

[www.ein.eu](http://www.ein.eu)

EIN-A4

(11/12-10-2018)

*EIN Seminar on "Investing in Education and Innovation", 11th-12th October 2018, Thessaloniki*

**11th October**

*Chair: Maria Spyraiki MEP, Member of the Committee on Regional Development in the EP*

*Video Message: Carlos Moedas, Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation*

**Speakers:**

- *Christos Dimas, Member of the Greek Parliament*
- *Anna Diamantopoulou, Former Commissioner of Employment and Social Affairs, President of DIKTIO*
- *Achilleas Zappanis, Former Rector of the University of Macedonia*
- *Miguel Ángel Sancho, President, European Foundation Society and Education*

**12th October**

*Chair: Maria Spyraiki MEP, Member of the Committee on Regional Development in the EP*

*Video Message: Mariya Gabriel, Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society*

**Speakers:**

- *Thodoris Karapantsios, Professor, Chemical and Environmental Technology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki*
- *Dimitrios Lakasas, CEO, Olympia Electronics*
- *Kleopatra Sidiropoulou, Executive and Public Affairs Assistant, Biobased Industries*
- *Gail Kent, Director on Data, CNECT, European Commission*

- > The 4th industrial revolution is here and the skills required from individuals changed radically. Failing to adjust to this new reality means to be left behind. Thus, its impact is not only economic, but also social.
- > 65% of children entering schools today will be working in professions that do not exist today.
- > However, education is still a very conservative domain. It is time for the amazing developments in technology to spread to education.
- > This is the first generation of digital natives, but most of their education is analogue. It is important that students are provided the infrastructures and environment to experiment, fomenting their solution solving skills.
- > According to a World Economic Forum Report, in 2020 the top 3 skills required for the labour market will be: complex problem solving, critical thinking and creativity.
- > Today, 7 out of 10 jobs require digital skills. However, 1 out of 3 workers do not have any digital skills. Thus, it is crucial not only to foment the development of the necessary skills among the younger generations, but also to promote the acquisition of digital skills among older generations to prevent them to be put aside from society.
- > Educational institutions must be ready to regularly adopt their curriculums to the overwhelmingly fast changes. But first, it is important to define which skills should be acquired in school, and the ones where the Universities should play the role.
- > The responsibility for education lies within Member States competencies. However, the Commission supports their efforts to adapt and modernise their educational systems, keeping up with the digital revolution in place.
- > Although investment has generally decreased since the economic crises, this does not necessarily worsened educational performance. Besides the level of investment, the way resources are allocated is just as important to make the difference.
- > The lack of investment in research and development in universities has negative effects on economic and social development. Thus, it is necessary to incentivize private investment.
- > Employment rates of recent graduates have improved in most of EU Member States, meaning that a higher level of education offers best chances of employability.

*The 'EIN-A4' represents a summary of EIN seminar initiatives. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect the EPP Group political line.*