



**REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SPORT AND YOUTH**

December 1, 2025

**First Day of the High-Level Meeting on Education and Training
in Nicosia Concludes**

The first day of the High-Level Meeting on Education and Training, held on 1–2 December 2025 at the New Nicosia Town Hall, concluded today.

The meeting began with welcoming remarks by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth, Mr. George Panteli, on behalf of the Minister of Education, Sport and Youth, Dr. Athina Michaelidou, as well as by the Mayor of Nicosia, Mr. Charalambos Prountzos.

In her speech, the Minister stressed that the policies we pursue should not remain rhetorical. They should transform into concrete actions for the benefit of learners all over Europe, noting that new generations face unprecedented challenges: technological acceleration, climate disruption, social fragmentation, and complex geopolitical realities. She emphasized that it is our collective duty to ensure that young people receive not only high-quality education but also values, direction, confidence, and hope. As she pointed out, this responsibility rests on every stakeholder in the educational system: governments, institutions, teachers and trainers, researchers, and communities alike.

The Danish Presidency then took the floor, with a presentation by Ms. Marie Juel Bech Nielsen, Deputy Secretary-General of the Danish Ministry of Children and Education, who provided an overview of the work carried out so far by the Danish Presidency in the fields of Education and Training.

This was followed by a presentation of the priorities of the upcoming Cypriot Presidency by Mr. George Panteli, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth. Among other points, Mr. Panteli referred to the priorities of the Cypriot Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the field of Education and Training, as well as to the meetings that will take place in this context.

The opening remarks concluded with a contribution from the European Commission, delivered by Ms. Antoaneta Angelova Krasteva, Director of Innovation, Digital Education and International Cooperation at the Directorate-General for Education and Culture (DG EAC) of the European Commission.

The main part of the day featured the 1st Plenary Session, entitled “Improving the provision of digital skills in education and training: implementation, lessons learned, and next steps.”

Mr. Michael Hallissy, representative of the DELTA group, presented the key findings arising from the implementation of actions in the field of digital skills, and Ms. Krasteva presented the progress made in implementing the relevant policies. A discussion followed with Member States on future priorities, with particular reference to the Digital Education Roadmap 2030.

In the afternoon, three parallel workshops were held, covering key strategic pillars of the European Education Area:

- Workshop I: Citizenship Education, coordinated by Ms. Anastasia–Sissy Gika from Greece.
- Workshop II: Supporting lifelong learning and mobility, coordinated by Mr. Vincent Landers from Ireland.
- Workshop III: Teachers of the future, coordinated by Ms. Jurga Strumskienė from Lithuania.

Participants exchanged views, experiences, and good practices from their countries on key issues related to the workshops.

The first day’s programme concluded with a visit to the University of Cyprus and a presentation about the University by its Rector, Professor Tasos Christofides.

The proceedings of the meeting will conclude tomorrow, 2 December 2025, with a plenary discussion on the future and next steps of the European Education Area, the presentation of the workshop outcomes, and the priorities of the upcoming Irish Presidency of the Council of the EU (July–December 2026).