



Digital Skills  
To Succeed

## 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL NETWORKING EVENT

## INNOVATE TOGETHER:

## SHAPING EDUCATION FOR THE DIGITAL ERA

3rd – 5th September 2025  
Leipzig, Germany



UNIVERSITÄT  
LEIPZIG

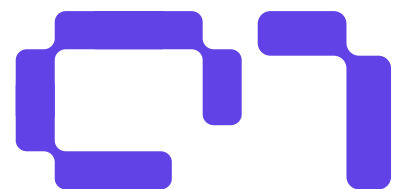
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# Executive Summary

The 2025 Digital Skills to Succeed in Asia (DS2S) Annual Conference, hosted in Leipzig, Germany, brought together over 100 representatives from universities, research institutions, and industry to explore how innovation and collaboration can strengthen employability, inclusion, and resilience across education systems.

Over three days, the conference—co-organized by the [DS2S](#) and [iN4iN](#) Networks—combined keynotes, solution showcases, and practical workshops around three main themes:

1. Network Collaboration and Peer Learning
2. Industry–Academia Partnership and Innovation
3. Innovative Teaching and Learning in an AI-Enabled Era

The event emphasized that **the digital transition in higher education is not only a technical challenge, but a human and institutional one**. Sustainable progress depends on purposeful pedagogy, strong partnerships, and shared digital ecosystems that enable learning across borders.

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## Introduction

The DS2S Network has evolved into a regional platform for joint learning and action. Sessions highlighted the value of connecting universities to share tools, resources, and experience.

### Key Messages:

- Networks multiply impact by scaling successful models such as micro-credentials, hackathons, and open educational resources (OER).
- Institutional partnerships thrive on trust, transparency, and shared priorities.
- Cross-border peer learning strengthens institutional resilience and accelerates innovation.

The Network's next step is to institutionalise structured **knowledge-sharing, coordinated programming, and joint monitoring** of digital skills development.

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## Industry–Academia Collaboration: Bridging Education and Employability

Participants underscored that collaboration between universities and industry is a core driver of innovation and a bridge between research and real-world application. Models such as **service learning, living labs, and international hackathons** showcased practical ways to connect student learning with market needs.

### Key Messages:

- Clearly defined institutional roles and long-term trust are critical to effective collaboration.
- Co-financed innovation spaces and applied research institutes (e.g., Fraunhofer models) help translate knowledge into value.
- Structured formats like hackathons and service learning offer scalable, mutually beneficial approaches.

Strengthening these linkages will ensure that graduates are **digitally competent, entrepreneurial, and employment-ready**, while industries benefit from innovation and talent pipelines.

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## Innovative Teaching and Learning: Purposeful Pedagogy in the AI Era

Day 3 emphasized that **innovation in teaching is about pedagogy, not just technology**. Sessions on digital leadership, OER, gamification, student engagement, and generative AI (GenAI) explored how educators can design learning that is inclusive, ethical, and future-focused.

### Key Messages:

- Digital leadership must become a core institutional capability, not an isolated initiative.
- OER expands access and quality across languages and bandwidths.
- Design thinking ensures that gamification serves real learning outcomes.
- GenAI offers value when supported by clear technical and ethical guardrails.

A **6–9-month roadmap** was proposed for scaling these practices, combining practical pilots, faculty training, and cross-network collaboration.

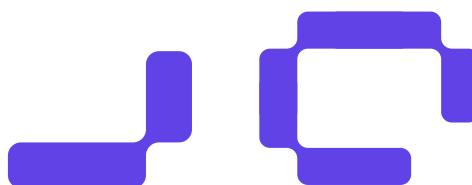
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## From Dialogue to Action: The Way Forward

Across all sessions, a shared conclusion emerged: collaboration is the engine of sustainable innovation.

