



JOIN AI PIONEERS NETWORK

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



WELCOME TO THE FINAL AI PIONEERS NEWSLETTER!

We are excited to share the latest milestones of *AI Pioneers*, our Erasmus+ Forward-Looking project dedicated to international network formation and the promotion of practical pedagogical use cases as well as ethical and effective integration of AI in adult education and vocational education and training (VET).

As we approach the final phase, we're excited to share recent milestones, new collaborations, and upcoming opportunities of our project.

Inside this final issue, you'll find:

- **An overview to our Final Conference in Bremen** — a hub for innovation, workshops, and networking.
- **Highlights from our recent project meeting in Bremen**, focusing on ethical AI and network sustainability.
- **Insights from two successful webinars** co-hosted with the Joint Research Centre (JRC) and the European Training Foundation (ETF).
- **Updates on our presence at international conferences and events**,
- **An invitation to share your ideas and feedback for the hub of AI for VET practitioners**.
- And a **list of our ongoing project results**.

IMPORTANT!

The official project period ends but the AI Pioneers Network remains alive!

Read more about foreseen membership possibilities on page 6.

Whether you're an educator, policymaker, or an AI enthusiast, this project connects you to a vibrant community committed to responsibly integrating AI into vocational and adult learning.

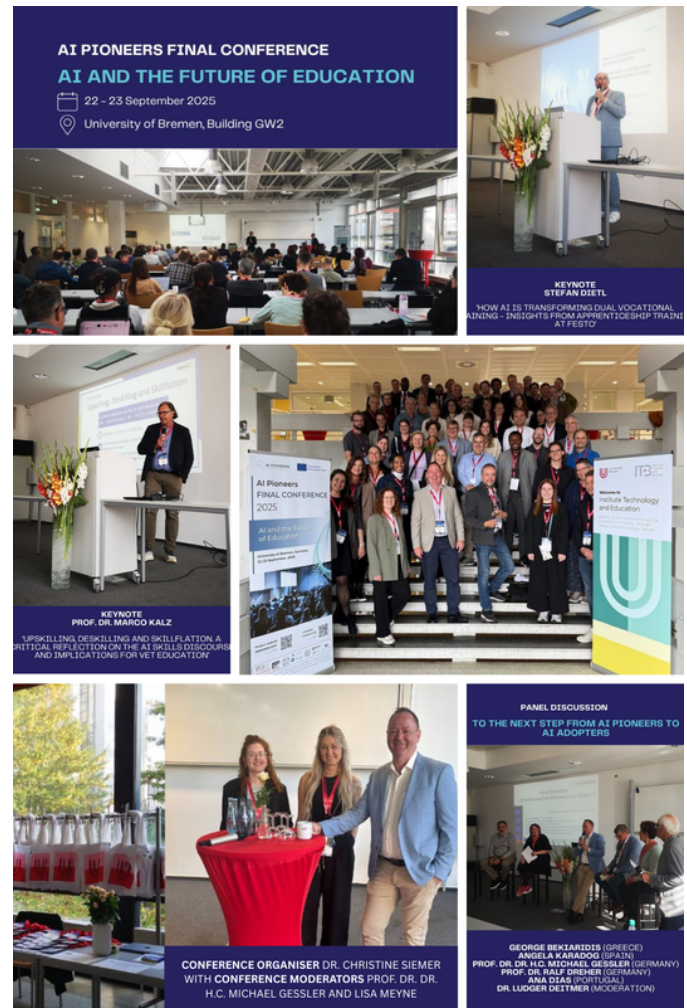


“AI AND THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION”: AI PIONEERS CONFERENCE 2025 WRAP-UP

The AI Pioneers Final Conference – **AI and the Future of Education** (September 22–23, 2025, Bremen) brought together 116 participants for two inspiring days of exchange and collaboration. From lively debates to hands-on workshops and informal chats, the atmosphere was full of curiosity and fresh ideas.

🌟 Highlights in Brief:

- 👤 Over **120 participants from across Europe** shared experiences and inspiration
- 💡 **Four keynote speakers** explored AI's role in transforming vocational education and training
- 🧩 **17 presentations** and **5 AI Pioneers project sessions** showcased practical outcomes and new perspectives
- 🧠 **5 workshops** and **4 networking sessions** encouraged exchange and collaboration
- 💬 **1 panel discussion** brought together experts from four countries, moderated by **Dr. Ludger Deitmer**.
- 🔍 **AI Pioneers Final Conference Book** is available now.



The conference highlighted how strong collaboration between research and practice can drive meaningful innovation in VET and adult education. New partnerships were formed, ideas exchanged, and exciting future projects initiated — showing that **AI in education is a shared journey**, built on dialogue, creativity, and cooperation.

The feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive. Many highlighted the vibrant atmosphere and the balance between theory and practical examples, appreciating the opportunity to connect, share, and learn from each other. Participants also expressed a clear wish to see a similar conference next year — and we'll do our best to make that happen!



Stay tuned for upcoming publications, recordings, and project results — and let's keep advancing AI for teaching and learning together!

THE FINAL PROJECT MEETING IN BREMEN, GERMANY

The third transnational meeting of the Erasmus+ project AI Pioneers took place on 24 September 2025 in Bremen, hosted by the Institute Technology and Education from the University of Bremen. The gathering brought together project partners to reflect on the progress and plan the final phase of the project.

The meeting took place following the AI Pioneers final conference, which was not only attended by numerous AI Pioneers project partners, but also brought together a wide range of stakeholders from the AI Pioneers partner countries and beyond.

During the post-conference meeting, intensive discussions were held on the sustainability of the international network structures that had been established and on the question of how the network could be continued with further activities and webinars for the AI Pioneers community even after the end of the project. With a view to the conclusion of the project, the focus was also on a comprehensive evaluation of the implemented project activities in order to adequately reflect and document the entire duration of the project.



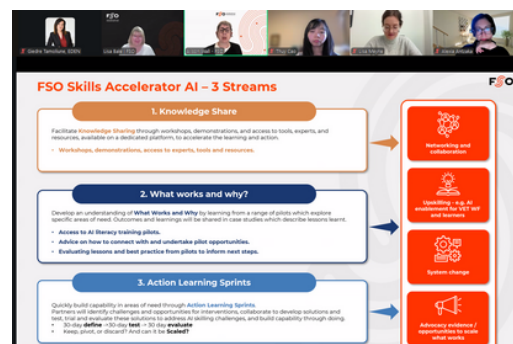
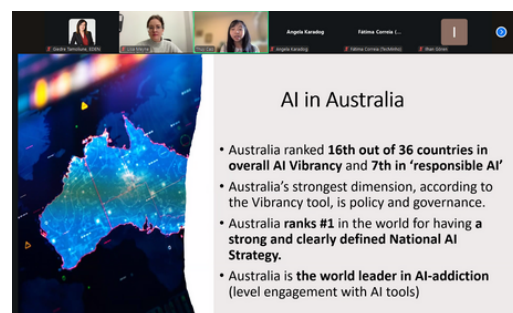
EXPLORING AI AND SKILLS IN AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION: WATCH THE FINAL CONSULTATION WEBINAR

On 24 November, 2025, we hosted a final cross-continental webinar bringing together experts from Australia to explore how AI is shaping VET education and skills development, featuring:

- **Presentation of the AI Pioneers network and its sustainability** by project coordinator Lisa Meyne;
- **Panorama of AI in Australian Education** by Thuy Reynolds sharing current practices, challenges and emerging trends in Australia VET sector;
- **Building Australia's VET Workforce AI Capability** by Alison Wall and Lisa Bale, who outlined national strategies for supporting trainers and organisations to confidently adopt AI tools.

The event offered a comparative look at priorities in both regions, including AI-supported curriculum design, digital capability building, and workforce readiness.

Watch webinar recording on [AI Pioneers' YouTube channel!](#)





RECOGNITION AND CONTINUATION: EXTENDING THE IMPACT OF AI PIONEERS

The AI Pioneers project has gained recognition beyond its original consortium, attracting attention from international stakeholders and policy actors. The project's results, expertise, and collaborative approach have opened new pathways for engagement, research, and future initiatives across Europe and beyond.

Policy and Institutional recognition

George Bekiaridis (Active Citizens Partnership) and **Graham Attwell (Pontydysgu)** bring extensive expertise at the intersection of artificial intelligence and vocational education, making them valuable **contributors to the Council of Europe working groups on AI and Vocational Education**. Both play leading roles in the AI Pioneers project, advancing innovative approaches to AI literacy, ethics, and pedagogy within VET. As **members of the Committee of Ministers' Recommendation on developing a culture of democracy in vocational education and training**, they contribute to shaping policy discussions on the democratic and ethical use of AI in learning and work environments. Their participation strengthens the Council's efforts to build inclusive, transparent, and human-centred approaches to integrating AI into vocational training systems.

European Collaboration and Networks

AI Pioneers Partners were participants in the **European Digital Education Hub 'squad' on Explainable AI (XAI) in Education** and **the working group to revise the European Ethical Guidelines on AI in education**.

The AI Pioneers project is also **collaborating with the European Training Foundation Open Space New Learning Club on Teaching with AI**

The AI Pioneers project continues to work in **close collaboration with the European Digital Education Network (EDEN)** who are also a partner in the project and this has resulted in regular invitations to present online and at the EDEN conference.

