Home > The Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition

Digital Single Market

The Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition

The Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition brings together Member States, companies, social partners, non-profit organisations and education providers, who take action to tackle the lack of digital skills in Europe.

All organisations who take action to boost digital skills in Europe can become members [1] of the Coalition by endorsing the objectives and principles of the Coalition as laid out in the members Charter [2]. They can also pledge to take action [3] to carry out initiatives to tackle the digital skills gap. Actions [4] range from training unemployed people and giving MOOCs for teachers to giving coding classes for children and cutting edge training for ICT specialists.

The Coalition also shares digital skills initiatives [5], which can be replicated and scaled up across Europe. In December 2016, 16 finalists [6] were selected and four outstanding projects [7] were awarded the first European Digital Skills Awards [8].

Member States can support collaboration between the different actors in their country on developing digital skills by bringing them together in national coalitions [9].

In its new Skills Agenda for Europe [10] the Commission asked all Member States to develop national digital skills strategies by mid-2017 and to set up national coalitions to support their implementation. To support the development of national strategies, a group composed of Member State experts has put together a menu of challenges to be addressed and potential actions that could form part of a digital skills strategy – the so-called "shared concept [11]". A set of best practices [5], has also been collected and linked to it.

The European Commission monitors Member States' digital progress, including digital skills, in the European Digital Progress Report. [12]

Download and read the Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition in a nutshell [13]

Who or what does the Coalition target?

The Coalition tackles the need for digital skills of four broad groups:

- Digital skills for all – developing digital skills to enable all citizens to be active in our digital society
- Digital skills for the 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

What should the Coalition achieve?

By 2020, the Coalition hopes to achieve the following higher level goals:

- Train 1 million young unemployed people for vacant digital jobs through internships/traineeships, 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](#) [14] and carry out awareness-raising about the importance of digital skills for employability, competitiveness and participation in society.

The digital skills gap in Europe

Having a digitally skilled labour force and population, more broadly, is crucial for the creation of a [Digital Single Market](#) [13] in Europe and for receiving its benefits, for European competitiveness and for an inclusive digital society.

Currently, however, 44% of European citizens do not have basic digital skills. 37% of people in the labour force – farmers, bank employees, and factory workers alike – also lack sufficient digital skills, despite the increasing need for such skills in all jobs.

Europe also lacks skilled ICT specialists to fill the growing number of job vacancies in all sectors of the economy. A crucial issue underpinning this is the need to modernise our education and training systems, which currently do not prepare young people sufficiently for the digital economy and society, and to move to a life-long learning approach so that people can adapt their skills sets throughout their life-times as needed.

Get in touch

To get more information about the Coalition join our [LinkedIn community](#) [15]follow us on[Twitter](#) [16] and [Facebook](#) [17] or send an [email](#) [18] to the Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition Secretariat.

Published:
10 October 2014
Last update:
12 June 2017
Team responsible
[DG CONNECT](#) [19]
Share this page

Source URL: https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/digital-skills-jobs-coalition?qt-blogs_twitter=1

Links

[1] https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/become-member-digital-skills-and-jobs-coalition

[2] https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/sites/digital-agenda/files/digital_skills_and_jobs_coalition_members_charter_0.pdf

[3] https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/pledges-action

[4] http://pledgeviewer.eu/

[5] https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/digital-skills-initiatives

[6] https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/16-outstanding-projects-european-digital-skills-award-2016-final

[7] https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/four-outstanding-projects-winners-european-digital-skills-award-2016

[8] https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/apply-now-new-european-digital-skills-award-2016

[9] https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/national-local-coalitions

[10] http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1223

[11] https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/shared-concept-national-digital-skills-strategies

[12] https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/europes-digital-progress-report-2017

[13] https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/digital-skills-and-jobs-coalition-nutshell

[14] https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/potential-funding

[15] https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4943197

[16] https://twitter.com/digitalskillseu?lang=en

[17] https://www.facebook.com/DigitalSkillsEU/

[18]
mailto:katarzyna.koziol@digitaleurope.org

[19] https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments/communications-networks-content-and-technology_en