

THE EU LITERACY COALITION CO-CREATION WORKSHOP

WARSAW 6–7 MAY 2026

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Purpose

The two-day workshop in Warsaw, organised by the European Commission, will bring together stakeholders from various sectors, including education and training; culture and reading promotion; employment and social inclusion; health and wellbeing; digital and media; governance and policy; and research and academia. They will work together to lay the groundwork for the **EU Literacy Coalition** by co-creating its founding document, the EU Literacy Coalition **Memorandum**.

Participants will be asked to:

- share experience, knowledge and evidence from their respective working fields to build a common understanding of the literacy challenge across Europe;
- identify what needs to change within education systems, in support for learners and educators, and across other sectors, where the impact of literacy on e.g. health, employment and social outcomes is often underestimated;
- outline how the Coalition's members will work together and agree on a shared vision capable of mobilising engagement and support beyond the traditional literacy community.

The workshop will produce the key building blocks of the Memorandum, including its principles, arguments and vision, which will be consolidated into a document to be introduced at a launch event in Brussels in September 2026 (tbc).

Context

Policy framework

The EU Literacy Coalition is one of the actions established in the **Action Plan on Basic Skills** adopted in March 2025 as part of the **Union of Skills** strategy. The Action Plan proposes a mix of measures from early childhood education and care through adult learning, with a focus on improving teaching and learning, strengthening support for educators, and enabling supportive environments. The Coalition is expected to contribute across these dimensions, bringing together stakeholders from multiple sectors to raise awareness about the literacy crisis.

Scale of the problem

The urgency is clear. The 2022 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) data show that one in four 15-year-olds across the EU fails to understand basic texts, while according to the Survey on Adults Skills, one in five working-age adults struggles with reading and writing. Poor literacy can negatively impact people's employability, worsen health outcomes, increase vulnerability to disinformation and weaken democratic participation. The Union of Skills describes it as a fundamental threat to Europe's competitiveness and preparedness. For more information, see the references further below.

The EU Literacy Coalition

The Coalition is expected to become a multi-stakeholder European network bringing together actors from various sectors such as education, culture, employment, health, digital and media and related fields.

The Coalition will strengthen cooperation with schools based on the 'whole-school' approach, provide evidence-based recommendations to support decision-makers in designing literacy education policies, and contribute to streamlining dispersed initiatives across Europe, among others.

By doing so, it will contribute towards:

- improving learners' literacy competences;
- improving teachers' and educators' competences;
- responding to challenges posed by the digital era;
- raising public awareness and support for literacy education;
- enabling long-term structured cooperation, peer learning, and best-practice sharing among literacy education stakeholders across Europe.

Implementation milestones

The Coalition's development follows two key steps:

- this co-creation workshop in Warsaw;
- a launch event and thematic conference in Brussels in September 2026 (tbc), where the Memorandum will be presented.

Co-creation approach

The event is designed as a co-creation process based on the [World Café methodology](#). Participants are invited as active contributors. Over two days, they will work in cross-sector table groups to discuss and develop the building blocks of the Literacy Coalition Memorandum. During the workshop, each session will produce a specific input for the Memorandum – from defining why cross-sector cooperation is needed, to articulating how we understand literacy and why it is relevant, to identifying systemic obstacles and formulating a shared vision. Table facilitators and rapporteurs will support group discussions and ensure that the outcomes of the discussions are clearly captured.

Draft agenda

Day 1 – Tuesday 6 May

Time	Activity
12:00–12:30	<i>Welcome coffee</i>
12:30–12:50	Opening, welcome and introduction: policy context, Coalition mandate, and what can we expect from the two days
12:50–13:15	Getting to know each other session.
13:15–13:45	Introduction to literacy as a cross-sector challenge and shared responsibility
13:45–14:00	Introduction to the workshops' topics and methodology (World Café).
14:00–15:00	<i>Lunch</i>
15:00–16:30	Workshop A: Working together across sectors Workshop B: Responding to challenges posed by the digital era
16:30–17:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
17:00–18:0	Harvesting session: presentations from workshops and plenary discussion
18:00–18:10	Closure of Day 1
19:00	<i>Networking dinner</i>

Day 2 – Wednesday 7 May

Time	Activity
08:30–09:15	<i>Breakfast</i>
09:15–09:30	Opening: recap of Day 1, introduction to Day 2 agenda.
09:30–09:45	Team building activity.
09:45–11:15	Workshop C: Improving citizens' literacy competences Workshop D: Improving educators' and other literacy professionals' competences
11:15–11:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:45–12:45	Harvesting session: presentations from workshops and plenary discussion.
12:45–13:15	Open space: What is missing from our framework? What connections between topics are we not seeing?
13:15–13:30	Wish cards: each participant writes what they would like the Coalition to achieve or prioritise in its first year.
13:30–13:40	Closure: Summary of outcomes, next steps, road to Brussels.

13:40-14.15	<i>Lunch and departure</i>
14:15-14.45	Venue tour (optional)

Next steps

The outputs from each working session will be consolidated into a draft Literacy Coalition Memorandum by the organising team. The draft will be circulated to all participants for review before being finalised for presentation at the launch event in Brussels (September 2026).