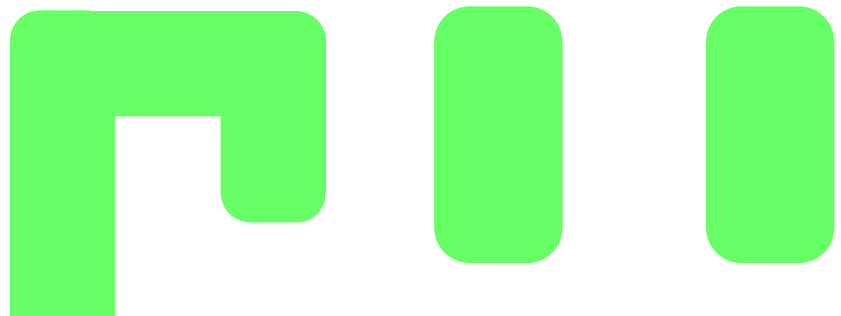
The DS2S Network will now move from dialogue to action through:

- **Joint pilot projects** on micro-credentials, and GenAI integration;
- **Structured partnerships** with industry;
- **Capacity-building programs** to integrate digital competencies into teaching and learning and
- **A common results framework** to track and communicate impact.



## Summary Box – Key Insights

- The DS2S Network enables regional co-creation, peer learning, and collective innovation.
- Industry–academia partnerships connect education to real market needs and innovation ecosystems.
- Pedagogical innovation must pair technology with ethics, empathy, and inclusivity.
- The 2025 Annual Conference in Leipzig marks a pivotal step—from shared ideas to joint, actionable strategies across the DS2S community.





# 1. Introduction

## Background and Objectives of the Conference

The Digital Skills to Succeed (DS2S) Annual Conference 2025, held in Leipzig, Germany, marked the second in-person gathering of the DS2S Network. Building on the momentum of previous meetings, the conference aimed to deepen cooperation among higher education institutions, industry, and applied research bodies committed to advancing digital skills, innovation, and employability across regions.

The conference was designed as both a learning space and a co-creation platform, enabling partners to exchange experience, identify good practices, and jointly develop actionable ideas for future collaboration. Against the backdrop of rapid technological change and shifting labour market demands, the event focused on three interrelated objectives:

1. **Fostering network collaboration** to strengthen institutional capacities and shared learning across borders;
2. **Enhancing industry–academia** linkages to ensure education remains aligned with evolving market and innovation needs;
3. **Promoting innovative, AI-enabled teaching and learning practices** that enhance quality, inclusion, and employability.

Ultimately, the conference sought to move from **dialogue to practice**—turning shared insights into concrete initiatives under the DS2S and iN4iN frameworks.

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## Participants and Stakeholders

The 2025 DS2S Annual Conference convened a diverse and dynamic group of participants representing **universities, research institutions, private sector partners, and development organisations**. Over three days, more than **100 delegates** engaged in plenary discussions, open-space sessions, thematic workshops, and solution showcases.

Participants included:

- **Higher Education Institutions** from Europe, North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Asia, active within the DS2S and iN4iN Networks;
- **Applied Research Institutes**, such as the Fraunhofer Institutes, sharing models for practice-oriented innovation;
- **Private Sector Partners**, including multinational technology firms such as IBM, Cisco, HP and SMEs, contributing expertise on employability, digital innovation, and industry collaboration;
- **Development Cooperation Partners** (including GIZ), supporting institutional transformation and network facilitation;
- **Students and Young Professionals**, offering perspectives on learning, entrepreneurship, and digital careers.

This multi-stakeholder composition reflected the DS2S Network’s commitment to **inclusive, cross-sector collaboration**, ensuring that discussions were grounded in both academic rigour and real-world relevance.

## Structure of the Report

This report summarises the main discussions, findings, and recommendations of the 2025 DS2S Annual Conference. It is organized into three substantive chapters, each corresponding to a key theme of the event, followed by an executive summary and concluding reflections on future collaboration.

