

## **Helping teachers to become better digital literacy educators**

Democracy in the twenty-first century depends on citizens who are able to navigate the digital world with confidence, critical insight, and responsibility. As information increasingly flows through social media platforms, search engines, and AI-driven tools, the ability to evaluate, question, and create digital content is as fundamental as the ability to read and write was in earlier eras. This is why digital literacy skills are no longer secondary or an optional extra for teachers and their students alike: it is the foundation of civic participation. Without it, societies risk producing citizens who are passive consumers of information rather than active, critical participants in democratic life.

The Council of Europe has dedicated 2025 to Digital Citizenship Education – educating for being online, well-being online, and rights online. AEDE's partner, Parents International, has been a partner in this and has done research as well as developed practical tools for teachers in this field.

Evidence from multiple EU-funded projects that Parents International is a partner of (EFFEct, DRONE, DEMOCRAT, SAILS, PARTICIPATE) highlights a troubling reality: schools remain marginal in supporting students in their digital literacy development, while teachers themselves often lack relevant personal skills (that need to be developed before we teach something), especially transversal ones like critical thinking, communication, problem solving or resilience. For example, research conducted in Hungary and the Netherlands revealed that not a single participating primary or secondary school student reported being taught basic skills such as password protection, safe use of email, or evaluating online sources at school. At the same time, their well-being is at risk by challenges like bullying, and the most frequent perpetrators appear to be teachers.

We are inviting you to participate in a debate about this at the [final conference of the DEMOCRAT Project](#) on 20-21 November 2025 in Barcelona.

If you are interested in reviewing and co-developing practical tools for teachers, please contact Parents International at [info@parentsinternational.org](mailto:info@parentsinternational.org). You will have the opportunity to review resources for teachers (and school leaders) online or by participating at a validation workshop in Hoofddorp on 6-7 November 2025.

Check out already published resources in the [ParentHelp Library](#).