



Advanced digital skills in the new policy initiatives

*“We will boost and refocus skills funding in the EU budget to ensure it is better linked to labour markets and **more focused on sectors crucial for the twin transitions.**”*

Commission President Ursula von der Leyen set the vision for digital skills in her political guidelines for the next European Commission 2024-2029

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Skills landscape

100 days initiatives

- Competitiveness Compass (29. January)
- Union of Skills (5. March)
- STEM Education Strategic Plan (5. March)
- Basic Skills Action Plan (5. March)

After the 100 days initiatives

- 2025 State of the Digital Decade Report (June 2025)
- Updated Digital Education Action Plan (2026)
- Updated European Education Area initiative
- Skills Portability initiative
- AI Continent (April 2025)
- Apply AI Strategy (Q3 2025)
- RTD Task Force on Startups and Scale-ups (Summer 2025)

DG CNECT Contributions

Union of Skills

1. High performing **digital skills academies**
2. Skills mobility and portability : development of a **framework for a certification mechanism** for modular learning credentials, piloted and tested in the digital skills academies
3. Actions on attracting **more girls and women** in digital and ICT profession
4. Attracting **third country nationals to the ICT** sector through international partnerships + digital partnerships
5. Skills intelligence : The **European Data Space for Skills** will provide access to granular skills data and skills analytics and forecasting services, thereby facilitating skills intelligence at both national and regional level..
6. **More robust data** for indicators **on cybersecurity** professionals

Digital Skills Academies – objectives

Create → increased supply of education and training programmes, practical experiences, scaling

Engage → strengthened ecosystem, catalyst for industry, promotion of curricula

Attract → international partnerships, return of talent, awareness & dissemination

➡ Upcoming: **Quantum, Artificial Intelligence, Virtual Worlds, Semiconductors**
Existing: **Cybersecurity**

STEM and Basic Skills

STEM Action Plan

1. European Advanced Digital Skills **Competitions** in cutting-edge digital technologies
2. Increasing offer of **joint degrees** (Bachelors, Masters and PhDs) in key digital areas and applied technologies & interdisciplinary degrees on the application of key digital techs in strategic sectors
3. Leverage our digital academies to allocate resources to **make it more attractive for researchers and STEM specialists to come back to Europe.**
4. **European EdTech for STEM** for sovereign solutions that are legislation-compliant, fair and transparent.

Basis Skills Action Plan

1. Targeted actions that enhance **awareness and preparedness of children, parents, educators** against cyber security threats.
2. Boosting EU online communities for educators through the work of the **Better Internet for Kids initiative** and
3. Incentivise, showcase, and spread grassroots teaching activities through **EU CodeWeek activities**, aiming at 100,000 activities per year.

Intervening along the continuum

Primary and secondary
education

Tertiary education

Professional upskilling
and reskilling

Knowledge & Community Building

Bringing Academia, Training, Research & Industry together

More Girls & Women in ICT

Skills Intelligence