

ITALY

RANK IN EU-27

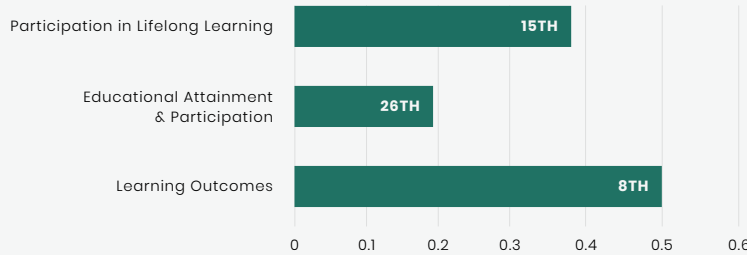
26TH

OVERALL SCORE

0.507

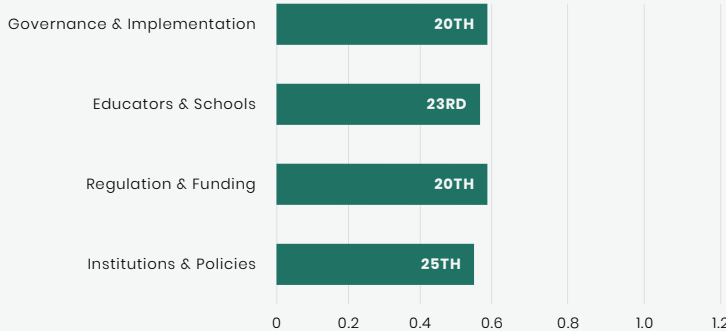
LEARNING PARTICIPATION AND OUTCOMES

RANK
21ST



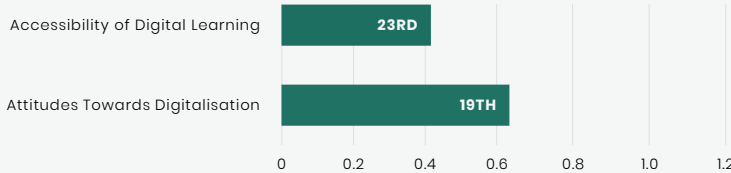
INSTITUTIONS AND POLICIES FOR DIGITAL LEARNING

RANK
25TH



AVAILABILITY OF DIGITAL LEARNING

RANK
25TH



MAIN OBSERVATIONS

- Italy's score ranks it towards the bottom of the overall index, ranking 26th out of the EU-27.
- It scores very poorly in all the dimensions of the index, but its worst performance is in Institutions and Policies for digital learning and Availability of digital learning (25th).
- Indeed, despite having set up a national plan for digital learning in schools, a dedicated ministry for innovation has been created only very recently and responsibilities for digitalisation of learning are not clearly allocated.
- Funding has not been consistently ensured across changes in government.

TAKEAWAYS:

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THIS COUNTRY?

- The National Plan for Digital Schools (Piano Nazionale Scuola Digitale) and its co-funding mechanism with the European Social Fund have triggered several innovative and promising initiatives in digital learning, which could be scaled up through more regular funding at national level. Some universities also appear to be frontrunners in the development of MOOC platforms.
- The enhancement of digital infrastructure in schools has been a priority in recent years, with introduction of digital technologies in classrooms and improvement of internet connections, as a basic step for digital learning.
- Incentives to firms for continuous vocational training clearly applies to digital learning opportunities, which encourage the uptake of online courses for adult learning.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Funding should be ensured consistently over time and through changes in government so as to stay focused on the priorities set by the National Plan on Digital Schools.
- A comprehensive strategy for digital learning in Italy should also include higher education and adult learning. At the moment there is no approved comprehensive policy for universities, for example. Only guidelines for development of MOOCs have been developed.
- Developing the digital skills of educators, especially, but not only in universities, is a key step to see digital learning happening throughout the country.

KEY REFERENCES

- Ministero dell'Istruzione, Università e Ricerca (2015), "Piano Nazionale Scuola Digitale" [National Plan for digital school].
 Istituto Nazionale Documentazione Innovazione Ricerca Educativa (2019), INDIRE - Ricerca per l'Innovazione della Scuola Italiana.
 Cedefop (2017) "Italy: Digital school year one evaluation".

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