



Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition

In a nutshell

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

The challenge

Our countries are becoming more and more digitised. Everyone needs digital skills not only to work but also to take part in the society. With the introduction of ever more sophisticated digital technologies, having sufficiently skilled people to develop and use these technologies is essential.

Today, only 57% have the digital skills needed for the digital world we live in. One in six Europeans aged 16-74 had no digital skills at all and one in four of that group only had a low level of digital skills.

Furthermore, while 90% of jobs require basic digital competences, 35% of the labour force lacks them. There are also more than 400,000 open vacancies for ICT specialists in the EU and 38% of companies report that the lack of digital skills impacts their performance.



What does the Coalition do?

The Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition:

- > mobilises actors who **pledge** to take action to train and reskill Europeans at large as well as the labour force in all sectors – for example healthcare, farming, education, accounting, engineering, retail, banking and technology.
- > encourages **National or Local Digital Skills and Jobs Coalitions**, which carry out actions to train more digital experts, to reskill and upskill the labour force and provide Europeans with the digital skills they need for their lives in their regions or countries.
- > invites Member States to develop and implement comprehensive **national digital skills strategies**.
- > 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 or Erasmus+ for the development of digital skills.



The Commission also encourages all digital skills stakeholders to get involved in and promote the following initiatives:

- > The **Digital Opportunity Traineeships** initiative provides cross-border traineeships for up to 6,000 students and recent graduates between 2018 and 2020. The aim is to give students of all disciplines the opportunity to get hands-on digital experience in fields demanded by the market. The initiative is run through Erasmus+ – students can find traineeship placements and companies can post their offers on ErasmusIntern.org.
- > The annual **European Digital Skills Awards** aims to showcase initiatives that are improving the digital skills of citizens, the labour force, ICT professionals and in education. The projects should be original, but be up-scalable and replicable in other countries and sectors.
- > **EU Code Week**, 6-21 October 2018, is a voluntary grass-root movement promoting coding and related tech activities. The aims are to show how people can bring ideas to life with code, make programming more visible and bring motivated people together to learn. Mariya Gabriel, European Commissioner for the Digital Economy and Society, has committed to scale up the participation in EU Code Week to reach 50% of all schools in Europe by 2020. Involvement in the initiative is intended to serve as an ice-breaker to a longer-term commitment and help speed up innovation in education systems by improving teaching and learning. Everyone is welcome to organise Code Week events and to add their events to the codeweek.eu map.



Expected outcomes by 2020

The Goals of the Coalition are to:



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 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.



Results

- > In the first year, the Coalition's activities reached **several million citizens** with over 3.7 million trainings in digital skills provided, over a million digital skills certifications, 4,500 events which reached over a million citizens and over 9,000 job placements.
- > By mid-2018, **21 Member States** had **launched National Coalitions** for digital skills: Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.
- > **Hundreds of best practice projects** on digital skills, which have been selected through the Digital Skills Awards, the Digital Champions model projects and through other initiatives are now available on the Coalition's website.
- > In mid-2018 the Coalition had about **400 members and more than 100 pledges** have been made.
- > Today a majority of the Member States have **digital skills strategies** or equivalent.
- > The **Commission's proposal for the EU budget for the future** foresees a coherent and comprehensive support for building up the digital skills needed in Europe. Funding is envisaged for all aspects of digital skills development – from basic to advanced digital skills – through a variety of programmes, including the new Digital Europe Programme, the European Social Fund+, Erasmus+, HorizonEU, the Globalisation and Adjustment Fund. These revised EU instruments will all ensure that Europeans can benefit from the digital transformation and that no one is left behind.

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 Coalitions

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

Partners of the National 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.

In mid-2018, National Coalitions were set up in 21 Member States.

The Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition Governing Board

The **Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition Governing Board** provides strategic leadership and gives high-level advice to improve the functioning and the impact of the Coalition as well as monitoring its overall progress. The Governing Board advocates the views of the Coalition partners at European level, and acts as a link between pledgers, national Coalitions and social partners. The 12 members of the Board represent all stakeholder groups in the Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition: pledging members, national coalitions and social partners.



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

Organisations can also **join an existing National Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition** or, where one might not exist yet, establish one.

4

All organisations can share **best practices** which can be replicated and scaled up across Europe and take part in the annual European Digital Skills Awards.

Get in touch!

Contact the Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition team at the European Commission if you need help to set up your initiative, connect your organisation with potential partners and projects in other sectors, or advise you how to set up a National Coalition.

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 (CNECT-DIGITAL-SKILLS@ec.europa.eu).



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