



Welcome to our newsletter as we are celebrating one year of transforming informatics education!

The month of December marks the first anniversary of our project and we are delighted to take this opportunity to celebrate our achievements with you.

Enjoy reading our newsletter covering our initial insights from the surveys and focus groups, formation of Dialogue Clubs and audiovisual production.

We wish you a great end of the year!

Interested in staying in touch with us in the new year for future news and activities?

Follow us on [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#)

Our first year in a nutshell



We're excited to share our achievements and look ahead to our future milestones:

Our Mission: Transform informatics education by emphasising practical IT skills and knowledge, fostering computational, critical, and creative thinking, and treating informatics as a horizontal competency essential for all aspects of modern life, from work to leisure.

First year achievements:

- **Research and analysis** to understand the current landscape of informatics education with data collection from 1,000+ teachers and 28 focus groups across 10 countries. Our report will be out in January 2025!
- **Dialogue Clubs** were formed with stakeholders in 10 countries to co-create innovative teaching approaches. A series of sessions will be organised in the coming months in each country focusing on different aspects of digital technologies.
- **Our first educational video:** Explore the expanding field of informatics education and its crucial role in today's world.
- **Our first podcast episode:** An inspiring conversation on informatics education.

What's Next in 2025? We are set to develop innovative teaching methods, define teacher competencies, and launch pilot programs in schools.

[Read more](#)

Educational Video Series: 1 - What is Informatics Education?



In this first video of the [DIGITAL FIRST educational video series](#), we are welcoming you to the world of informatics education, navigating through the expanding field of informatics, the importance of informatics education at schools and the key role of digital skills and literacy in today's world.

Thanks to our project partner T-HAP for the production of this video.

Podcast Episode 1: Teaching Informatics and Advocating for a New Education in Europe



In this first episode of the [DIGITAL FIRST podcast series](#), our host **Petra Bevek** from the Digital Education Service of the **Ministry of Education Slovenia** invites us to join an inspiring conversation on informatics education with:

- **Uroš Očepek**, an awarded secondary school teacher specialised in computer science from Slovenia
- **Eugenia Casariego Artola**, Development & Advocacy Coordinator at **European Schoolnet**, advocating for innovation in teaching and learning at European level.

Thanks to the Ministry of Education Slovenia and ALL DIGITAL for their joint production.

Read on our blog!

We are happy to share a selection of web articles from our project website about the current state of informatics education and some initial insights from a selection of focus groups carried out by our project partners across Europe.



Transforming the informatics education in Europe – Where do we stand?

In this web article, we explore the current status of teaching informatics as a separate or interdisciplinary subject in primary and secondary education across 37 European countries by looking into the **Eurydice Report on Informatics Education at School in Europe** published in September 2022.

[Read more](#)



BULGARIA

Secondary School "St. st. Cyril and Methodius" organised focus groups on how informatics is taught and learned in Bulgarian schools with students, teachers, and parents:

- Teachers in Bulgaria, like their counterparts in other countries, **need help in acquiring knowledge on how to use these tools and methods** confidently in the classroom.
- Integrating informatics in the classroom creates a **more engaging and interesting learning environment** for students.
- What's more, teachers and educators have a **key role to play** in equipping their students for the future – a world of **digital technology and artificial intelligence (AI)**.

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CROATIA

Focus groups in Croatia brought together a diverse mix of teachers, parents, NGOs, private businesses, public authorities and students - each offering unique perspectives on informatics education:

- One major takeaway is a **lack of up-to-date equipment and resources, insufficient time allocated to the curriculum, disparities in infrastructure, misconceptions about the subject's importance, and the rapid pace of technological advancements.**
- Another key theme is the need for ongoing **professional development for informatics teachers.**
- Students recognize the **importance of informatics** and believe that it should be mandatory for everyone.

[Read more](#)

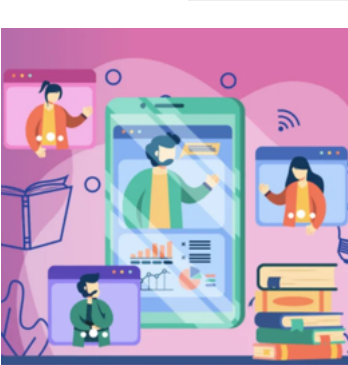


GREECE

Project Lighthouse conducted focus groups with a diverse set of participants, including IT teachers, parents, and students which led to following key recommendations:

- **Investments** in technological resources for schools
- **Curriculum modernisation** to include essential topics such as AI, Big Data, and Blockchain
- **Professional development** for teachers to help them stay up-to-date with technological advancements
- **Interactive and game-based learning** to make informatics more engaging and help students develop critical problem-solving skills.

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FINLAND

The Turku Research Institute for Learning Analytics of the University of Turku dived into informatics teaching and learning in Finland with students, parents, teachers and other people who organise informatics teaching.

One common theme has risen from the discussions: **informatics teaching in Finland needs refinement.**

All participants felt that the teaching is too disconnected and sparse since the reality differs from the curriculum vastly in the worst cases.

[Read more](#)



PORTUGAL

Training Center and School Association of Póvoa de Varzim and Vila do Conde organised a focus group with the participation of various stakeholders from the educational community in Portugal to discuss the current practices, challenges, and future goals in computer science education.

Key improvements include teacher training, better integration of digital technologies, and enhanced collaboration among educational stakeholders.

[Read more](#)



SLOVENIA

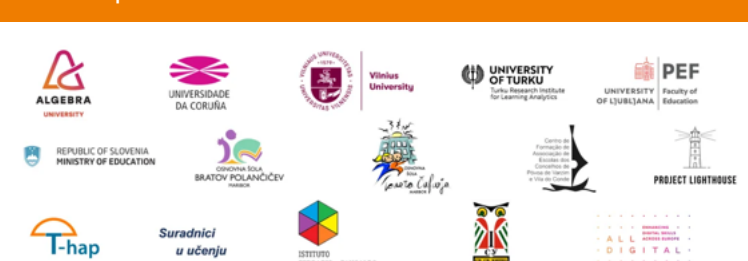
The survey results placed a strong emphasis on **digital literacy and safe online behavior, with topics like data, information, privacy, safety, and security** as topics frequently taught at both educational levels.

Focus group interviews revealed that **students** are positive to have computer science as a mandatory subject, while some **parents** see it as mere additional screen time.

On the other hand, the lack of mandatory computer science in Slovenian primary schools contributes to a **shortage of qualified teaching staff.**

[Read more](#)

Meet our partners!



Our project consortium consists of 15 organisations including universities, teacher training centers, primary and secondary schools, NGOs, and a public body from Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Finland, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Portugal, Slovenia, and Spain.

[Read more about our partners](#)

www.digitalfirstnetwork.eu



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