



JOIN AI PIONEERS NETWORK

Come join the discussion and share your experiences using AI in vocational training and adult education



WELCOME TO THE FOURTH AI PIONEERS NEWSLETTER!

We're excited to share the latest milestones of AI Pioneers, an Erasmus+ Forward-Looking project promoting ethical and effective AI integration in adult education and vocational training (VET). Our work focuses on developing policy recommendations, toolkits, and practical guidelines while exploring innovative AI use cases in education.

In this newsletter, you will find highlights of:

- * two **Consultation Seminars**;
- * the **presentation** at the Council of Europe;
- * a **webinar** at the European Open and Digital Learning Week 2024;
- * a **workshop** about the concept development and implementation strategies for AI in VET;
- * a new **research paper** published;
- * the progress of the **evaluation schema on AI in education**;
- * a new **collaboration platform** for our network members;
- * the list of **resources** we've created to date.

Many thanks for the interest in our project. We hope this newsletter provides interesting insights!

Facts and figures about AI Pioneers' 2-year progress:

Over **650 followers** on LinkedIn engaged with our project in the first two years.

Hosted **4 Consultation webinars** with more than 100 participants.

Published a **Knowledge Base with an AI toolkit**

Developed a **DigCompEdu AI Competencies supplement**.

Gained **200+ weekly newsletter subscribers.**

Conducted **20+ national and international workshops and events** to share resources.



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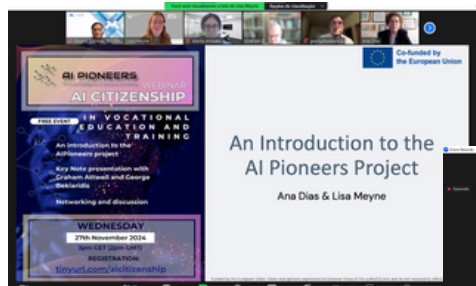


INSIGHTS FROM OUR RECENT CONSULTATION WEBINARS ON AI ETHICS AND AI CITIZENSHIP

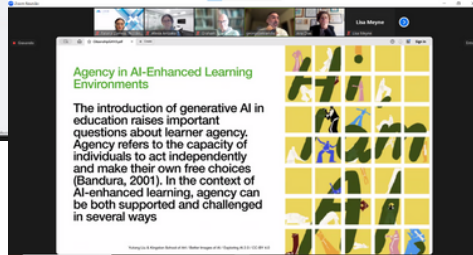
Two Consultation Workshops were organised as part of the AI Pioneers' Network initiative. These engaging events featured keynote presentations by external and project experts, followed by an interactive Q&A session and a dynamic group discussions.

On 30th September, 2024, we hosted our 3rd Consultation Workshop, "AI in Education: Navigating Ethical Dilemmas and Practices," where participants delved into critical topics surrounding the ethical use of AI in education, including the challenges and opportunities presented by AI in learner assessment. Together with a keynote presenter Alexandros Kofteros, we examined how AI can enhance personalization and efficiency while addressing concerns related to bias and data privacy.

The workshop fostered active engagement, with attendees sharing their insights on the ethical dilemmas raised and collaboratively brainstorming potential solutions.



The second workshop was held on 27 November, 2024, where we explored the AI citizenship in Vocational Education and Training (VET).



The event began with Lisa Meyne presenting the AI Pioneers Project, followed by Ana Dias discussing the Communities of Practice in AI Education across partner countries.

The highlight was a keynote by George Bekiaridis and Graham Attwell titled "AI Citizenship in VET," addressing critical topics such as

- Balancing learner agency with AI-driven support.
- Navigating the challenges and opportunities in AI-enhanced learning environments.
- Understanding the societal impacts of AI and the importance of AI literacy in VET.
- Addressing ethical dilemmas and promoting inclusivity in AI systems for education.

The seminar brought together 49 participants from 18 countries, with 27 actively engaging in discussions on AI's transformative role in education. It emphasized ethical, inclusive AI practices and fostered a global network of educators and professionals united in empowering learners through responsible AI advancements.

Event recordings are available on the AI Pioneers' YouTube Channel!





SHARING KNOWLEDGE ACROSS BORDERS: HIGHLIGHTS FROM INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION “TRANSFORMING VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING: AI IN THEORY AND PRACTICE” AT THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

George Bekiaridis and Graham Attwell made a keynote presentation to the Second Conference on the Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture and Vocational Education and Training held on 24 and 25 October 2024 at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France. The event was dedicated to discussing the chapters of the new publication on the Council of Europe’s Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture (RFDC) and VET.

In the presentation, George and Graham used the Activity Theory to explore AI learning and its connections to tools, frameworks, and institutions, referencing UNESCO’s AI competencies framework on citizenship skills.



Check this [link](#) or scan the QR code to access the slides of the presentation.

WEBINAR “AI AND EDUCATION: ENHANCING LEARNING AND PEDAGOGY” AT EDEN EODLW 2024

As part of the European Open and Distance Learning Week (EODLW) 2024, EDEN Digital Learning Europe hosted the AI Pioneers' Session: "AI and Education: Enhancing Learning and Pedagogy". This engaging event brought together experts to explore how AI is transforming education.

Moderated by Giedrė Tamoliūnė, the session featured discussions by Graham Attwell on how AI can empower learner autonomy, George Bekiaridis on the ethical evaluation of AI tools, and Ludger Deitmer and Frieda Klaus on real-world applications of AI in vocational education.

The session concluded with a lively discussion, addressing key topics such as preparing educators for an AI-driven future, fostering inclusivity, and encouraging students to engage effectively with AI tools.



Check this [link](#) or scan the QR code to access the webinar recording.



