2025 EUROPEAN YEAR OF DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION
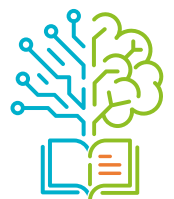

DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION FORUM

LET'S ACT NOW!
#LearnConnectEngageThrive

27-28/05/2025
Palais de l'Europe / Strasbourg

CONCEPT NOTE
AND PROGRAMME

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

CONCEPT NOTE

Background:

The long-term vision of the Council of Europe's Education Strategy is that all learners will be able to fully exercise their rights as active citizens in democratic societies. Human rights-based digital transformation of education is one of the 3 priority pillars of the strategy.

Digital transformation of education has changed the landscape dramatically in recent years having contributed to enhancing teaching and learning processes, widening access to educational resources, promoting digital literacy, and fostering innovative approaches that improve educational outcomes and equip learners for the digital age.

The Council of Europe has launched the European Year of Digital Citizenship Education 2025 (European Year 2025) to give a new impetus to the development and promotion of digital citizenship education in all member states.

The European Year 2025 stands as a unique opportunity to enhance the visibility and impact of digital citizenship education (DCE) and reaffirm its value. This designated year shall provide a strategic platform for key stakeholders from the public, private and civil sectors to work together, set common goals and share sense-making practices. It will provide a concise yet impactful space for measuring achievements and collectively defining a road map for the future of digital citizenship education. Through streamlined efforts, this initiative is expected to propel DCE forward, ensuring its resilience and effectiveness in the ever-evolving digital landscape.

Objective of the Forum:

The digital environment and technologies provide unprecedented means and opportunities for people to express themselves in different ways, to discover, learn and create, to communicate and socialise, and to actively participate in their communities. But they also bring new challenges.

Amidst the challenges exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic and the advent of disruptive technologies like ChatGPT, the challenging issues that digital citizenship education seeks to address such as disinformation, cyberbullying, online hate speech and the misuse of personal data have become more prominent. This underlines the urgent need for increased efforts and investment in DCE to empower learners of all ages to face the challenges created or amplified by digital technologies and harness the benefits to thrive.

The Forum will provide a platform to enhance cross-sector cooperation through tackling current challenges that can be and should be collectively prioritised by digital citizenship education. Plenary sessions and parallel forum talks are projected to reflect on the experiences and progress from the Council of Europe member states, to summarise key ideas and ask questions, to provide expert insights and to foster dialogue between the stakeholders with the prospect of improving the current state. The Forum will also contribute to the development of the road map for the future of digital citizenship education as a holistic approach.

PROGRAMME

Tuesday, 27 May 2025		
Day 1 – Learning and Practicing Digital Citizenship Education (DCE)		
08:00 – 09:00		**Registration of participants**
09:00 – 10:00 *Hemicycle* *Simultaneous interpretation in English and French*	*Moderator:* ***Matjaz Gruden**, Director for Democracy, Council of Europe*	**Session I: Opening of the Forum** **Welcome speeches (5-7 min each**) ▶ Marja Ruotanen, Director General, DGII: Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity, Council of Europe ▶ Francesca Camilleri Vettiger, Ambassador, Permanent Representation of the Republic of Malta to the Council of Europe ▶ Tanja Gonggrijp, Ambassador, Permanent Representation of the Netherlands to the Council of Europe ▶ Pap N'Diaye, Ambassador, Permanent Representation of France to the Council of Europe **Keynote speech (7 min)** ▶ Keynote speaker – Mevan Babakar, Trust Strategy Manager, Google ▶ Group photo
10:00 – 10:30	**Coffee break (provided by the Council of Europe), Bar of Parliamentarians**	
10:30 – 12:00 *Hemicycle* *Simultaneous interpretation in English and French*	*Plenary session* *Moderator*: ***Matjaz Gruden**, Director for Democracy, Council of Europe (10:30 – 11:30)* *Moderator*: ***Michelle DuQuette**, General Rapporteur, Council of Europe (11:30 – 12:00)*	**Session II: A new Democratic Pact: how DCE can help foster democracy in digital era** *The plenary discussion will evolve around a set of prepared questions on how digital citizenship education can foster democracy in Europe and beyond in the context of global political crisis, also integrating Q&A formats throughout the panel discussion.* Speakers: ▶ **Francesca Camilleri Vettiger**, Ambassador, Permanent Representation of the Republic of Malta to the Council of Europe ▶ **Pap N'Diaye**, Ambassador, Permanent Representation of France to the Council of Europe ▶ **Sarah Keating**, Formal and Non-Formal Education, Head of Division, Council of Europe ▶ **Joanne Caddy**, Directorate for Public Governance, OECD ▶ **Dora Šimunović**, European Council for Steiner Waldorf Education ▶ **Aristos Protopsaltis**, International Parents Alliance (IPA)
12:00 – 13:30	**Lunch break**	
13:30 – 15:00 *Foyer of Hemicycle*	*DCE Showcase* *Moderator*: ***Ahmet-Murat Kilic**, Head of Unit, Council of Europe*	**Session III: Opening of DCE Resources Showcase** - Opening speech to present the objective and the aim of the showcase (5 min) - Presentation of the DCE Planner (5 min). Reference Curriculum Framework for Digital Citizenship Education *The showcase of resources, or the DCE Expo, is called to present the variety of digital citizenship education resources and to further facilitate exchange of information and experiences between the contributors of the Forum.*

