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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu
on behalf of the European Commission
(3.1.2025)

Ensuring that young people are knowledgeable, critical, and empowered citizens of the digital age is an important priority for the Commission. Fostering digital skills and competences, including digital and media literacy¹ is a key objective of the Digital Education Action Plan².

In October 2022, the Commission published Guidelines on tackling disinformation and promoting digital literacy through education and training³. They support teachers with practical materials and guidance to develop critical thinking, digital literacy and build resilience towards disinformation in different contexts. The European School Education Platform⁴ also offers materials on the topic.

In addition, the 2023 Council Recommendation on improving the provision of digital skills and competences in education and training⁵ provides key recommendations to foster a quality, inclusive and coherent approach to digital skills development, including digital literacy, as a prerequisite for active citizenship and informed democratic choices. In April 2023, the Commission launched the Cybersecurity Skills Academy⁶, aimed at providing education and training offers for supporting the development of cybersecurity skills.

EU funding supports the above EU policies with digital and media literacy projects in educational setting. Since 2021, Erasmus+ funded over 674 projects, with a total budget of EUR 48.3 million, while the European Solidarity Corps supported 68 projects for a total value of EUR 481 000. The 2023 Erasmus+ Forward-looking call⁷ resulted in six large-scale projects on teacher training and curriculum development in the field, for another EUR 8 million.

¹ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/media-literacy>

² COM/2020/624 final: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52020DC0624>

³ <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/a224c235-4843-11ed-92ed-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>.

⁴ <https://school-education.ec.europa.eu/en>

⁵ C/2024/1030: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/C/2024/1030/oj>

⁶ <https://digital-skills-jobs.europa.eu/en/cybersecurity-skills-academy>

⁷ <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/calls/partnerships-for-innovation-forward-looking-projects-digital-education-cross-sectoral>