

**January 2022**

Education is more than a human right: it is a collective responsibility and an investment in the future. The United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed 24 January as the [International Day of Education](#), in celebration of its fundamental role for peace and development. The ongoing Covid pandemic has become an eye-opener, as existing educational gaps have only become more apparent. Socio-economic inequalities, greater difficulties of access for those with special educational needs, barriers in home-school communication and those between teachers and educational authorities have been amplified by a lack of digital tools and skills. The sudden leap has also given rise to outreach initiatives and a growing awareness of resources whose potential was still under-exploited. As teachers, students and parents continue experimenting with new tools, policymakers are trying to understand which of them can be adopted more systematically in the future to make education more flexible and inclusive. The following publications from the European Parliament Think Tank offer background information and analysis.

Breaking cycles of disadvantage through education: An EU perspective

In-depth analysis by Denise Chircop, EPRS, December 2021

The analysis looks at statistics on perpetuated disadvantage in education and training, and studies a number of contributing factors by looking at evidence from case studies and other research that investigates the development of educational systems. It also analyses the extent to which reforms have been possible and the complex reasons behind them.

Lifelong Learning in the EU

Animated infographic by Denise Chircop, EPRS, September 2021

Learning is not limited to a single, specific phase in life, that of the years at school, but also happens in different contexts, over the course of a lifetime. With its strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training, ET2020, the European Union supported the concept of lifelong learning by coordinating cooperation between Member States on training and formal, non-formal, and informal education.

Participation in early education and care

Infographic by Denise Chircop and Eulalia Claros Gimeno, EPRS, September 2021

Following research findings on the positive impact of early childhood education, EU education ministers set a participation target for 2030 of 96 % of all children aged three and over. This will depend on having enough places that are accessible and affordable. At the same time, the quality of the provision is just as important to reap the potential benefits. The infographic looks at the current participation of young children in early childhood education and what Member States are doing to improve upon it.

The future of tertiary education in Europe

In-depth analysis by Denise Chircop, EPRS, September 2020

The analysis focuses on six challenges facing tertiary education in the EU: the need to maintain relevance to current and future aspirations; the impact of digital and disruptive technologies; the way it collaborates with business; global and intra-EU collaboration; quality assurance; and financing and barriers to inclusion. It also looks at trends in two of the largest higher education systems outside the European Higher Education Area, those in the United States and China.

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Further reading

Erasmus 2021-2027: The Union programme for education, training, youth and sport

'EU Legislation in Progress' briefing by Denise Chircop, EPRS, July 2021

Inclusion measures within the Erasmus+ programme 2014-2020

Study by Ex-Post Evaluation Unit, EPRS, September 2021

The European Education Area and the 2030 strategic framework for education and training

Briefing by Denise Chircop, EPRS, May 2021

Education in isolation in the pandemic, following the path of Isaac Newton

Briefing by Denise Chircop, EPRS, June 2020

Implementation of citizenship education actions in the EU

Study by Ex-Post Evaluation Unit, EPRS, August 2021

Rethinking education in the digital age

Study by Scientific Foresight Unit, EPRS, March 2020

Education and the New European Bauhaus

'At a glance' note by Denise Chircop, EPRS, March 2021

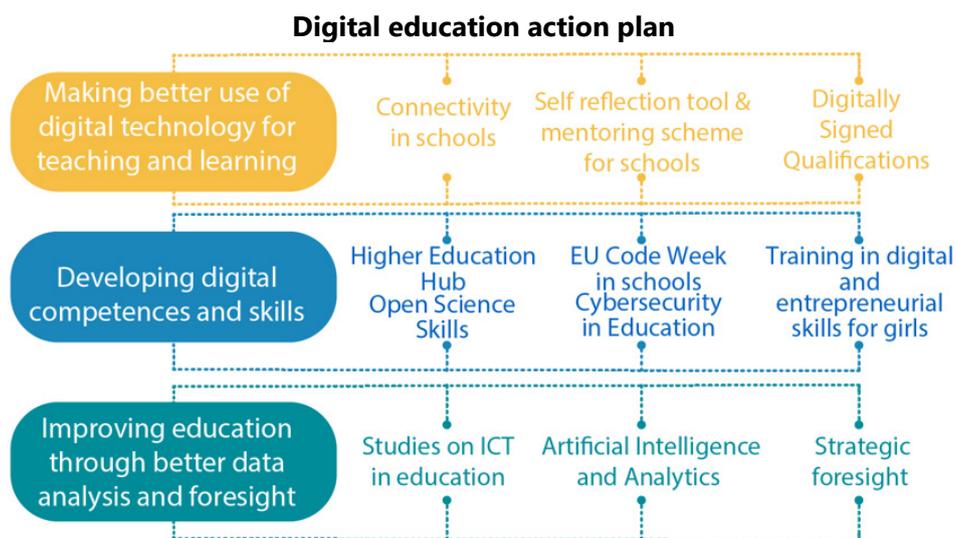
Early leavers from education and training

Infographic by Denise Chircop and Eulalia Claros Gimeno, EPRS, March 2021

Inclusion of migrants in formal education

Infographic by Denise Chircop and Eulalia Claros Gimeno, EPRS, November 2019

EPRS graphics



Data source: European Commission, Digital education action plan.

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