



**NOVEMBER 2025**

**NEWSLETTER 5**

# **VIRTUALLYEDU**

**VIRTUAL EXCHANGES  
AND EDUCATION ON  
DIGITAL SKILLS**

**PROJECT AGREEMENT NUMBER:  
PROJECT 101111952 — VIRTUALLYEDU**

**ERASMUS-EDU-2022-VIRT-EXCH**



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the European Union**

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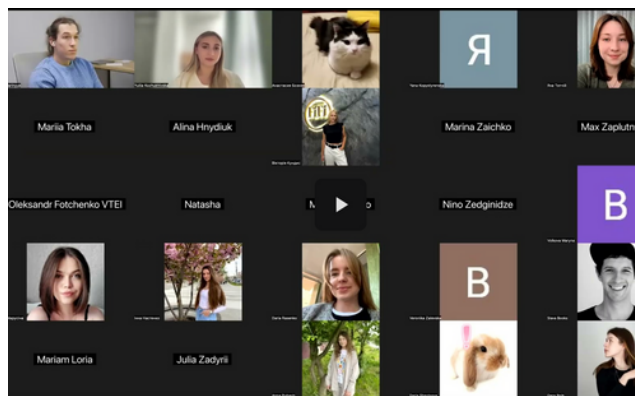
## THIRD CIRCLE OF EXCHANGES: UPDATES AND LATEST NEWS

**THE FIRST PHASE OF THE VIRTUALLYEDU TRAINING** HAS NOW BEEN SUCCESSFULLY DELIVERED, COVERING THE ESSENTIAL FOUNDATIONS OF DIGITAL LEARNING. ACROSS THE FIVE COMPLETED COURSES, PARTICIPANTS STRENGTHENED THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF **DIGITAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS**, PRACTICED USING A WIDE RANGE OF **DIGITAL TOOLS**, IMPROVED THEIR **ONLINE COMMUNICATION SKILLS**, AND GAINED **AWARENESS OF ONLINE SAFETY, CYBERBULLYING, AND RESPONSIBLE DIGITAL BEHAVIOUR**.

THEY ALSO DEVELOPED KEY SOFT SKILLS SUCH AS **ACTIVE LISTENING, CULTURAL AWARENESS, COLLABORATION IN ONLINE GROUPS**, AND **CRITICAL REFLECTION**, WHICH ARE CRUCIAL FOR EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION IN VIRTUAL EXCHANGES. THROUGH INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES, GROUP WORK, AND REAL DIGITAL TOOLS, LEARNERS BECAME MORE CONFIDENT NAVIGATING ONLINE PLATFORMS, CREATING DIGITAL CONTENT, AND ENGAGING IN **SAFE, RESPECTFUL COMMUNICATION**. **THE NEXT PHASE OF THE PROGRAMME** WILL CONTINUE WITH THE REMAINING COURSES FOCUSING ON **BOTTOM-UP COLLABORATIVE LEARNING, PERFORMANCE-BASED ASSESSMENT, PERSONALISED DIGITAL LEARNING, MULTIMODAL COMMUNICATION, AND INDUCTIVE LEARNING**.

AFTER THESE, PARTICIPANTS WILL TAKE PART IN **CULTURAL ACTIVITIES** AND THE **VIRTUAL WORLD CAFÉ**, WHICH WILL BRING TOGETHER ALL ACQUIRED SKILLS THROUGH INTERACTIVE, MULTICULTURAL TEAMWORK.

IN PARALLEL, PARTICIPANTS WILL TAKE PART IN A **DIGITAL SKILLS HACKATHON**, WHERE THEY WILL APPLY THEIR NEWLY GAINED COMPETENCES IN A PRACTICAL, CREATIVE, AND FAST-PACED CHALLENGE, STRENGTHENING PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS AND TEAMWORK.



