

DGII/EDU/AIED(2025)03
Original: English
Strasbourg, 23 June 2025

Artificial Intelligence and Education

3rd Working Conference

8 October 2025 | 9.00 – 17.45

9 October 2025 | 9.00 – 16.30

Council of Europe Headquarters | Strasbourg

Ensuring Quality Education in the AI Era – Introducing the Council of Europe Compass for AI and Education

Concept note

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Title

Ensuring Quality Education in the AI Era – Introducing the Council of Europe Compass for AI and Education

Context and background

Artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming education systems around the world at a rapid pace. While it offers new opportunities for innovation, access and efficiency, it also poses profound challenges related to equity, learner autonomy, transparency and fundamental rights. For the Council of Europe, this is not just a technological development, but a democratic one above all else. The choices made today regarding the use of AI in education will help determine the skills and civic attitudes of the next generation, as well as the capacity of educational institutions to influence the European societies of tomorrow.

At the heart of the Council of Europe's educational mission lies the right to a quality education for all, as enshrined in Article 2 of Protocol No. 1 to the European Convention on Human Rights and the European Social Charter. This right encompasses access to education, as well as quality, equity and the fundamental universal values that underpin educational experiences. Over the past two decades, the Council has contributed to a broader understanding of quality education as one that promotes a culture of democracy, inclusion and participation. Instruments such as the Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture (RFCDC), the Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education and, more recently, the work on establishing a European Space for Citizenship Education have all played a part in this. This work has involved codifying the foundational values and principles of such education, digital citizenship, AI literacy and academic freedom.

The Council of Europe first elaborated on a learner's fundamental right to a quality education over a decade ago in Recommendation CM/Rec(2012)13 on ensuring quality education. It states that a quality education should "develop each pupil's and student's personality, talents, and mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential", "recognise everyone's learning and social needs", "enable pupils and students to develop the necessary skills, self-confidence, and critical thinking to become responsible citizens", and "rely on qualified teachers".

AI systems have been increasingly used in schools and other educational settings across Europe for more than a decade, a trend that has recently been accelerated by easy public access to generative AI applications (such as ChatGPT). AI is often hailed as a 'solution' to many of education's most pressing issues, such as the shortage of qualified teachers, underachievement among students, and the growing achievement gap between the wealthy and the disadvantaged.

AI in education often takes the form of tools designed to instruct students along 'personalised pathways', aiming to enable them to master specific learning content. However, despite many such systems being specifically designed to support teaching and learning and being widely adopted in education systems, there is little robust evidence of their effectiveness or safety at scale. In particular, there is no robust evidence that AI can support a 'quality' education.

Education is at a pivotal juncture due to the transformative impact of AI. Existing education systems, which were adapted to the needs of industrial societies, must now evolve to address the challenges of the post-information society and the uncertainties and unpredictability of the future. This requires a re-evaluation of what should be preserved and what must change in order to enable education to continue playing a foundational role in shaping democratic values and cultural understanding and in developing individuals as participants in societal renewal. This will ensure that all learners experience a quality education. Importantly, due to the increasing impact of AI, it is also necessary to understand

what young people and their teachers need to know about AI (i.e. what constitutes AI literacy) and how AIED should be regulated and governed, to ensure a quality education.

The adoption of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence, Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law in 2024 represents a major step forward in shaping a legally binding and value-based approach to AI governance in Europe. The Convention offers a unique chance to apply the Council's core principles to specific areas, none of which are more vital than education.

The Council of Europe Standing Conference of Ministers of Education (26th session, 2023) called for the development of a legal instrument to regulate the use of AI systems in education, with the aim of promoting and protecting human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. They also recommended that teaching and learning about AI should incorporate the impact of AI on these and prioritise the active participation and agency of teachers and learners.

Building on this momentum, the Council of Europe is proposing a new strategic tool to operationalise its values: the Compass for AI and Education. Structured around four components – Literacy, Practice, Evaluation, Regulation and Governance – the Compass will provide member states and stakeholders with standards and guidance in ensuring that AI contributes to, rather than undermines, human dignity, democratic participation, quality education, and integrity of educational institutions.

This 3rd Working Conference marks the official launch of the AI Compass for Education. It offers a space for policy dialogue, shared learning and forward planning, as well as the design of practical ways to implement the Compass in national contexts. By bringing together governments, educators, students, civil society and the private sector, the Council of Europe is reaffirming its commitment to shaping a future in which AI contributes to quality education for all without compromising the fundamental values that define Europe's democratic identity.

