Empowering Seniors in the Digital Age: Building Knowledge and Resilience

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of the European Seniors' Union

Finland 2024 Digital Decade Country Report

Finland's performance towards the Digital Decade targets and objectives.

- **In 2023**, Finland made notable progress in gigabit networks roll-out.

- **In 2024**, Finland continued to record growth in the digital skills of the population and the digitalisation of its enterprises.

Two main strengths or areas of progress

Basic digital skills

82% of Finland's population have at least basic digital skills, one of the best results in the EU. Open training is also provided in areas such as cybersecurity.

Digitalisation of SMEs

Almost 85.6% of SMEs have at least basic level of digital intensity (much above the EU average of 57.7%) and 79.5% of enterprises use cloud, artificial intelligence or data analytics (much above the EU average of 54.6%). Businesses are encouraged to tap the potential of 6G, the data economy and AI.

European Commission

Finland 2024 Digital Decade Country Report

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2030 DIGITAL DECADE
REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE DIGITAL DECADE 2024

🇫🇮 **Finland Country Report**

Two main weaknesses or areas to improve

Connectivity infrastructure

Despite notable progress in 2023 regarding gigabit networks roll-out, more than 20% growth in the percentage of households covered by Fibre to the Premises (FTTP), challenges persist to keep up with the deployment of gigabit networks across Finland's territory, currently standing at 77.7% (still slightly below the EU average of 78.8%).

e-Health & e-ID

Unlike access to other digital public services, where Finland scores among the best in the EU (90.6 out of 100 for the digitalisation of public services for citizens against 79.4 out of 100 in the EU), the accessibility of e-health records (82.6 out of 100) is only slightly above the EU average (79.1 out of 100). Moreover, Finland remains one of the countries that has not yet notified an e-ID scheme under eIDAS Regulation.

Key ideas

Advantages for seniors

- Connectivity and community

- Enhanced medical services

- Support, including by Artificial intelligence

Risks for seniors

- Cybercrime

- Privacy

- Fake news and disinformation

Media literacy and Digital Citizenship

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Connectivity and Community

Technology facilitates access to medical services

Soft robotics

- ✓ **Electronic skin** can not only supplement our human skin but can also genuinely replace it.
- ✓ Electronic skin has **self-healing abilities**.

Artificial Intelligence

✓ **AI for Independence and Empowerment:** AI can support seniors' independence, e.g., through virtual assistants or health-monitoring tools.

✓ **Knowledge for Informed Participation:** well explained AI concepts help seniors feel empowered to use AI-driven tools thoughtfully and responsibly.

✓ **AI in Digital Citizenship:** understanding AI's limitations and applications aligns with being a responsible digital citizen, one of the 2025 program's goals.

Cybercrime and Risks for Seniors

✓ **Building Cyber-Resilience :** understanding cyber threats is crucial for safe digital engagement, which is a core aspect of digital citizenship.

✓ **Empowering Seniors with Practical Strategies:** steps to recognize and avoid scams, emphasizing protection as a form of digital self-reliance.

✓ **Support Networks through the 2025 Program:** dedicated channels and helplines associated to support seniors in safe digital practices.

Privacy

✓ **Empowerment through Knowledge of Data Privacy**: understanding data protection helps seniors make empowered choices, contributing to responsible digital citizenship.

✓ **Practical Data Protection Tips for Digital Citizens**: learned strategies like using strong passwords and privacy settings help protecting personal data.

✓ **Involvement in the 2025 Program**: resources provided by the Year of Digital Citizenship program, such as online privacy guides tailored for seniors.

Fake News and Disinformation

- ✓ **Resilience Against Disinformation as a Digital Citizen:** how to recognizing fake news enhances resilience and responsible engagement online.

- ✓ **Fact-Checking Tools and Skills:** tools and techniques to verify information, enabling seniors to act as informed digital citizens.

- ✓ **Support from the 2025 Program:** resources that help seniors identify and counter disinformation.

Digital Literacy

- ✓ **digital skills** for seniors provide empowerment, independence, and resilience.
- ✓ **digital literacy** enhances confidence in navigating modern technology and increases their ability to stay connected and informed.

Media Literacy

- ✓ **Empowering Seniors through Media Literacy:** Explain how media literacy can prevent misinformation and scams, essential aspects of responsible digital citizenship.

- ✓ **Building Analytical Skills and Resilience:** Introduce skills like fact-checking and identifying credible sources to enhance digital resilience.

