From Lisbona 2010 to Europe 2020: Strategies for the Digital Citizen: Analysis of a Case History

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Abstract

Digital competence is one of the main topic with which the second decade of the XXI century begins and about which international policies are investing in education and experimentation, to guarantee the development of a new meaning of citizenship, not only oriented to technological innovation, but also to critical awareness and cultural responsibility of whom lives in a context without some prescriptive and legal ethics and moral value, capable of guaranteeing respect for the other, but also for oneself as free and autonomous subject for a conscious and accurate choice. Often there is a gap among theoretical principles, ideal for the development of the future, and the real context, where the social, relational and educational capital, without forgetting that financial and structural, are responsible for cultural and digital inequalities, that stop the achievement of ethical objectives to improve civic life and the growth of the same concept of citizenship.

The presented case history is a small picture about what has previously been said: the profile descriptions of digital competences of a small target group of students and teachers involved in the European project, On Air (2008/2010), stimulated reflections about the searching of a different meaning of digital competence, beyond shared labels in public debate. The project involved five European countries (Lithuania, Bulgaria, Romania, Belgium, Poland) and a sample of 1116 teens between 11 and 16 years old and 469 teachers. The main outcomes now involve directly more institutions that could be more responsible of their own mission: the University for a more accurate study and methodologically proved on a digital competence theme; the school for a more active role in its function of cultural mediation and the local policies to promote the innovation, the research and the education against to the cultural poverty, often at the basis of the structural poverty of a country.