



Cultivating the next generation of green and digital innovators – the critical role of mainstream higher education

International Online Knowledge Exchange (Thursday 11 January 2024, 14:30 – 16:15 CET)

Zoom Videoconference (click [here](#) to register)

The OECD and the European Commission (EC) have joined efforts to establish an **Education and Innovation Practice Community (EIPC)**. The EIPC seeks to boost dialogue and advance understanding of the competencies that help to trigger and shape innovation for the digital and green transitions, as well as “deep tech” innovation, as foreseen under the [New European Innovation Agenda of the EC, Flagship 4: Fostering, attracting and retaining deep tech talent \(europa.eu\)](#). This webinar will examine how higher education institutions, in their role as providers of advanced education and skills, are adapting mainstream degree programmes to build and deepen the competencies needed for digital, green, and deep-tech innovation. It will also reflect on how public policy can support these efforts across OECD and EU countries.

Agenda

14:30 – 14:40	<p>Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Simon Roy, Team Lead, Higher Education Policy, Policy Advice and Implementation Division (PAI), Directorate for Education and Skills (OECD)• Luca Perego, Head of Unit, C1 “Innovation and EIT”, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (European Commission)
Session 1 – Identifying key competencies to support the green and digital transition	
14:40 – 14:55	<p><i>What are the most pressing needs for the business sector and what can be done to meet them?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Robert Plummer, Senior Advisor, Business Europe <p><i>Audience Q&A</i></p>
Session 2 – Motivating students and designing education for green innovation	
14:55 – 15:25	<p><i>Mainstreaming sustainability education in higher education institutions: challenges and options for progress</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teri Balsler, Professor of Sustainability Education, University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada <p><i>Educating the sustainability leaders of the future: interdisciplinary best practice</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Walter Leal, Professor of Climate Change Management & Environment and Technology, Hamburg University of Applied Sciences and Manchester Metropolitan University <p>Respondent: Tamara Ciobanu, Executive Committee, European Student’s Union</p> <p><i>Audience Q&A</i></p>

Session 3 – Fostering key competencies in tomorrow’s innovators – bridging policy and practice	
15:25 – 15:40	<p><i>The DCU Futures programme within Ireland’s Human Capital Initiative</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ciaran Dunne, Professor and Transversal Skills Director, Dublin City University, Ireland <p><u>Audience Q&A</u></p>
Session 4 – Designing education programmes for the digital frontier	
15:40 – 16:10	<p><i>Developing AI Education at the University of Cyprus and collaboration on Master programmes in Artificial Intelligence 4 Careers in Europe (MAI4CAREU) project</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elpida Keravnou-Papailou, Professor of Computer Science, Programme coordinator of the Master in AI, University of Cyprus <p><i>What does it take to develop degree programmes for deep-tech fields? The case of quantum science and technology at the University of Barcelona</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bruno Julia Diaz, Professor in the Department of Quantum Physics and Astrophysics, Coordinator of the Master in Quantum Science and Technology, University of Barcelona, <p><u>Audience Q&A</u></p>
Closing remarks	
16:10– 16:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loredana Lombardi, Policy Officer, Unit C1 “Innovation and EIT”, Directorate General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (European Commission)