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

Digital economy and society index (DESI)

European Skills Agenda

Digital Education Action Plan

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Latest

State of the Union: Commission proposes a Path to the Digital Decade to deliver the EU's digital transformation by 2030

The Commission has proposed this week a Path to the Digital Decade, a concrete plan to achieve the digital transformation of our society and economy by 2030. The proposed Path to the Digital Decade will translate the EU's digital ambitions for 2030 into a concrete delivery mechanism. It will set up a governance framework based on an annual cooperation mechanism with Member States to reach the 2030 Digital Decade targets at Union level in the areas of digital skills, digital infrastructures, digitalisation of businesses and public services. It also aims to identify and implement large-scale

digital projects involving the Commission and the Member States.
DIGIBYTE | 20 May 2021
Digital Skills and Jobs Platform: the one-stop-shop to close Europe's digital skills gap

National stakeholders and the European Commission have joined forces to create the Digital Skills and Jobs Platform to accelerate digital upskilling in Europe.

PRESS RELEASE | 09 March 2021
Europe's Digital Decade: Commission sets the course towards a digitally empowered Europe by 2030

The Commission recently presented a vision, targets and avenues for a successful digital transformation of Europe by 2030. This is also critical to achieve the transition towards a climate neutral, circular and resilient economy. The EU's ambition is to be digitally sovereign in an open and interconnected world, and to pursue digital policies that empower people and businesses to seize a human centred, sustainable and more prosperous digital future. This includes addressing vulnerabilities and dependencies as well as accelerating investment.

DIGIBYTE | 09 February 2021
EU Code Week organisers register over 72,000 activities for the second year in a row

Despite the challenges that schools around Europe and the world faced in 2020, over 3.4 million students and teachers from 84 countries joined the EU Code Week initiative and took part in more than 72,000 coding activities. The next edition of EU Code Week will take place from 9 to 24 October 2021.

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Big Picture

Digital skills

The EU has developed a range of policies and initiatives to increase digital skills in both the workforce and consumers.

Dig deeper

Digital learning and ICT in education

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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