Education in times of AI and Big EdTech

S&D Digital Europe working group meeting

@ European Parliament, Room ASP 5 G 305

Wednesday, 4 November 2026, 16:00 – 17:00

Background

US Big Tech companies are tightening their grip on the foundations of AI, and they are increasingly **building AI tools for specific sectors**, including education. Here, their influence is growing across all levels of learning, but primary and secondary schools deserve particular attention. Here, these technologies reach children at scale and are often introduced through public policy.

To discuss this issue, the *Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS)*, in collaboration with the *Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) European Union and Global Dialogue Brussels Office*, *ALL DIGITAL* and *SOLIDAR+*, will organise an expert meeting on **4 November 2026, 16:00-17:00, at the European Parliament**. Bringing together members of the S&D Digital Europe Working Group, the meeting will launch and discuss Cecilia Rikap's upcoming policy brief *"Education in times of AI and Big EdTech: Why we need a public-led, democratic and community-centred EdTech stack"*.

Agenda

16:00 – 16:10 **Adoption of the agenda and opening remarks**

- **Alex Agius Saliba,** Vice-President and Member of the European Parliament

16:10 – 16:35 **Education in times of AI and Big EdTech**

Presentation of the upcoming policy brief by:

- **Cecilia Rikap**, Associate Professor in Economics and Head of Research, University College London's Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose (IIPP)

Followed by an exchange of views with Members

16:35 – 16:55 **Why we need a public-led democratic and community-centred EdTech stack**

Interactive discussion with Members

16:55 – 17:00 **Concluding remarks**

- **Monty Aal**, Digital Policy Analyst, FEPS
- **Jonathan Schnock**, Policy Officer on Economic & Digital Policy, Social Europe, FES Brussels Office
- **Elisa Gambardella**, Director and Policy Coordinator, SOLIDAR+
- **Theresa Elhage**, Communication and Advocacy Manager, All Digital

Chaired by: **Alex Agius Saliba,** Vice-President and Member of the European Parliament

This event is produced with the financial support of the European Parliament. It does not represent the views of the European Parliament.