- **Chapter 1 – The DS2S Network: Strengths and Future Growth**  
Presents the outcomes of the Open Space session, focusing on micro-credentials, artificial intelligence (AI), and academic–industry linkages within the network.
- **Chapter 2 – Industry–Academia Collaboration**  
Synthesizes key insights and models from partner institutions and companies, including hackathons, service learning, and living labs as mechanisms to bridge education and employment.
- **Chapter 3 – Innovative Teaching and Learning**  
Explores pedagogical innovation in an AI-enabled era, highlighting practices related to digital leadership, open educational resources (OER), gamification, student engagement, and ethical AI use.

Each chapter concludes with **key take-aways, actionable recommendations, and a summary box of main messages**. The report closes with an outlook on how the DS2S Network can continue translating shared learning into **joint initiatives, capacity development, and policy dialogue**.







## 2. The DS2S Network: Current Strengths and Future Growth

The second annual meeting of the DS2S Network provided a dynamic platform for partners to reflect on the network's evolving priorities and to chart directions for future collaboration. A key highlight was the **Open Space session**, which encouraged free and creative dialogue across institutions on issues central to digital skills and higher education transformation. Discussions revolved around three core themes: **micro-credentials**, **artificial intelligence (AI)**, and **academic–industry collaboration**.

The Open Space format proved valuable for surfacing shared experiences, addressing challenges, and identifying collective opportunities for the network's future development.

### Key Themes and Takeaways

#### 1. Micro-Credentials as Flexible, Recognised Pathways

Participants emphasised that micro-credentials should extend beyond simple certification to become meaningful and employability-driven learning pathways. They should:

- Serve as flexible entry points—whether as prerequisites, complementary modules, or stand-alone qualifications.
- Be **engagement-oriented** and **requirement-driven**, ensuring tangible value for learners.
- Integrate **traditional skills and digital competencies**, balancing local relevance with global standards.
- Enable **course sharing** across the network to increase access and recognition.

**Takeaway:** Micro-credentials must be designed to enhance employability, promote lifelong learning, and foster institutional collaboration across the DS2S Network.

#### 2. Artificial Intelligence as an Enabler, Not a Replacement

The discussions reflected both excitement and caution regarding the role of AI in education. Participants agreed that AI can:

- Facilitate a **shift from teaching-centered to learning-centered models**, allowing for greater personalization.
- Enable **evidence-based assessment** and better tracking of student progress.
- Anticipate emerging skill needs, informing **curriculum innovation**.
- Serve as a driver of **AI for Social Good**, linking digitalization with social impact.

However, participants underscored that **Human Intelligence (HI)** must remain at the heart of education.

**Takeaway:** AI should be leveraged ethically and inclusively—as a powerful enabler that complements, rather than replaces, the human element in education.

### 3. Academic–Industry Connect for Employability

Participants highlighted the persistent gap between academic curricula and fast-evolving industry needs. To bridge this divide, the discussion underscored:

- The value of **regular job role mapping** and adoption of **Outcome-Based Education (OBE)** frameworks.
- The importance of **systematic engagement with industry**, from consultation to co-creation of curricula.
- The potential of **multidisciplinary micro-credentials** tailored to labour market trends.
- The need to **reduce the adaptation lag** between industry transformation and academic response.

**Takeaway:** Sustained academic–industry partnerships are essential to ensuring that education remains agile, relevant, and future-oriented.

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## Recommendations

1. **Pilot joint micro-credential programs** co-designed by multiple institutions, aligned with international benchmarks and recognized across the network.
2. **Strengthen AI literacy** among educators and students, promoting responsible and inclusive use of digital tools.
3. **Institutionalise academic–industry** dialogue through sector-specific advisory groups providing ongoing input to curriculum design.
4. **Facilitate course and resource sharing** within the DS2S Network to improve access, efficiency, and collaboration.

