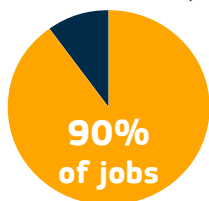European Commission

PLUGGING THE DIGITAL SKILLS GAP

June 2023
#EuropeanYearOfSkills

Digital skills are essential for people to participate in society, work, and achieve social inclusion. They are also crucial for the EU's economic growth and competitiveness. In addition, digital jobs offer more autonomy, skills development, job satisfaction, and usually come with better working conditions.
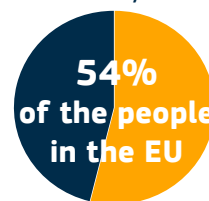
THE SITUATION

In the future, **90% of jobs** will require **digital skills.**

More than **1/3 of the EU's labour force** lack the digital skills required in most jobs.

Only **54% of the people in the EU** aged 16-74 can perform basic digital tasks.

More than **70% of businesses** report a lack of staff with adequate digital skills as an obstacle to investment.

The EU faces a critical **shortage** of **digital experts** including for cybersecurity and data analysis.
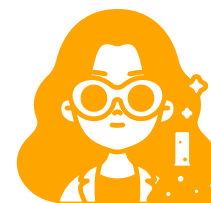
9.4 million ICT specialists are employed (4.6% total EU employment).

Less than 20% of ICT specialists and graduates are women.

Member States have planned **€2 billion** in **European Social Fund Plus** programmes and **€23 billion** in their **Recovery and Resilience plans** to support the development of digital skills.

Digital Europe invests **€580 million** to advance digital skills.

EU INITIATIVES TO BOOST DIGITAL SKILLS

- Digital skills are a priority of the **European Year of Skills** and the **Digital Education Action Plan 2021-2027.**

- The **European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan** and the **Digital Decade** set targets on digital skills by 2030:

at least 80%
of people in the EU with basic digital skills

20 million
ICT specialists employed with better gender equality.

- The Commission adopted two **proposals for Council recommendations on digital education and skills** and announced a **Cybersecurity Skills Academy.**

- The Commission is testing with several Member States a **European Digital Skills Certificate** to help people get their digital skills recognised across Europe by employers, governments, training providers, and more. The certificate will be rolled out in 2024.

- The **European Digital Competence Framework** (DigComp) maps the skills of people able to use technology. It supports policymaking, training design and certification. A **self-assessment tool** based on DigComp is also available in **Europass** and on the **Digital Skills and Jobs Platform**.

- Since the launch of the **Pact for Skills**, a flagship initiative under the **European Skills Agenda**, 18 **large-scale partnerships** have been set up with pledges to help develop the skills of at least 10 million workers including digital skills.

- The renewed **European Alliance for Apprenticeships** promotes apprenticeships for the green and digital transitions.

- The **Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition** brings together Member States, businesses, social partners, non-profit organisations and education providers on digital learning opportunities.

- The **Digital Education Hub** facilitates collaboration and best practices sharing among stakeholders in education and training.

- **Erasmus+** supports the development of digital skills through initiatives like **Centres of Vocational Excellence** and **Blueprint Alliances**.

EUROPEAN YEAR OF SKILLS