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The European Commission is promoting various initiatives aimed at increasing training in digital skills for the workforce and for consumers; modernising education across the EU; harnessing digital technologies for learning and for the recognition and validation of skills; and anticipating and analysing skills needs.

A strong digital economy is vital for innovation, growth, jobs and European competitiveness. The spread of digital is having a massive impact on the labour market and the type of skills needed in the economy and in the society.

- It is changing the structure of employment, leading to the automation of "routine" tasks and to the creation of new and different types of jobs.
- It is leading to the need for more skilled ICT professionals in all sectors of the economy. It is estimated that there will be 825 000 unfilled vacancies for ICT professionals by 2020.
- It is leading to the need for digital skills for nearly all jobs where ICT complements existing tasks. In the near future 90% of jobs - in careers such as engineering, accountancy, nursing, medicine, art, architecture, and many more - will require some level of digital skills.
- It changes the way we learn by fostering online communities, by enabling personalised learning experiences, by supporting the development of soft skills such as problem solving, collaboration and creativity, and by making learning fun.
- It is leading to the need for every citizen to have at least basic digital skills in order to live, work, learn and participate in the modern society.

While digital technologies gradually embrace wider parts of everyday life, 60% of students never use digital equipment in their classroom. The full potential for improving education through ICT in Europe remains yet to be discovered and this is why the European Commission is developing policy and supporting research to make learners fit for 21st century life and work.

Initiatives to create growth and jobs in Europe

- The [Grand Coalition for Digital Jobs](#) [2].
- The Web Entrepreneurs [Leaders Club](#) [3] brings together world-class web entrepreneurs to

strengthen the web entrepreneurial culture in Europe as well as a European network of web business accelerators.

- [ICT for a better education](#) [4].
- [Coding](#) [5] and its [EU code Week](#) [6].

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Links

[1] http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/sites/digital-agenda/files/Computer_hands.jpg

[2] <http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/digital-jobs-0>

[3] <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/node/50853>

[4] <http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/ict-education>

[5] <http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/coding-21st-century-skill>

[6] <http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/eu-code-week>