

Digital Single Market

Reports and studies 7 October 2013

Women active in the ICT sector

A study carried out by the European Commission has shown that bringing more women into digital jobs could create a €9 billion annual GDP boost in the EU. Policy change is especially needed because of an alarming drop in ICT female graduates (today only 29 out of every 1000 female graduate has a computing or related degree, and only 4 go on to work in ICT directly)

The study suggests four concrete ways to encourage this change:

- improving the image of the digital industry;
- empowering women in the sector by offering clearer career paths;
- improving access to seed and venture capital programs for female entrepreneurs;
- improving working conditions in the sector.

Commission Vice President Neelie Kroes commented: "*It is high time the IT sector ... allowed women a chance to help the sector and Europe's economy benefit from their enormous potential*".

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