- ✓ **Supporting the Year of Digital Citizenship Goals:** Show how learning to analyze media contributes to being a responsible, informed digital citizen.

Practical Examples

- ✓ **Resilience and Digital Citizenship in Action:** real-world examples of seniors who have successfully used digital tools or overcome digital challenges, linking their experiences to digital citizenship principles.

- ✓ **Inspiring Stories:** stories of seniors actively engaging in digital spaces responsibly, fostering a sense of community and pride in their role as digital citizens.

Resources and Learning

✓ **Empowering Resources from the 2025 Program:** workshops, online courses, and community programs designed to strengthen seniors' digital skills.

✓ **Community Engagement and Peer Support:** participation in digital literacy programs and peer learning, reinforcing digital citizenship as an ongoing journey.

✓ **Lifelong Learning for Digital Resilience:** continuous learning and support networks, aligning with the Year of Digital Citizenship's inclusivity and empowerment goals

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THE DIGITAL ERA? ALSO MY ERA!

Media and information literacy: a key to ensure seniors' rights to participate in the digital era

Author: Em. Prof. Dr. Ann Hermans

Available in:
English, French, German, Czech, Polish, Ukrainian and Greek

THE DIGITAL ERA? ALSO MY ERA!

Media and information literacy: a key to ensure seniors' rights to participate in the digital era

Empowering Seniors for the Digital Future

- **Digital literacy, media awareness, and cybersecurity** are the main tools to empower seniors.

- **The Year of Digital Citizenship 2025** is an opportunity for growth, resilience, and meaningful digital engagement.

2025 Year of Digital Citizenship

What is Digital Citizenship?

✓ responsible, informed, and safe use of technology.

Purpose of the 2025 Program:

✓ increased digital literacy

✓ responsible media engagement

✓ support for seniors

Opportunities for Seniors:

✓ learning skills

✓ enhance their digital autonomy, security, and participation

How Seniors Can Participate:

✓ attending workshops

✓ joining digital literacy groups

✓ using resources made available through the program

Background

Initiated during the 26th session of the Standing Conference of Ministers of Education in 2016.

Builds on the Ministerial Council Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)10 adopted in 2023

Purpose

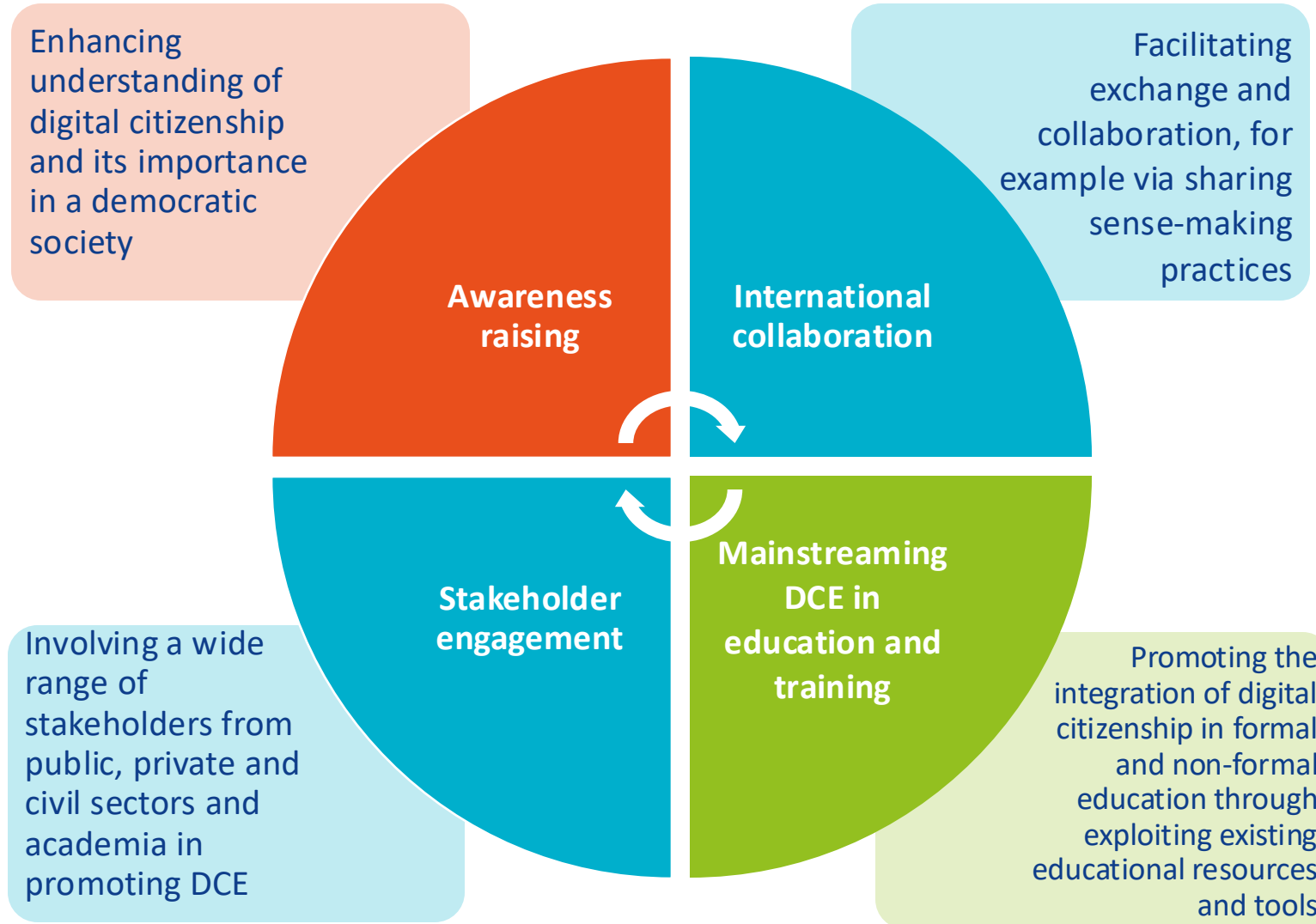Enhance digital literacy and civic engagement online / offline

