



BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN HIGHER EDUCATION AND
LABOR MARKET BY FOSTERING DIGITAL SKILLS

NEWSLETTER 4

AUGUST 2024

- **Back2Basics project recap!**
- **Final Back2Basics Partners Meeting**
- **The Back2Basics resources are available!**
- **Back2Basics Multiplier Events**

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BACK2BASICS PROJECT RECAP!

The **Back2Basics** project was developed with the goal to bring the higher education (HE) system closer to the needs of the labor market, through the improvement of digital skills, both for teachers and students. With this project, which started in 2022, partners intended to demonstrate a potential approach to create an actual change in HE systems, turning them more modern and in line with the needs of the labor market, by including digital tasks and tools in regular HE teaching/learning practice. Also, this project aimed to help the HE graduates feel more ready and confident in their skills and knowledge to enter the labor market.

To achieve these goals, **several outputs were developed**, including an 'Online Communication and Netiquette Guide' for young people, a 'Cybersecurity Handbook', a multimedia package on digital skills for HE students featuring videos and infographics, a training course for HE teachers and educators, and a report on the implementation of a pilot program in the partner universities.

Additionally, partners organized two training courses throughout the project—one in Greece for HE students and young people and another in Portugal for HE teachers. They also hosted several events to disseminate the project, its outputs, and its results.



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FINAL BACK2BASICS PARTNER'S MEETING

On the 4th of July, the **final partner's meeting** for the Back2Basics project took place in Aveiro, Portugal, hosted by Associação BioLiving. As the project nears its conclusion, this meeting provided a valuable opportunity for partners to finalize several key results and outputs.

During the meeting, partners engaged in in-depth discussions about the project's final details, reviewed the achievements of the past two and a half years, and established the remaining deadlines to ensure a successful wrap-up.

Everyone shared their reflections on the project outcomes and their pride in the collective accomplishments. The atmosphere was filled with a sense of achievement and satisfaction for the impactful work done through the Back2Basics project.



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THE BACK2BASICS RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE!

Training Course: Bridging the gap between HE and the labour market

Module 4. Online Security and Data Protection

Clean desk policy


Paper documents left on desks

- For more convenience
- Needed for daily tasks

May contain confidential information

- Personal data of other employees
- Private data relating to projects

What if a colleague copies your work?



BACK 2 BASICS

MODULE 4

TRAINING COURSE Bridging the gap between Higher Education and the labour market

Module 4 Online Security & Data Protection

Duration 180'

Program contents

4.1.	Common threats
4.2.	Cyber-hygiene
4.3.	Personal protection
4.4.	Password management

This course is specifically directed at **HE teachers and young people educators** and aims to address the different digital skills valued by the labor market and how these skills can be fostered in the classroom. Despite most HE students being accustomed to the digital setting, many lack the digital skills required in most labor market environments. As such, these training materials were developed in the hope that educators would be challenged to think of small changes to introduce in their classes to develop higher education students' digital skills. Topics addressed include online communication and netiquette, information literacy, cybersecurity, health protection and well-being, and online content creation, and how to integrate such topics in the classroom.

These materials are available in English, Portuguese, Spanish and Greek.

Access the training materials [here](#).

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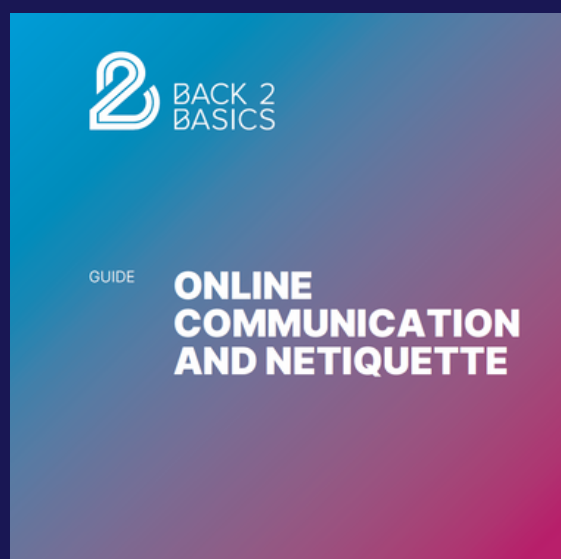
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THE BACK2BASICS RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE!

