Digital skills and jobs coalition

The Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition tackles the digital skills gap by bringing together Member States, companies and organisations.

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Become active

All organisations who take action to boost digital skills in Europe can become members of the Coalition by registering on the pledge viewer (https://pledgeviewer.eu/) and pledging to take actions to tackle the digital skills gap. Actions can range from training unemployed people, hosting massive open online courses (MOOCs) for teachers, offering coding classes for children or cutting edge training for ICT specialists.


Each year the European Commission highlights initiatives that help improve the digital skills of citizens, the labour force, ICT professionals, and women and girls through the European Digital Skills
Awards.

Member States can support collaboration between different actors in their country by bringing them together in national coalitions.

**Governing Board**

The Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition Governing Board provides strategic leadership to the Coalition. The Board has 12 members who represent the Coalition partners at European level, and act as a link between pledgers, national coalitions and social partners. The Governing board adopted a [9-point action plan](https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/governing-board-digital-skills-and-jobs-coalition-adopts-action-plan-boost-coalition) in September 2018 outlining the next steps to expand the membership and to ensure that the EU’s future budget includes a focus on the development of digital skills.

**Who or what does the Coalition target?**

The Coalition tackles the need for digital skills of 4 broad groups:

1. **Digital skills for all**: developing digital skills to enable all citizens to be active in our digital society
2. **Digital skills for the labour force**: developing digital skills for the digital economy, e.g. upskilling and reskilling workers and jobseekers, and actions on career advice and guidance
3. **Digital skills for ICT professionals**: developing high level digital skills for ICT professionals in all industry sectors
4. **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?**

The Coalition hopes to achieve the following 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-sized 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.
- make use of available funding to support digital skills 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 is crucial for European competitiveness and an inclusive digital society.

However, 42% of European citizens [do not have basic digital skills](https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/desi-human-capital) 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 (https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/-/DDN-20200221-1) 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.

To help address the skills gap in Europe, the European Digital Skills and Jobs Platform (https://digital-skills-jobs.europa.eu/en/about/digital-skills-and-jobs-platform) was launched under the Connecting Europe Facility Programme. The platform aims to offer a number of resources, including:

- insights into EU and national initiatives and actions (https://digital-skills-jobs.europa.eu/en/actions) in digital skills and jobs
- training opportunities and career development support (https://digital-skills-jobs.europa.eu/en/opportunities)

Digital Economy and Society Index

The European Commission monitors Member States' digital progress and you can review the findings of the Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI) (https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/desi) for each country in the areas of:

- connectivity
- human capital/digital skills
- use of Internet services by citizens
- integration of digital technology by businesses
- digital public services
- research and development ICT

Pledge viewer
DESI (Digital Economy and Society Index)
Follow the latest progress and learn more about getting involved.
Latest News

PRESS RELEASE | 14 December 2023
EU to invest more than €760 million in digital transition and cybersecurity

The Commission has adopted this week the amendment of the Digital Europe work programmes for 2024, assigning €762.7 million in funding for digital solutions to benefit citizens, public administrations, and businesses.

DIGIBYTE | 14 December 2023
Over €760 million investment from the Digital Europe Programme for Europe’s digital transition and cybersecurity

The European Commission has adopted the amendment of the Digital Europe Programme Work Programmes 2023-2024

PRESS RELEASE | 24 November 2023
EU and Canada launch Digital Partnership to strengthen strategic cooperation

Today, the EU and Canada strengthened their relationship as strategic and like-minded partners in the digital field.

PRESS RELEASE | 21 November 2023
Commission opens calls to invest €42 million in digital skills

The European Commission has opened a new set of calls for proposals under the 2023-2024 Work Programmes of the Digital Europe Programme with a focus on advanced digital skills.

Browse Digital Skills and Jobs
The European Commission supports a number of initiatives to promote excellence in digital skills across different organisations, sectors and countries.

See Also

All organisations, businesses and government bodies are encouraged to make a concrete commitment to carry out actions to reduce the digital skills gap in Europe.


The Governing Board of the Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition provides leadership and advice to improve the functioning and the impact of the coalition.


National coalitions for digital skills and jobs work to improve digital skills at national, regional and local levels.

Source URL: https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/policies/digital-skills-coalition