AI PIONEERS

AI and the future of Education

June 2024

Issue 3

WELCOME

Recently, applications of artificial intelligence (AI) in vocational education and training and adult education have become increasingly important, resulting in a large number of research and development projects in a variety of contexts and countries. In many ways, initial attempts are already being made to integrate AI into vocational training and to test pilot applications of AI systems. The AI Pioneers project addresses this issue and focuses on the establishment of a network of teachers and trainers from vocational education and training (VET) and adult education concerning the application of artificial intelligence and its visibility across countries. **The central objectives of the projec**t can be defined as follows:

- To develop a reference network of AI Pioneers (trainers, stakeholders, policy makers, and educational planners) for promoting the use and teaching of AI in Adult Education and VET.

- To produce recommendations, toolkits, and implementation guidelines for AI Pioneers at organizational and systemic levels and disseminate the use of AI in education and training.

- To develop a supplement to the DigCompEDU Framework describing the skills and competencies of teachers and trainers related to AI in Education.

- To develop guidelines (in line with existing EU policies) for the ethical and trustworthy use of AI in education, to produce evaluation schema, and to pilot these in practice.

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TRANSNATIONAL PARTNER MEETING IN BILBAO

The second on-site project meeting of the Erasmus+ project AI Pioneers took place **from May 22nd to 24th in Bilbao** hosted by the **University of the Basque Country.** The project consortium of 10 partners from Germany, Greece, Portugal, Spain, Italy, Cyprus and Estonia, coordinated by Institut Technik und Bildung (ITB), had the opportunity to discuss in presence all the final steps in the creation of the project outputs. In particular, the creation of an *AI toolkit* with practical implementation examples and the development of an *ethical evaluation schema* to assess ethical issues relating to the use of AI tools in educational settings.
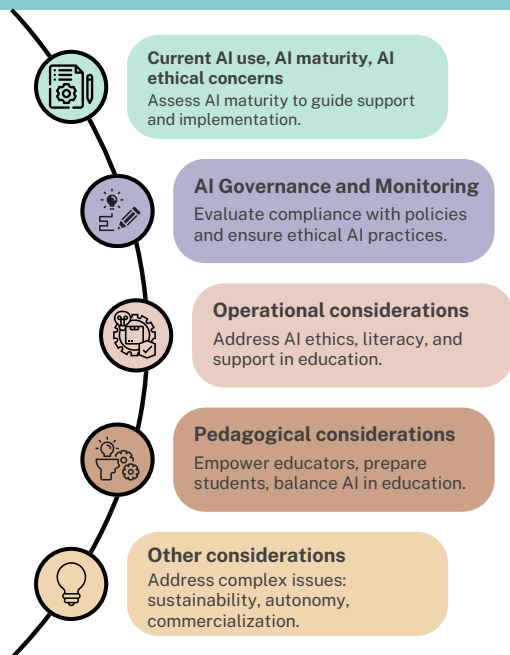
After this very productive meeting, the partnership will meet again in-person next year, hosted by the University of Verona.

AI TOOLKIT WITH BEST USE CASES COMING SOON!

The AI-Pioneers Toolkit, is a Knowledge Base (KB) targeting educators and trainers, aiming to provide easily accessible tools and resources for the implementation of artificial intelligence (AI) in education. The content, derived from research endeavors and expert deliberations during the project, encompasses a diverse array of materials. These include software, guidelines, tutorials, and educational resources facilitating AI integration into teaching practices, alongside resources specifically tailored for teaching and learning AI concepts. The toolkit is structured to cater to educators' and trainers' needs, offering Open Educational Resources (OER) for free access and utilization. Available in multiple languages, it supports global usability and aims to enhance AI integration into education through practical tools and resources, fostering both educator and student engagement with AI technologies

AI ETHICS EVALUATION SCHEMA

Current AI use, AI maturity, AI ethical concerns
Assess AI maturity to guide support and implementation.

AI Governance and Monitoring
Evaluate compliance with policies and ensure ethical AI practices.

Operational considerations
Address AI ethics, literacy, and support in education.

Pedagogical considerations
Empower educators, prepare students, balance AI in education.

Other considerations
Address complex issues: sustainability, autonomy, commercialization.

