

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 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.

The Coalition shares and promotes digital skills initiatives through the European Digital Skills Awards,

which can be replicated and scaled up across Europe.

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 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 four 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 objectives and principles of the Coalition are presented in the members' charter.

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. 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 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.

Digital Economy and Society Index

The European Commission monitors Member States' digital progress and you can review the findings of DESI (Digital Economy and Society Index) 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

Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition in a nutshell

DESI (Digital Economy and Society Index)

Follow the latest progress and learn more about getting involved.

Follow the Commission's work on digital skills @DigitalSkillsEU

Latest

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.

EU Code Week 2020 kicks off to promote skills for the digital future

The 8th edition of the European Code Week, a grass-roots initiative supported by the European Commission, which aims to make everyone familiar with coding and digital technologies in an entertaining and engaging way, opened on Thursday 8 October with an online event. From 10 to 25 October Code Week will feature lots of online activities and an original #CodeWeekDance challenge in which schools, teachers, libraries, businesses and many more, will have the opportunity to participate.

Achieving a European Education Area by 2025 and resetting education and training for the digital age

The Commission has adopted two initiatives that will strengthen the contribution of education and training to the EU's recovery from the coronavirus crisis, and help build a green and digital Europe. Digital Opportunity Traineeships initiative exceeds original targets

Following the launch of the Digital Opportunity Traineeships in 2018, today more than 7,200 traineeships have been registered through this programme. This exceeds the original target of 6,000 trainees by the end of 2020, more than one year in advance.

[Browse Digital Skills](#)

Related Content

Big Picture

Digital skills initiatives

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

See Also

Pledges for action

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

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

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>