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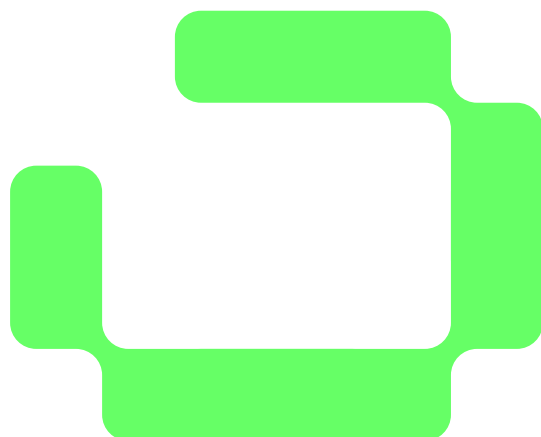
## Closing Reflections

The Open Space session demonstrated the power of collective reflection in shaping the DS2S Network’s strategic direction. By focusing on micro-credentials, AI, and academic–industry collaboration, the network reaffirmed its commitment to equipping students with the skills and mindset needed for a rapidly evolving labor market.

Moving forward, the DS2S Network can play a **catalytic role** in translating these discussions into action through **joint programs, shared resources, and deeper partnerships** across institutions and sectors.

## Summary Box – Key Insights

- Micro-credentials must be flexible, meaningful, and employability-driven, recognized across institutions.
- AI should be viewed as an ethical enabler of pedagogy and social good, not a replacement for human judgment.
- Academic–industry collaboration is vital for keeping curricula agile and aligned with evolving job roles.
- The DS2S Network can leverage its collective strength to pilot innovations and shape responsive education models.





# 3. Industry–Academia Collaboration: Building Bridges for Innovation and Employability

Industry–academia collaboration stands at the heart of innovation, linking knowledge creation with real-world application. It enables universities to remain relevant to evolving market needs, supports industries in addressing practical challenges, and equips students with skills that are both academically sound and professionally meaningful.

Sessions in this track explored a range of collaboration models—from research-driven partnerships to service learning and innovation-focused hackathons. Across all discussions, a common thread emerged: the importance of **clear institutional roles, mutual benefit, and people-centered collaboration**. From structured partnerships to flexible, student-led initiatives, the examples presented offered practical ways to close the gap between **education and employability, theory and entrepreneurship**.

## Key Themes and Takeaways

### 1. Institutional Roles and Innovation Ecosystems

- Serve Universities are primarily focused on research and education, while applied research institutes (such as Fraunhofer) serve as vital bridges to industry, translating academic knowledge into practical outcomes.
- Collaboration is most effective when **roles are clearly defined** and when **trust-based relationships** are cultivated among stakeholders.
- Understanding the **broader innovation ecosystem**—including people, policy frameworks, and organizational culture—is essential for sustainable and scalable impact.

**Takeaway:** Effective collaboration requires **ecosystem thinking**, where universities, applied research institutes, and industry actors work in complementary and coordinated ways.

### 2. Hackathons as Innovation Pathways

The discussions reflected both excitement and caution regarding the role of AI in education. Participants agreed that AI can:

- **HP** demonstrated how hackathons can serve as structured entry points into innovation ecosystems, offering students access to **online learning platforms, team-based challenges, mentorship, and funding opportunities**.
- **ENET'COM** shared a structured methodology for international hackathon planning, highlighting **tools and processes** that make such events scalable, replicable, and outcome-oriented.

**Takeaway:** Well-designed hackathons not only foster innovation and entrepreneurship but also **deepen university–industry linkages** through collaborative, time-bound, and experiential engagement.

### 3. Service Learning through Industry Projects

- **Leipzig University's OMC initiative** exemplified how students can collaborate directly with SMEs to develop real marketing campaigns, combining academic learning with professional practice.
- The projects follow a **five-stage structure**—from recruitment to final presentation—with careful matching between students and companies to ensure mutual value.
- Both sides benefit: students gain hands-on, career-relevant experience, while SMEs access fresh perspectives and creative solutions.

