

EDUCATION STRATEGY

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
2024 · 2030



LEARNERS FIRST

Education for
Today's and Tomorrow's
Democratic Societies

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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COUNCIL OF EUROPE 2024 - 2030
"LEARNERS FIRST: Education for
Today's and Tomorrow's Democratic Societies"

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INTRO- DUCTION

In recent years, there has been a growing recognition across Europe of the importance of **EDUCATION IN SUSTAINING DEMOCRACY**, **HUMAN RIGHTS** and the **RULE OF LAW**. In the current climate, with both long-standing threats to the democratic processes of European democracies and new challenges on the horizon, it is more important than ever to promote a culture of **DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION** and political engagement among all citizens in order to **SAFEGUARD DEMOCRACY**.

The **46 Heads of State and Government** committed themselves in the Reykjavik Democracy Principles to invest in a **Democratic Future** by ensuring that everyone is able to play

their part in democratic processes.

The **Education Strategy** is key to ensuring that this becomes the overarching aim of education and is underpinned by the values expressed at the **Reykjavik Summit**.



STRATEGY

All learners will be able to fully exercise their rights as active citizens in European democratic societies.

The overall **LONG-TERM VISION** of the Council of Europe's Strategy is that all learners will be able to fully exercise their rights as active citizens in European democratic societies. This long-term vision will be achieved in cooperation with the member States through a programme whose main mission is to improve the quality and accessibility of education in order to enhance the acquisition of knowledge and competences and ensure equal opportunities for all learners.



**IMPROVE THE QUALITY
& ACCESSIBILITY OF
EDUCATION**



**ENHANCE THE
ACQUISITION OF
KNOWLEDGE &
COMPETENCES FOR
DEMOCRATIC CULTURE**

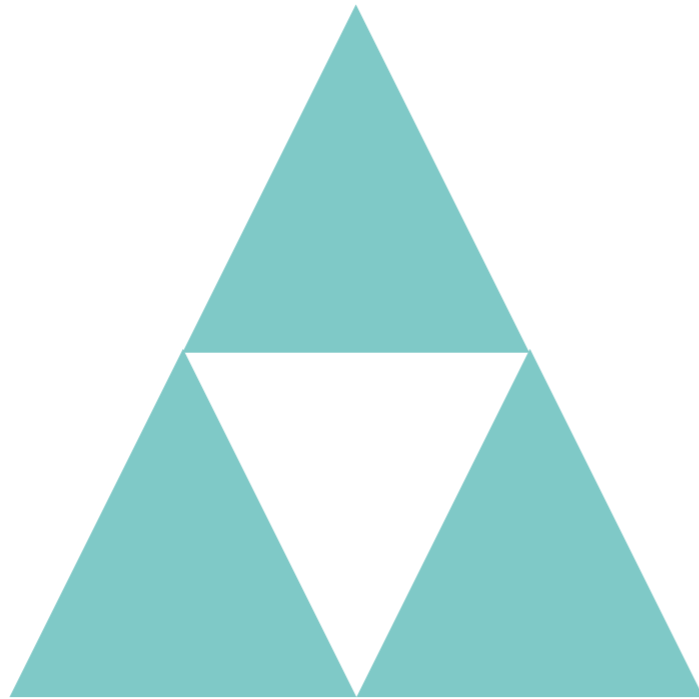


**ENSURE EQUAL
OPPORTUNITIES FOR
ALL LEARNERS**

3 PILLARS

The **EDUCATION STRATEGY** is based on 3 priority pillars : renewing the democratic and civic mission of education, enhancing the social responsibility and responsiveness of education and advancing education through a human rights-based digital transformation.

The expected outcomes of the Strategy are linked to the development of new legal and policy instruments, reference standards and capacity-building tools, which can be adapted at national level and respond to the needs for specific changes in existing laws and regulations.



The learners are central to the Strategy, which focuses on developing 4 key dimensions within every learner to address present and future challenges in European societies.

Citizen-Learner



1

2



Intercultural Global Learner

3



Digital Learner

4



THE 4TH DIMENSION CONCERNS LEARNERS' WELL-BEING, WHICH IS ESSENTIAL FOR THEIR HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT, ACADEMIC SUCCESS AND LONG-TERM PERSPECTIVE



Renewing the Democratic & Civic Mission of Education

Europe faces significant challenges that threaten its **DEMOCRATIC CULTURE** including democratic backsliding, discrimination, radicalisation and intolerance.

The recent crises on the European continent have exacerbated some of the existing shortcomings of education systems.

To respond to these challenges, education must, among other things, revitalise its civic mission by preparing all citizens to become active participants in a democratic society.



PILLAR 1 AIMS TO

Democracy and Citizenship Education 1

Put **democracy at the heart** of education systems by enhancing citizenship education, fostering **democratic and intercultural competences**, and encouraging **dialogue and cooperation** based on shared democratic values across Europe.

