

Digital Opportunity Traineeships - Background

Digital Opportunity Traineeships – an EU-funded training initiative – aims to help companies fill vacancies with digitally competent candidates. Digital skills are not only required in the ICT sector, but increasingly across all sectors. Knowledge of cybersecurity, data analytics and machine learning for example are needed in fields as diverse as banking and manufacturing, farming and health. A computer-literate workforce is also vital to maintain Europe’s global competitiveness in a fast-changing world.



Digital Opportunity
TRAINEESHIPS

Developing digital skills abroad

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WHY NOW?

Some 37% of the labour force – which includes farmers, marketing specialists, bank employees and factory workers – currently lack sufficient digital skills, despite an ever-increasing need for them. Around 40% of enterprises, many of them SMEs, report that they have difficulty to recruit ICT specialists. As a result, there are at least 350 000 open vacancies due to a mismatch between the skills candidates have and the actual skills required by employers. This supply-and-demand gap is expected to grow in all sectors of the economy.

The Digital Opportunity Traineeships project will tackle this economic and social challenge by tapping into the dynamism of the private sector. Since many educational systems are still in a process of modernisation and adding digital education and development to their curricula, the digital skills gained on the job have never been more important.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The initiative, which is funded by the European Commission’s Horizon 2020 programme and implemented through highly successful **Erasmus+ Programmes**, will enable participants to gain valuable work experience through traineeships with businesses abroad. These cross-border traineeships will be made available to students from all disciplines keen to develop their digital skills.

Digital Skills
and
Jobs Decision

Digital Opportunity Traineeship

Knowledge of digital skills also improves the life opportunities of citizens. For students and recent graduates, temporary work placements could provide a unique chance to develop digital skills at a faster pace than could be achieved through formal education, and increase their employability. To this end, the EUR 10 million the Digital Opportunity Traineeships initiative will provide working experience in the digital field to up to 6 000 university students and recent graduates in 2018-20.

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