in the labour market*
- *Information on how to link students to the labour market*

4) Which part of the conference did you like the least?

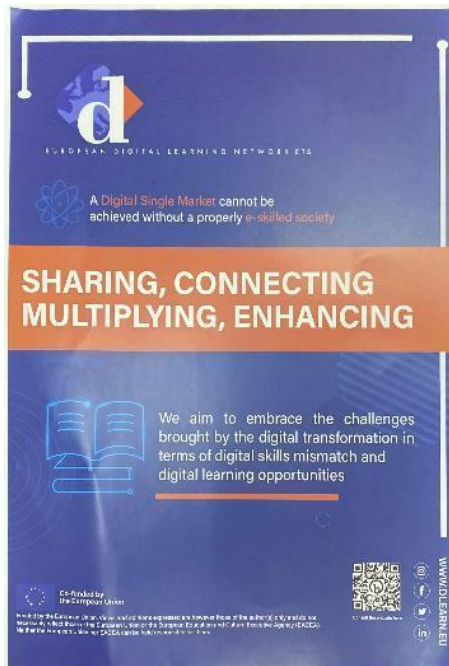
Open question. Most common responses were:

- *None*

- *No time for interaction with participants*
- *Low participation of audience*
- *The fact that speakers sometimes ran out of time resulting in the whole programme going backwards.*
- *Lack of information on plans to acquire skills, dual degrees (computer science + theory) so as to meet the needs of the new market*
- *Lack of programmes from the University/lack of representation of humanities and interface with the labour market and digital adaptation*

Annex 5 - Materials distributed during the event

Poster



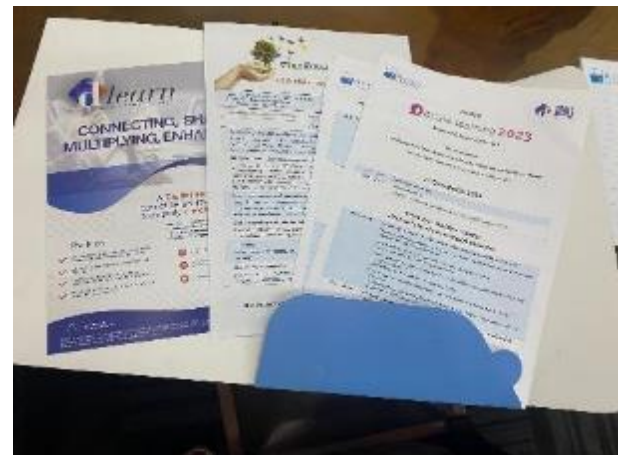
Bag



Stress Balls



Folder



Umbrella black



Umbrella blue



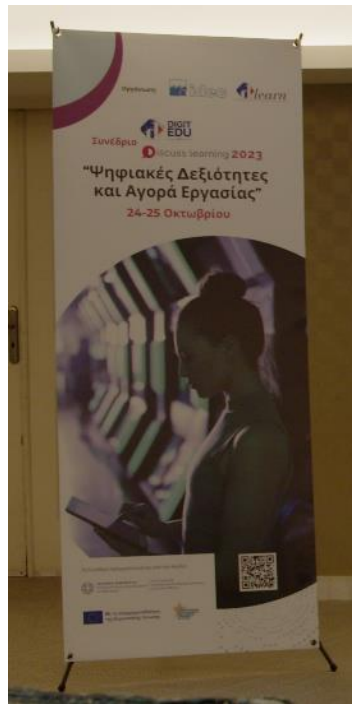
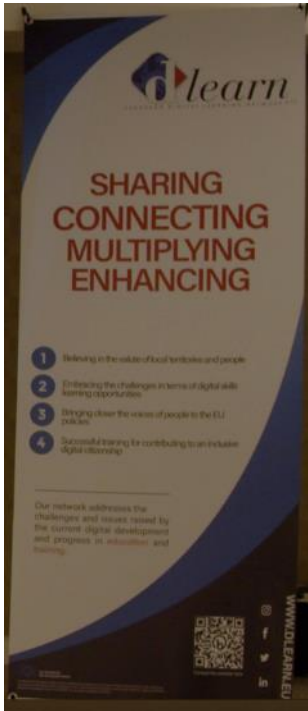
Leaflet front



Leaflet back



Roll up





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