



ADP – ARISE Digital Pulse
Edition 1 | April 2026

*The Heartbeat of
European AR/VR
Skills & Innovation*


ARISE

 Co-funded by
the European Union

We are excited to launch this new space where we will share the latest updates, achievements, events, and opportunities from the **ARISE community**. In each edition, we will **take you behind the scenes of our work**, highlight key milestones, and keep you informed about developments, learning opportunities, and progress in **advanced digital skills, human-computer interaction, and XR education** across Europe.

ABOUT THE ARISE PROJECT

Challenge: Europe is rapidly expanding innovation in immersive technologies, but there is still a **shortage of professionals with expertise in human-computer interaction, extended reality, and user-centred design**.

ARISE's response: a Digital Europe Programme initiative developing a **double-degree Master's programme** and modular self-standing learning pathways in Human-Computer Interaction and Design with Extended Reality (HCID/XR).

The bigger picture: Strengthening Europe's advanced digital skills capacity and helping position Europe as a leader in AR/VR innovation and immersive education:

- ➔ Double-degree master's programme in Human-Computer Interaction and Design with XR (ISCED Level 7, 120 ECTS)
- ➔ Self-standing modules in Human-Computer Interaction and Design with Extended Reality leading to 2 certification paths
- ➔ Education offer connecting higher education institutions, research centres, industry leaders, corporates, and SMEs
- ➔ Specialised training supporting upskilling and reskilling, particularly for professionals, SMEs, and industry contribution to Europe's digital sovereignty and leadership in XR technologies

ARISE is coordinated by 28DIGITAL and implemented by 13 beneficiaries across 7 European countries, bringing together **universities and partners with complementary expertise** to build a strong and sustainable European learning ecosystem. Find out who we are [HERE](#).



Developing a double-degree Master's programme and modular self-standing learning pathways in **Human-Computer Interaction and Design with Extended Reality (HCID/XR)**.

CONSORTIUM LEADER



ACADEMIC & RESEARCH PARTNERS



INDUSTRY & ECOSYSTEM PARTNERS





Kick off meeting, Stockholm, 25-26 September 2025



ARISE officially launched with a two-day kickoff meeting in Stockholm, where partners came together to **set priorities for the project, including XR learning modules, the master's programme, recruitment**, quality assurance, and communication activities. The meeting also helped build a strong foundation for collaboration between academia, industry mentors, and SME partners, supporting the work ahead in XR.