Based on existing guidelines and previous research, we are developing an evaluation schema with five main areas. This schema offers guiding questions for educational centres to develop ethical AI policies and assess their implementation.

Example questions include:
- Are there national/international policies or regulations that must be considered?
- Is there sufficient training/support for all individuals interacting with the AI tools?
- Can the centre ensure equal access to the AI tools?
- Does the centre provide practical training in AI tools used in students' fields of study?

AI Pioneers are crucial to developing this schema. We look forward to sharing more information and incorporating your ideas. Please contact us if you want to know more!

SUPPLEMENT TO THE DIGCOMPEDU FRAMEWORK

OUTLINING THE SKILLS AND COMPETENCES OF EDUCATORS RELATED TO EDUCATION

Stay ahead in the rapidly changing field of AI in education! Our project introduces the ***Supplement to the DigCompEdu framework, Outlining the Skills and Competences of Educators related to AI in Education***. This resource has already impacted numerous educators and stakeholders. If you haven't explored it yet, take a look now to enhance your digital competences in AI education.

AI PIONEERS AT THE VI INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INCLUSION – CIISE 2024

On May 24th, we had the opportunity to attend the VI edition of CIISE 24 to present the AI Pioneers project. Alongside various experts in education and inclusion, we were able to discuss and exchange very interesting ideas about the impact of artificial intelligence on current and future teaching work in VET and adult education. In addition, the day served to introduce our network, as well as to invite attendees to become part of our community of pioneers. Thanks to all those who made this wonderful congress possible and to those who enriched the debate with their questions and comments!

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UPCOMING AI PIONEERS NETWORK EVENTS
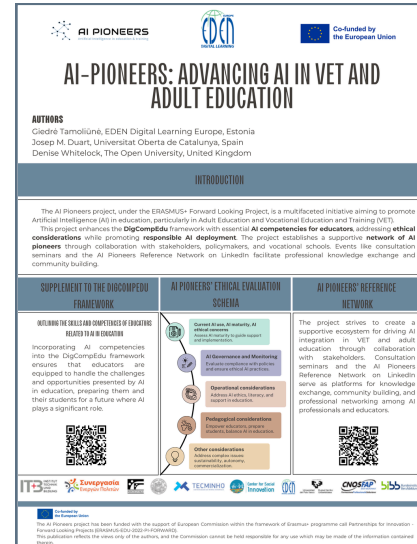
AI PIONEERS AT THE EDEN 2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
"LEARNING IN THE AGE OF AI: TOWARDS IMAGINATIVE FUTURES"

The AI Pioneers project research results will be presented at the EDEN Conference in Graz, Austria, from June 16 to 18.
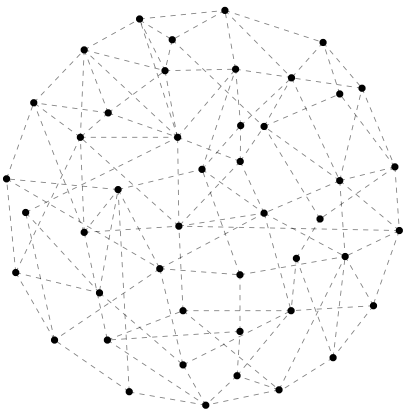We invite you to:

- visit our **poster** *"AI Pioneers: Advancing AI in VET and Adult Education";*
- attend **presentations** by our AI researchers *"Integrating Artificial Intelligence in Vocational and Adult Education: A Supplement to the DigCompEdu Framework"* and *"How do Technical Vocational School Teachers Deal With Artificial Intelligence in the Classroom? An Attempt to Analyze AI Use at German VET Schools";*
- and participate in our **workshop** *"Meeting the Challenges of AI in Education".*

https://eden-europe.eu/event/eden-2024-annual-conference/

AI PIONEERS 3ND CONSULTATION
ONLINE SEMINAR ON THE 26TH OF JUNE!

As AI continues to transform education and training, AI Pioneers is build a network trainers, stakeholders, policy-makers, and educational planners, to act as reference points for the design and implementation of future educational projects related to AI. 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. The consultation seminar is space were the project partners and the network will be able to share tools, experiences, and case studies. ***Stay tuned!***

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.
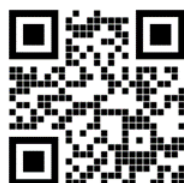
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