**Takeaway:** Service learning bridges theory and practice, fostering employability and entrepreneurship when structured around **mutual value creation**.

### 4. Living Labs as Platforms for Co-Creation

The discussions reflected both excitement and caution regarding the role of AI in education. Participants agreed that AI can:

- Living Labs were presented as immersive environments where students, faculty, and industry partners co-create innovative solutions to real-world problems.
- Leipzig University's labs focus on digital technologies such as motion tracking and image processing, while partners like IBM and CISCO showcased how these models can link micro-credentialing pathways with work-readiness.
- Sustainability emerged as a key principle—labs often begin with grant funding but are designed to evolve into co-financed, industry-supported models.

**Takeaway:** Living labs exemplify experiential learning and co-creation, offering scalable models for practice-based collaboration that combine digital innovation with real-world relevance.



## Recommendations

Drawing from the sessions, several practical directions emerged to strengthen and institutionalize industry–academia collaboration within the DS2S framework:

1. **Clarify Institutional Roles:** Support policies and mechanisms that define and connect the respective functions of universities, applied research bodies, and private-sector partners.
2. **Scale Proven Collaboration Models:** Expand successful formats—such as hackathons, service learning projects, and living labs—through toolkits, training, and capacity building.
3. **Foster Digital and Entrepreneurial Skills:** Develop targeted programs aligned with regional labor market needs, using digital platforms for mentorship, certification, and collaboration.
4. **Support Co-Financed Innovation Spaces:** Encourage joint investment by academia and industry in innovation hubs and laboratories, ensuring financial sustainability and market relevance.
5. **Build Cross-Border Networks:** Strengthen international cooperation by linking students, institutions, and businesses across countries, facilitating real-time exchange and co-creation.



## Closing Reflections

The sessions on industry–academia collaboration demonstrated that **sustainable innovation arises from shared purpose, not isolated effort**. Whether through **joint research, student-centred projects, or co-created innovation spaces**, the future of higher education and industry lies in **deeper, more dynamic engagement**.

The DS2S Network, with its diverse institutional base, is uniquely positioned to act as a **facilitator and multiplier** of such collaborations—turning ideas into impact through partnership and shared commitment.

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### Summary Box – Key Insights

- Clear institutional **roles** and **trust-based relationships** are essential for effective and lasting collaboration.
- Structured models such as **hackathons, service learning, and living labs** offer practical and scalable pathways for engagement.
- Collaboration should remain **people-centred**, focusing on shared value creation, digital and entrepreneurial skills, and real-world impact.
- Sustainable partnerships require **ecosystem thinking, long-term commitment, and cross-border cooperation**.



## 4. Innovative Teaching and Learning: Purposeful Pedagogy in the AI-Enabled Era

The final day of the DS2S Conference focused on **practical strategies to strengthen teaching and learning in an AI-enabled era**. Through an engaging mix of keynotes, solution showcases, and hands-on workshops, participants explored how **digital leadership, open educational resources (OER), design thinking-led gamification, multidimensional student engagement, and generative AI (GenAI)** can work in synergy to enhance learning quality and graduate employability.

The core message that emerged was clear: **innovation is not primarily about tools—but about purposeful pedagogy, ethical guidelines, and collaborative capacity-building** across the DS2S and iN4iN networks.

### Key Themes and Takeaways

#### 1. Digital Leadership as a Core Capability

Universities increasingly require leaders and lecturers who can **guide human–AI collaboration** with both efficiency and empathy.

- Move from one-off initiatives toward **systematic capacity-building** and applied research.
- Integrate digital leadership into **governance, program review, and promotion criteria** to ensure sustainability.

**Takeaway:** Treat digital leadership as an **institution-wide capability**, not an isolated initiative.

#### 2. Open Educational Resources (OER) for Equity, Speed, and Adaptation

LiaScript- and Markdown-based OER, supported by **Creative Commons licensing** and **AI-assisted drafting**, were showcased as powerful tools to increase access and reduce costs.