# WHAT IS DIGITAL MATURITY – AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?

**DIGITAL MATURITY** REFERS TO AN ORGANISATION'S ABILITY TO STRATEGICALLY AND EFFECTIVELY USE DIGITAL TOOLS, TECHNOLOGIES, AND DATA TO IMPROVE THE WAY IT WORKS. IT IS NOT SIMPLY ABOUT HAVING COMPUTERS, ONLINE PLATFORMS, OR MODERN SOFTWARE. INSTEAD, IT DESCRIBES **HOW DEEPLY DIGITAL SOLUTIONS ARE INTEGRATED INTO EVERYDAY PROCESSES, HOW CONFIDENTLY STAFF USE TECHNOLOGY, AND HOW QUICKLY AN ORGANISATION CAN ADAPT TO NEW DIGITAL DEVELOPMENTS.**

A DIGITALLY MATURE ORGANISATION CONTINUOUSLY LEARNS AND EVOLVES. IT USES TECHNOLOGY TO ENHANCE QUALITY, EFFICIENCY, INNOVATION, AND COMMUNICATION. IT ENCOURAGES A CULTURE WHERE DIGITAL SKILLS ARE VALUED, WHERE DATA SUPPORTS DECISION-MAKING, AND WHERE CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT IS PART OF EVERYDAY PRACTICE. AS WORKPLACES BECOME GREENER, SMARTER, AND MORE CONNECTED, ORGANISATIONS WITH A HIGHER LEVEL OF DIGITAL MATURITY ARE BETTER PREPARED TO FACE NEW CHALLENGES, SUPPORT THEIR TEAMS, AND DELIVER HIGH-QUALITY SERVICES TO LEARNERS, CUSTOMERS, AND PARTNERS.

IN THIS CONTEXT, OUR PROJECT PARTNER **METROPOLITAN COLLEGE** (GREECE) RECENTLY ORGANISED A DEDICATED EVENT FOCUSED ON THE THEME OF DIGITAL MATURITY AND ORGANISATIONAL DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION. THE EVENT BROUGHT TOGETHER THE PROFESSIONALS WHO EXPLORED WHAT DIGITAL MATURITY MEANS IN PRACTICAL TERMS AND WHY IT IS ESSENTIAL MODERN EDUCATION.

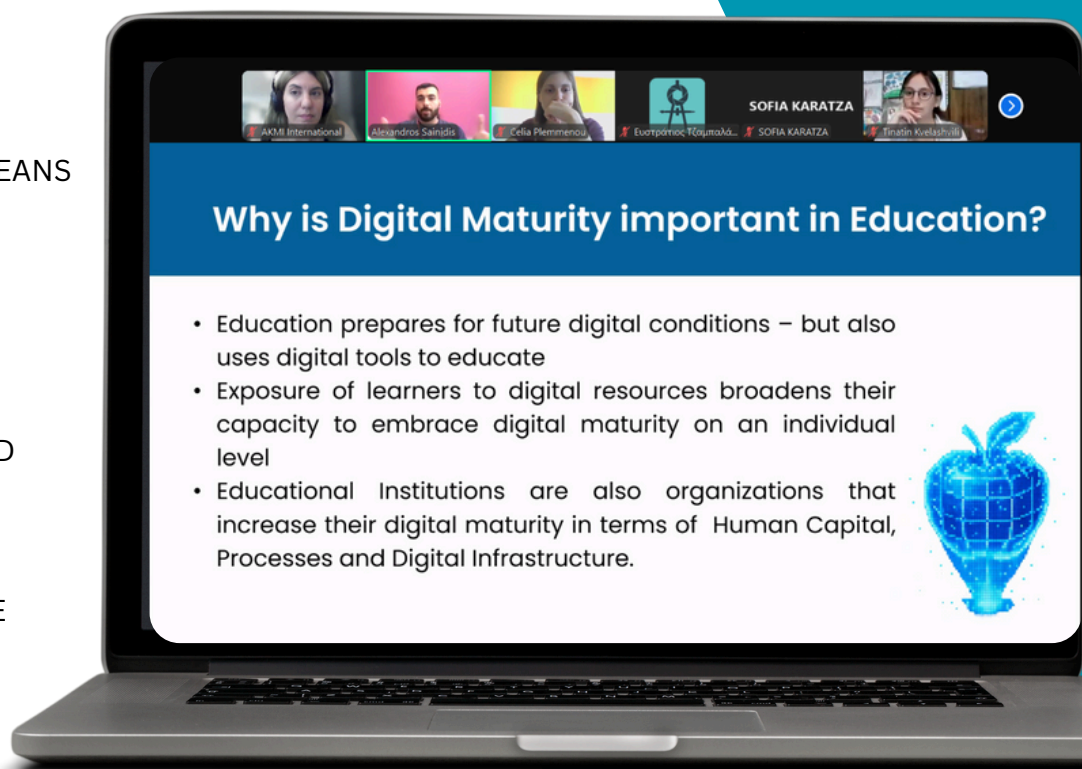
DURING THE SESSION  
**PARTICIPANTS EXPLORED:**

