

# LEVERAGING EUROPEAN UNION FUNDS FOR DIGITALISATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN ROMANIA AND MOLDOVA

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**Abstract:** This study examines the role of European Union (EU) funding in advancing the digitalization of higher education in Romania and Moldova, focusing on the utilization and impact of such funds on educational infrastructures and practices. Through a qualitative analysis that includes a comprehensive literature review and comparative assessments, the research highlights the transformative effects of EU financial mechanisms, specifically the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, and Horizon Europe, on higher education systems. The findings reveal significant advancements in Romania's digital education infrastructure and identify potential strategies for Moldova to enhance its own educational systems through similar funding avenues. The study underscores the necessity for strategic planning and robust management to optimize the use of EU funds. Additionally, it discusses the broader implications of digital education for EU integration, particularly emphasizing strategic importance for Moldova's EU membership aspirations. This research contributes to the understanding of how targeted EU funding can effectively support higher education digitalization, offering policy recommendations to maximize these benefits.

**Key words:** digital transformation; higher education; European Union funds; Romania; Moldova

**JEL Classification:** I23; I25; O32; O38; H52

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