# THE ECODIGITAL NEWSLETTER

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## THE ECODIGITAL PROJECT

EcoDigital: Taking action for reducing the environmental impact of digitalisation is an Erasmus+ KA2 project that runs from November 2022 until April 2025.

The EcoDigital project aims to motivate more and more people to realise the importance of the digital waste problem and to develop positive changes in young people's behavior with the aim of conveying such behaviors in the wider society. More specifically, the project will carry out a survey to assess the level of awareness of the digital waste problem in school education, and will develop a literature review on the seriousness of the problem, training resources for teachers and a variety of ready-made educational activities to be used in formal and informal education, as well as a collection of assessment tools and policy recommendations. Thus, the project funding will fill important gaps in school education regarding digital waste management where young people are actively contributing due to the increased use of various entertainment platforms and social networks.


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# CAPACITY-BUILDING PROGRAMME ON SUSTAINABLE DIGITILISATION FOR TEACHERS

The **Capacity-Building Programme on Sustainable Digitisation for Teachers** aims to expand teachers' knowledge of the tools and opportunities offered by digitisation. The partnership has built the programme based on surveys and semi-structured interviews with the aim to map bridge the knowledge gap about the impact of the increasingly negative environmental impact of the intense digitilisation of modern life.

The Capacity-Building Program is designed to enhance educators' awareness and understanding of the environmental impact of cloud computing, equipping them with the knowledge and tools for more sustainable digital practices. It offers a comprehensive collection of explanatory materials, practical resources, and insights into how the cloud operates in today's digital landscape. Through an extensive literature review, the program explores the environmental consequences of increased digitalisation and its role in climate change. Additionally, it provides actionable strategies and practical tips to help teachers minimise their own cloud-related footprint while supporting their professional growth and confidence in adopting sustainable digital solutions.

The programme is now available for download in English at https://ecodigital-project.eu/news/results, and it will soon become available in Greek, Romanian, Dutch and Icelandic.

The Capacity-Building Programme on Sustainable Digitalisation comprises the following modules:

- **Module 1 - Introduction to digitalisation**

What is the explanation of the term digitalization, and what is its potential?

- **Module 2 - Services and tools of digitalization**

Presentation of various services and tools that have been developed so far.

- **Module 3 – Environmental impact of digitalisation**

This module presents the extent of the problem with relevant data and studies.

- **Module 4 - Ways to address and reduce the environmental impact of digitalisation**

Presentation and analysis of ways to reduce the environmental impact of digitalization.

- **Module 5 - What we can do personally in our daily lives**

Sustainable personal use of digitisation services and tools.

- **Module 6 - Tips for teaching towards a more sustainable digitalisation**

Guidance for teachers on how to effectively communicate relevant information to their students.

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# ECODIGITAL CURRICULUM

The **EcoDigital Curriculum** is an educational resource designed to raise awareness about the environmental impact of digitalisation while providing practical solutions for a more sustainable digital future. Through a series of engaging modules, students are introduced to key concepts surrounding digital technology, its role in modern life, and the steps they can take to reduce their environmental footprint.

The curriculum begins by examining the ways in which digitalisation has become an integral part of our everyday lives. From online communication to cloud storage, digital technology is ever-present, and understanding its implications is crucial. A dedicated module explains how the cloud works, breaking down the technical aspects in an accessible way to help students grasp its significance and widespread use. Building on this foundation, students explore various cloud services and tools, developing essential digital skills while considering their environmental impact.

One of the key focuses of the EcoDigital Curriculum is the environmental consequences of digitalisation. Students learn about e-waste and the pollution generated by discarded electronics, along with actionable steps they can take to reuse and recycle their devices. Another module introduces the concept of the digital carbon footprint, offering practical methods to measure and minimise the environmental impact of everyday digital activities, from streaming to cloud storage.

