HARNESSING TALENT PLATFORM

A new boost for EU Regions



Good practice

Scuola Digitale Liguria: Liguria Digital School

Working Group: Digital

Member State, Region: Italy, Liguria

Thematic areas: Digital and Physical Connectivity, Jobs and Skills

Basic project details

Lead organisation: Regione Liguria (Liguria Region) - Italy

Partner organisations:

- Regional School Office
- European Pedagogical ICT (EPICT) Italia Association
- Liguria Digitale (operational management)

Project duration: October 2016 - Ongoing



Overview and objectives

Scuola Digitale Liguria is a strategic project by the Liguria Region, funded with over €7 million from the European Social Fund, the European Social Fund +, and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). It is designed to support educators with tools and resources to foster innovative digital learning experiences. It aims to modernise educational institutions, enhance VET programmes, and promote digital skills for students. The project adopts a collaborative, participatory model, engaging stakeholders to create a forward-looking digital education ecosystem for the region. The project aims to support the integrated regional education system - including schools of all levels and Regional Institutes of Vocational Education and Training (Istruzione e Formazione Professionale - IeFP) - in implementing innovation within schools in order to equip young people with specialised Information and Communications Technology (ICT) skills demanded by the labour market and prepare them for digital citizenship, with a specific emphasis on addressing the gender gap. Additionally, the project seeks to establish role model schools that can serve as benchmarks for best practices in digital education and innovation.

Context

The project addresses the gap between the rapid digitalisation of society and the readiness of regional education systems to respond effectively. While students, as digital natives, rely increasingly on digital tools for communication, learning, and creating content, many schools face challenges in integrating digital technologies into curricula, supporting teachers in adopting innovative practices, and meeting labour market demands for specialised ICT skills.

Target groups

Scuola Digitale Liguria targets a diverse range of stakeholders within the regional education ecosystem, including teachers, educators, and school administrators across all levels, as well as students in primary, secondary, and vocational education. It also engages other key stakeholders, such as businesses and associations, to ensure alignment between education and the needs of the labour market.

Actions

- · Workshops and events for educators and students focused on digital innovation and teaching methodologies;
- Tailored, free IT support for schools, providing services from hardware and software setup to guidance on digital tools;
- A mentorship programme, with a network of teacher ambassadors acting as local reference points for peers;
- STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics)-focused projects addressing the gender gap;
- Pathways for Transversal Skills and Orientation (PCTO) to connect students with digital careers;
- An online observatory to document and share innovative practices.

Financial allocation

Total budget: EUR >7 000 000

EU co-funding: Yes
Sources of funding:

- European Social Fund (2014-2020) / European Social Fund + (2021-2027)
- European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)



Working Group Insights

"This good practice demonstrates a scalable, regionally coordinated system innovation model to address the challenges that education and training systems face in preparing individuals for the digital economy and society. By accelerating the digital transformation of schools, equipping young people with specialised ICT skills, and preparing them for digital citizenship—particularly with a focus on addressing the gender gap—Scuola Digitale Liguria has successfully fostered knowledge exchange and resource pooling. This has been achieved through a multi-stakeholder approach, bringing together schools, educators, businesses, and associations to drive innovation in education.

By integrating hands-on learning opportunities (e.g., school-to-work transition and mentorship programs) to equip young people – especially girls - with ICT and STEAM skills, and offering professional development for educators, the project has contributed to developing digital talent in the region. Furthermore, by fostering connections between schools and local businesses through collaboration and co-working opportunities, it has facilitated pathways for students to remain and work within the region. Ultimately, Scuola Digitale Liguria has established a modern digital education ecosystem, potentially enhancing the region's attractiveness to students and professionals".

MIRIAM LANZETTA

Head of International Projects at Lascò

Results

- · Creation of an online observatory to share over 5 350 innovative projects and best practices among schools;
- Direct engagement of more than 5 400 teachers and 3 800 students in digital education initiatives;
- Completion of over 1 830 interventions by the Digital Team, providing free technical and administrative support to schools;
- Organisation of more than 150 events, webinars, and workshops for knowledge exchange and capacity building targeted at teachers and students;
- Development of a toolkit and thematic webinars to encourage girls to pursue technical and scientific studies and careers;
- Establishment of a regional community of over 5 600 educators, fostering innovation and collaboration.

Success factors

They key success factor of the project is that it relied on partnerships with schools, educators, and businesses to develop a systemic approach to digital education, ensuring relevance and sustainability. The continuous collaboration and knowledge sharing enabled by tools like the observatory and territorial laboratories also contributed to the success of the project.

Implementation challenges

The main challenges included ensuring consistent and effective collaboration among the diverse range of stakeholders, including schools, educators, businesses, and associations. Additionally, integrating digital tools and methodologies into traditional educational settings required significant effort in terms of training and support for educators. Addressing the gender gap in ICT and STEAM fields also posed challenges, necessitating targeted initiatives and continuous engagement. Finally, maintaining the momentum of digital transformation and ensuring the sustainability of the project's outcomes were ongoing concerns.

The conclusion of our expert Miriam Lanzetta, Head of International Projects at Lascò

"The most successful characteristics of this project are the creation of a forward-looking digital education ecosystem for the region, which brings together schools, educators, businesses, and associations to drive innovation in education, and the creation of an online observatory that allows this ecosystem to document and share innovative practices".

Useful sources

Official website: https://www.scuoladigitaleliguria.it/

https://www.scuoladigitaleliguria.it/attachments/article/45/Brochure%20Scuola%20Digitale%20Liguria.pdf

https://www.facebook.com/scuoladigitaleliguria/

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