

DIGITAL CHALLENGE



Future Education

Rewiring schools & education
for a world of change



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*Commissariato Generale di Sezione per la
Partecipazione Italiana
ad Expo 2020 Dubai*

Future Education

Rewiring schools & education for a world of change

Italy Expo 2020 - Global Digital Challenge

The work of the Italian Commissioner's Office for Expo 2020 Dubai with and for youth is committed to empowering young women and men and helping them work together to drive social innovation and change, participate fully in the development of their societies, and foster a culture of innovation.

The youth are not just beneficiaries of this work – they are essential actors in finding solutions to the issues faced by young people in the world today. Their energy and leadership have been demonstrated across the world, and they must be fully engaged in social development themselves and supported in this work by their societies.

The Italy-Expo 2020 Global Digital Challenges Programme aims at strengthening the collaboration between the Italian Commissioner's Office for Expo 2020 Dubai, the Expo Organization and other participating countries to build capabilities of international students on global issues and to contribute to their engagement towards and during EXPO 2020 Dubai. The projects will raise awareness of young students on global challenges and build their capabilities to be actors of change as they share knowledge, connect with international youth networks and fora, and take collective action on sustainability, mobility, and opportunity resources.

In the context of the One Year to Go event on 1st October 2020, the Italian Commissioner's Office for Expo 2020 Dubai is pleased to announce the opening of an international Call for students to participate in a digital challenge entitled *Future Education (#FuturED)*. This educational challenge falls under the overall framework of UNESCO's *Futures of Education* initiative and it aims to encourage students from all over the world to reflect on sustainable and resilient solutions to school and education environments in the post-Covid-19 era. It pays particular attention to the topics of interest of the *RewirED* Global platform on Education, curated by *Dubai Cares* with the collaboration of Expo 2020 Dubai and the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MoFAIC).

All acting together to engage a global audience in the discussion and the effort to rewire education, the "futured" education!



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GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR THE FUTURED GLOBAL DIGITAL CHALLENGE

Digital Challenge

A digital challenge is an international online contest that engages the youth from all over the world to work and compete in heterogeneous teams during a month-long virtual marathon.

Starting from a central theme, participants are asked to face specific global challenges with new ideas and project proposals. Their aim is that of looking for and designing new solutions, models, processes, or innovative services.

The teams can refer to a team of mentors throughout the duration of the challenge. Furthermore, the contest sees the participation of institutional representatives, leading figures and experts which will offer all participants their knowledge, skills, and experiences with the aim of supporting all teams in the development of their projects and final products.

The teams finally pitch their creative solutions through a virtual and comprehensive presentation in front of a jury of experts. A selected number of teams are qualified as finalists and the winning ones are then announced and awarded a price.

The FuturED Challenge

The COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically highlighted the limitations of our current school and education systems. By doing so it underlined the urgency of rethinking school and education institutions and paradigms.

The *FuturED* global digital challenge has set as its mission to support and further develop original solutions created by the world's youth in response to the most pressing and at times unprecedented challenges that school communities are facing across the world in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The main question to be addressed by the teams admitted to *FuturED*, throughout the continuous duration of the virtual competition, is in line with the statement - ***Youth rewiring schools & education to surmount COVID-19 challenges***. The question is the following: *How can we shape a more innovative, inclusive and sustainable approach to school and education, capable of facing up to global challenges?*

This approach towards the future of education largely coincides with the vision and the aims of UNESCO's *Futures of Education* initiative. Specific sub-topics, which encompass focus areas of the *EXPO 2020 Knowledge and Learning thematic week*, including the ones from the *RewirED* global education summit thematic agenda, will be officially presented during the briefing on the first day of the competition, scheduled for October 24, 2020.



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Target Audience

The *FuturED* global digital challenge is open to those who are interested in education and innovation and show interest towards the challenge proposed.

The event is open to individuals aged between 16 and 21 years old. Attendees from all backgrounds, genders, and geographies are welcome.

A good command of English is required, as it is the working language of the programme.

Timeline

The *FuturED* global digital challenge has a duration of approximately eight weeks and is subdivided into eight major steps:

1. Call for applications opens on October 1 and closes on October 15;
2. By October 22: selected individuals will receive official confirmation of their acceptance and the composition of teams will be announced;
3. On October, 24: a virtual workshop will open the digital competition;
4. Remote team-working sessions open on October 24 and close on November 24;
5. On November, 24: online submissions of the final projects from each team;
6. Starting from November, 24: multiple review sessions with a first stage of screening and evaluation of all submitted final projects;
7. Early December (date to be confirmed): finalist teams will be announced and the winning ones will be awarded a price during a closing ceremony;
8. Follow-up and reward.

The Italian Commissioner's Office for Expo 2020 Dubai reserves the right to change the days, time and digital platform of the event due to technical or organizational needs by announcing such changes promptly.

Registration, enrolment and teaming up

Registering for the *FuturED* global digital challenge is entirely free of charge and is open only to individuals who will then be able to form teams at the event with the help of the event organizers.

Individuals wishing to sign up for the *FuturED* global digital challenge must complete the online registration form at <https://forms.gle/Yw9dpJwwwquNE7Wf8>, indicating their personal details. If information provided during online registration is found to be incomplete and/or inaccurate, the individual will be excluded from the competition.



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Registration will begin on October 1, 2020, at 3pm (CET time) and end on October 15, 2020, at 3pm (CET time).