To make learning interactive and engaging, the curriculum incorporates activism and larping (live-action role-playing) techniques. Students can participate in activities inspired by Forum Theatre, a form of interactive storytelling that encourages social and environmental activism. Creative exercises based on larping further enhance the learning experience, allowing students to role-play real-world sustainability challenges and develop innovative solutions.

Beyond educating students, the EcoDigital Curriculum also supports educators, providing them with resources and materials to integrate **eco-conscious digital education** into their teaching. By fostering digital literacy, environmental responsibility, and hands-on learning, this curriculum empowers the next generation to navigate the digital world more sustainably and ethically.

Through knowledge and action, the EcoDigital Curriculum inspires young people to take responsibility for their digital impact—paving the way for a greener digital future.

## PILOTING IN ROMANIA & GREECE

The EcoDigital Curriculum has successfully been piloted in Greece and Romania, engaging over **200 students** - more than twice the initial target. Teachers and students alike provided overwhelmingly positive feedback, highlighting the curriculum's ability to connect digital education with sustainability. Teachers noted that the curriculum raised awareness about digital waste and its environmental impact, while students found the lessons engaging and easy to understand. Many students even expressed a willingness to change their digital habits, such as reducing unnecessary emails and media storage, as a direct result of their participation.

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Teachers praised the curriculum for its real-life applicability and innovative approach, emphasising its effectiveness in fostering critical thinking, collaboration, and public speaking skills. The piloting phase demonstrated that integrating environmental responsibility into digital education can be both engaging and impactful. Based on their experience, teachers recommended adding more interactive elements, such as gamification and multimedia resources, to further enhance student engagement.

The success of the EcoDigital Curriculum underscores the need for ongoing teacher training in sustainable digitalisation. Policymakers should prioritise embedding sustainability into professional development programs, ensuring educators have the resources and knowledge to guide students toward responsible digital habits. By implementing structured training, incentivising participation, and integrating sustainability into digital education, schools can play a key role in reducing the environmental impact of technology while equipping students with essential future-ready skills.

# POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Coordinated by SkillsUp and with contributions of all EcoDigital partners, the **EcoDigital Policy Recommendations Report** provides a comprehensive overview of the project's outcomes and policy implications, aiming to advance sustainable digital education. It highlights key deliverables, including a teachers' capacity-building program, a school curriculum on sustainable digitalisation, and assessment tools for measuring related competencies. Additionally, the report analyzes the current state of digitalization in education and the lessons learned from the project's implementation.

Beyond summarising achievements, the report identifies challenges and opportunities encountered throughout the project and offers policy recommendations for teacher training, curriculum development, and assessment practices. These insights are designed to support the integration of sustainable digitalisation into educational systems.

By providing actionable strategies for policymakers and educational stakeholders, the report contributes to the ongoing dialogue on sustainable digital education. It underscores the need for forward-thinking policies that equip educators and students with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate an increasingly digital world responsibly.

The Policy Recommendations Report will soon be available for download on the EcoDigital website: https://ecodigital-project.eu/

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# PROMOTING ECODIGITAL

**CYPRUS** The EcoDigital Curriculum continues to make an impact beyond its pilot phase. On December 12, 2024, the Center for Social Innovation (CSI) participated in the nationwide **Educators' Day**, dedicated to upskilling and knowledge enhancement for teachers. As part of this initiative, CSI hosted an engaging workshop at Agia Varvara Kato Polemidion High School, where 30 educators explored the Eco-Digital resources and their practical applications in the classroom.

During the hour-long session, teachers actively participated in interactive exercises designed to deepen their understanding of digital waste and sustainable digital habits.

The workshop not only introduced them to innovative teaching materials but also equipped them with strategies to transfer this knowledge effectively to their students. The hands-on approach fostered engagement and inspired educators to incorporate these crucial lessons into their teaching.

This intervention highlights the growing recognition of sustainable digital education and the importance of equipping teachers with the necessary tools to promote responsible digital habits among students. By integrating Eco-Digital principles into professional development, initiatives like this workshop contribute to a more environmentally conscious approach to digital learning, ensuring a lasting impact on both educators and students.

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