Address pressing challenges such as disinformation, cyberbullying, and privacy protection

Strategic relevance

Strengthen democratic institutions and social cohesion

Promote responsible and informed digital engagement of learners

Enhancing understanding of digital citizenship and its importance in a democratic society

Facilitating exchange and collaboration, for example via sharing sense-making practices

Awareness raising

International collaboration

Stakeholder engagement

Mainstreaming DCE in education and training

Involving a wide range of stakeholders from public, private and civil sectors and academia in promoting DCE

Promoting the integration of digital citizenship in formal and non-formal education through exploiting existing educational resources and tools

Awareness raising initiatives

Production and dissemination of multilingual information, educational materials and resources

4 international conferences

Collaborative efforts in DCE to highlight innovative practices across the regions

Stakeholder engagement

Enhanced role of DCE through co-operation of public and private stakeholders in education

Sense-making activities

Capacity building activities, sharing of best practices, networking

International conferences

Four major conferences scheduled throughout 2025.

Platforms for sharing best practices and fostering international dialogue.

National initiatives

Customized national campaigns addressing local digital citizenship needs.

Active engagement of public, private, and civil society stakeholders.

Collaborative frameworks

Partnerships with the European Commission and other global institutions.

Joint efforts to elevate digital citizenship education on international agendas.

Understanding digital citizenship

Online safety and security

Digital literacy and critical thinking

Ethical behaviour online

Combating disinformation

Digital footprint and reputation

Cyberbullying and online harassment

Digital rights and responsibilities

Inclusive and accessible digital communities

Digital participation and democracy

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Digital Citizenship Education

Children and young people spend a lot of time nowadays connected to digital technology.

To communicate, learn, work and play responsibly in this environment, they **need to develop a whole range of competences** that will enable them to harness the benefits and opportunities and overcome the pitfalls they will encounter. This is the goal of **Digital Citizenship Education (DCE)**: to provide young citizens with innovative opportunities to develop the values, attitudes, skills, and knowledge necessary for every citizen to participate fully and assume their responsibilities in society.

Learn more about the DCE Concept »

➡ 2025 European Year of Digital Citizenship Education

DCE FOR

| Policymakers | Educators | Parents and carers |

WHAT IS DCE?

Digital Citizenship Education

THEMES

| DCE and the Private Sector | Videogame Culture | Co-operation Projects |

NETWORKS

The **DCE Promoters' Network** represents public authorities, higher education institutions and affiliated institutions involved in the development and promotion of Digital Citizenship Education all over Europe.

Find out more at this page.

More info on Digital Citizenship Education programme

www.coe.int/en/web/education/digital-citizenship-education

Questions and answers

Thank you for your attention !

European Seniors Union

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