Challenges for higher education in a digital future. Preparing Public Administration schools for tomorrow's world

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ABSTRACT

In the new contemporary paradigm, we are witnessing amazing advances in artificial intelligence (AI) technologies. Whether we are talking about the energy industry, the retail industry, the automotive industry, or the IT industry, all of these have undergone significant changes in terms of artificial intelligence, which has led to the transformation of major systems such as services, economic or social. In recent years, artificial intelligence (AI) technologies have begun to penetrate into a fundamental field for any society: education. Education and training are the safest investments in the future, playing a crucial role in stimulating growth, innovation and job creation. Education and training systems need to respond to the opportunities and challenges of today's digital transformation, as the COVID-19 pandemic has brought about unique changes in the educational landscape around the world. These digital transformations and behavioural changes profoundly affect the personal, social, and professional lives of education managers, teachers, and students, and the university environment has become increasingly diverse, dynamic and competitive. The scope of the research is to analyse the perception of the main stakeholders in public administration schools regarding the implementation and use of AI technology in the future provision of educational services. At the Romanian level, there is no study supported by empirical research. Regarding the methodology, we collected data using the questionnaire and the interview. Respondents were managers, professors and students from public administration schools. The benefits of such a study are to identify the main challenges for higher education in a digital word and how AI technologies can shape tomorrow's educational landscape. In a complex and volatile word, resilience and adaptability are essential attributes for a higher education actor, who will need to be more agile in his/ her learning of new skills in order to interact with new technology and change occupations. This research will represent an important contribution to the Romanian and international literature, in the field of digital education, as well as in the field of public policy and decision - makers.

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