



CONFERENCE OF INGOs
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONFERENCE DES OING DU
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

June 2020 session

Agenda

Tuesday, 23 June 2020 – 10:00am-12:30pm
Webinar – Kudo online platform

EDUCATION AND CULTURE COMMITTEE

Claude VIVIER LE GOT President – Karl DONERT Vice-President

What lessons from Covid-19 should be taken for the topic of education and the digital era?

Introduction to the session Karl Donert, EUROGEO

Dear Colleagues, Participants

The COVID-19 crisis couldn't have underlined better the importance of digital education, the value of networking online and the power and significance of digital data.

Ever since the outbreak, governments, schools, universities, education organizations and companies have scrambled to connect online. Governments have engaged scientists and public health organisations to bring all the available data on Covid19 to the table, present it to citizens to establish data-driven policy to fight the virus and its alarming spread.

We have relied on our digital infrastructure for so much, from monitoring movements and contact tracing, digital payments, to zooming with family and friends online. Education has been struggling to adjust to the challenging situation of many millions of students and pupils at home, unable to attend schools, colleges and higher education, as extreme measures have become a new normal all over the world.

The 2nd European Commission Survey of Schools ICT in education showed that in 2019:

- less than 1 out of 5 of European students attended schools with access to high-speed Internet above 100 mbps.
- more than 6 out of 10 European students were taught by teachers who had no compulsory ICT training
- over 90% of the European parents believed that the use of ICT at school would potentially help their child find a job and
- only about 1 in 2 students attending secondary schools regularly discussed online risks with their parents.

We know much of the data being generated online is people's personal data, and therefore sensitive in nature, leading to concerns that we may be compromising on data privacy, while trying to safety in health. In this complicated scenario, what should the approach be going forward?

Is the right to privacy an absolute right, if it gets in the way of saving (many) lives? At the same time, while it is agreed that extraordinary times call for extraordinary measures, the circumstances must be treated as just that – extraordinary – and not blanket permission to remove the rights of individual privacy.

History is testimony to the fact that while States are quick at grabbing powers, they are often reluctant when it comes to giving these powers up and they may even employ surreptitious means to continue to hold on to it.

These and the other issues we identified make our webinar "***What lessons from Covid-19 should be taken for education and the digital era***" really challenging

POLL

Do you believe Covid-19 has led to lessons for digital technologies in education?

YES – NO – DON'T KNOW