WHAT DIGITAL MATURITY MEANS  
IN PRACTICE

HOW TO EVALUATE AN  
ORGANISATION'S DIGITAL  
READINESS

COMMON CHALLENGES AND  
OPPORTUNITIES

REAL EXAMPLES OF USING  
DIGITAL TOOLS TO IMPROVE  
LEARNING AND TRAINING



## Why is Digital Maturity important in Education?

- Education prepares for future digital conditions – but also uses digital tools to educate
- Exposure of learners to digital resources broadens their capacity to embrace digital maturity on an individual level
- Educational Institutions are also organizations that increase their digital maturity in terms of Human Capital, Processes and Digital Infrastructure.



# THE IMPORTANCE OF DIGITAL EDUCATION IN THE PERSPECTIVE OF GLOBAL ECONOMY

THE UN PACT FOR THE FUTURE, GLOBAL DIGITAL COMPACT, AND DECLARATION ON FUTURE GENERATION ANNOUNCES THE DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES AS IMMENSE POTENTIAL FOR THE WELL-BEING AND DIGITAL ECONOMY. PARALLEL TO THIS, THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING ARE CONSIDERED THE BEST INVESTMENTS IN EUROPE'S FUTURE, ACCORDING TO THE EU DIGITAL EDUCATION ACTION PLAN. OBVIOUSLY, UN AND EU HIGHLIGHTED "DIGITAL", "EDUCATION" AND "ECONOMY OR WELL-BEING" THAT CONCEPTUALIZES THE INTERRELATIONS OF THESE COMPONENTS IN THE GLOBAL LANDSCAPE. DIGITAL EDUCATION IS MIXED WITH ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION, SOCIETY BEHAVIOR AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY THAT MEANS AN IMPORTANT MISSION IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED ECOSYSTEM, WHICH DELIVERS DIGITAL EDUCATION, IMPROVES THE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND CONTRIBUTES TO THE QUALITY OF LIFE, CREATES A GLOBAL SPACE OF INTEROPERABILITY BETWEEN ENVIRONMENT, SOCIETY AND ECONOMY. THIS CAN BE A TECHNOLOGY-BASED INFRASTRUCTURE ENABLING TO GENERATE NEW ECONOMIC MODELS AND ADVANCED BUSINESS COOPERATION. THE EFFECTIVE USE OF DIGITAL EDUCATION IN LAST DECADE HAS BECOME A UNIQUE COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE FOR BOTH HUMAN CAPITAL AND INNOVATIVE ECONOMY. BRINGING TOGETHER THE DIGITAL CONTENT AND EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES WITH THE YOUNG GENERATION'S ENTREPRENEURIAL BEHAVIOR, IT IS POSSIBLE TO DESIGN A NEW ARCHITECTURE OF GLOBAL ECONOMY. NOW THE GLOBAL POLICY-MAKING IS ON THIS WAY AND THE CROSS-BORDER

CONTRIBUTION THROUGH DIGITAL EDUCATION, - TO WHICH IS DEDICATED THE VIRTUALLYEDU ERASMUS PROJECT, IS AN IMPORTANT ACTION. CO-BUILDING CAREER THROUGH DIGITAL EDUCATION FOR WORLDWIDE ENTREPRENEURSHIP IS AN IMPORTANT APPROACH TOWARDS CO-CREATION OF GLOBAL ECONOMY PROMOTED BY YOUNG GENERATION. TECHNOLOGY-DRIVEN GLOBAL COLLABORATION AND DIGITAL-INTENSIVE EDUCATION CONTENT ARE STRONG FACTORS FOR DETERMINING NEW DIMENSIONS OF GLOBAL ECONOMY. IN THIS CONTEXT THE DIGITAL LITERACY IS AN IMPORTANT COMPONENT TO PROVIDE CROSS-BORDER, COMPREHENSIVE AND BALANCED VIRTUAL COLLABORATION AS A PREREQUISITE FOR FUTURE "GROUND-BASED" PARTNERSHIP WITHIN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY. THANKS TO VIRTUALLYEDU PROJECT THIS IS ALREADY AN ONGOING INITIATIVE!



