

Preparing University Students for the Digital Future

Automation, digitization, artificial intelligence, in other words, **digital transformation** affects the way we work, the way we live, the way society and economy function.

How can Universities effectively integrate digital transformation concepts in their regular teaching?

Europe will lose its competitiveness, if education fails to provide digital competences, especially for middle and high skilled professionals, who occupy typical graduate jobs.

Challenging landscape

The lack in digital skills is an issue across all levels of education. Although tertiary education stands at the top of the educational ladder, understanding of the nature and importance of digital transformation, and a well-structured approach for the acquisition of digital skills among students are still missing.



What is DiTEMP doing for this and what is next!

DiTEMP supports Universities and educators to integrate digital transformation concepts in their curricula, so that students can become 'digital ready' in the fields of Psychology, Cultural Heritage and Tourism, Business, and Education.

First off, we explored how Universities – teachers and students – but also companies are driving to digital transformation. Between December 2019 and May 2020, DiTEMP project partners in Greece, Romania, Spain, and Italy carried out research, reaching out to more than 500 young students and teachers in four academic fields, as well as companies in various sectors of economy.

What we wanted to explore in our research

STUDENTS AND GRADUATES

How well prepared do they feel regarding digital skills acquisition and development?

Which soft and digital skills do they consider as important for employment?

What have they done in order to develop those skills?

UNIVERSITIES AND TEACHERS

In which ways is digital transformation affecting their academic fields?

How are their teaching methods affected by digital transformation?

What is their opinion regarding the effects of digital transformation on the "tertiary education – labour market and employment" nexus?

COMPANIES

To what extent are companies ready for the new digital era?

Which are the most important digital skills, that employees and recent graduates should possess and be able to apply at work?

What could be done to facilitate the collaboration between companies and Universities on the face of digital transformation?



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Creative thinking is the most important employee's skills

Sneak peek into some basic findings

95%

of students consider Flexibility, Adaptation to change, and Communication skills as the most important assets for their future employment

73%

of teachers have adapted their teaching approach to by using online tools and resources (including MOOCs, online courses etc.)

40%

of students are considering that the limited access to adequate training can prevent them from keeping up to date with digital technologies.

More than

50%

of companies are ready enough and adapted to digital transformation



Covid-19: Rethinking present and future

There is no facet of life left untouched by the Covid-19 pandemic. More so, our personal well-being, but also the way we work and of course the world of education and learning. We deemed it as useful, to revisit our research objectives during this period to check how the pandemic has affected them, which in turn will yield interesting new findings. As of now, the main research findings have been presented during the project's second meeting (25 May 2020) which was held online.

WHAT'S NEXT? THE DiTEMP TOOLKIT

Drawing from the research results do far, we are now preparing for the development of the DiTEMP Toolkit for teachers and educators on how to integrate digital transformation concepts in their regular teaching.

www.ditemp.eu

 DiTemp project

DiTEMP is a 24-month project funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union (Key Action 2 – Strategic Partnerships in the field of Higher education).

The project is coordinated by the University of Padova in Italy, and implemented by 5 more partners in Italy, Greece, Romania, and Spain.



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