



ILIANA IVANOVA
MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Ladies and gentlemen,

Today, European higher education institutions have an important role of leading **the future of learning**: by adapting to our society's twin green and digital transitions, and offering more inclusive, personalised learning experiences to students and young people in Europe and beyond.

Thus, higher education systems need to develop and deploy effective solutions to swiftly respond to accelerating digitalisation and protect the environment.

The **2024 Innovating Higher Education Conference** comes at an opportune moment. I thank you all, especially the **European Association of Distance Teaching Universities**, for bringing together our community to share your knowledge and expertise.

This event builds on the **Association's longstanding contributions** to the European Commission's efforts to foster innovative, digital higher education under the **European Education Area**. This includes our work through the **European Digital Education Hub** and our efforts to facilitate the widespread roll-out of **micro-credentials**, to name just two examples which you have helped to deliver.

We will continue our common efforts of making Europe a **world leader in digital and innovative higher education**. Your enduring commitment, knowledge and expertise will definitely help us to realise this shared goal.

In the meantime, I wish you a successful event filled with inspiring discussions.

Keep up the excellent work!

Warm regards,

Iliana Ivanova