Sos Khachikyan  
Head of the Center for Interdisciplinary Research, ASUE



# INTERVIEW

## WITH IRMA MESIRIDZE

### MEET THE FACILITATOR

DR. IRMA MESIRIDZE IS AN EXPERIENCED ACADEMIC AND RESEARCHER, CURRENTLY SERVING AS AN AFFILIATED ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AT THE INTERNATIONAL BLACK SEA UNIVERSITY. SHE HOLDS A DOCTORATE IN HUMANITIES AND SPECIALIZES IN LEADERSHIP IN EDUCATION, GLOBAL EDUCATION, AND EDUCATIONAL SOCIOLOGY. SHE TEACHES AT BA, MA, AND PH.D. LEVELS, SUPERVISES RESEARCH PROJECTS, AND ALSO LECTURES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA, ALTERBRIDGE, AND SEU.



AFFILIATED ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR,  
PHD INTERNATIONAL BLACK SEA UNIVERSITY



**DO YOU FIND THE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION TO BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF HIGHER EDUCATION?**

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IS NO LONGER OPTIONAL IN HIGHER EDUCATION – IT IS ESSENTIAL. TECHNOLOGY ENABLES PERSONALIZED LEARNING, REMOVES BARRIERS OF DISTANCE, AND FOSTERS GLOBAL COLLABORATION. DIGITAL PLATFORMS MAKE TEACHING MORE EFFECTIVE, MODERNIZE ADMINISTRATION, AND SUPPORT LIFELONG LEARNING. THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC PROVED THAT A STRONG DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE IS CRITICAL FOR RESILIENCE AND CONTINUITY. UNIVERSITIES THAT EMBRACE THIS SHIFT ARE BETTER EQUIPPED TO MEET STUDENT NEEDS AND STAY COMPETITIVE WORLDWIDE.

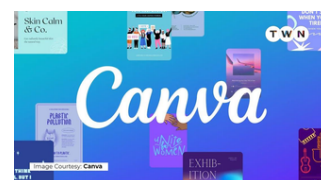


**WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE COURSE FROM VIRTUALLYEDU CURRICULUM?**

I AM DRAWN TO "ACTIVE LISTENING: MEMORY WORK IN ONLINE LEARNING" AND "SUCCESS AND FAILURE IN PERFORMANCE-BASED ASSESSMENT PROCESSES" BECAUSE THEY ADDRESS THE HUMAN ELEMENTS OFTEN LOST IN DIGITAL EDUCATION. THE ACTIVE LISTENING COURSE RECOGNIZES THAT WE RETAIN ONLY 25% OF INFORMATION AFTER TWO MONTHS AND PROVIDES TECHNIQUES LIKE REFLECTIVE PARAPHRASING AND FULL PRESENCE. THE PERFORMANCE-BASED ASSESSMENT COURSE REFRAMES FAILURE AS A POWERFUL LEARNING TOOL THAT BUILDS RESILIENCE AND COMPASSION.



