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Digital Learning Week 2024

Steering technology for education

2-5 September 2024 - Paris, France

Context

Human societies are at the crossroads of digital and green transitions. 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 climate change. The sharp rise in the deployment of generative AI, in particular, is raising novel ethical and legal challenges and outpacing our capacity to adapt regulations. At the same time, the extraction model of productivity on which the digital economy builds, and the e-waste generated undermine efforts to ensure environmentally sustainable development. Moreover, the resource-intensive training of iterative AI models, in particular, adversely impacts the environment and contributes to climate change. Our future will be determined by how we manage these controversial twin transitions.

What can education do to bring these two transitions together and make them more reliably mutually reinforcing? Beyond passively adopting digital technologies to support education goals, it is education systems that should assume the responsibilities to foster human-centred mindsets and digital competencies to help guarantee that digital transitions are also human-centred green transitions. And education policy, research and practice should also proactively steer the design and use of trustable AI to combat misinformation on climate change and to educate the public on the core learning outcomes on climate change as underlined in the work of the Greening Education Partnership.¹ Steering human-centred approach to the design and uses of digital technology for education is precisely the vision underlying Digital Learning Week that 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”² 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.”

¹ <https://www.unesco.org/en/education-sustainable-development/greening-future/curriculum>

² UN. 2023: *A Global Digital Compact: An open, free and secure digital future for all*. Our Common Agenda Policy Brief No 5. New York. <https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/our-common-agenda-policy-brief-gobal-digi-compact-en.pdf>

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 green 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. It will also feature the flagship initiative [Gateways to Public Digital Learning](#) and the launch of the youth version of the 2023 Global Education Monitoring Report on Technology in 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. For plenary sessions, 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
<p>Opening ceremony</p> <p>Plenary session 1: Ministerial roundtable Technology and AI in education: Ensuring human-centred and sustainable approaches</p> <p>Award Ceremony of the UNESCO Prize for ICT in Education</p>	<p>Public lecture: Regulating AI: Perspectives from China, Europe and the US</p> <p>Ministerial roundtable AI and education strategies for Africa</p> <p>Breakout sessions: The ethics of AI in education and regulations</p>	<p>Plenary session 4: Generative AI in teaching and learning</p> <p>Breakout sessions: Generative AI in teaching and learning</p>	<p>Plenary session 6: Pathways to sustainable futures: Navigating digital and greening transitions</p> <p>Breakout sessions: The role of digitalization in climate change</p>
Cocktail reception		Lunch break	
<p>Plenary session 2: Launch of the AI competency framework for school students</p> <p>Breakout sessions: Best practices in developing students' AI competencies, media and information literacy, and digital citizenship</p>	<p>Plenary session 3: Launch of the AI competency framework for teachers</p> <p>Breakout sessions: Best practices on developing AI competencies for teachers</p>	<p>Breakout sessions: AI and learning assessment</p> <p>Plenary session 5: Gateways to Public Digital Learning initiative</p>	<p>Youth forum: Youth voices on technologies in education and environmental impact</p> <p>Closing</p>
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](#).