



Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition



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#DigitalSkills

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In a nutshell

The Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition mobilises companies, non-for profit organisations, educational providers, social partners and Member States in Europe who work together to tackle the lack of digital skills in Europe. The aim is to ensure that everyone acquires the digital skills they need to remain productive and employable and included.

The Coalition :

mobilises actors who **pledge to** take action to train and reskill Europeans at large as well as the labour force in all sectors – e.g. health care, farming, education, accounting, engineering, retail and technology.

encourages **National or Local Digital Skills and Jobs Coalitions**, which carry out actions to train more digital experts, reskill and upskill the labour force and provide citizens with the digital skills they need for their lives in their regions or countries.

invites Member States to develop comprehensive **national digital skills strategies** by mid-2017.

promotes **best practices** in digital skills training with the purpose of scaling and replicating them throughout Europe.

disseminates information about available **EU funds** e.g. European Structural and Investment Funds, Youth Employment Initiative, Erasmus+ etc. for the development of digital skills.

50%



100%

Expected outcomes by 2020



Train 1 million young people for vacant digital jobs through internships, apprenticeships and short-term training programmes.



Support the upskilling and retraining of the workforce and in particular take concrete measures to support small and medium enterprises (SMEs) who face specific challenges in attracting and retaining digital talent as well as retraining their workforce.



Modernise education and training to provide all students and teachers with the opportunity to use digital tools and materials in their teaching and learning activities and to develop and upgrade their digital skills.



Reorient and make use of available funding to support digital skills and carry out awareness-raising about the importance of digital skills for employability, competitiveness and participation in society.



Digital skills in numbers

Digital skills involve a number of abilities people need in their lives ranging from finding information on the internet and sharing online messages to creating digital content such as coding apps. In 2016 one in five Europeans (19%) had no digital skills never having used the internet. 27% had low digital skills and only 56% had adequate digital skills for the digital world they live in.

More than 70 million people in Europe had no digital skills at all.

Europe lacks digitally skilled persons to fill job vacancies in all sectors and for all types of jobs, with 37% of the labour force lacking adequate digital skills – i.e. farmers, bank employees, factory workers alike – has insufficient digital skills. Europe may miss out on up to 500,000 ICT professional jobs by 2020. Yet unemployment among young people of 15-24 years old is at almost 20% in the EU.



Andrus Ansip, Vice-President for the Digital Single Market said:

"Allowing more people to develop digital skills is like giving a ticket to the digital economy. We cannot build the Digital Single Market in Europe without addressing the digital skills gap. The launch of the Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition is a milestone in our joint effort to increase everyone's digital skills in Europe."



A clear focus

The Coalition tackles digital skills gaps at all levels, from high-level information, communication and technology (ICT) specialist skills to the skills needed by all Europeans to live, work and participate in a digital economy and society. This is crucial for Europe to remain competitive and for our society to remain inclusive in the digital age.

Actions of the Coalition target four different groups:

Digital skills for all:

developing digital skills for all Europeans to play an active role in the digital society;

Digital skills for labour force:

developing digital skills for the digital economy e.g. upskilling and reskilling workers, jobseekers; actions on career advice and guidance.

Digital skills for ICT professionals:

developing high level digital skills for ICT professionals in all industry sectors

Digital skills in education:

transforming teaching and learning of digital skills in a lifelong learning perspective, including the training of teachers.



National and Local Coalitions

National and Local Coalitions are the reflection of the Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition at regional or national level in a country. They bring together ICT and ICT-using companies, education and training providers, non-profit organisations, local, regional and national public administrations, public and private employment services and social partners.

What do they do? Partners of the National or Local Coalitions take action to bring digital skills and competences to all levels of education and training. They support teachers and educators and promote active involvement of business and other organisations. The members join forces in areas such as increasing industry-led training, certifying skills, improving school and university curricula, and raising awareness about ICT careers, especially among young people and women.



How to get involved?

1

All organisations can **become members** of the Coalition by endorsing the objectives and principles of the **Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition Members Charter**

2

Members **make pledges** to take concrete action to address the digital skills gap. Pledges range from teacher training, reskilling jobseekers and actions targeting ICT professionals and labour force in different sectors to helping people learn digital skills. Collective pledges by several members are welcome.

3

Join an existing **National or Local Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition** or, where one might not exist yet, establish a **one**.

4

Share **best practices** which can be replicated and scaled up across Europe.

Get in touch!

The Secretariat of the Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition – led by DIGITALEUROPE, European Schoolnet and Telecentre Europe – supports the European Commission with the work around the Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition.

The Secretariat can help you to set up your initiative, connect your organisation with potential partners and projects in other sectors, or advise you how to set up new National Coalitions.

To get more information about the Coalition and follow its development you can visit our webpage, join our **LinkedIn community**, follow us on **Twitter** and **Facebook** or send an **email** the Secretariat.