As part of the Council of Europe's overarching Compass for AI and Education, four key instruments have been in development for almost two years: a draft recommendation on AI literacy; a policy toolbox for learning and teaching about AI; a European reference framework for the evaluation of AI systems in education; and a legal instrument to regulate the use of AI systems in education. This work has been supported by two studies. All of this work will be carefully examined and refined at this conference.

Purpose and objectives

The purpose of the conference is to inform and influence the political discourse on AI and education across the member states with a strong emphasis on quality education.

Objectives

The main objectives of the conference are to

- introduce the Council of Europe Compass for AI and Education, examining in detail and refining its components,
- encourage diverse and critical perspectives on the implications of AI for quality education and its provision,
- present the policy developments and examples of use of AI from member states,
- co-create the forthcoming key instruments and inform the instruments and tools that are under development,
- suggest pathways for effective implementation,
- foster collaborative thinking, idea generation, capacity building, and critical reflection.

Key theme and topics

The key theme of the conference is quality education which will inform the discussions, critical reflections and idea generations. Within this framework, the conference calls key stakeholders from different backgrounds across Europe to work together in a series of engaging, informative and interactive formats.

Topics

The following topics will be explored through context-setting keynotes, discussions, clarifying challenges and shared insights.

- From fragmentation to alignment – Discussing strategies for effective collaboration at European level
- Council of Europe Compass for AI and Education – Exploring the main components
- From policy to practice – Translating the Compass into action and generating actionable pathways
- Strategic outlook – Generating ideas for further development

Participants

The conference will provide an opportunity for a diverse range of key stakeholders to come together including government experts from member states, representatives of international organisations, professional associations, civil society organisations, private sector companies active in the field, and educators and academics working on artificial intelligence and education.

Date and venue

The conference will take place on 8 - 9 October 2025 in Strasbourg at the Palais de l'Europe, Avenue de l'Europe.

For more information about Strasbourg and the meeting venue download the [Info pack](#).

The working languages of the conference will be **English** and **French**.

Registration and Contact

Registration

Please note that this is an **in-person conference only** and will take place at the **Council of Europe Headquarters in Strasbourg, France**. **Online participation will not be possible**. Kindly do not register if you are unable to attend in person.

There is **no registration fee** to participate in the Conference. However, **participants are expected to cover their own travel and accommodation expenses**.

To ensure a balanced and diverse group of participants, the Secretariat is launching an open call for participation of experts from among member and observer states. Applications will be assessed based on professional background, relevant work experience, and potential to contribute meaningfully to the discussions on regulating AI systems in educational settings. **Priority will be given to applicants whose participation will add value to the conference objectives.**

Selected participants will be notified once the evaluation process is completed.

Please register at <https://forms.office.com/e/uSc70rhv5q> before and no later than **22 July 2025**.

Contact

For more information, please visit the conference **webpage**.

For any inquiries, contact: education.ai@coe.int

See also more information on Council of Europe's on **artificial intelligence and education**.

Draft programme

Day 1 – Wednesday, 8 October 2025

“From principles to practice: Why we need a Compass”

9.00 – 9.30 | Opening session

- Welcome by the Council of Europe
- Keynote
- **Launch of the AI Compass for Education**

9.30 – 10.45 | Plenary panel I “Why Europe needs a Common AI Framework for education”

Multistakeholder panel exploring fragmentation, risks, and the value of Council of Europe guidance

11.15 – 12.45 | Plenary panel II “The four Components of the Compass for AI and Education”

Impulse talks and dialogue on: Literacy, Practice, Evaluation, Regulation and Governance

12.45 – 14.15 | Lunch & Innovation fair

Hands-on showcase of AI-in-education tools and institutional innovations

14.15 – 16.00 | Roundtable sessions (Parallel) “Putting the Compass into action”

Each roundtable corresponds to one Compass components; results to feed into Day 2

16.15 – 17.30 | Stakeholder input

Short interventions from: Governments, Universities, Students & youth organisations, Teachers and unions, Civil society, Private sector

17.30 – 18.00 | Day 1 Wrap-up & Day 2 Preview

Day 2 – Thursday, 9 October 2025

“From policy to practice: Implementing the Compass”

9.00 – 9.30 | Recap & Reflections

Youth and educator perspectives on Day 1 takeaways

9.30 – 11.00 | Practical implementation labs (Parallel)

1. AI literacy strategies
2. Pedagogical integration of AI
3. EdTech evaluation & QA
4. Legal & governance instruments in education & higher education

11.30 – 12.45 | High-level policy dialogue “Scaling and sustaining AI governance in education”

International organisations, ministries, and institutional leaders discuss coordination mechanisms

12.45 – 14.00 | Lunch & Networking

14.00 – 15.30 | Final plenary “Implementing the Compass together”

Conference outcome summary

15.30 – 16.00 | Closing session