



Manifesto on the digital transformation of society

Source:


- 👤 Second EAAL forum on the future of adult education:
DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF SOCIETY
- 👤 17 June 2021 held online
- 👤 organisers: Slovenian Institute of Adult Education and
CMEPIUS, EPAL National Support Service
- 👤 website:
<https://epuo.acs.si/en/activities/forums/digital-transformation-of-society>




INTRODUCTION


The world is digitising. People have moved their work, leisure activities, personal finances, travel plans, shopping and personal contacts to the digital environment without being well aware of that. When the covid-19 pandemic happened, we started massively meeting online, educating, working, celebrating and spending our free time.

In the past 30 years, typewriters have been replaced by computers, computer tablets and phones. Technology not only makes our lives easier, but it also monitors and, to some extent, directs or even controls it. People are surprised by this realisation, and many are even scared. Significant differences in digital skills are due to inequalities in knowledge and access to infrastructure. The proper way to reduce this gap is through education and awareness-raising. The impact of education can be increased by adapting the system to individuals and by creating programmes that increase their satisfaction. There will be an abandonment of the traditional way of teaching in the classroom in the future. As the leader of the educational team, the teacher will direct and guide the participants, taking into account their specifics, characteristics and needs. Artificial intelligence will help them plan their work. A person is more important than technology, so taking into account the ethical aspect raises all these processes to a higher level.



BASIC RECOMMENDATIONS

- Social change is inextricably linked to the use of digital technologies, and the development of new tools and applications largely extends to the field of education. Therefore, the basic concepts of digital technology and artificial intelligence need to be integrated into all levels of learning and education. Motivated teachers, mentors and educators use these technological innovations in teaching and other forms of education or knowledge transfer.
 - After completing formal education, the individual is faced with new challenges when learning becomes a necessity. Adult education organisations take into account the needs of individuals. They facilitate access to learning content and thus provide motivation, involvement of participants and the usefulness of knowledge.
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- Artificial intelligence masters information systems that are too complex for humans. It is based on data created by people. The more data is processed, the more new is created. Lifelong learning addresses these changes, and it boosts courage and confidence. Education and learning help to overcome the fear of technology.
 - Open access to knowledge must be ensured. Individuals who share their knowledge in the form of guides, instructions, articles, books, etc., published online and free of charge open the way to new knowledge for all other people.
 - Examples of good practice, demonstrations of technological innovation, augmented reality and other abstract topics in larger and smaller places, schools and other institutions create opportunities to raise awareness and educate less motivated individuals. Local communities should give their residents access to them.
 - Organisations developing new applications should be more interconnected and provide access to as many users as possible.
 - Technological solutions are judged from an ethical point of view. To be aware of the importance of social consensus on digital solutions, we need to educate and learn constantly.
 - Strengthening digital skills is accompanied by teamwork, appropriate communication, respect, trust and active citizenship.

Appeals

1. Technology is an important companion of modern people. Strengthen your digital competencies and maintain control over your life.
2. Teachers, other pedagogical workers and adult educators should be thoroughly acquainted with technological changes to incorporate the latest findings into the lessons and answer the participants' questions.
3. Individuals need to know how to protect themselves from fake news and protect their devices from unwanted intrusions.
4. At the systemic level, there is a need to more assertively raise awareness of the content and importance of digitalisation so that every citizen can be actively involved in the social processes that take place online.
5. Individuals and institutions should be encouraged to publish their knowledge in open access.