

EUROPEAN FACILITATE-AI POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Addressed to all Ministries of Education in Europe and beyond

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The project “Facilitate-AI: Guidelines for facilitating the learning of Artificial Intelligence (AI) by School Students of Grades 7-12” was developed and implemented by nine European partners between February 2022 and January 2024:

- Cyprus Mathematical Society – Cyprus (Coordinating organization)
- University of Plovdiv Paisii Hilendarski – Bulgaria
- Instituto Politécnico Do Porto – Portugal
- Spiru Haret University – Romania
- Prof Ivan Apostolov Private English Language School – Bulgaria
- ITC Paole Morante Limbiate – Italy
- Institute of Accelerating Systems and Application - Greece
- Douka Ekpaideftiria AE-Palladion Lykeion-Doukas School – Greece
- University of Cyprus – Cyprus

The Facilitate-AI project has developed the following results:

- **R1.** AI Teaching Guide for teachers facilitating the learning of students in grades 7-12
- **R2.** Training Course for Facilitators of learning in AI-STEAME education
- **R3.** Dynamic Online Learning Environment with OER on AI in interdisciplinary STEAME school subjects with a set of Blueprint Policy Recommendations

Developed by the Facilitate-AI project, the policy recommendations have the following aims:

- ✓ Develop a comprehensive blueprint for the modernization of education, specifically integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- ✓ Support school teachers in understanding AI complexities, emphasizing inquiry-based and evidence-based teaching methods.
- ✓ Target policy makers at local, national, and international levels, providing insights for effective policy formulation in response to AI in education.
- ✓ Empower the educational community through information dissemination and capacity development initiatives, reducing confusion and fostering AI understanding.
- ✓ Encourage international collaboration and research efforts to ensure seamless AI integration into educational systems.

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- ✓ Align recommendations with European policy frameworks, addressing key competencies for lifelong learning and supporting the Digital Education Plan.
- ✓ Focus on equipping students with 21st-century skills and knowledge, emphasizing AI literacy and thinking.

The project has identified recommendations in 6 main areas:

1. Teacher Competencies and Training

- Recognizing the distinction between using AI tools and actively developing AI to provide a foundational understanding and setting the stage for hands-on skill development.
- Equipping teachers with technical knowledge and key competencies such as adaptability, innovation, and strategic thinking.
- Creating strategies for regular teacher training to ensure that educators remain competent in teaching AI and can adapt to evolving AI technologies over time.

2. Levels and fields of teaching

- Setting a minimum age for the introduction of AI to ensure a thoughtful and age-appropriate integration into the curriculum.
- Initiating the introduction of AI concepts from preschool to high school to provide a solid foundation and support a seamless progression of understanding.
- Establishing a tiered approach, covering learning **about** AI, designing **with** AI, and eventually designing **for** AI, to ensure a comprehensive and evolving understanding.

3. Integration Across Subjects

- Tailoring AI learning to different levels to align with students' varying skills and curricular paths, ensuring inclusivity and relevance.
- Fostering collaboration among teachers for the effective implementation of AI education, promoting the exchange of ideas, strategies, and best practices.
- Engaging in partnerships with businesses and other organizations to enrich AI education, offering real-world insights, resources, and opportunities that bridge the gap between academic learning and practical applications.

4. Support by the national system and bodies

- Modifying curricular programs to incorporate the teaching of AI ensuring that it is integrated seamlessly into the educational framework.
- Securing strong support from public authorities, as it drives policy development and resource allocation.
- Advocating AI awareness among educators and school administrators to create understanding of the positive impact of AI on education.

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5. Teaching and learning process

- Draw inspiration from successful initiatives, such as the implementation of computational thinking in kindergarten, even in the absence of digital tools, which has shown positive outcomes in early education.
- Utilize AI for quick insights, as demonstrated by a college using learning analytics to identify and support students facing challenges.
- Engage students in discussions about the ethical considerations, regulatory aspects, and responsibilities associated with AI tools to challenge them to think critically and create an understanding of its societal impact.

6. Infrastructure requirements

- Establishing high-speed internet access, fast connectivity, and a stable, secure network infrastructure for accessing online resources and facilitating real-time collaboration.
- Implementing cybersecurity measures and enforcing clear privacy policies to protect sensitive data and create a secure learning environment.
- Integrating reputable online platforms like Coursera or Khan Academy to provide valuable courses and educational resources in the field of AI.

www.facilitate-ai.eu