



RAISING DIGITAL AWARENESS IN GREECE WITH VIRTUALLYEDU

In the face of rapid digital transformation and growing online risks, VIRTUALLYEDU has emerged as a pioneering initiative promoting virtual exchanges and digital skills education across higher education institutions and youth organisations. Coordinated by Folkuniversitetet Uppsala in Sweden, in collaboration with partners from both EU and Eastern Neighborhood countries, this EU-funded project supports more than 2,500 young learners and educators through online collaboration, open-access courses, and interactive digital literacy training.

Through a comprehensive curriculum delivered on a MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) platform, VIRTUALLYEDU offers ten comprehensive, online courses focused on digital communication, cybersecurity, and ethical technology use. Learners engage in both asynchronous and real-time training modules, including workshops, team discussions, and collaborative assignments, building not just technical proficiency, but also soft skills and cross-cultural awareness essential in today's connected world.

Strengthening Digital Competence and Inclusion in Greece

Digitalisation is a strategic pillar in Greece's strategy to modernise its public sector, enhance competitiveness, and bridge the digital divide—thus promoting economic resilience, inclusivity, and alignment with EU digital goals. Although Greece has made strong progress in digitalising public services—particularly in Digital Public Services (DPS), with 75.9% of services for citizens and 86.2% for businesses now available online—challenges remain.

According to [Greece's Digital Decade Country Report \(2024\)](#) the digital transformation of businesses falls behind, with adoption rates for advanced technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (5.3%), Cloud computing (24.1%), and Data Analytics (33.3%) significantly below EU targets. Additionally, a large portion of the population still lacks basic digital skills, with only 52.4% possessing them— 3.1 percentage points below the EU average. This skills gap limits individuals' ability to access digital public services, engage safely online, and participate in an increasingly digital economy. Moreover, low levels of awareness about digital rights, data protection, and cybersecurity further contribute to mistrust and underuse of available technologies.

Greece's involvement in VIRTUALLYEDU is particularly significant considering the country's ongoing efforts to also modernise its education system and the challenges it faces. The project supports these goals by reinforcing **inclusive and innovative digital education strategies**, such as offering access to online training for students in rural or economically disadvantaged areas. Moreover, it provides opportunities for Greek educators to upskill and actively participate in international virtual exchanges—thus improving their ability to deliver modern, tech-integrated instruction. The project's

commitment to **cybersecurity and online safety** also resonates deeply in Greece, where internet use among young people is increasingly popular, along with concerns over online abuse and misinformation which are also on the rise.

As part of its responsibilities within the VIRTUALLYEDU project, Metropolitan College in Greece will host a series of targeted training activities. These include the implementation of key courses on topics such as Cyberbullying, Digital Hate Speech, Social Media Safety, Multi-literacy and Multimodality. Delivered both locally and virtually, these modules are designed in alignment with the DigComp 2.2 framework to promote ethical digital engagement and improve digital competencies. The courses aim to equip students, educators, and youth workers in Greece with the necessary skills to navigate digital environments safely and responsibly.

Looking Forward

The benefits of VIRTUALLYEDU in Greece extend beyond the project's duration. The digital curriculum and facilitator training scheme will remain available as open educational resources, enable broader dissemination and continue professional development for educators. The online repository of Metropolitan College will serve as a long-term hub for digital education tools, supporting more institutions and professionals seeking to integrate virtual learning methodologies in their teaching.

As Greece continues to navigate the digital shift, VIRTUALLYEDU not only complements national efforts but elevates them—placing Greek institutions at the heart of a Europe-wide initiative dedicated to education, innovation, and intercultural cooperation.

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