Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition in the times of COVID-19

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Before the crisis
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More than **a third of Europe’s workforce does not have even the basic digital skills.**

Digital Economy and Society Index 2020
Over 70% of firms report access to talent as obstacle to new investment across the EU
Before the crisis

*Enterprises that had hard-to-fill vacancies for ICT specialists, 2017 (% enterprises that recruited or tried to recruit)*
By 2025, the EU and the Member States should have halved the current gap of 1 million digital specialists, including by putting a focus on increasing the participation of women.

European strategy for data
February 2020
Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition

- Member States and Regions
- Public and private companies
- European Commission
- Social Partners
- Training providers
- Education actors at all levels

500+ Members

24 National Coalition
COVID-19 triggered a large variety of actions, initiatives and cooperation on the National level

In many countries National Coalitions played a vital role

Actions by EC
  • Webinars & networking
  • Call for pledges
  • Helped to share success stories and good practices

New pledges & more cooperation
The Green Fox Academy (Czechia) is providing 400 people / workers with a free training course in HTML, CSS, Git, Github and JavaScript Foundations digital skills to be able to create a simple website and a web application at the end of the course.

Alteredu (Italy) will certify 1000 NEETs (Not in Education, Employment, or Training) to give them the possibility to get hired by companies.

Nvidia Deep Learning Institution will provide 200 self-paced courses for free to support small and medium-sized enterprises with the development of AI skills to help them build innovative, forward-thinking businesses.

ESkills Malta Foundation (Malta) will offer awareness training sessions on emerging technologies for ICT professionals in a train-the-trainer mode that could be used in their current business and work.
Good practice from the National Coalitions

**Elements of AI (Finland)**
A series of free online courses that introduces participants to the basics of artificial intelligence.

**Technology Ireland ICT Skillnet**
The agency offered online workshops many of them focused on cybersecurity to help businesses to protect themselves.

**Digital Innovation Hub Lombardy (Italy)**
This digital innovation hub provided extensive support to companies, in particular SMEs, during the COVID-19 pandemics.
Building the Digital Skills and Jobs Platform

PRIVATE

Networking area
Discussion forum
Collaboration space
Project co-creation

PUBLIC

Data / intelligence about skill needs
Repository of best practices
Training search engines
Funding opportunities
Assessment tools/certification
Learning resources
Sectorial focus (health, finance ...)
Technology focus (AI, cybersecurity, blockchain ...)

European Commission
Future opportunities

Digital Europe Programme

Recovery and Resilience Facility

Digital Skills and Jobs Platform & the DSJ Coalition

Digital Innovation Hubs
EU institutions alone won’t reach the critical mass. Partnerships, collaboration and involvement of stakeholders are necessary to ensure sufficient number of skilled IT professionals in Europe.
Thank you