- Enable **rapid localisation** for multilingual, low-bandwidth environments.
- Ensure **consistent quality at scale** for large or distributed classes.

**Takeaway:** OER is a **practical lever** for widening access, enhancing equity, and reducing duplication across the DS2S Network.

#### 3. Design Thinking for Purposeful Gamification

Gamification yields meaningful results when rooted in learner needs and clear educational outcomes.

- Begin with **student-centred design**, aligning game mechanics with learning objectives.
- Establish **transparent rules and assessment mechanisms**, including peer evaluation.
- Employ **longer challenge cycles** or certificates to sustain engagement and motivation.

**Takeaway:** Start with the **“why”**—design game elements that **genuinely serve learning** rather than distract from it.

#### 4. Engagement is Multidimensional

Learning outcomes improve when **academic, social, emotional, and digital engagement** are addressed holistically.

- Faculty empathy and intentional engagement strategies make a measurable difference.
- Technology enhances personalization and collaboration when used thoughtfully.

**Takeaway:** Build courses that integrate **multiple forms of engagement**, going beyond content delivery to foster meaningful learner interaction.

#### 5. Generative AI (GenAI): Gains with Guardrails

The GenAI offers major opportunities to improve teaching and learning—**but only when paired with robust technical and ethical safeguards**.

- GenAI can streamline **assessment design**, personalise learning, and free faculty time for mentoring.
- Prerequisites include **adequate devices, stable internet, system integration**, and user support.
- Risks such as **bias, misinformation, and privacy breaches** require labeling of AI outputs, clear accountability, and transparent communication.

**Takeaway:** Pair GenAI adoption with **practical technical guidelines and transparent ethics** to ensure trust and responsible use.

#### 6. Networks Multiply Impact

Shared resources, global classrooms, hackathons, and targeted micro-credentials (including those focusing on women in AI and data) were highlighted as mechanisms that amplify reach and impact.

**Takeaway:** Develop a **concrete 6–9 month action plan** with realistic budgets to sustain momentum and scale what works across the DS2S and iN4iN networks.

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### Recommendations

1. **Institutionalize Digital Leadership:** Establish ongoing programs on human–AI collaboration, data-informed decision-making, and ethics—embedded in faculty promotion and review processes.
2. **Adopt an OER Policy and Workflow:** Define Creative Commons defaults, quality assurance checkpoints, and a shared repository. Train faculty to develop interactive OER using responsible AI tools.
3. **Pilot Design Thinking–Based Gamification:** Launch initiatives that gamify modules around defined learner needs and measurable outcomes, integrating peer assessment and micro-recognition (certificates or mini-grants).
4. **Publish GenAI Guidelines:** Develop clear technical and ethical standards covering infrastructure requirements, onboarding, data practices, labeling of AI-generated content, and bias audits.

5. **Develop an Engagement Playbook:** Combine academic, social, and emotional strategies, incorporating continuous student feedback loops.
  6. **Invest for Inclusion:** Provide access to devices, connectivity, and platform interoperability; prioritize low-bandwidth, multilingual delivery to ensure no learner is left behind.
  7. **Scale Through Network Initiatives:** Expand through OER sprints, global classrooms, industry-mentored hackathons, and AI/data micro-credentials—with explicit **gender equity targets**.
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## Closing Reflections

Innovation in teaching is not a single intervention but a **system**—one that links pedagogy with leadership, technology with ethics, and classrooms with partnerships. Day 3 highlighted a **pragmatic one-year roadmap** that DS2S institutions can begin implementing immediately, while steadily building institutional capacity through 2026 and beyond.

The next chapter turns to the **solution showcases**, where many of these innovative ideas are already being translated into **scalable practice** across the network.

