

# Are Higher Education students digitally competent? Exploring their proficiency level based on the EU DigComp 2.2 Framework

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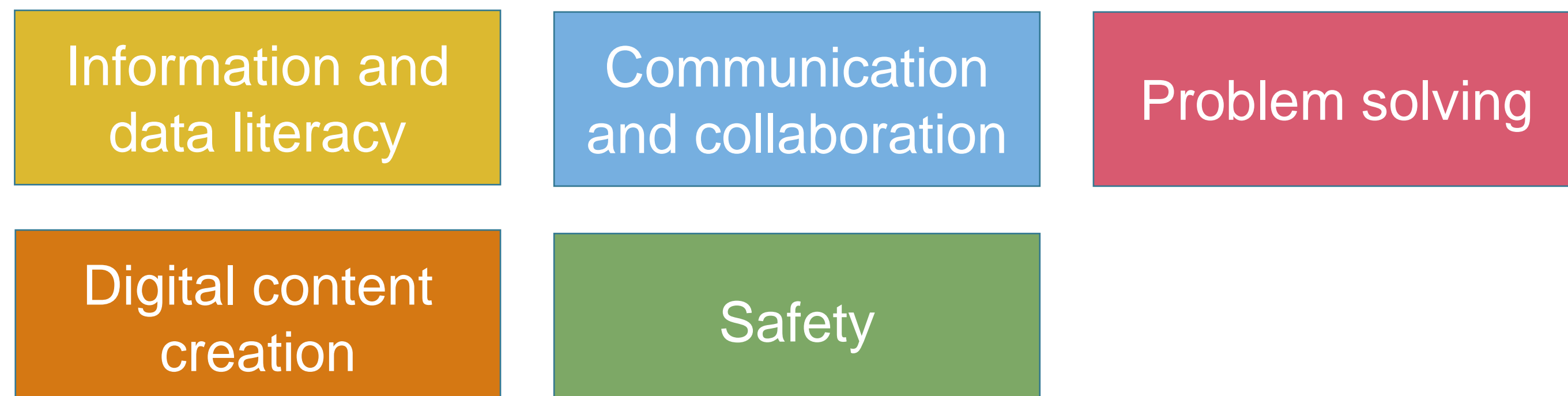
## INTRODUCTION

Digital transformation is having a major impact on the teaching-learning processes in Higher Education institutions.

University students must develop digital competences (DC) to learn in critical, confident, and responsible ways.



The European Union Digital Competence Framework (EU DigComp 2.2)<sup>3,4</sup> identified 21 DC organized in 5 areas:



**GOAL:** To assess and describe the level of DC of Higher Education students using the DigComp 2.2 framework.

Recognizing gaps between students' DC and the requirements of education and the labour market<sup>2</sup> allows universities to enhance DC learning through their education programs.

## METHODOLOGY

### Participants and procedure:

154 students from the University of the Balearic Islands: 74% women, mean age 22.2 years (SD= 5.15). Degree courses: Labour relations (11%), Psychology (20%), Hotel management (34%), Social work (35%). Data was collected during class using Qualtrics.

### Instruments:

#### • EU Digital Skills Assessment Tool<sup>1</sup>

Six proficiency levels:

1-2= basic; 3-4= intermediate; 5-6= advanced.

#### • 6-items ad hoc questionnaire on students' perceptions of DC

Item e.g.: 'I'm interested in developing my digital competences'.

Likert-type scale: 1 (not at all) to 5 (very much).