Reference documents

- [1] Action Plan on Basic Skills, COM(2025) 88. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2025:88:FIN>
- [2] Union of Skills, COM(2025) 90. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2025:90:FIN>
- [3] Council Recommendation on key competences for lifelong learning, 2018/C 189/01. https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_.2018.189.01.0001.01.ENG
- [4] Council Recommendation on Pathways to School Success, 2022/C 469/01. [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32022H1209\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32022H1209(01))
- [5] Council Recommendation on Upskilling Pathways, 2016/C 484/01. https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv%3AOJ.C_.2022.469.01.0001.01.ENG&toc=OJ%3AC%3A2022%3A469%3AFULL
- [6] OECD (2023), PISA 2022 Results (Volume I), The State of Learning and Equity in Education, PISA, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/53f23881-en>
- [7] OECD (2024), Do Adults Have the Skills They Need to Thrive in a Changing World?, Survey of Adult Skills 2023, OECD Skills Studies, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/b263dc5d-en>.
- [8] IEA 2021, Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS), <https://pirls2021.org>

Practical information

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION FORM

Please use the following link to complete your participant information survey:

https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/DG_EAC_Literacy_Coalition_Workshop_Warsaw

This information will be used for your identification badge and to support the organisation of the programme.

IMAGE AND DATA PROTECTION

As part of the survey, you will be asked to provide your consent for the use of your image and personal data. More specifically, your consent is required for:

- the sharing of the attendee list, including your name, surname, position, affiliation and e-mail address, among the workshop participants;
- the processing of your personal data for the purpose of inviting you to future events organised by the data controller;
- the publication of photos and audio-visual recordings taken during the event in which you may be identifiable.

If you do not wish to consent to the use of your image or personal data, please select “No” in the participant information survey.

Please refer to the two documents attached to the email for more information (see Annex 1 and Annex 2). The image authorisation form (Annex 2) should be returned to the organiser by email or in person on-site before the start of the event.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Your flights to and from Warsaw have been organised by the Commission. Please remember to check-in and obtain your boarding passes 24 hours in advance (and verify the conditions of your flights).

Kindly note that any additional costs will be at your own expense.

If you have any questions or require assistance regarding your travel arrangements, please contact the organising team at eu-literacy-coalition@gopa.eu.

HOTEL

ibis Warszawa Stare Miasto

Address: ul. Muranowska 2
00-209 Warsaw, Poland

Check-in : from 15h00

Check-out : before 12h00

The European Commission will cover one night of accommodation (from 6 to 7 May 2026). If you arrive earlier or depart later, please ensure that you make your own arrangements.

Kindly note that any additional costs will be at your own expense.

Google Maps: <https://maps.google.com/?q=ibis+Warszawa+Stare+Miasto>

VENUE (WORKSHOP AND TOUR)

Pałac Rzeczypospolitej

Address: plac Krasińskich 3/5
00-207 Warsaw, Poland

Google Maps: <https://maps.google.com/?q=Pałac+Rzeczypospolitej+Warszawa>

Venue Tour – What to expect

An optional tour has been scheduled for 7 May, after the workshop.

The venue is part of the National Library of Poland in Warsaw. While the main building is modern, some of its special collections and exhibition spaces are housed in the historic Krasiński Palace, a beautifully restored Baroque residence. During the guided tour, participants will explore selected interiors and learn more about the history of the palace and the library's collections.

NETWORKING DINNER

A networking dinner has been planned for 6 May at 7:00 p.m. for all attendees.

Enoteka Nowe Miasto

Address: ul. Freta 35
00-227 Warsaw, Poland

Google Maps: <https://maps.google.com/?q=Enoteka+Nowe+Miasto>

Menus are available upon request.

TRANSPORT

Transfers to and from the airport are not covered and should be arranged individually.

From the airport to the hotel / venue (public transport)

From Warsaw Chopin Airport, you can take Bus 175.

- Stop “Muranowska” (for the hotel)
- Stop “Plac Krasińskich” (for the workshop venue)

From Muranowska, it is a 3–5 minute walk to ibis Warszawa Stare Miasto.

From Plac Krasińskich, it is a 2-minute walk to Pałac Rzeczypospolitej.

Travel time: approximately 30–40 minutes.

Tickets can be purchased at the airport (ticket machines available) or on the bus (card payment only). It is recommended to buy a ticket at the airport before boarding to avoid inconvenience.

Taxi (recommended for convenience)

Taxis are available directly outside the arrivals hall. Ride-hailing services such as Uber, Bolt, and Free Now are also available.

Travel time: approximately 20–25 minutes.

A taxi is recommended if you are arriving for the first time or travelling with luggage.

From the hotel to the venue

Distance: approximately 10–15 minutes on foot

A short and pleasant walk through the Muranów district towards the Old Town.

Taxis are also available (approximately 5 minutes).

From the hotel to the restaurant

Recommended option: walking

Distance: approximately 15 minutes

The route goes through the Old Town. Participants will meet in the hotel lobby and walk together.

Taxis are also available (approximately 5 minutes).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The Old Town is a beautiful, pedestrian-friendly area.
- Most locations are within walking distance of each other.
- Taxis (also Uber, Bolt, Free Now) are widely available and reliable in Warsaw.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us at eu-literacycoalition@gopa.eu.

Annex 1: DG EAC Co-Creation workshop_Privacy Statement

Annex 2: DG EAC Co-creation workshop_Authorisation form_Adult Photo-Video