Inclusive and Sustainable Education 2

Prioritise areas like **Vocational Education and Training (VET)** and sustainable development, ensuring education promotes inclusivity, sustainable practices, and **effective partnerships across all levels**.

Learner Rights & Engagement 3

Support initiatives that enable learners' **democratic participation** in formal and non-formal settings, safeguarding students' rights, including **equitable access to education, privacy, and freedom of expression**, thereby fostering active citizenship and critical thinking.

Educational Integrity and Competence Development 4

Enhance educators' skills in promoting participation, inclusion, and sustainable development through ethical, transparent, and plurilingual approaches, while upholding **academic freedom** and integrity within educational institutions.

2

Enhancing the Social Responsibility & Responsiveness of Education

The active role of the learner as a **SOCIAL ACTOR** helps to make education policies, curricula and methodologies more inclusive.

Enhancing the **social responsibility and responsiveness of education** can be achieved by ensuring that educational institutions are not only responsive to the changing needs of society, but also resilient in times of crisis.

Embracing **participatory governance of education, resilience and responsiveness to future emergencies and inclusion** should be essential throughout the education system and at all levels of education.

Increased participation of vulnerable and disadvantaged learners in education (especially higher education) and the successful completion

of their education promotes social cohesion and strengthens democratic societies where the principles of human rights and the rule of law prevail.

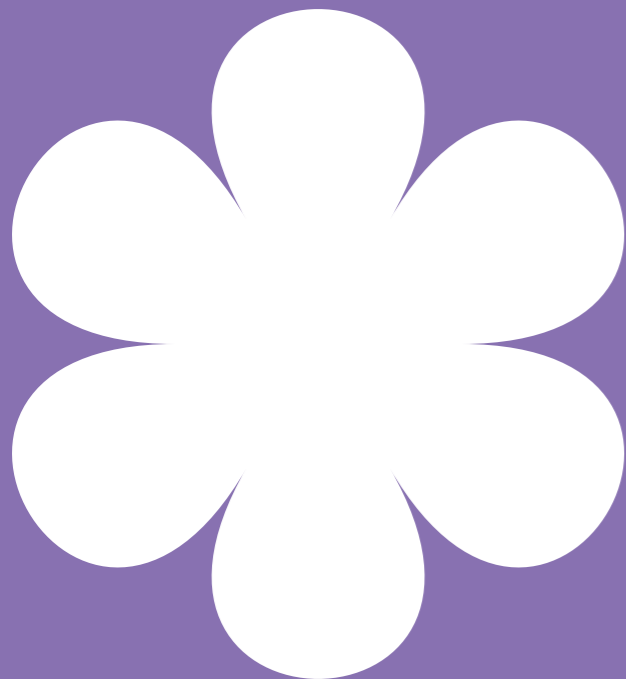
The provision of **inclusive, lifelong and high-quality language learning** supports not only educational and professional success, but also personal development and self-esteem, which in turn contribute to a democratic, socially cohesive and peaceful Europe.

The Council of Europe's Education Strategy supports academic mobility, the fair recognition of academic qualifications and **the digitalisation of student data and qualifications**.



Empowering learners as active social contributors transforms education into a more inclusive, responsive, and resilient system, fostering a democratic, cohesive, and peaceful Europe.

#DIVERSITY



#EQUALITY

PILLAR 2 AIMS TO

1

Inclusion
Equity
Diversity

—

Enhance the social dimension of education by promoting inclusion, equity, and diversity across all education levels. **Implement whole-school policies that value diversity**, support marginalised learners, and facilitate language learning. **Develop curricula that foster learner autonomy** and place emphasis on confidence building, **intercultural competences**, and scientific inquiry skills.

2

Ethics
Transparency
Integrity

—

Ensure **equal access to education** for all learners, emphasising ethics, transparency, and integrity as foundational to quality education and its assurance. Build a **culture of trust and accountability** among education stakeholders, while providing academic and **psychological support to learners**, especially during emergencies and crises.

3

Internationalisation
Global
Engagement

—

Support teacher training for inclusive education, enhancing their ability to **work with diverse student populations**. Strengthen language support for vulnerable groups, including migrants and refugees, and **promote the internationalisation of schools** and higher education institutions, focusing on diversity, equity, and inclusion, reinforcing the **European Higher Education Area's (EHEA) principles**.

3

Advancing Education through a Human Rights-based Digital Transformation

To harness the potential of digital technology, it is imperative that the digital transformation of education be guided by a human rights-based approach, which is essential for creating inclusive, equitable, and empowering learning environments.

Digital transformation, largely supported by Artificial Intelligence (AI), has dramatically changed the educational landscape in recent years by the **integration of digital technologies and practices** to enhance teaching and learning processes, widen access to educational resources, promote digital literacy, and foster innovative approaches that improve educational outcomes and prepare learners for the digital age.

The strategy aims at supports the member States in reforms related to rethinking pedagogical approaches, redesigning learning environments, **developing digital literacy among educators and students**, and ensuring participatory governance of education systems.

