

ContinueUP

Teachers are key drivers of change in Europe's education and society as a whole, playing a pivotal role in the successful implementation of the European Commission's Digital Education Action Plan. That's why the new EU-funded project, ContinueUP, supports the effective continued development of European teachers throughout their entire career with the aim to boost the attractiveness of the teaching profession.

CONTEXT

21st-century teachers need to explore, more than ever, how they can re-vision, adapt and develop their practices in a constantly changing society that faces new global challenges such as: the green transition, the uptake of new technologies and digitalisation, gender equality issues, as well as growing social and economic disparities.

For teachers to develop into career-long learners, they need to **get support through an effective continuum of professional development**. However, this continuum remains underdeveloped in most European countries, with few formal links between initial teacher education (ITE) programmes, usually offered by universities, and continuous teacher professional development (CPD) programmes, commonly offered by a variety of private or public training providers. This discontinuity and sense of separation between ITE and CPD programmes makes it more challenging for teachers to draw connections between their learning at the start of their career and their learning and teaching experience later on across the different phases of their professional life.

One of the major challenges for education systems is to have an adequate number of highly qualified teachers, in all schools and across all subject areas. Some European countries are soon set to experience a wave of retirements or have an insufficient number of prospective candidates for teaching. Fragmented support across the continuum can also lead to newly qualified teachers feeling demotivated or insufficiently supported during their first years of teaching; a factor that might partly explain high drop-out rates amongst new teachers in several European countries.

A culture shift is required, away from professional development activities delivered to teachers, to one where teachers are committed to continually developing their own professional learning in relation to their classroom context. To achieve this shift, all those involved in teacher education and training need to work more closely together.

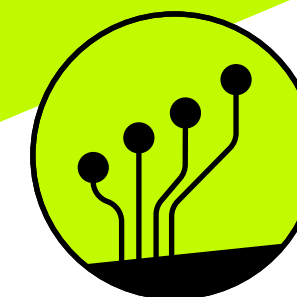
ContinueUP addresses the question how education and training can be made more available and effective for teachers across the continuum of initial teacher education and continuous teacher training. It achieves this by establishing a network of ITE and CPD providers that co-construct and deliver an education and training programme consisting of a blended ITE module and a CPD MOOC. The programme aims to develop teachers' use of digital tools for professional engagement (Area 1 of SELFIE).

ABOUT THE PROJECT

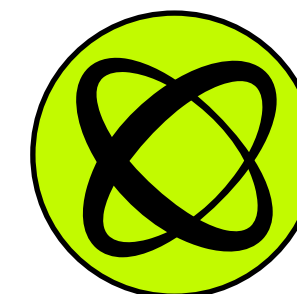
ContinueUP is a new 3-year project that started in June 2023. The project includes 8 core partners in the consortium consisting of three universities acting as ITE providers (University of Zagreb, University of Lisbon, Universidad Rey Juan Carlos I in Madrid), two national ministries of education acting as national CPD providers from Croatia and Spain, as well as a regional department of education and a regional training centre acting as regional CPD providers (Portugal). The 8th member of the consortium is European Schoolnet which acts as the coordinator and as a European CPD provider.

The core consortium is further strengthened by associate partners aiming on the one hand to support the work in the core partner countries, and on the other hand to expand the geographical reach of the project. Associate partners include the Croatian Education and Teacher Training Agency, and the Danish National Knowledge Centre for e-learning at Aarhus Business College, as well as six Ministries of Education from Portugal, the Czech Republic, Hungary, France, Greece, and Turkey.

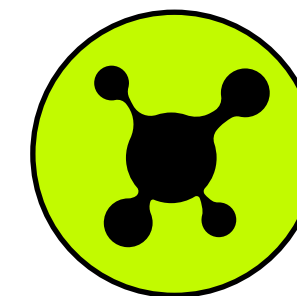
OBJECTIVES



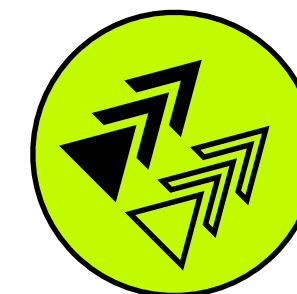
Develop teachers' capacity for professional engagement using digital tools.



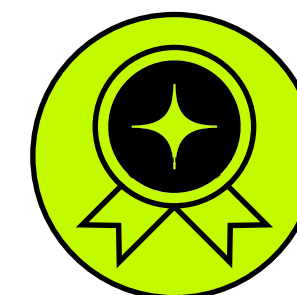
Facilitate continuity and clear connections between ITE and CPD provision.



Develop mobility experiences and collaborative cultures among teacher educators.



Improve quality and cost-efficiencies in the development of new ITE and CPD solutions.



Offer policy recommendations for a better recognition of international teachers CPD.