AI Pioneers partners are **members of the EU Working Group developing an updated version of the EU Guidelines on AI in Education**.

Localised webinars and networking events continue to be carried out in partner languages to facilitate ideas and resource sharing on a national level.

New Projects and Sustainability

Building on the expertise, knowledge base, and deliverables of the AI Pioneers project, two new initiatives extend its impact across education and inclusion.

The AI Cookbook (www.aicookbook.eu) project supports adult educators working with migrant learners, helping them develop a positive mindset and practical skills for using AI tools and applications in inclusive, learner-centered ways.

Complementing this, the **AI Ready project (aireadyschools.eu)** enhances AI literacy in schools by empowering teachers and students with the knowledge to understand AI's benefits, risks, and ethical dimensions. Together, these projects continue the mission of promoting human-centric, responsible, and equitable uses of AI in education—bridging innovation with inclusion and democratic values.

NEW REPORT: AI PIONEERS REFERENCE NETWORK RESULTS AND SUSTAINABILITY

A new report on the network results and sustainability arrives in December, highlighting how educators and leaders are building this dynamic community.

The AI Pioneers Network has mobilised a diverse community of over 1,000 VET and higher education professionals, uniting participants across 41 countries through seminars, webinars, newsletters, and six Communities of Practice, in Portuguese, Greek, Spanish, Italian, German and English.

To ensure post-project sustainability, a structured plan was adopted involving partner commitments to support ongoing coordination, knowledge sharing, and communication.

Key activities include an annual international conference, six expert-led webinars, and twelve blog posts each year, along with the potential launch of an Action Lab at the EDEN conference. Ongoing support will be ensured through updated resources, ethical guidance tools, and dedicated digital infrastructure. These measures strengthen the network's impact and ensure its continued relevance in the evolving AI and education landscape, with particular emphasis on VET teachers and organisations.

AI PIONEERS IN ACTION: SHARING INSIGHTS AT INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

The AI Pioneers team recently took part as invited speakers in two international events, sharing insights on AI in education.

At the **GOVET Seminar** on AI in Vocational Education and Training, Michael Gessler, Lisa Meyne, and Frieda Klaus presented practical examples from the European AI Pioneers Network and learned from BIBB on AI-supported curriculum development, Handwerkskammer Koblenz on AI in the crafts sector, and SENAI (Brazil) on adaptive learning for students.



At the **E-learning Centre Week**, Alexia Antzaka, Giedrė Tamoliūnė, and Lisa Meyne discussed ethical and responsible AI in education, presenting the AI Pioneers Evaluation Schema and exploring AI use, governance, and pedagogical challenges in education. Check out the **recording!**

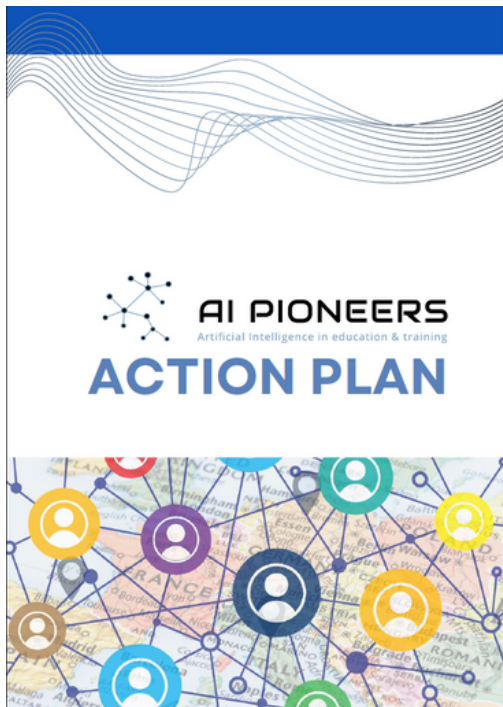
Both events provided great opportunities to exchange experiences and advance discussions on practical and ethical AI in education.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR AI PIONEERS: CONTINUING THE JOURNEY

The AI Pioneers project may be coming to a close, but our community, knowledge, and collaborations will continue. We are committed to keeping the network alive and vibrant:

- ✓ Webinars and events will continue to share insights and best practices.
- ✓ Our website will remain a hub for resources, news, and tools for AI in education.
- ✓ AI Pioneers will evolve into a **European Special Interest Group**, hosted by a not-for-profit organization, ensuring long-term sustainability and a platform for continued collaboration across borders.

We invite all members, partners, and friends of AI Pioneers to stay engaged — together, we will keep shaping the future of AI in VET and adult education.



Learn more about our future plans in our new **Action Plan** publication available to download from our website or via the QR code.



