

The digitalisation of education systems and its impact on human rights, with particular attention to the right to education

CHATGPT IN THE CLASSROOM: HARNESSING THE ERA OF GENERATIVE AI IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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Chat GPT functions on a next-word prediction basis, which means that it is optimised to generate plausible and pleasing human-like responses, by predicting sequences of words used in their training data. It cannot reason on its output, it does not have the ability to understand the meaning of the language it generates, and hence it does not know if the information it provides is accurate. Therefore, the answers it provides are not necessarily true, or accurate. When it has no information related to the prompt, it will hallucinate.

PROs

- Instant support
- Time savings on simple tasks
- Workload reduction
- Learning assistant
- Dynamic teaching content

CONs

- Skill degradation
- Poor pedagogy
- Endangered academic integrity
- Undermined humanistic values
- Bias

Three policy options for dealing with the emerging threads of GenAI:



The use of technology is forbidden



Accept and regulate/restrict GenAI use



Develop institution-controlled language models

The question should not be whether to use it or not, but how to do so safely, effectively, and appropriately, by mitigating disadvantages and maximising benefits

WHAT ARE THE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ?



Providers should Increase transparency over training methods and develop tools to detect AI-generated material



Educators should train and involve students in using technology wisely, while embracing innovative assessment methods



Education institutions should improve the skills of their teaching staff, create clear AI usage guidelines, and involve students in policy development



Governments should evaluate the need for changes to the learning system to keep pace with technology and ensure GenAI tool providers are held accountable for rights violations



Italian institutions should enhance international cooperation for effective solutions, ensure service providers comply with the GDPR, AI Act, and national laws, and incorporate digital skills into school curricula