

Empowering Teachers as Digital Lifelong Learning: The ContinueUP Project

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Abstract

Teachers play a pivotal role in shaping students' learning experiences, driving enriching educational journeys. However, the profession faces a vocational crisis marked by declining interest from younger generations and the attrition of well-trained teachers, primarily due to escalating demands and expectations.

In the 21st century, educators must critically reflect on and adapt their practices to meet society's evolving challenges. Lifelong learning requires sustained support through an effective professional development continuum.

Despite its importance, this continuum remains underdeveloped in many European countries. A gap persists between Initial Teacher Education (ITE) and Continuous Professional Development (CPD), with varying providers. The lack of cohesive connections hinders teachers from integrating early-career learning with later experiences, obstructing a coherent career trajectory. The ContinueUP Project aims to address this question by specifically reflecting on how education and training can be made more accessible and effective for teachers across a continuum between ITE and teachers' CPD. It achieves this by establishing a collaborative network of ITE and CPD providers that co-construct and co-deliver an education and training programme. This programme comprises a blended ITE module and a CPD MOOC, both focused on Area 1 of the European Framework for the Digital Competence of Educators.

The ITE module is designed for student-teachers enrolled in undergraduate or postgraduate programmes at European universities, equipping them to enter the teaching profession at the primary or secondary level. The CPD component is aimed at former student-teachers who are beginning their teaching careers, as well as other in-service teachers seeking to enhance their digital competencies.

ContinueUP aims to strengthen the professional development continuum, supporting teachers in adapting to the evolving educational landscape and fostering lifelong learning. This poster proposal presents an overview of the ContinueUp Project and its expected results and achievements.