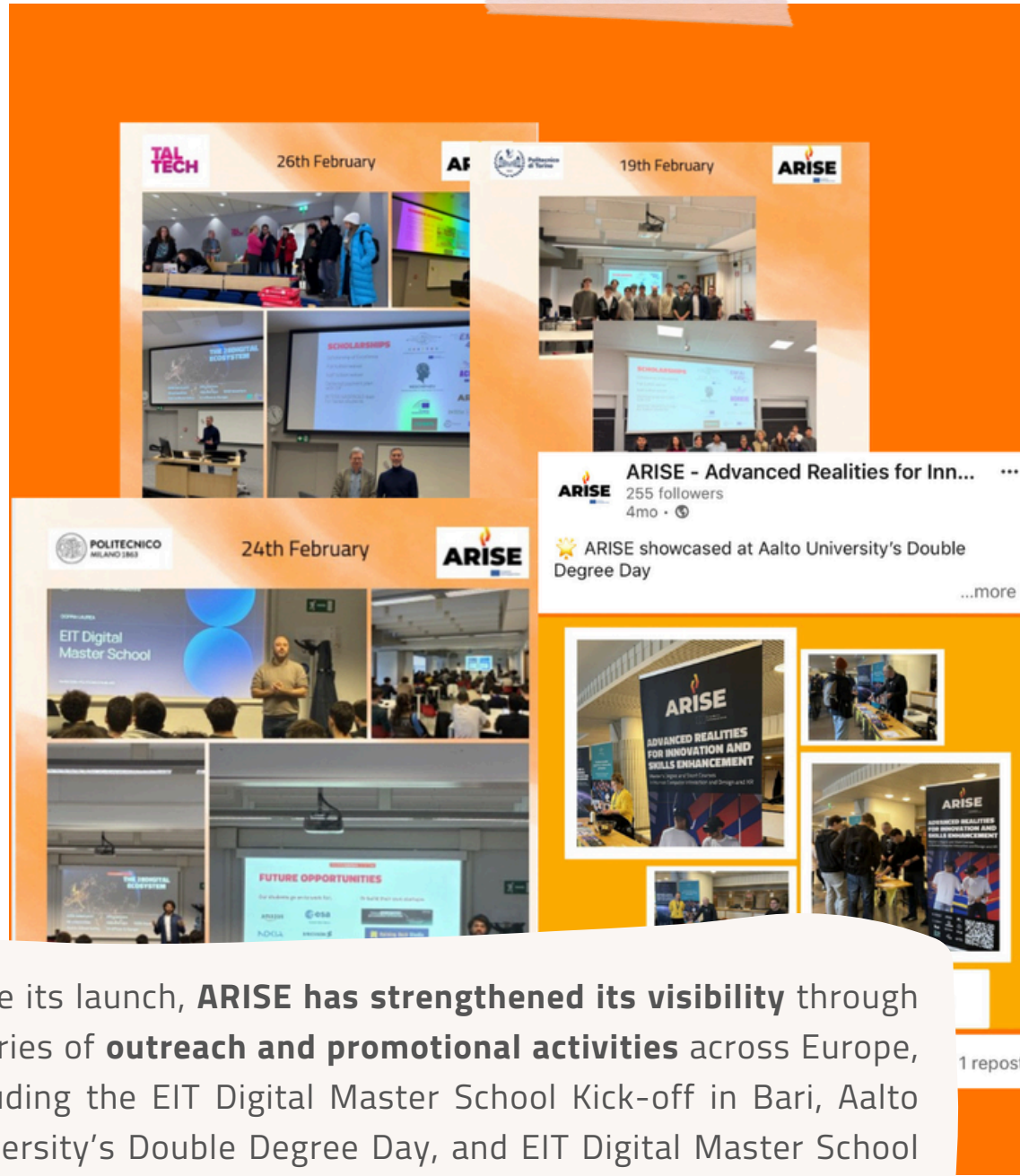
The ARISE master's programme is being developed as a **double-degree programme** (120 ECTS) in Human-Computer Interaction and Design with XR, with specialisations in immersive media and spatial computing and a minor in Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

Students enrolled in the programme will study at two different European universities: an **Entry University** in the first year and an **Exit University** in the second year, in two different countries, gaining an international learning experience. Between the two years, students will also attend a **summer school** organised as part of the EIT Digital Summer School programme.