15:00 – 17:00	**Forum Talks** in five parallel meeting rooms (7 min per speaker)	**Session IV: Multiple Dimensions of Digital Citizenship Education** *The session will provide an overview of the topic in each of the Forum talks, will reveal outstanding initiatives that have made a difference at local, national or international level and will provide the arena for the participants to share their insights and lessons learnt around suggested questions for open discussion. The results of the session will be summarized by the rapporteurs and will be presented to the organising team for presentation during Session VI.* *The discussions will evolve around several specific questions to receive future-oriented and solution-focused responses.*

Day 1: Forum Talk & Room	Forum Talk Description	Moderator & Rapporteur	Speakers
Forum Talk 1 *Room 6*	**Promoting active participation:** *youth-led initiatives in practicing digital citizenship*	**Moderator:** **Lisa Herold**, European Digital Education Hub (Germany) **Rapporteur:** **Egle Celiesiene**, Research Council of Lithuania	▶ **Efe Kayra Soylu,** Schwarzkopf Stiftung Junges Europa (Turkey) ▶ **Maria Francesca Cristea,** Europuls, Center of European Expertise (Romania) ▶ **Ruben Abarca,** European Vocational Training Association (EVTA) (Belgium) ▶ **Whitney Gray,** Digital Transformations for Health Lab (DTH-Lab) (Switzerland)
Forum Talk 2 *Room 7* *Simultaneous interpretation in English and French[1]*	**Parenting in the digital age:** *nurturing digital citizenship and democracy*	**Moderator:** **Eszter Salamon**, Parents International (Stichting International Parents Alliance) (Netherlands) **Rapporteur:** **Simone Digennaro**, University of Cassino and Southern Lazio (Italy)	▶ **Guerric CHALNOT,** Occursus - Application BeDiCi (France) ▶ **Samvel Martirosyan,** Co-founder of CyberHUB digital defence group, Dean at the Ardy Academy (Armenia) ▶ **Teresa Castro,** Universidade Lusófona (Portugal) ▶ **Declan Qualter,** University College Dublin (Ireland)
Forum Talk 3 *Room 8*	**Platforms and citizenship:** *what technology companies are doing to promote digital civility and democratic culture*	**Moderator:** **Irina Burlacu**, Researchista (Netherlands) **Rapporteur:** **Anca Dragoi**, Commit Global (Netherlands)	▶ **Natalie Boll,** Tribela (United Kingdom) ▶ **Anahit Parzyan,** "Nork" Social Services Technology Center Foundation (Armenia) ▶ **José Luis Dessy Martínez,** Fundación AI Granada Research and Innovation (Spain) ▶ **Laurie Day,** Director of Policy and Research, Ecorys (United Kingdom) – *Online*
Forum Talk 4 *Room 10*	**Democracy in schools:** *fostering inclusion and empowerment through DCE*	**Moderator:** **Catherine Jeanneau**, University of Limerick (Ireland) **Rapporteur:** **Deniz Memedi**, Macedonian Institute for Media / Mother Theresa University (North Macedonia)	▶ **Cristina-Irina Lupu,** The Center for Independent Journalism (Romania) ▶ **Berika Shukakidze,** National Center for Teacher Professional Development (Georgia) ▶ **Suzanna Shamakhyan,** FAST Foundation (Armenia) ▶ **Panagiotis Chatzimichail,** OBESSU (Greece)

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1 If not specifically mentioned, the working language of the forum talk is English.

Forum Talk 5 *Room 11*	*Teaching digital citizenship: from classroom to cyberspace (teachers and academic staff)*	**Moderator:** **Joe Cozens**, Clifton High School, University of Glasgow (United Kingdom) **Rapporteur:** **Illan Acher**, Amnesty International Suisse (Switzerland)	▶ **Riccardo Gulletta,** North-South Centre of the Council of Europe (Portugal) ▶ **Tito de Morais,** MiudosSegurosNa.Net (Portugal) ▶ **Svava Pétursdóttir,** University of Iceland (Iceland) ▶ **Calin Rus,** Intercultural Institute of Timisoara (Romania)
17:30 – 19:00	**Networking Event, Foyer of Hemicycle**		

