



Boosting Digital Skills in the EU Training the Workforce of the Future

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The European Union aims to become a strong digital economy driven by growth and innovation. Digitalisation will bring new opportunities for business and individuals but will also change the structure of employment leading to automation of routine tasks, creating new kinds of jobs, and even changing the way we learn and live.

However, Europe lacks digitally skilled persons to fit job vacancies (today 37% of the labour workforce lacks adequate digital skills¹ – i.e. farmers, bank employees and factory workers alike) and misses out on 500.000 ICT professional jobs by 2020². While youth unemployment is at one of its highest rates in history.

The European Commission has promoted diverse initiatives to tackle these issues such as the creation of the ‘Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition’ or the ‘Blueprint for Sectoral Cooperation on Skills’. Yet there are still many questions left unanswered - i.e. How will we empower women in the tech sector? Today only 30% of the 7 million working in ICT are female. How are we going to help low-skilled adults understand the digital services of the future? How will we solve the skills mismatch between the educational and working sector to successfully tackle unemployment? The working group of this topic will provide sensible and creative solutions for some of these questions and potentially give the Commission useful insights for further policymaking.

¹ Eurostat

² Eurostat