Online Communication and Netiquette Guide

This guide was developed because many students experience difficulties when communicating using digital tools for formal purposes. The struggles are very broad in nature and go from incorrect institutional communication to improper digital etiquette/behaviour, and include the inaptitude to use “work-related” digital tools. As such, the aim of this guide is to help students understand the importance of good institutional communication, as well as help them develop a more professional image of themselves in front of employers and provide “do’s and don’ts” of digital institutional communication that are important in professional settings.

This guide is available in English, Portuguese, Spanish and Greek. Access the guide [here](#).



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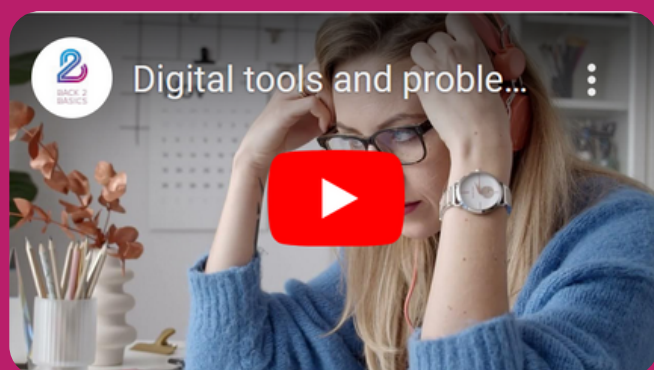
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Multimedia package: Digital Skills for HE Students



Higher education (HE) students are one of the main target groups of the Back2Basics project and as such a multimedia package was developed addressing the project's core topics and emphasizing the practical significance of digital tools in today's labor market. This package includes 10 short videos and 5 interactive infographics, covering diverse topics such as cybersecurity challenges, copyright protection issues, the implications of unhealthy digital lifestyles, how to use LinkedIn, how to write emails, among many others. The ultimate goal is to inspire young people to proactively acquire the digital skills necessary to navigate and overcome these challenges confidently.

All the videos are in English but have subtitles in Portuguese, Spanish and Greek and you can watch them [here](#). The infographics are all available in English, Portuguese, Spanish and Greek and you can access them [here](#).

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THE BACK2BASICS RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE!

Security: A Cybersecurity Handbook

In an increasingly interconnected world, **cybersecurity** is of paramount importance. This handbook serves as a valuable resource for individuals and organizations seeking to navigate the ever-evolving landscape of cyber threats. Covering topics ranging from social engineering and phishing to malware prevention and multi-factor authentication, this comprehensive guide provides practical advice and best practices to mitigate risks.

In both professional and academic environments, it is crucial to be aware of cyber threats and how to manage them to protect not only the institutions but also the personal information of employees, clients and other stakeholders.

This handbook is available in English, Portuguese, Spanish and Greek and you can access it [here](#)



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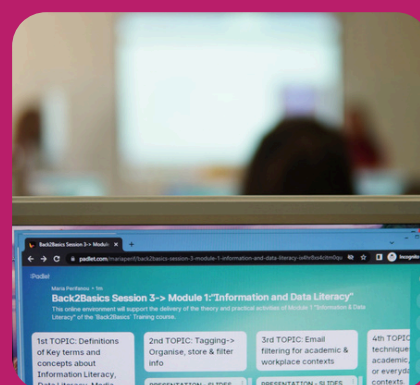
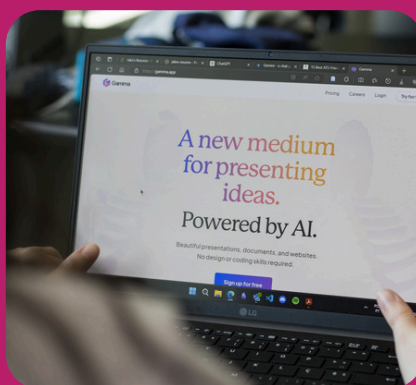
Pilot programme: digitally-reinforced learning contexts

During two semesters, both the University of Macedonia and the University of Aveiro engaged HE teachers in the **Back2Basics Pilot Program**. This pilot aimed to:

- promote students' basic digital skills demanded by the labor market in the context of academic learning;
- implement innovative digitally based teaching techniques, tools, and resources in order to achieve this goal;
- allow HE teachers to deliver classes and assignments using digital tools and thus upskilling their pedagogical practice.