PILLAR 3 AIMS TO

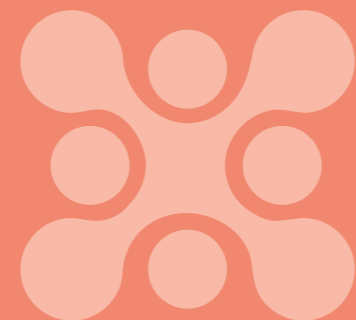


Digital Literacy & Access

Strengthen digital citizenship education as an ongoing journey to navigate digital advancements. Ensure all learners have **equal access to digital tools and technologies** in educational settings and are equipped with relevant digital skills. Emphasize the importance of **digital citizenship education, democracy**, and the rule of law, fostering learners' autonomy and holistic development.

Responsible Innovation & Tech Ethics

Promote ongoing **professional development for educators** to integrate emerging digital technologies, including AI, responsibly in teaching. Encourage the **development and use of digital educational resources through European cooperation**, enhancing transparency, and accountability in education systems to prevent fraud and uphold quality standards.



Partnerships & Standards

Foster partnerships between educational institutions, the private tech sector, and civil society that adhere to national and international standards. These collaborations should aim to **innovate** while ensuring equitable **quality education**, leveraging digital technologies to benefit all learners.

5 KEY PRINCIPLES

The 3 priority pillars of the strategy are underpinned by 5 cross-cutting principles



ADAPTABLE CURRICULA
& STUDY PROGRAMMES



DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES
FOR EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS



PARTICIPATORY EDUCATION GOVERNANCE



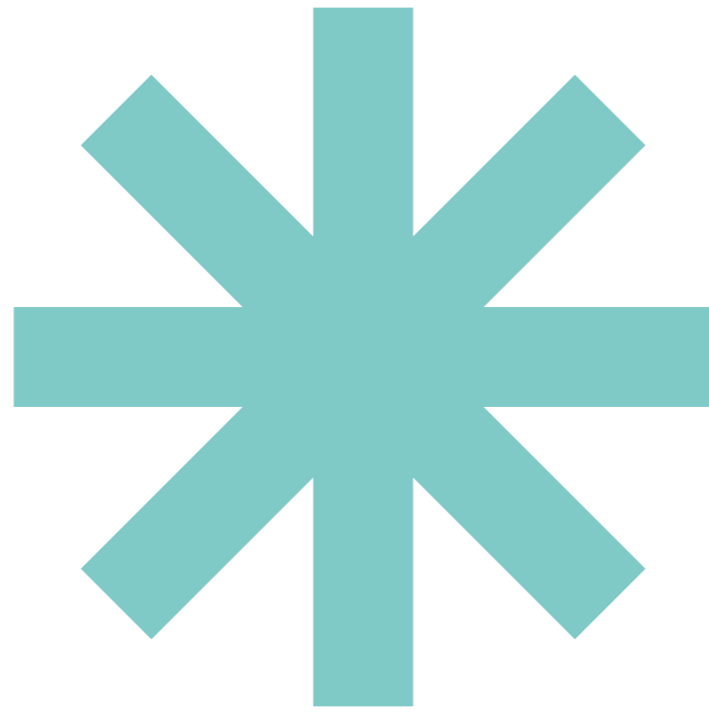
INCLUSION & PARTICIPATION
OF ALL LEARNERS



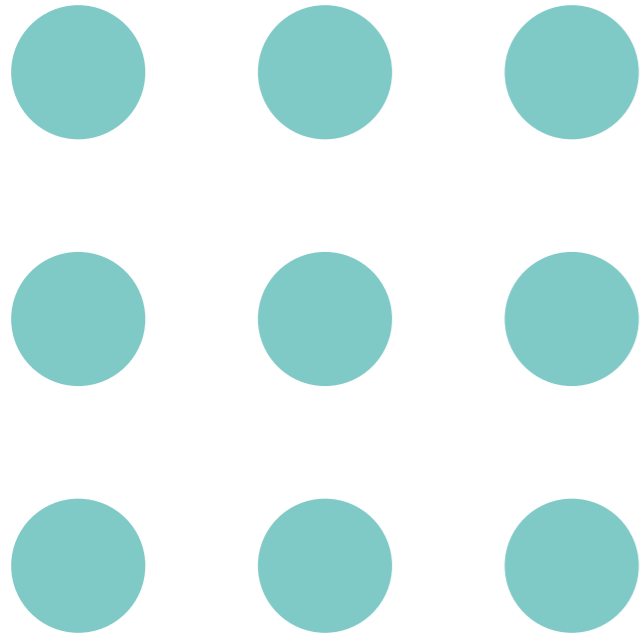
FLEXIBLE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS



#DEMOCRACY



#DIGITALISATION





The **Council of Europe Education Strategy 2024 · 2030**

outlines a transformative vision for European education, focusing on reinforcing democratic values, enhancing social inclusivity, and adopting digital innovation responsibly.

It aims to empower learners, uphold democracy and human rights, and celebrate diversity in education.

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The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 46 member states, including all members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

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