Wednesday, 28 May 2025
Day 2 – Transforming Knowledge into Action

08:30 – 09:00		**Registration of participants**
09:00 – 9:15 *Hemicycle* *Simultaneous interpretation in English and French*	**Moderator:** **Villano Qiriazi**, *Head of Education Department, Council of Europe*	▶ **Keynote speaker** – Janice Richardson, Council of Europe expert (7 min)
09:15 – 11:00	***Forum Talks*** *in five parallel meeting rooms* *(7 min per speaker)*	**Session V: Responding to Current Challenges and Political Priorities** *The session will provide an overview of the topic in each of the Forum talks, will reveal outstanding initiatives that have made a difference at local, national or international level and will provide the arena for the participants to share their insights and lessons learnt around suggested questions for open discussion. The results of the session will be summarized by the rapporteurs and will be presented to the organising team and at the panel during the following session.*

Day 2: Forum Talk & Room	**Forum Talk Description**	**Moderator & Rapporteur**	**Speakers**
Forum Talk 6 *Room 6*	***Tackling online disinformation:*** *disinformation, fake news and political manipulation*	**Moderator:** **Vitor Tomé,** Autonoma University of Lisbon / Iscte-University Institute of Lisbon **Rapporteur:** **Elisa Gazzotti,** SGI OUNA and NGO Working Group on the Human Rights Education and Learning	▶ **Lusine Grigoryan,** Internews (Armenia) ▶ **Laure Delmoly,** CLEMI (France) ▶ **Natia Natsvlishvili,** National Center for Teacher Professional Development (Georgia) ▶ **Juliane von Reppert-Bismarck**, Lie Detectors (Belgium)
Forum Talk 7 *Room 7*	***Ensuring well-being:*** *coping with cyberbullying and online harassment*	**Moderator:** **Arja Krauchenberg,** European Parents' Association – EPA (Austria) **Rapporteur:** **Ilenia Kaso,** Protik Center (Albania)	▶ **Cristiane Miranda,** MiudosSegurosNa.Net (Portugal) ▶ **Gergana Tzvetkova,** The Counterintuitive Institute (Bulgaria) ▶ **Jenna Khanna,** Common Sense UK (United Kingdom) ▶ **Kristina Doda,** Institute for Human Rights (North Macedonia)

Forum Talk 8 *Room 8*	***Fostering inclusive and accessible digital communities:*** *vulnerable groups, persons with disabilities*	*Moderator:* **Lianne Hoek,** University of Amsterdam (Netherlands) *Rapporteur:* **Nezir Akyesilmen,** Council of Europe Expert (Turkey)	▶ **Ufuk Bal,** Idea Lab Foundation (Poland) ▶ **Iva Tsolova-Kutsarova,** Soziale Zukunft - Verein zur Förderung der Integration behinderter Menschen (Austria) ▶ **Sintija Bernava,** Donum Animus (Latvia) ▶ **Yannick Fella,** EwB asbl (Luxembourg)
Forum Talk 9 *Room 10*	***New ways of creative learning:*** *videogame culture*	*Moderator:* **Alessandro Soriani,** Council of Europe Expert (Italy) *Rapporteur:* **Sharon Gilio,** Save the Children Italy (Italy)	▶ **Verónica Donoso,** KU Leuven (Belgium) ▶ **Angelina Rivera-Rocabado,** Gheorghe Vernescu Secondary School, Rm.Sarat (Scoala gimnaziala Gheorghe Vernescu Rm.Sarat) (Romania) ▶ **Manolis Matthaiou,** Model European Union Berlin e.V (Germany) ▶ **Olga Rierola,** Catalan Data Protection Authority (APDCAT) (Spain)
Forum Talk 10 *Room 11* *Simultaneous interpretation in English and French*	***Digital Footprint and Reputation:*** *long-term impact from the perspective of social and professional contexts*	*Moderator:* **Janice Richardson**, Council of Europe Expert (Luxembourg) *Rapporteur:* **Aldan Creo**, Accenture Labs (Ireland)	▶ **Cristina Mateo,** Zaragoza SchoolHouse (Spain) ▶ **Vladimir Kitanovski,** Mother Teresa University Skopje (North Macedonia) ▶ **Hassan Omran,** University of Europe for Applied Sciences (Germany) ▶ **Pascale Raulin-Serrier,** CNIL (France)

11:00 – 11:30	**Coffee break (provided by the Council of Europe), Bar of Parliamentarians**	
11:30 – 12:30 *Hemicycle* *Simultaneous interpretation in English and French*	*Moderator:* **Michelle DuQuette**, *General Rapporteur, Council of Europe*	**Session VI: Innovative approaches for the future of DCE** *The session will summarize the answers and solutions to the challenges discussed during the forum talks on days 1 and 2 and will be aligned to feed the strategic objectives of the road map.*
12:30 – 14:00	**Lunch break**	
14:00 – 15:00 *Hemicycle* *Simultaneous interpretation in English and French*	*Plenary Session* *Moderator:* **Villano Qiriazi**, *Head of Education Department, Council of Europe* **Brian O'Neill**, *Council of Europe Expert*	**Session VII: Closing of the Forum** *Closure of the event:* ▶ *summarizing results from the Forum to inform the key actions of the roadmap (40 min)* ▶ *feedback from the participants (10 min)* ▶ *a call for action to collaborate and engage in the global movement for digital citizenship education during and after 2025 (10 min)*