**WHAT ARE YOUR FAVOURITE DIGITAL TOOLS FOR ONLINE LEARNING?**

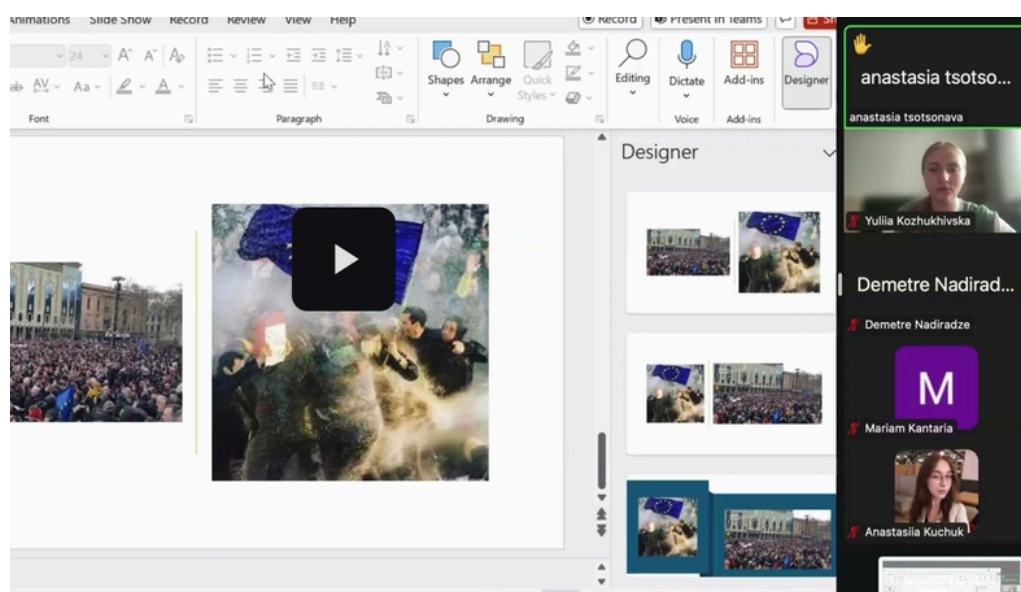


# REGISTRATION FOR THE NEXT CIRCLE OF EXCHANGES

Why?

## BENEFITS FOR YOUTH AND STUDENTS:

- **PARTICIPATION IN ONLINE EXCHANGES:** ALL REGISTERED STUDENTS AND YOUTH CAN JOIN ONLINE VIRTUAL EXCHANGES DESIGNED TO INTRODUCE THEM TO DIFFERENT CULTURES WHILE ENHANCING THEIR KNOWLEDGE IN CYBERSECURITY, DIGITALISATION, AND ESSENTIAL DIGITAL SKILLS.
- **ENHANCEMENT OF KNOWLEDGE ON TRAINING MATERIAL:** STUDENTS WILL DEEPEN THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF KEY TOPICS SUCH AS DIGITAL LITERACY, COMBATING HATE SPEECH, MULTI-LITERACY, MULTIMODALITY, AND EFFECTIVE ONLINE LEARNING STRATEGIES.
- **NETWORK BUILDING:** PARTICIPANTS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONNECT WITH APPROXIMATELY 500 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS, CREATING A GLOBAL NETWORK FOR CULTURAL EXCHANGE, COLLABORATION, AND LEARNING.
- **DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURAL AWARENESS SKILLS:** THROUGH VIRTUAL EXCHANGES, STUDENTS ENGAGE WITH PEERS FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES, GAINING EXPOSURE TO DIVERSE CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES AND PRACTICES, WHICH FOSTERS GREATER CULTURAL AWARENESS.
- **DEVELOPMENT OF DIGITAL SKILLS:** THE PROJECT LEVERAGES A VARIETY OF ONLINE INTERACTIVE TOOLS AND LEARNING PLATFORMS, ALLOWING STUDENTS TO BECOME PROFICIENT IN ESSENTIAL DIGITAL SKILLS NEEDED FOR SUCCESS IN THE DIGITAL ERA..
- **CERTIFICATE OF PROJECT COMPLETION:** UPON COMPLETING THE VIRTUAL EXCHANGES, STUDENTS RECEIVE A CERTIFICATE THAT ACKNOWLEDGES THEIR ENHANCED KNOWLEDGE OF DIGITAL SKILLS AND SUCCESSFUL PARTICIPATION IN THE PROJECT.



Registration Form

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THIS MATERIAL WAS DEVELOPED BY FOLKUNIVERSITETET UNDER THE PROJECT  
"VIRTUAL EXCHANGES AND EDUCATION ON DIGITAL SKILLS"

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## OUR CONSORTIUM



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