



AI PIONEERS

AI and the future of Education

August 2023

Issue 1

WELCOME MESSAGE

The AI Pioneers project successfully started in January 2023 under the EU Erasmus+ program with 10 project partners from Italy, Portugal, Greece, Spain, Cyprus, Estonia and Germany. The project focuses on building a network of pioneers from the education sector who are actively involved in the field of artificial intelligence (AI). This will involve trainers, stakeholders, policy makers and educational planners to promote the use and delivery of AI in VET and adult education. The project will continue to focus on policy recommendations, toolkits and implementation guidelines for AI pioneers on the use of AI, as well as the identification, development and piloting of AI use cases in education. Furthermore, the development of an addendum to the Digital Competence Framework for Educators (DigCompEdu) is addressed, which takes into account the capabilities and the development of guidelines (in line with existing EU policy) for the ethical and trustworthy use of AI in education. Involving relevant stakeholders such as companies and vocational schools is at the center of the project.

<https://aipioneers.org/>



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OUR PARTNERS

The partnership has been developed around a core of partners involved in the Tackle AI and AI at School Erasmus+ projects. That core has been extended to provide additional expertise, a wider country network, an extension to adult education and to enhance the capacity of the project for policy advice, impact and future sustainability. These additional partners have been integrated through discussion in a series of online meetings held for the development of this application. A further concern was to build a trans-disciplinary research team which we feel is necessary for the challenge of AI in education. In developing this application, we have also acquired the support of a number of Associated Partners with others expected to join this group in the near future.

Project coordinator ITB, University of Bremen

ITB has approximately 60 employees and has been working in Research and Development on Vocational and Higher Education and Training for more than 25 years. It is one of the largest independent research facilities on this topic in Germany. It focuses on the interaction of work, technology and education and on people's influence on this triangle, aiming at a close interaction between reforming vocational education and training and innovation in work and technology.

TecMinho

TecMinho is a technology transfer organisation, founded in 1990 as an interface of the University of Minho. They are a private non-profit organisation located on the University of Minho campus, Portugal, aiming to promote the region's development by stimulating new technologies and by promoting the transfer of knowledge between the University, enterprises and society. Their main purpose is to support services in the fields of innovation and new technologies and deliver advanced and specialised face-to-face and online training and strategic information.

CARVET, University of Verona

A Research Center of the Department of Human Sciences of University of Verona, bringing together researchers and teachers working on or belonging to the VET system. It has the purpose of carrying out research, counselling and training in the field of vocational education and training. The Center acts as a hub for advanced interdisciplinary research and promotes the dialogue between different methods, combining theoretical and empirical research, at an interdisciplinary level (psychology, education, philosophy, sociology, laws), adhering to qualitative, quantitative and mixed method research approaches.

The University of the Basque Country

An experienced organisation in the use of new technologies (ICTs and AI) and the training and continuous professional development of teachers. It is especially interested in involving both national and international experts in teachers' training and the use of AI in education and the labour market to share and foster orientation and theoretical and practical support in the development of their present and future activity. Its members are experts, researchers and professionals who have extensive experience in the field, and today they are involved and lead several projects on the topic (AI@school, Career Pathways, etc.).

Active Citizens Partnerships

A non-for-profit organisation operating in Greece since 2009, committed to support the inclusion of all people by empowering and equipping them with the skills and competences they need to realise their potential and their inclusion on all levels, social, political, and economic. Through research, training, tools development, empowering and knowledge sharing we work to achieve systemic changes and provide opportunities for individuals and society. Their expertise includes digital skills and competence development including Artificial Intelligence, technology enhanced learning, innovation development, adult and vocational training and social and educational policy issues. ACP has successfully implemented 8 Erasmus KA2 projects related to DigCompEdu and Artificial Intelligence

Pontydysgu

An SME based in Valencia in Spain. Building on its previous UK company of the same name, Pontydysgu undertakes research and development in education and training, Pontydysgu were partners in the Tackle AI project and are coordinators of the AI at School Erasmus+ project. Pontydysgu are experts in the development and use of technology in education having worked in all educational sectors on this issue. They are also experienced in the development of Open Educational Resources and in the development and delivery of Continuing Professional Development, especially around the DigCompEdu Framework. More recently Pontydysgu have been developing an AI powered bot for use in career development and guidance. Pontydysgu was a partner in the Tackle AI Erasmus+ project. Pontydysgu will be the leader of quality assurance and evaluation of the project.

EDEN

The European Distance and E-Learning Network (EDEN) exists to share knowledge and improve understanding amongst professionals in distance and e-learning and to promote policy and practice across the whole of Europe and beyond. Established in 1991 as an international educational association and not-for-profit organisation, EDEN is open to institutions and individuals dealing with e-learning, and –more broadly speaking –open and distance education. With more than 180 institutional members and over 1100 members in the Network of Academics and Professionals (NAP), EDEN assists a wide range of institutions, networks and individuals to become involved in professional information and networking activities. It does so through the organisation of European conferences, its publications and information services, and by taking an active role in a wide range of important EU projects.



The Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB)

BIBB is recognized as a centre of excellence for vocational research and for the progressive development of vocational education in Germany. BIBB works to identify future challenges in VET, stimulate innovation in national and international vocational systems, and develop new, practice-oriented solutions for both initial and continuing vocational education and training. The specialists at the Federal Institute advise the Federal Government and make their expertise available to members of parliament and parliamentary groups in the Bundestag and to government departments. They support parliaments and ministries at federal state level as well as assisting the European Union, international institutions and government and partner institutions operating in the field of vocational education and training in other countries.

The Centre for Social Innovation (CSI)

CSI in Cyprus is a Research and Development organisation which focuses on fostering social innovation that can bring about a positive change to local, national, regional and global contexts. CSI believes that the four pillars of Social Interaction, Education, Development and Economic Rationalisation coupled with fundamentally sound and sustainable solutions as well as disruption to streamlined solutions to systemic social problems can lead to creative solutions that impact significant change to the social fabric of every society. CSI will be involved in activities related to dissemination, data collection and organisation of workshops and surveys in Cyprus. CSI will involve senior and junior researchers to the implementation of the project.

CNOS-FAP Federation

National Centre of Salesian Institutions - Vocational Training and Updating, is an Italian association founded on December 9th 1977. It coordinates the Italian Salesian VET centres who provide a public service in vocational guidance, initial, higher and continuous vocational education and training, following the educational methodology of St. John Bosco. Salesian Institutions are in 133 Countries; as VET providers they started their activities in 1870 and are currently active in 108 Countries, managing about 1845 technical and educational schools and VET centres addressed to more than 1.215.000 beneficiaries, numbering them among the eldest, long-lasting and widest network of training providers of the world. CNOS-FAP will be involved in the dissemination activities of the project and will employ experts and researchers.

FEATURED RESOURCES

AI AND ASSESSMENT

PODCAST

This podcast on AI and assessment was recorded for the Erasmus+ eAssessment project Tackle AI. It forms part of an online course including four main sections, Assessment Strategies, Analysing evidence, Feedback and Planning and Community of practice.

Access the podcast here:

<https://tackleai.eu/2023/06/13/ai-and-assessment/>

MOOC

The course, hosted on the project Moodle site, is free of charge. Participants are welcome to follow the full course or can dip in and out of the sixteen different units. MOOC was developed in the context of the Erasmus+ project Tackle AI.

Access MOOC here:

<https://mooc.tackleai.eu/course/tackle-ai-mooc/>

AI PIONEERS NETWORK

As AI continues to transform education, AI Pioneers aims to build a network of education and training Pioneers, including trainers, stakeholders, policy-makers, and educational planners, to act as Reference Points for the design and implementation of future educational projects related to AI in VET. Our objectives include developing policy recommendations, toolkits, and implementation guidelines for AI Pioneers, identifying and piloting use cases of AI in education, and developing guidelines for ethical and trustworthy use of AI in education. In the Consultation Seminars, we will present the AI Pioneers Reference Network (aims, topics, roles, membership), and its relevance in the ever-growing topic of AI in Education. The restrict group of Pioneers involved will be part of the first group of AI Pioneers from Germany, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Greece, Cyprus and Estonia.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE EUROPEAN REFERENCE NETWORK OF AI PIONEERS?

A: The purpose of the European Reference Network of AI Pioneers is to create a sustainable community of experts, including teachers, trainers, educational planners, stakeholders, and policy makers in European countries, who are knowledgeable in the use of AI in education and training.

Q: WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE NETWORK AND THE EUROPEAN DIGCOMPEDU FRAMEWORK?

A: The network serves to identify a supplement to the European DigCompEdu Framework. It specifically focuses on identifying new skills and competences that teachers and trainers need in order to effectively use AI for teaching and learning.

Q: WHAT ARE THE MAIN GOALS OF THE PROJECT?

A: The main goals of the project are as follows:

- Identify new skills and competences required by teachers and trainers for the use of AI in education.
- Develop tools and resources on the use of AI for teaching and learning in Vocational Education and Training (VET) and Adult Education.
- Develop tools and resources on AI as a subject for teaching and learning.
- Conduct research, develop policies, and consult on ethics and protocols for the use of AI in VET and Adult Education.
- Create a Guide to ethical practices for the use of AI in education and training in Europe.

Follow us on 

We hope you enjoy this newsletter and find inspiration in the advancements and opportunities offered by Artificial Intelligence in the field of education! Together, we are creating a smarter and more accessible future for education and professional learning.

Contact us and let's grow the European Network of AI Pioneers!
<https://aipioneers.org/>