SELF-STANDING LEARNING MODULES

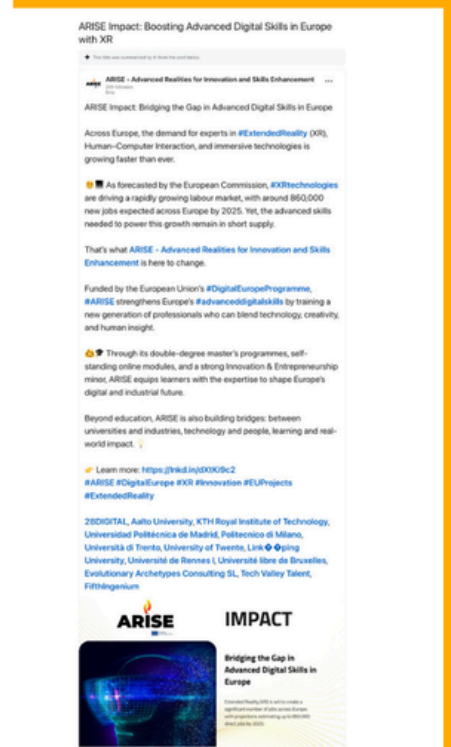
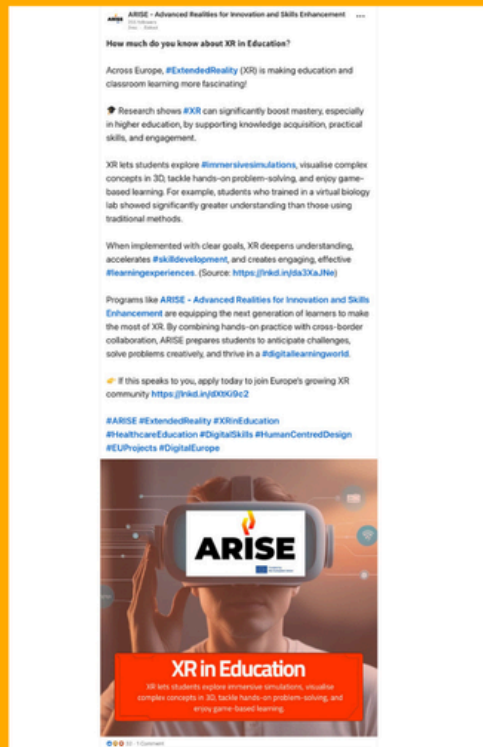
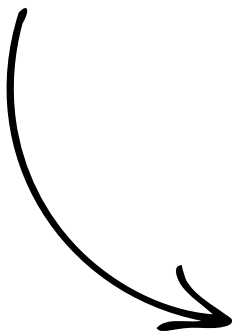
Want to build XR skills in a flexible way? ARISE is developing **10 self-standing learning modules in Human-Computer Interaction and Design with Extended Reality**, leading to 2 **certification paths**. Designed for **professionals, job seekers, and learners looking to upskill or reskill**, these modules will be offered through a **single digital platform** and combine **self-paced online learning** with selected **live sessions**. Learners will be able to follow them as **stand-alone courses** or as part of a **certification pathway**, with **free access to all courses**.



Since its launch, **ARISE** has strengthened its visibility through a series of **outreach and promotional activities** across Europe, including the EIT Digital Master School Kick-off in Bari, Aalto University's Double Degree Day, and EIT Digital Master School drop-in sessions held in February 2026 at Politecnico di Torino (19 February), Politecnico di Milano (24 February), and TalTech – Tallinn University of Technology (26 February). Through these activities, **ARISE** was presented to **prospective students and wider academic audiences**, sharing information on the programme, international study paths, and future opportunities.

Beyond project activities, ARISE acknowledges **key developments shaping the future of Extended Reality (XR)**. An article by Extended Reality News explores **how VR devices are transforming work, learning, and healthcare**, from immersive meetings to medical rehabilitation, showcasing the practical impact of these technologies. In another feature, Euronews highlights **the potential of 6G-enabled XR, which could create multi-sensory experiences**, allowing, for example, the sensation of a hug from a loved one across the globe.

Alongside its learning initiatives, ARISE is also driving **conversations around the future of Extended Reality and immersive technologies**. The project highlights the **growing demand for XR skills** across Europe and the urgent need to bridge this gap. It also showcases how **XR is transforming education**, making learning more interactive, engaging, and effective through immersive experiences



The ARISE journey is just getting started. We had **our first info session on April 9th**, giving prospective students the chance to discover the programme in more detail, explore its specialisation tracks, and learn more about career opportunities in **Human-Computer Interaction and Design with XR**.

LIVE Q&A

Learn about the master's program
Human Computer Interaction and
Design with Extended Reality
(HCID/XR)

IDEATE, ITERATE, INNOVATE.

Thursday 9 April 2026, 16:00 CET

Mariet Theune
Assistant Professor at UTwente

Mika P. Nieminen
Program Lead, ARISE

Elena Villalba Mora
Assistant Professor at UPV

Maristella Matera
Full Professor at UNIN

Jonas Löwgren
Professor at Linköping University

DGTL

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ARISE

At the same time, **applications are still open**, inviting future students to join a new European double-degree experience at the intersection of technology, design, and innovation.

Ready to take the next step?

Our results speak for themselves: **92% of our alumni are employed after graduation**, with **83% securing their first role within just three months**. From UX designers and XR engineers to tech founders, our students are shaping the future of innovation. Don't wait to take the next step. Apply now to join the new generation shaping the future of **XR, interaction design, and immersive digital innovation in Europe**.

Subscribe to our newsletter and stay part of the ARISE community as we share the latest news, events, and opportunities in Human-Computer Interaction and Design with XR.

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Thank you