Teaching in contemporary learning environments: developing the digital skills of educators

Peer Learning Activity #4
3–4 February 2020, Zagreb, Croatia

ET2020 Working Group
Digital Education: Learning, Teaching and Assessment
Context

The confident, critical and creative use of digital technologies is vital to achieve goals related to work, employability, learning, leisure, inclusion and participation in society. Education systems therefore need to provide a solid basis for learners to acquire 21st century skills during their education, but for this to happen digitally confident and competent educators are needed.

The second European Education Summit¹ organised by the European Commission in October 2019 focused on the teaching profession, ‘Teachers first: excellence and prestige for the European Education Area’. The Summit looked at challenges facing teachers, including capacity building and Continuous Professional Development, societal recognition, how to attract and retain teachers in the profession and how to provide an attractive working environment.

The Commission’s 2019 Education and Training Monitor² states that teachers, more than any other factor, have the greatest impact on student learning. The Monitor also stresses that teachers need new skills more than ever, including being able to teach in a technology-rich environment, deal with cultural and linguistic diversity in the classroom and adopt collaborative teaching practices.

The 2018 OECD TALIS report³ shows that while 92% of teachers participate in professional development, 16% report a further need for training on the use of ICT for teaching. In addition, 13% report a need for training in teaching in multilingual and multicultural environments and 21% need more training in teaching students with special needs.

Objectives of PLA

The purpose of this PLA is to exchange experience, discuss and put forward a series of recommendations and key messages on the changing role of the educator in contemporary learning environments. Participants will discuss and recommend possible pathways and steps so educators (irrespective of the phase of education) can become competent, confident and supported in their teaching practice.

The two-day programme will look at:

1. How to design and structure teacher education and training programmes in order to equip teachers with the digital skills they increasingly need?

2. What steps should be taken (personal, institutional, national, European level) to enable teachers to be confident and competent in their profession and to ensure that teaching and learning meets the needs of our digital society?

¹ [https://ec.europa.eu/education/summit_en](https://ec.europa.eu/education/summit_en)
3. What good practice can be identified?

The following areas will be discussed:

- Pedagogical and technical skills: how existing frameworks such as DigCompEdu can help teachers and institutions to recognise and develop their skills (use cases of frameworks, recommendations and results). How digital competences differ from non-digital competences, and can and should these be separated?
- How do challenges facing teaching in higher education, differ to those in school education, VET or non-formal learning? Are there recommendations specific to certain sectors?
- Teacher competences in contemporary learning spaces: scenarios and pedagogical models for the 21st classroom. Enabling teachers to apply different teaching and learning methods and to engage with students in different ways. What does it mean to be “good teacher” in the context of digital transformation and contemporary learning environments?
- Effective models of continuous professional teacher training: how should these be structured? What are the implications for initial teacher training programmes? Recognising and awarding excellence in teaching; ideas and examples.

During the PLA the group will have the opportunity to visit schools and faculties in Zagreb, to meet teachers and students and to actively contribute to discussions and key policy messages which will be an output of the meeting.

**About the DELTA Working Group**

As part of the Education and Training 2020 Open Method of Coordination, the Commission and Member States cooperate in the form of Working Groups. Working Groups are designed to help Member States address the key challenges of their education and training systems, as well as common priorities agreed at European level. The primary focus of the Working Groups is to benefit the Member States in the work of furthering policy development through mutual learning and the identification of good practices.

The ET2020 Working Group on Digital Education: Learning, Teaching and Assessment (DELTA) was given the mandate to address the development of digital competences at all levels of learning and to promote the use of digital technologies with a view to increasing the quality and relevance of education at all levels.
# DRAFT AGENDA

