

Joining Forces to Make the Digital Single Market Strategy a Success

The stakeholders and partners that make up the European Coding initiative warmly welcome the European Commission's recognition of the critical importance of ensuring the uptake of digital skills in Europe.

The Commission's Digital Single Market Strategy, launched on May 6 by Vice President Andrus Ansip, rightly identifies the urgent need to address the e-skills gap in Europe. This ambitious strategy has the potential to significantly boost European competitiveness. If correctly implemented it could deliver an additional €415 billion worth of growth.

For this potential to come to fruition, however, it is clear that all Europeans will need the appropriate skills to embrace digital change. For no group is this truer than for our young people.

Ninety percent of all jobs in Europe already require some level of digital skills. It is imperative that we equip young Europeans with the skills to fill these positions. If we do not act, by 2020 up to 825,000 ICT vacancies could go unfilled in Europe.

Yet the reality in Europe today is that less than 15% of students have access in school to the kind of high-level ICT teaching they need. This must change. To share the benefits of technologies such as data analytics, Industry 4.0 and the Internet of Things (IoT), substantial investment in coding and e-skills training is required.

We believe the European Commission should take a leading role in advancing the digital skills strategy and in encouraging EU Member States to urgently reform curricula in order to facilitate the transition from education to work.

Moreover, it is essential that EU's latest Skills for Employability and Competitiveness initiative have a strong 'digital' component. We recommend considering the following points:

- Encouraging stronger commitments from EU Member States to implementing national e-skills policies and strategies.
- Encouraging the modernization of European education systems.
- Raising awareness of the socio-economic benefits of ICT promoting the image of ICT as a rewarding field of work.
- Raising awareness of newly emerging job profiles and the necessity of ICT skills across all industries.
- Engaging non-ICT industries in the discussions and acknowledging the reliance of all sectors on an ICT-skilled workforce.
- Securing EU funding for pan-European initiatives, scaling-up existing efforts and securing the sustainability of these projects.

From educational institutions to businesses, teachers, NGOs, governments, and parents, everyone has a role to play in empowering young Europeans with the skills they need for the



future. This is why the European Coding Initiative's partners are committed to raising awareness and providing training and resources across Europe.

The [All You Need is Code Initiative](#), endorsed by Commission Vice-President Andrus Ansip and by Commissioner Günther Oettinger, offers a whole range of tools – including lesson plans, industry training and professional certifications – destined to boost digital skills among young people, teachers, and adults. We have recently made available a new website in 6 European languages – Polish, English, French, Spanish, Italian and Dutch – to reach a greater audience. The partners of the initiative are also planning coding workshops across Europe during the [EU Code Week](#) in October 2015.

Let's join forces in making the Digital Single Market a success!

About the European Coding Initiative

The European Coding Initiative, or 'all you need is {C<3DE}', brings together a wide array of stakeholders to promote coding and computational thinking at all levels of education, as well as in more informal settings. The project was created in June 2014 under the auspices of the European Commission and is endorsed by Commission Vice-President Andrus Ansip and by Commissioner Günther Oettinger. It is supported by partners from the technology industry, including Microsoft, SAP, Liberty Global and Facebook. The initiative also involves not-for-profit organisations involved in the promotion of coding and computer science education, including CoderDojo, Code.org and European Schoolnet.



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All You Need Is Code

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