



Council of Europe Standing Conference of Ministers of Education

EUROPEAN YEAR OF DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION 2025

1. Why do we need a year of digital citizenship education?

The digital environment offers unprecedented opportunities for people to express themselves, gather and participate, and opens up new opportunities to improve access to equitable and inclusive education for all. It has also brought new challenges to democracy and human rights, highlighting the importance of digital citizenship education as a means of empowering citizens to navigate responsibly and ethically through the online and offline worlds, and to be aware of the impact of digital transformation on everyday life. Recommendation CM/Rec (2019)10, adopted by the Committee of Ministers in 2019, has raised the status of digital citizenship education (DCE) on Member States' education agendas, in line with the European Union's Digital Education Strategy and the work of international institutions such as UNESCO and the OECD.

To navigate ethically and responsibly in today's digitally rich society, digital citizens need opportunities to practice democratic values and attitudes in an environment where they can learn to protect and respect their rights and responsibilities and those of others.

The Year of Digital Citizenship Education 2025 (DCEY2025) will provide such opportunities and increase their visibility and impact. It will enable learners to actively engage with other cultures and other people in a way that leads them to better appreciate pluralism and diversity by encouraging the organisation of multi-stakeholder events and multi-country activities. The DCEY2025 will also enable Member States to set common goals through a platform, allow stakeholders to create initiatives related to DCE, share meaningful practices, measure achievements and jointly define a roadmap for the future.

2. What are the objectives, expected results and possible activities?

The objectives of DCEY2025 are to raise awareness within Member States on the importance of digital citizenship and digital literacy education in an inclusive and democratic society; to deepen public understanding of digital literacy education and its importance, in particular among education professionals, policy makers and parents; highlight the benefits of being a knowledgeable digital citizen who can navigate effectively in the digital environment; collect and disseminate information on teaching and learning digital citizenship, including innovative methodologies; consolidate cooperation with other organisations such as UNESCO and the

EU in the field of digital education; and contribute to the UN agenda on SDG4 and global initiatives on digital transformation in education.

Some of the expected outcomes include a needs assessment survey to improve implementation, a database/knowledge hub of successful practices accessible to education professionals, evaluation tools to measure impact and awareness, and the possible establishment of an annual European DCE week/day to sustain progress in subsequent years. Joint actions and events will help to highlight the differences in approaches between countries and pave the way for drawing on different experiences to inspire the way forward.

The proposed activities for DCEY2025 include different initiatives. Meetings and events organised by the Council of Europe include a multi-stakeholder preparatory event, an opening conference and a closing conference to showcase achievements and identify areas for improvement. Information and promotional campaigns include the creation of a logo, poster and slogans for DCEY2025, as well as an audio-visual campaign with DCE ambassadors to raise awareness through TV, radio and social media. Other activities will include surveys and studies at both Council of Europe and national levels, such as a needs assessment and an impact assessment of existing DCE resources.

The Council of Europe will also produce an evaluation report on the overall impact of DCEY2025. These activities aim to raise awareness of digital citizenship education and to promote equitable partnerships between educational institutions, the private sector and various stakeholders.

3. How will the initiatives be co-ordinated?

In order to ensure a coherent and effective DCEY2025, management and coordination structures will be established both at the level of the Council of Europe and at the level of the Member States. The Council of Europe's Steering Committee for Education (CDEDU) will be responsible for operational planning, monitoring implementation, organising key events and evaluating Europe-wide impact and success.

At national level, DCEY2025 National Committees will promote the initiative, coordinate activities, involve public institutions and organisations, contribute to Europe-wide activities and cooperate with other national committees. They will also evaluate achievements, present national experiences at European level and maintain regular communication with the CDEDU. The National Committees will involve representatives from various sectors, including government, NGOs, education, social partners and the media, with the National Coordinator acting as a liaison between the National Committee and other partners at national and local level, as well as the CDEDU.

4. How will the Year be financed?

The Council of Europe will rely on additional financial and in-kind contributions from Member States to ensure the effective implementation of DCEY2025. The additional resources will be used to recruit two temporary staff and to finance the preparatory and follow-up work as well as the international events.

In this context, a voluntary contribution project is proposed for a total amount of EUR 1 200 000 for a duration of 30 months, starting in January 2024. All Member States would be invited to contribute to the project, either according to the regular budget allocation or on the basis of another simulation.

Self-funded actions at national level and contributions will also be encouraged to reinforce the multi-stakeholder nature of DCEY2025. Cooperation with sponsors from the private sector might also be foreseen.

5. How will the results be evaluated?

The CDEDU, together with the National Committees, will be responsible for monitoring and evaluating the progress of DCEY2025. Each National Committee will monitor activities at national level and National Coordinators will meet with the CDEDU every three months via online means to exchange feedback and resolve issues. The evaluation will be based on a common template, using SMART (specific, measurable, assignable, realistic and time-related) criteria defined Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to measure the success of actions and resources. The evaluation will include quantitative and qualitative data collection, measuring overall reach, impact of campaigns and resources, media reach, stakeholder involvement, examples of good practice and plans for follow-up.

A report will be published by the CDEDU to inform stakeholders about the reach and impact of DCEY2025 initiatives, present key findings and make recommendations for the future.

6. Will there be other partners?

To increase the impact of DCEY2025, the Council of Europe will work in close cooperation and coordination with the European Commission, UNESCO, OECD and other relevant national and international organisations involved in digital citizenship education. Joint initiatives will be launched to foster connections between European citizens. In addition, the Council of Europe will actively promote a multi-stakeholder approach, involving the private sector, civil society and industry, in order to establish common objectives and standards and thereby increase the visibility of the actions undertaken.

7. What is the added value of DCEY2025?

The Digital Citizenship Education Year 2025 (DCEY2025) has significant value in addressing the unprecedented challenges and opportunities presented by the digital environment. It empowers citizens to navigate the digital environment responsibly and ethically, while promoting access to inclusive education. DCEY2025 aligns with international strategies and recommendations and provides a platform for member states to set common goals, share practices and measure success. The initiative aims to promote a culture of democracy and peaceful coexistence in diverse societies.