**PLA coordinator:** Sandra Kucina

**Monday, 3 February 2020**

**MEETING ROOM:** University of Zagreb University Computing Centre SRCE (Josipa Marohnića 5)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:30</td>
<td>Objectives of PLA: <strong>Dr. Sandra Kucina Softic</strong>, Assistant Director for Education and User Support, University Computing Centre University of Zagreb, <strong>Deirdre Hodson</strong>, Working Group Coordinator, DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, European Commission.</td>
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<td>9:45</td>
<td>Welcome from our hosts: <strong>Professor Branka Ramljak</strong>, Ph.D., State Secretary at the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Croatia <strong>Dr. Zoran Bekic</strong>, Director of the University of Zagreb University Computing Centre.</td>
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<td>10:00</td>
<td>Scene setter: Developing the digital skills of educators <strong>Dr Terry Maguire</strong>, Director, National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, Ireland Q&amp;As, discussion</td>
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<td>10:45</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
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<td>11:00</td>
<td>Guided tour of the University Computing Centre SRCE <strong>Sandra Kučina Softić &amp; Emir Imamagić</strong>, SRCE</td>
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| 11:30 | OECD research:  
- Key findings from report: [Working and Learning Together: Rethinking Human Resource Policies for Schools](#)  
- Forthcoming study on Teachers’ Professional Learning.  

**Deborah Nusche,** Senior Analyst, School Resources Review, Directorate for Education and Skills, OECD |
| 11:55 | Good practice examples  
- **Finland:** National Teacher Education Forum and case OpenDigi – Teachers in Developer Communities of Learning Skills and Digital Pedagogics, **Heikki Kontturi, University of Oulu**  
- **Norway:** Online CPD programme in Professional Digital Competence, feedback from schools, **Marijana Kelentric**, Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training |
| 12:45 | Discussions in groups |
| 13:00 | Lunchbreak |
| 13:45 | [Innovation in teacher CPD report](#) key findings: **Dr Riina Vuorikari**, Joint Research Centre, European Commission. |

14:45  Development of Digital Skills for Educators – Good Practice from e-Schools Project: **Associate professor Valentina Kirinić**, Ph.D. and **Assistant professor Goran Hajdin**, Ph.D. Faculty of Organisation and Informatics University of Zagreb

15:15  **Coffee break**

15:30  Empowering Teachers with Data Science and AI: **Associate professor Ivica Botički**, Ph.D. Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing University of Zagreb

16:00  Digital Education Action Plan, Foresight report #3: Technology supporting teaching, AI skills for educators, Dr Riina Vuorikari, Joint Research Centre, European Commission.

16:30  Group work

17:20  End of day 1

19:00  **Dinner hosted Ministry of Science and Education** – Museum of Arts and Crafts, Trg Republike Hrvatske 10

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**Tuesday, 4 February 2020**

**MEETING ROOM: University of Zagreb University Computing Centre SRCE (Josipa Marohnića 5)**

8:45-9:00  All delegates met at SRCE – departure for site visits

9:15-12:00  
- Site visit to the Faculty of Teacher Education University of Zagreb, Initial teacher training for future teachers, host: **Assistant Professor Višnja Rajić**, Ph.D. Vice-dean for student and academic affairs
- Site visit to the IX Gymnasium Secondary School – innovative teaching and learning in school education, host **Arjana Blažić**, teacher

12:00-12:15  Return to SRCE

12:15-12:45  Discussion in groups

12:45-13:30  **Lunch break**

13:30  Good practice examples
- **Portugal**, Digital skills for schools: training centres and CPD programmes, **Maria João Horta**, Ministry of Education, Portugal
- **Poland**, Teacher training programme in schools, **Lucja Kornszew ska-Antoniuk**, Orange Foundation Poland
14:10  **Erasmus+ project**: Developing Student Teachers’ Digital Competence Teacher digital competence, **DICTE project**, Dr Oliver McGarr, School of Education, University of Limerick, Ireland

14:40  **Italy**: Teacher training programmes, new developments, **Pierluigi Vaglioni**, Ministry of Education  
**Spain**: Teacher training in digital skills, **Francisco Manuel González Galán**, Ministry of Education

15:15  Discussion in groups continued

15:30  **Coffee available**

15:45  Discussion in groups continued; key messages

16:45  Plenary discussion, key messages.

17:15  **End of PLA. Departures.**

**19:00 Optional sightseeing tour of Zagreb**

**Venue and hotels**

Meeting venue: University of Zagreb University Computing Centre SRCE  
Josipa Marohnića 5, 10000 Zagreb  
https://www.srce.unizg.hr/en/contact

**Hotels suggestions:**

**Hotel International ******

Miramarska cesta 24, 10 000 Zagreb  
https://www.hotel-international.hr/homepage

closest to meeting venue
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<th>Rating</th>
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<td>Garden Hotel ****</td>
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<td>Ulica Valentina Vodnika 13, 10 000 Zagreb</td>
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