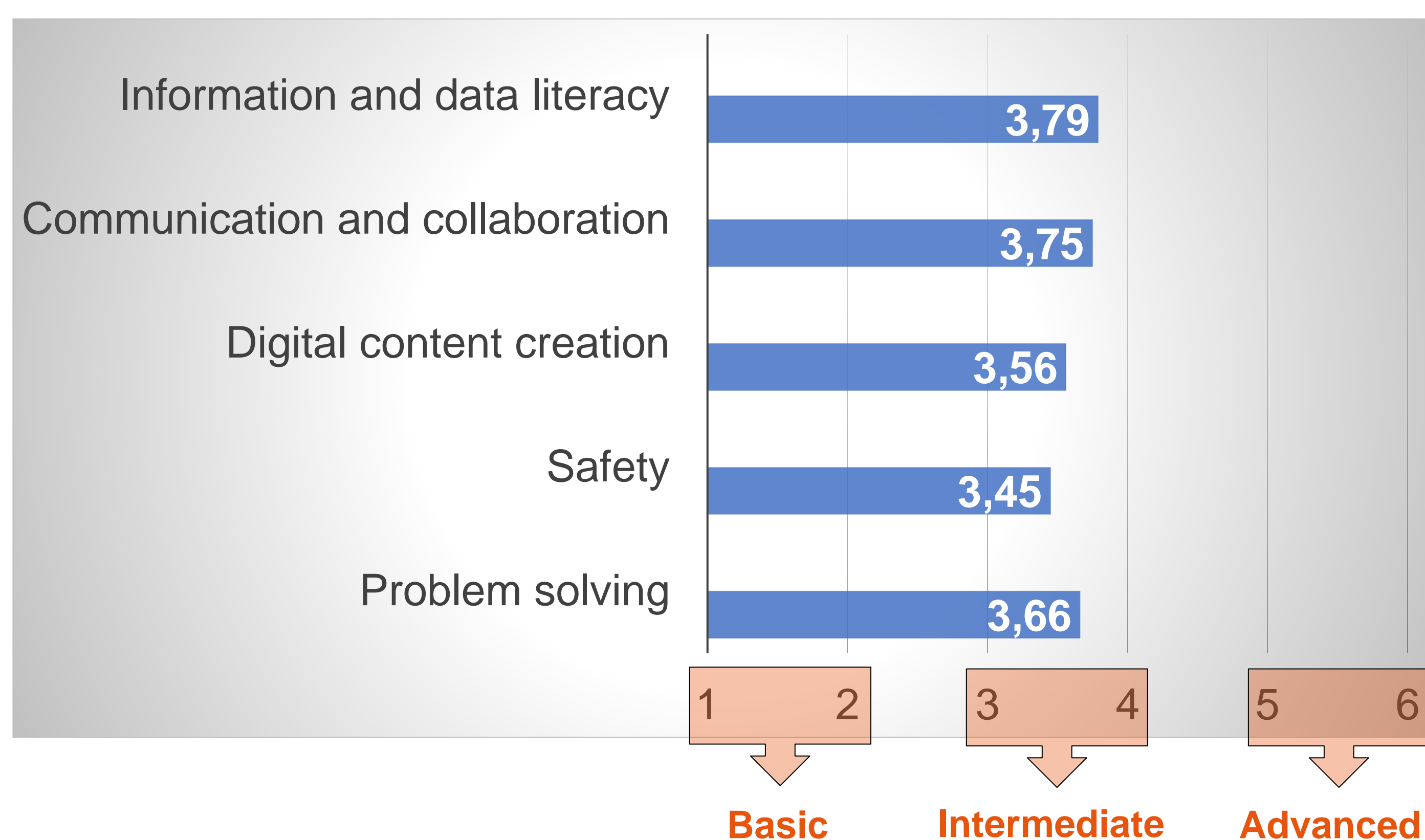
Cronbach alpha= 0.68.

### Data analyses:

Descriptive analyses with software Jamovi 2.3.28.

## RESULTS

### Students' level of DC:



### Students' perceptions of DC:



## DISCUSSION

- Most university students are “digital native”, however they do not show an advanced level of DC.
- Most of the students have an intermediate level of DC. Information and data literacy is their most developed DC. Security is their least developed DC.
- Universities have the mission to create opportunities for students to develop DC during their courses.
- Assessing DC of university students through the DigComp framework allows identifying training needs.

## REFERENCES

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