Registration does not ensure participation in the digital challenge. The Italian Commissioner's Office for Expo 2020 Dubai reserves the right to determine the maximum numbers of participants on the basis of technical or organizational aspects. If a limitation of participants is needed, the following selection criteria will be applied accordingly:

- 1- Gender equality;
- 2- Diversity in terms of nationalities, cities and regions of origin;
- 3- Diversity in terms of schools or universities represented;
- 4- Diversity in terms of age target;
- 5- The temporal order of the applications.

The individuals selected in accordance with the General Regulations above will receive official confirmation of their acceptance to the *FuturED* sent to the e-mail address provided at the time of registration by October 22, 2020.

This official notification will also provide:

- details on the virtual opening workshop and all information needed in order to come to the digital platform in which the works are to be held.
- information about the team membership, including names and contacts of the teammates.
- information about the peer-mentor assigned to the team.

The process of teaming-up is fully managed by the organizers and responds to the will to form the teams as heterogeneously as possible.

Teams can consist of at least five team members to a maximum of nine members. Exceptions can be made for teams to have more than nine members on a case by case basis.

Teams may not be changed once the competition has begun. A team can submit only one project for the digital challenge.

Working sessions and peer mentoring

After opening the competition on October 24, each team is invited to decide autonomously:

- the best video-conferencing platform to use for virtual meetings;
- the schedule of video-meetings and their frequency throughout the four weeks of the challenge.

All teams will have access to a group of peer mentors, selected by the Italian Commissioner's Office for Expo 2020 Dubai, who will observe and assist the teams in the following activities:



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- facilitating the schedule of the first virtual meeting, inviting all team members to join;
- sharing the methodological process to face the challenge;
- mentoring the teams in defining the project and supporting them throughout the stage of competition (from brainstorming to developing project proposals);
- supporting in the internal organization and moderation of the team, with an aim of strengthening the action of team building.

In addition, mentors will support in the production of storytelling materials on the participation of the youth to this programme.

Furthermore, the contest could see the participation of institutional representatives, leading figures and experts which will offer all participants their knowledge, skills and experiences with the aim of supporting all teams in the development of their projects and final products.

Stages of judging

At the end of the *FuturED* global digital challenge, all teams are required to complete the final submission process. Submissions must be in the form of a project presentation (several formats will be indicated and allowed), including audio, video, and pictures.

The deadline for submissions is November 24, at 6:00 pm (CET time).

Each team will be then invited to present their work for a preliminary evaluation by a panel of judges during a dedicated official review session (dates to be confirmed). Each team will be invited to share a presentation of no more than five minutes to show the panel the work.

At this first stage of evaluation, the final decisions of the judges are to be based on the following parameters:

- Consistency of the project proposal with the proposed challenge;
- Feasibility/Sustainability of the project proposal (quality of planning in terms of time, economies, space, organization, technology, etc.);
- Level of innovation and creativity of the project proposal;
- Social added value the project proposal brings to the target community;
- Quality and comprehensiveness of the final presentation.

The panel will assign a score to each parameter, which will then determine the ranking of each participating team.

The top ten highest-scoring teams will be announced in the days before the closing ceremony. As finalist teams, they will take part into a second stage of evaluation, which will take place in the context of the closing ceremony, in early December, 2020.



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At this second stage of evaluation, the panel of judges will be composed of different experts, some of which will be members or leaders from prominent organizations, while others will be outstanding representatives from the sector of education and innovation.

Each finalist team will be re-invited to share a presentation of no more than five minutes to show the panel the work. The panel will assign a new score to each parameter, which will then determine the ranking of each finalist team.

Recognition and Awarding

All participants that complete the final submission process within their own team will receive a certificate of participation from the Italian Commissioner's Office for Expo 2020 Dubai. The certificate is an official recognition of the educational path and learning journey carried out by each participant.

The top ten highest-scoring teams will receive a distinction with Honours while the top-scoring one will automatically be candidate for receiving a special award that will be revealed at the end of the closing ceremony in early December, 2020.

The winners may be also invited to some pre-Expo 2020 virtual events, allowing them to showcase their solutions and their educational experiences. It aims to give visibility to the best projects during the EXPO 2020 Dubai according to the guidelines of the Italian Commissioner's Office for Expo 2020 Dubai.

Rules of participation

By participating in the *FuturED* Global Digital Challenge and accepting these General Regulations, each participant hereby:

- acknowledges that event participation is free of charge and that participation does not entail any right to compensation of any kind or to reimbursement of any expenses incurred;
- grants consent for the handling of personal information and for the use by the Italian Commissioner's Office for Expo 2020 Dubai of video and other images;
- ensures that the personal information provided upon registration online is true and accurate. The personal details provided for each participant will be verified for all teams admitted to the competition prior to the start of the competition;
- unconditionally accepts any and all decisions made by the organizers with regard to event organization;
- undertakes, for the entire duration of the competition, to make use of the digital facilities in which the competition is to be held and any materials and equipment provided by the organizers. Event participants will be held liable for any damage caused to people or property.



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- affirms that each project proposal submitted is an original work and in no way violates, in whole or in part, the intellectual property rights of others and releases the Italian Commissioner's Office for Expo 2020 Dubai and its partners from any and all responsibility, liability, or request for compensation for damages that should be made by any third party.

The *FuturED* Global Digital Challenge is dedicated to providing a harassment-free experience for everyone, regardless of gender, gender identity and expression, age, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, previous attendance to digital challenges (or lack of any of the aforementioned). The Italian Commissioner's Office for Expo 2020 Dubai does not tolerate harassment of participants in any form.

Participants violating any of the aforementioned rules may be sanctioned or expelled from the competition at the discretion of the organizers.

Any request for information about the Italy-Expo 2020 Global Digital Challenges Programme must be addressed to expo.educhallenge@esteri.it

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