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### Summary Box – Key Insights

- **Digital leadership** is essential to guide responsible human–AI collaboration across institutions.
- **OER** expands access, lowers costs, and supports rapid, multilingual adaptation.
- **Design thinking** ensures gamification is purposeful and outcome-driven.
- **Student engagement** must integrate academic, social, emotional, and digital dimensions.
- **GenAI** brings real benefits when implemented with clear ethical and technical safeguards.
- **Networked collaboration** accelerates scale, inclusion, and shared impact across the DS2S community.





# 5. Conclusion and Way Forward: From Dialogue to Action

The 2025 DS2S Annual Conference in Leipzig brought together diverse voices from universities, research institutes, and industry to reimagine higher education for a digital and interconnected world. Across three days, participants explored how **networks, collaboration, and innovation in teaching and learning** can collectively drive employability, inclusivity, and institutional transformation.

The discussions revealed a common purpose: to **translate ideas into action**, aligning academic excellence with societal relevance and digital opportunity. The DS2S Network is now poised to consolidate this momentum through shared initiatives and sustained collaboration.

## Cross-Cutting Insights

### 1. Networks as Platforms for Collective Action

The DS2S Network's strength lies in its ability to **connect institutions across borders**, enabling co-creation of micro-credentials, shared learning resources, and faculty development. To fully leverage this potential, the network should:

- Prioritize joint programming and shared accreditation frameworks.
- Encourage peer learning and mentorship among institutions at different stages of digital transformation.
- Use network-based dissemination models to scale innovations such as OER, hackathons, and AI-enabled pedagogy.

### 2. Collaboration Anchored in Real-World Needs

Industry–academia collaboration emerged as both a strategic necessity and a practical opportunity. To close the gap between education and employability, the network can:

- Institutionalize **continuous dialogue** with private-sector and applied research partners.
- Develop **co-financed innovation spaces**—such as living labs—that link research, teaching, and business solutions.
- Equip students with **digital, entrepreneurial, and transversal** skills that prepare them for fast-changing labor markets.

### 3. Purposeful Pedagogy in the Digital Age

Technology alone cannot guarantee innovation. The conference reaffirmed that real progress depends on **purposeful pedagogy, ethical use of AI, and inclusive design**. DS2S institutions can build on this by:

- Embedding **digital leadership and ethics** into faculty development and institutional governance.
- Scaling **OER production and sharing**, ensuring access across languages and bandwidth levels.
- Developing **engagement strategies** that address academic, social, and emotional dimensions of learning.

## Strategic Directions for the DS2S Network

Building on these insights, the DS2S Network can position itself as a regional catalyst for higher education transformation through the following strategic directions:

- **Institutionalize Knowledge Sharing:** Create a digital repository of OER, case studies, and tools emerging from DS2S projects to enable peer learning and reduce duplication.
- **Launch Collaborative Flagship Initiatives:** Co-develop pilot projects on micro-credentials, AI for education, and cross-border hackathons that demonstrate tangible network impact.
- **Invest in Capacity and Inclusion:** Support digital leadership training, gender-responsive skill development, and access to technology for students and faculty across partner countries.
- **Establish an Industry Advisory Mechanism:** Formalise partnerships with key industry representatives to provide ongoing input to curriculum design and employability strategies.
- **Monitor and Communicate Impact:** Develop a joint results framework to track network outcomes and showcase success stories through regular publications and events.

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## Looking Ahead

As the DS2S Network enters its next phase, the challenge is to **transform collaboration into collective impact**. The ideas exchanged in Leipzig highlight a shared vision—one where higher education serves as a driver of innovation, social mobility, and sustainable growth.

