



Steering technology for education 2-5 September 2024 - Paris, France

Context

While technologies offer the potential to support progress towards economic and social development, their pervasive influence has been introducing new challenges. Among these are the uncharted ethical issues surrounding powerful technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the adverse impact of accelerated digitalization on planetary well-being. The sharp rise in the deployment of generative AI in particular has further amplified existing ethical and legal challenges and outpaced our capacity to adapt regulations. Moreover, the extraction model of productivity on which the digital economy builds, and the e-waste generated undermine efforts to ensure environmentally sustainable development. As a recent example, the resource-intensive training of iterative AI models in particular adversely impacts the environment and contributes to climate change.

What does this all mean for education? How is education located at the intersection of the digital and greening transitions? Beyond simply adopting digital technologies to support progress towards education goals, education systems, through human-centred policy, research and practice, must not only adapt to wider development trends, but also help shape more inclusive and sustainable futures. An ethical approach to the design and uses of AI for education that fosters sustainable development is precisely the underlying vision of Digital Learning Week UNESCO launched in 2023 under the slogan of “Steering Technology for Education”.

The event

Digital Learning Week was launched in 2023, building on the foundation of UNESCO’s Mobile Learning Week over the past decade. The annual event is recognized as one of the “UN Intergovernmental and Multi-Stakeholder Digital Cooperation Bodies and Forums”¹ to convene the community of digital education leaders, policy-makers, researchers and practitioners from various organizations, including UN agencies, governments, NGOs and the private sector. Digital Learning Week presents a unique opportunity to participate in dynamic and thought-provoking discussions, dialogue and the sharing of groundbreaking ideas, and to foster meaningful co-creation and collaborative efforts to advance the digital transformation of education and to “reimagine our futures together.”²

¹ UN. 2023. A Global Digital Compact: An open, free and secure digital future for all. *Our Common Agenda Policy Brief 5*. New York, United Nations (UN). Available at: <https://doi.org/10.18356/27082245-28>

² International Commission on the Futures of Education. 2021. *Reimagining Our Futures Together: A new social contract for education*. Paris, UNESCO. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.54675/ASRB4722>

Aim and objectives

Digital Learning Week 2024 aims to promote multi-stakeholder cooperation towards a human-centred and climate-friendly design and use of AI in education, with a specific focus on exploring the interlinkages between digital transformation and greening education.

The following tools and analyses will be launched:

1. [UNESCO AI competency framework for school students](#)
This Framework of AI competencies is designed to guide the preparation of school students to be responsible users of AI and co-creators able to lead in the definition and design of the next generations of human-centred and climate-friendly AI.
2. [UNESCO AI competency framework for teachers](#)
This associated Framework of AI competencies aims to guide and support teachers to become human-accountable designers and users of AI in teaching and in facilitating learning, and to support students in the acquisition of AI competencies as part of digital citizenship education.
3. [An exploratory paper on education at the intersection of the digital and greening transitions](#)
The paper explores the diverse interlinkages between digital and greening transitions in education, from the use of digital learning to promote environmental awareness and action among learners, to a better grasp of the adverse impact of digitalization of education on the environment and strategies to mitigate this.

Themes and sub-themes

Digital Learning Week 2024 will cover the following sub-themes:

- AI competencies for school students and teachers
- Regulations for the ethical use of AI in education
- AI and learning assessment
- Education at the intersection of the digital and greening transitions

Highlights of the event include public lectures from opinion leaders and the Award Ceremony for the [UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of ICT in Education](#), which will be awarded to innovative projects that seek convergence between digital learning and greening education.

Participants

Ministers and policy-makers of governments; heads and representatives of UN agencies or international organizations and other development partners, private companies and civil society organizations; youth groups; researchers and education practitioners.

Venue and format

The event will take place in-person at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France. To ensure maximum reach and inclusivity, selected plenary sessions will be livestreamed. Interpretation service will be provided in English and French.

Programme structure

| 2 September - Day 1 | 3 September - Day 2 | 4 September - Day 3 | 5 September - Day 4 |
|--|---|---|---|
| Panel presentation: The role of digitalization in climate change: Savior or Culprit? | Opening ceremony | Public lecture Regulating AI: Perspectives from China, Europe and the US | Breakout sessions: Generative AI in teaching and learning |
| Panel discussion: Partnership for Greening Education | Plenary session 1: Ministerial roundtable and the launch of the report on education at digital and greening transitions | Plenary session 3: The ethics of AI in education and regulations | Plenary session 5: AI and learning assessment Award Ceremony UNESCO Prize for ICT in Education |
| Lunch break | | | Reception cocktail |
| Youth Forum: Climate-friendly ethics-by-design | Plenary session 2: AI competency framework for school students | Plenary session 4: AI competency framework for school teachers | Public lecture The AI trilemma: Prioritizing AI innovation, ensuring trustable AI, and promoting inclusive access to AI |
| Panel discussion: Towards norms and standards for public digital learning platforms | Breakout sessions: Best practices in developing students' AI competencies, media and information literacy, and digital citizenship. | Breakout sessions: Best practices on developing AI competencies for school teachers | Closing |
| Networking cocktail | | | |

Contact

For more information, please consult the [UNESCO website on Digital Learning Week](#).

For any inquiries, please contact dlw@unesco.org. See here for more information on UNESCO's work on [Digital Learning and Transformation](#) and on [AI and Education](#).