Digital skills and jobs

The European Commission is determined to tackle the digital skills gap and promote projects and strategies to improve the level of digital skills in Europe.

All Europeans need digital skills to study, work, communicate, access online public services and find trustworthy information. However, many Europeans do not have adequate digital skills. The Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI) shows that 4 out of 10 adults and every third person who works in Europe lack basic digital skills. There is also low representation of women in tech-related professions and studies, with only 1 in 6 ICT specialists and 1 in 3 science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) graduates being women.

The European Commission has set targets in the European skills agenda and the digital education action plan to ensure that 70% of adults have basic digital skills by 2025. These initiatives aim to reduce the level of 13-14 year-olds who underperform in computing and digital literacy from 30% (2019) to 15% in 2030.

The European Digital Skills and Jobs Platform is a new initiative launched under the Connecting Europe Facility Programme. It offers information and resources on digital skills, as well as training and funding opportunities.

Background

Over 70% of businesses have said that the lack of staff with adequate digital skills is an obstacle to
investment. Europe also faces a shortage of digital experts who can develop cutting-edge technologies for the benefit of all citizens.

A strong digital economy powered by Europeans with digital skills is vital for innovation, growth, jobs, and European competitiveness. The spread of digital technologies is having a massive impact on the labour market and the type of skills needed in the economy and in society. Member States, business, training providers, the European Commission and other organisations need to work together to tackle the digital skills gap.

To follow the development of the digital transition and the digital skills gap the Commission publishes DESI annually. It tracks Member States’ digital performance in different areas to monitor progress and pinpoint where further efforts are necessary.

Access the Digital Skills and Jobs Platform
European Skills Agenda
Digital Education Action Plan
Follow the latest progress and learn more about getting involved.
Follow the Commission's work on digital skills @DigitalSkillsEU

Latest

#EuropeDay 2022: closure of the Conference on the Future of Europe and European Year of Youth

On 29 and 30 April, the plenary session of the Conference on the Future of Europe met for the last time and endorsed a set of 49 detailed proposals covering a wide range of topics from climate change to health, migration and the EU around the world.

PRESS RELEASE | 22 February 2022
Commission to invest €292 million in digital technologies and cybersecurity
The Commission has opened the second set of calls for proposals of the Digital Europe Programme, which follows the adoption of the work programmes and a first set of calls in November 2021.

DIGIBYTE | 24 January 2022
EU Code Week breaks record for number of activities in 2021 with 78,000 events

The results of the most recent EU Code Week were announced: in 2021, EU Code Week set a new record with more than 78,000 activities organised worldwide.

PRESS RELEASE | 10 December 2021
Launch of new European online self-assessment tool for digital skills

Today the Commission has launched a new self-assessment tool that allows citizens to test their digital skills and access training opportunities appropriate for their needs.

Browse Digital Skills and Jobs
The EU has developed a range of policies and initiatives to increase digital skills in both the workforce and consumers.
The European Commission is aiming to modernise education and training by funding research and innovation and promoting digital technologies used for learning.

Digital skills initiatives

The Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition and other initiatives promote excellence in digital skills across different organisations, areas and countries.

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