SHARING KNOWLEDGE ACROSS BORDERS: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE NATIONAL EVENT

CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES FOR AI IN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING - WORKSHOP IN BREMEN

On 6th November, 2024, the Institute of Technology and Education (ITB) represented by Dr. Ludger Deitmer, Frieda Klaus, Lisa Meyne and Dr. Christine Siemer, organized a workshop to develop a practice-oriented concept for the implementation of artificial intelligence (AI) in vocational education and training together with experts in the field of artificial intelligence for the German Community of Practice (CoP).

The workshop began with an introduction to the AI Pioneers project by Dr. Deitmer and Dr. Siemer. Florian Beier delivered a keynote on using AI for computer vision in industrial robotics.

Participants then formed groups to discuss AI implementation in vocational education, focusing on three phases: (1) goal setting and impact assessment, (2) planning and design, (3) preparation and implementation.



The workshop results will soon be available to all network partners via the AI Pioneers website.

More about the workshop

RESEARCH PAPER “AI AND EDUCATION: AGENCY, MOTIVATION, LITERACY AND DEMOCRACY” READY FOR PRE-PRINT

A new research paper, “***AI and Education: Agency, Motivation, Literacy, and Democracy***” by Graham Attwell, George Bekiaridis, and Angela Karadog, is now available as a pre-print on ResearchGate.

This paper examines the impact of generative AI in education through Activity Theory, and explores how AI tools, including large language models, affect learner agency, motivation, and AI literacy. Using a multi-pronged approach, including literature reviews, interviews, and participation in European AI initiatives, the authors highlight the complex relationships between AI, personalization, and co-creation.

The paper emphasizes the need for critical AI literacy, noting both opportunities and challenges, and calls for a democratic approach to curriculum development in vocational education to empower students in an AI-driven future.



The preprint is available for download on the ResearchGate website.

Join AI Pioneers' Community of Practice on EPALE!

The AI Pioneers Community of Practice is an invaluable platform designed to empower educators, trainers, and stakeholders in VET. This dynamic network goes beyond knowledge-sharing by fostering professional growth, collaboration, and innovation. By participating, members gain access to a wealth of shared experiences, best practices, and cutting-edge insights into the application of artificial intelligence (AI) in education. The community enables educators to stay at the forefront of AI-driven teaching methodologies, ensuring their practices evolve with the latest trends and technologies. Through joint learning and peer feedback, members reflect critically on their approaches, experimenting with new strategies to meet the unique needs of adult learners and vocational trainees. What sets the AI Pioneers Community of Practice apart is its emphasis on networking and interdisciplinary collaboration. By connecting specialists from diverse fields, the community creates a fertile ground for integrating AI technologies into VET and adult education.

CoP can be found at

<https://epale.ec.europa.eu/en/private/ai-pioneers>



Whether you're an educator exploring AI's potential or a policy maker looking to drive systemic change, the AI Pioneers Community of Practice is your gateway to innovation and excellence in adult and VET education.

EVALUATION SCHEMA FOR AI IN EDUCATION

We're excited to share progress on our Evaluation Schema for AI in Education, designed to guide institutions in reflecting on ethical AI adoption with a focus on data protection, equity, and European values. Thank you to everyone who has already shared feedback! Your contributions are vital as we refine this tool into a practical resource for educators and policymakers.



For those who haven't yet participated, there's still time! Explore the schema in the Genially presentation you can find by scanning the QR code, and don't forget to fill out the feedback form. We're looking forward to presenting the finalized version in January 2025.

Let's work together to promote ethical AI in education!

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AI PIONEERS' RESOURCES

SUPPLEMENT TO THE DIGCOMPEDU FRAMEWORK

OUTLINING THE SKILLS AND COMPETENCES OF EDUCATORS RELATED TO EDUCATION

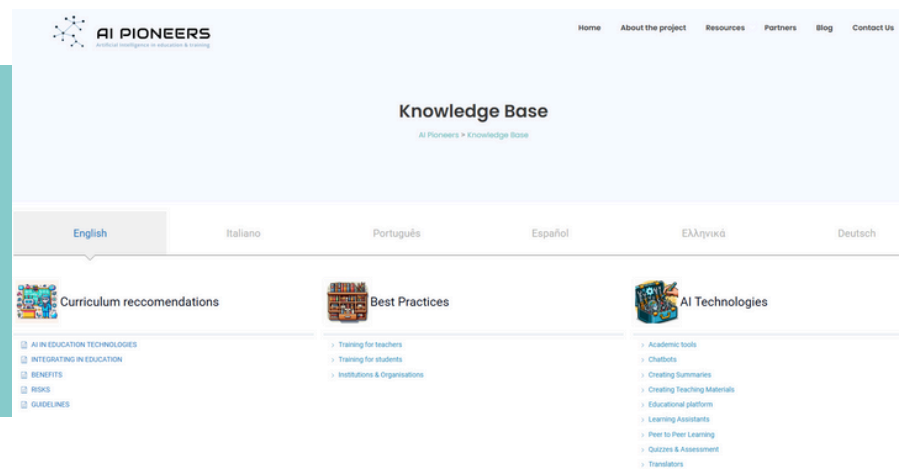
This resource has already impacted numerous educators and stakeholders. If you haven't explored it yet, take a look now to enhance your digital competences in AI education.



AI TOOLKIT WITH THE BEST USE CASES

The AI-Pioneers Toolkit, is a Knowledge Base targeting educators and trainers, aiming to provide easily accessible tools and resources for the implementation of artificial intelligence in education.

These include software, guidelines, tutorials, and educational resources facilitating AI integration into teaching practices, alongside resources specifically tailored for teaching and learning AI concepts.



Available
in 6
languages!



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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Community
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