

A Young People's

# Manifesto

for the Digital Europe of Tomorrow

## INTRODUCTION

We are European technology students who care about Europe's future and believe we can be agents of change for a more connected society.

We decided to set down our fears and our dreams for the future, in the hope of contributing our ideas and our vision to policymaking affecting ICT, this most important of sectors for economic growth, competitiveness and job creation.

Our aim is to help shape the framework that will determine our future as ICT professionals, individuals and members of society. After all, your decisions today will impact how we are able to interact tomorrow.

We have participated in an international training programme – “Seeds for the Future” – organised by Huawei, a leading global ICT provider. Our appeal, as Europe's future ICT experts and citizens, to you as decision-makers is based on our individual experience acquired during this study trip to China, and more generally as young people growing up in Europe, studying in the field of technology and experiencing technological transformations.

# Seeds for the Future



**77 countries  
worldwide**



**27 countries  
in Europe**



**2500 European  
students by 2020**

## BACKGROUND

Seeds for the Future, Huawei's global CSR programme, is a cornerstone of the company's efforts to address the e-skills challenge. The elite ICT talent programme selects gifted students for a study trip to China. Participants gain first-hand insights into the work of a multinational ICT company, receiving cross-cultural work experience as well as language training.

The programme currently spans 77 countries worldwide. In Europe alone, 27 countries are involved so far, and more than 700 young people have participated in the programme since its European launch in 2011. By 2020, over 2500 European students will have taken the trip.

The commitment is Huawei's contribution to the European Pact for Youth.

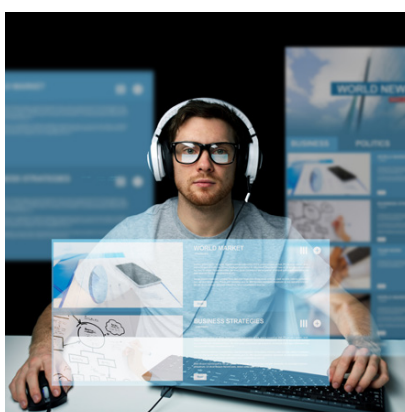
## SEEDS FOR THE FUTURE

We live in times of change.

We are witnessing a fast-paced transformation of the world around us. Much of what we have learned in school is outdated by the time we reach the job market. Technology is determining where we work, how we work – and whether we work. As ‘digital natives’, the parts of our lives happening on- and offline have become intertwined. We connect with each other using platforms, tools and ‘codes’ that our parents’ generation does not even know exist.

We embrace technology; we have grown up with it. But the disruptive change it brings with it goes well beyond technological innovation. Basic concepts structuring our communities are being put into question and reinvented. As we transition from education to our working lives, we are doing much of the questioning and reinventing ourselves.

# OUR FEARS



- > We are worried that automation and artificial intelligence will be replacing some of the jobs that we are training for.
- > We ask ourselves how far this transformation will go, where it may lead us and how we will be able to maintain control over technology.
- > We wonder whether more online connections will mean greater isolation offline.
- > We feel that we have to give up personal information if we want to fully enjoy the digital services available to us.
- > We feel powerless in the face of pervasive, technology-driven intelligence and data collection.
- > We believe that we are privileged, as connectivity and high-tech tools are not available to every young person in Europe.
- > Likewise, our social background still plays a major role in access to ICT education and jobs.
- > We are anxious that vital natural resources will simply have been used up several years from now.
- > We are amazed to see how easy it is to connect with somebody on the other side of the planet, yet how difficult it still is to communicate across social, cultural and ideological barriers.
- > We fear that, in a Europe marked by multiple crises and dealing with high youth unemployment, the promise of new technologies will be stifled by immediate concerns, lack of funding and fear itself.

## OUR DREAMS



- > We dream of a future for Europe where innovation means a better life for everyone across the continent, and beyond.
- > Where technology does not threaten our privacy, but helps to protect it, thereby making online environments a safer place for all, so they can connect, express themselves freely, exchange, work and explore.
- > Where we have control over what we share online, who we share it with, and how that information is used.
- > Where technological progress does not threaten job prospects, but creates a myriad of opportunities across business sectors and across generations.
- > Where it helps overcome barriers of all kinds.
- > Where ubiquitous connectivity means equal access to online resources.
- > Where education prepares us for a globalised and increasingly digitised working environment, through teaching and hands-on experience in real-life working environments.
- > Where this education is open and available to anyone growing up in Europe, regardless of their background.
- > Where technology helps us save and protect natural resources.
- > Where, by connecting online, we create more and better connections offline.
- > We dream of a digitally transformed Europe that enables everyone to contribute to the continuous process of change and progress.

## OUR CALL

We, the undersigned, believe that we can turn our fears into drivers for action. We believe that creating this Europe of our dreams requires action to be taken today

- > to raise awareness about the opportunities offered by the digital transformation of our societies
- > to invest more in digital and intercultural skills
- > to encourage and facilitate international exchanges
- > to ensure that access to ICT is gradually becoming more equal, by improving accessibility, availability and digital inclusion
- > to build digital infrastructure that can cater to rapidly increasing connectivity needs
- > to create a safe online environment where our data is protected
- > to ensure that digital transformation creates more opportunities for more people, leaving no-one behind

## SIGNATORIES

This manifesto is endorsed by





Seeds  
for the  
**Future**



**HUAWEI**