HE teachers were able to **exchange knowledge and practices** with other colleagues within this community and explore the training materials that were prepared by the Back2Basics team. During this pilot program, 10 HE teachers were challenged to **transform their traditional lesson plans into digitally-adapted class scripts**.

Here you can find all the resources developed for this pilot program including the lesson plans prepared by the teachers, the artifacts developed by the students in those classes and a final report about the pilot with an analysis of its implementation in both universities.



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BACK2BASICS MULTIPLIER EVENTS

University of Aveiro's Multiplier Event

At the end of May, the partners from the University of Aveiro organized an insightful workshop on managing digital identity at the School of Education in Viseu, as their multiplier event for the Back2Basics project.

During the workshop, participants explored and discussed critical topics such as "What is identity?", "Identity in the online space", and "Representation, privacy, and reputation", with practical tasks that allow attendees to apply what they learned. In addition to the workshop, the researchers provided an in-depth presentation of the Back2Basics project, sharing its valuable resources, and created a platform for Higher Education students and teachers to engage in a constructive dialogue about the importance of digital skills in today's labor market. The discussions highlighted the need for digital readiness and its implementation in Higher Education systems.



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BACK2BASICS MULTIPLIER EVENTS

Gabinete de Recolocación Industrial's Multiplier Event

GRI had the opportunity to organize three workshops mainly directed at young people, job counselors and training technicians not just to present the project's results but also to actively share tips and good practices on how to improve our employability profile.

In the last workshop, under the name "Improve your employability with LinkedIn", participants had the opportunity to learn how to create and structure a good profile on this social network with the aim of finding a job. They also were shown the results of the Back2Basics project and how they could access and use the resources created both individually and as a guide for counselors in their sessions with job seekers.



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BACK2BASICS MULTIPLIER EVENTS

University of Macedonia's Multiplier Event

In June, the University of Macedonia organized a multiplier event titled "Digital Transformation in Higher Education: Empowering Teachers and Students for Tomorrow's Challenges". It was organized in collaboration with the 14th International Conference on Intelligent Tutoring Systems ITS'2024 and around 100 participants learned about the final results of the Back2Basics project and attended presentations by international experts from 5 countries who shared innovative proposals and practices for digital transformation in higher education.

Participants also had the opportunity to submit articles for this event and all that were accepted & presented will be published soon by Springer as a Communications in Computer and Information Science (CCIS) post-proceedings volume. One of the papers received 'Best Paper Award' and was titled "Smart Assessment and Guided Education with Responsible AI" and authored by Alexander Mikroyannidis, John Domingue, Aisling Third, David Tarrant, and Tom Pieroni. It was recognized for its outstanding contribution to the fields of Technology-Enhanced Learning (TEL) and AI in education (AIEd).



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BACK2BASICS MULTIPLIER EVENTS

Associação BioLiving's Multiplier Event

In June, Associação BioLiving organized the Back2Basics' Final Conference in Portugal. This conference featured various moments, both theoretical and practical, formal and informal, all dedicated to sharing concerns and best practices for youth employability through cooperation between academia and the labor market.

We counted on the collaboration of incredible guests (teachers, students, and various professionals) and the presence of participants from different contexts and places both inside and outside the country. Through lectures, talks, a small exhibition, and workshops, this conference aimed to promote digital transformation in Higher Education, aligning it with the needs of the job market, and showing all the work done within this project.



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INSTAGRAM [@back2basicserasmus](#)



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