European Commission

Making informed choices on digital education content: EU guidelines for teachers and educators



Why is action needed?

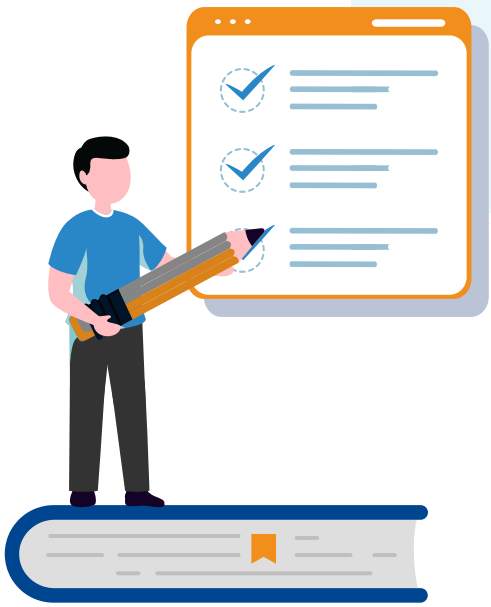
Digital education content (DEC) plays a crucial role in supporting high-quality, inclusive, and accessible education across Europe. Identifying high-quality DEC in the vast sea of what is on offer is no trivial matter.

Clear quality criteria for digital education content are urgently needed to help identify and ensure reliable and high-quality digital content in education.

The highly fragmented DEC landscape can be a cause for confusion and insecurity. **Teachers and school leaders** require better support and guidance to make informed decisions when selecting or creating and using DEC in their teaching practices.

A shared definition of digital education content at the EU level is essential to promote coherence and mutual understanding between all stakeholders across Member States.

What are the guidelines?



As a key deliverable of the **Digital Education Action Plan (2021–2027)**, these guidelines are essential to achieving the **Union of Skills**, ensuring learners and teachers are equipped with digital competencies to navigate today's digital reality. By boosting digital empowerment and supporting both learning and teaching, they empower educators to thrive in classrooms across Europe, directly contributing to the Union of Skills and fostering a future-ready, digitally confident education landscape.

Who are they for?

The guidelines are primarily intended for teachers and educators (particularly school leaders) who face decisions concerning digital education content on a daily basis at school level. They also provide useful tips for all levels of education and stakeholders.

What do the guidelines include?

A first-ever EU-level definition of digital education content (DEC), offering a reflective understanding of its diversity, value, and role in education. And a **glossary of key terms to better understand DEC.**

- **A set of quality criteria to assess digital content**, including:
  - Pedagogical fit and curriculum alignment
  - Engaging learning experiences
  - Design, accessibility and inclusion
  - Reliability
  - Impact and assessments
  - Legal compliance
  - Technical interoperability
  - Financial viability
- **Typical school scenarios and step-by-step guidance** covering all stages of the decision-making process to **select, create, access, use, adapt, and evaluate** digital education content.
- A focus on the development of a **digital culture and skills** for teachers and staff in this field.

How will they help teachers and school leaders?

The guidelines support teachers and school leaders to:

Make informed choices by using and adapting a clear framework for identifying high-quality digital education content in their own context.

Provide students with engaging, inclusive, and reliable digital materials that foster their learning, creativity, and development of essential digital skills that can improve teaching and learning outcomes.

Adapt, customise, and/or create digital education content to address the needs and contexts of their classrooms, ensuring more personalised and effective learning experiences.

Foster a common and consistent understanding of what digital education content can offer in schools across Europe.

Strengthen confidence and skills in effectively integrating and/or creating digital education content, including content generated by artificial intelligence, into their teaching practices by offering practical tips for their continuing professional development in this area.

Who developed them?

An expert group, led by the European Commission, bringing together various profiles (teachers, school leaders, policymakers, Edtech providers, researchers) at EU, national, regional and local levels.

Help us to promote high-quality digital education content!

- **Use** the guidelines to reflect and integrate DEC in your daily teaching practice.
- **Share** them with fellow teachers and school staff to support each other.
- **Use** them to engage in conversations with your educational authorities and all relevant stakeholders.
- **Encourage** your colleagues and school to use them and spread the word!



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