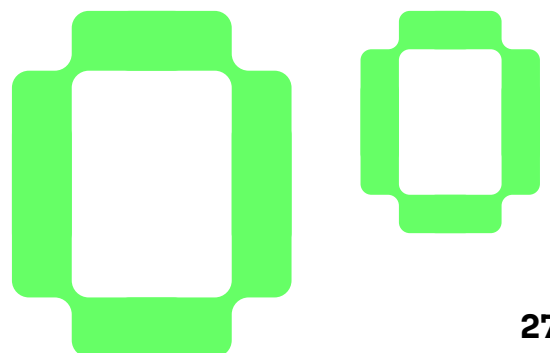
Moving forward, the DS2S Network will continue to act as a **learning alliance**—linking people, institutions, and ideas across borders to advance education that is inclusive, digital, and future-ready.

The momentum built during the 2025 conference should now evolve into **joint action plans, follow-up workshops, and pilot projects** that turn discussions into deliverables. By doing so, the DS2S community will not only sustain the spirit of collaboration but also shape the next generation of digital skills and learning ecosystems across regions.

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## Summary Box – Key Insights

- The DS2S Network provides a unique platform for **regional collaboration and shared innovation**.
- **Partnership with industry** ensures that education remains aligned with evolving labour market demands.
- **Purposeful, ethical, and inclusive use of digital tools** enhances learning quality and access.
- Moving forward, the Network will **scale pilot initiatives, invest in digital capacity, and measure collective impact**.
- The 2025 Leipzig Conference marks a transition from dialogue to **action-oriented collaboration** within and beyond the DS2S community.



## Acknowledgements

The organizers of the 2025 DS2S Annual Conference extend their sincere appreciation to all individuals and institutions whose commitment, expertise, and collaboration made this event a success.

Special thanks go to the **Leipzig University** for hosting the conference and providing an inspiring environment for dialogue and co-creation. The team's logistical and academic support ensured a seamless and productive experience for all participants.

The organizers also wish to acknowledge the **DS2S Network partner universities**, the **iN4iN Network**, the **OECD** especially through the contribution of **Shizuka Kato**, the **Otto-von-Guericke-Universität Magdeburg** represented by **Hannes Tegelbeckers** and the **Fraunhofer Institute** for their active contributions to the discussions, workshops, and showcases that enriched the event. Their insights and practical examples demonstrated the power of collaboration in advancing digital transformation across higher education.

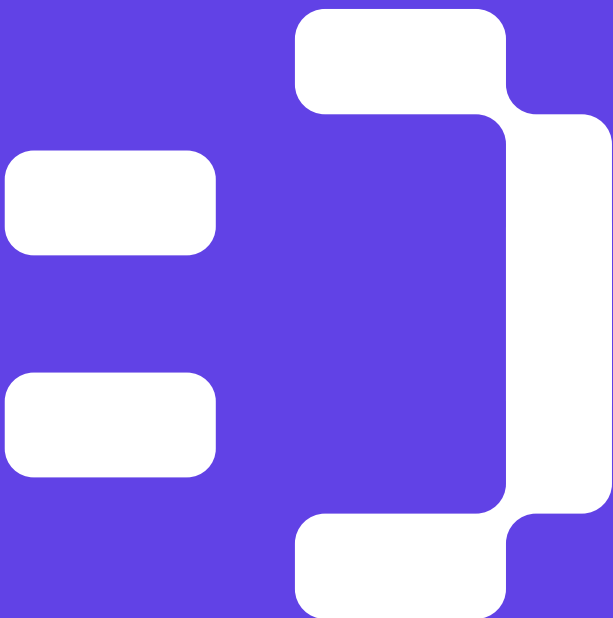
Gratitude is extended to **industry partners** for their continued support in strengthening digital skills, employability, and institutional capacity across regions.

Finally, heartfelt thanks go to all **participants, speakers, and facilitators** whose engagement, openness, and shared vision made the conference a true space for learning, exchange, and joint innovation.

Together, this collective effort reflects the core spirit of the DS2S Network – **cooperation, inclusivity, and a shared commitment to shaping digital skills for sustainable societies.**

All further information, such as the agenda, presentations, and details on participants and speakers, can be found on the [DS2S website](#).







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