 **Stay connected, share your practices, and help shape the future of AI in learning!**



VOICES FROM OUR PARTNERS: LEARNING, GROWTH, AND CHANGE

AI Pioneers has sparked innovation across teaching, institutions, and professional practice. Here, our partners share quick insights on how the project shaped their work, inspired new approaches, and left a lasting impact.

“AI Pioneers not only enabled us to engage in intensive dialogue with practitioners, but above all facilitated networking between pioneers, providing opportunities for mutual learning and exchange on the challenges of AI use. AI Pioneers was not only very successful, but also highlighted further demand in VET, which will continue to accompany us in the future.” **Lisa Meyne, project coordinator, ITB, University of Bremen.**

“By connecting research and practice across countries and enabling rich exchanges with an inspiring community of researchers and practitioners, the AI Pioneers project has strengthened our commitment to using AI critically, ethically, and in ways that truly support inclusive and meaningful education and training.” **Cassandra Wubbels, University of Verona.**

“Digital transformation is now a strategic priority in all sectors, especially in Italian VET. The AI PIONEERS project has stimulated a concrete and structured debate on the adoption of AI tools in VET and has enabled the creation of an effective toolkit that gathers good practices and recommendations on the use of AI tools in the classroom, which has been adopted by our VET centers and will be used to implement training and assessment activities in the classroom.” **Angelica Progetti, CNOS-FAP**

“Fostering connections between practitioners is essential for the ethical and effective use of generative AI in education. The AI Pioneers Project has excelled in this regard, and as part of this growing community, we at BIBB have greatly benefited from these valuable interactions.”
Oliver Nahm, BIBB

“AI Pioneers inspired us to rethink how AI can empower educators and learners alike. Through collaboration and shared expertise, the project sparked new ideas, strengthened partnerships, and set the foundation for more inclusive, innovative practices in education.”
Popi Aresti, CSI

“AI Pioneers enabled EDEN to foster deeper, more inclusive discussions in our network on AI in education by highlighting the often-overlooked VET and adult learning sectors, creating lasting impact and sustainable engagement within our community.” **Giedrė Tamoliūnė, EDEN DLE.**

“AI Pioneers reshaped our work by embedding AI literacy and ethical awareness into training approaches. The project’s collaborative spirit and forward-thinking vision left a lasting impact—strengthening our commitment to inclusive, human-centred AI in education and lifelong learning.” **George Bekiaridis, Active Citizens Partnership.**

“Throughout this project it has been so good to see the number of women with the confidence to talk about AI in education and training increase, particularly within the AI Pioneers network. This has been a great platform for women in AI and I hope we can continue to foster an inclusive environment as the network expands”, **Angela Karadog, Pontydysgu**
“Exploring the concepts around agency and democracy in AI has had a huge impact on how we approach pedagogy.”
Graham Attwell, Pontydysgu

“AI Pioneers allowed us to collaborate with committed partners and stakeholders across Europe, bringing AI literacy, ethics, and practical tools to the heart of VET. This collective effort has not only informed our work at TecMinho but also reinforced our commitment to supporting meaningful uses of AI in education and training”.
Ana Dias, TecMinho

“Being part of AI Pioneers has helped us dive deeper into ethical AI in Adult Education and VET while connecting us with a vibrant community of educators and researchers. We look forward to continuing to learn, support others, and bring more voices from our network into the conversation on responsible, human-centred AI.”
Alexia Antzaka, UPV/EHU

AI PIONEERS' RESOURCES



Supplement to the DigCompEdu Framework
Outlining the Skills and Competences of Educators
Related to Education

Supplement to the
DigCompEDU
Framework

OUTLINING THE SKILLS AND COMPETENCES OF
EDUCATORS RELATED TO AI IN EDUCATION

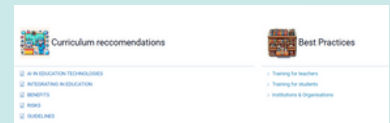


Evaluation Schema for AI in Education on Data,
Privacy, Ethics, and EU Values

Evaluation schema for AI in education on
data, privacy, ethics, and EU values



AI Toolkit with Practical Use Cases



Handbook on Policy and Ethics in AI Education

Handbook on Policy and Ethics in
AI Education



Action Plan - Sustaining the AI Pioneers Network



Report on AI Pioneers Reference Network
Results and Sustainability

Report on the aims,
membership development,
activities, impact and future
sustainability of the AI in
education Reference Network.

**MOST OUTPUTS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE PROJECT WEBSITE IN SIX
PARTNER-COUNTRY LANGUAGES!**

We hope you enjoyed our newsletters and found inspiration in the advancements and opportunities offered by Artificial Intelligence in the field of education!

Stay with us and become a member of AI Pioneers Special Interest Group!

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AI Pioneers Network

