

EUROPEAN SKILLS AGENDA

Policy brief

Weblinks	European Skills Agenda (EU webpage) EU Communication on a European Skills Agenda for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience
Relevance	<input type="checkbox"/> National policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EU policy <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____
Briefing done by	Daniela Hackl (FFG)

Short summary of the policy

The European Skills Agenda is a five-year plan to help individuals and businesses develop more and better skills, and to put them to use.

It builds on actions set in the [EU Skills Agenda \(2016\)](#) and is linked to the Digital Decade Policy Programme 2030, also to the European Industrial Strategy when it comes to the availability of digital skills for the EU industry, mainly SMEs. Further it links to the European Recovery plan, the [NextGenerationEU](#) in preparing the European workforce for the tech-driven world, as well as educating the youth with necessary digital skills to meet the needs of the digital world and to boost youth employment.

The European Skills Agenda is formed of four building blocks (join forces, right skills for jobs, tools to support people in live long learning and unlock investments in skills) covering twelve specific actions.

Main objectives of the policy (in bullet points)

The main objectives of the Skills Agenda set for 2025 are related to lifelong learning. There are [indicators](#) defined for adults, low-qualified adults, jobseekers and the objectives cover basic digital skills, as well as opportunities for vocational training and education.

By putting skills at the heart of the European Policy Agenda until 2025, the Commission will

- Propose to work together under the Pact for Skills (meaning to support upskilling and reskilling to manage the green and digital transition)
 - Develop skills for jobs (linking to labour market and social needs)
 - Empower people to build up their skills by making learning opportunities more flexible and accessible
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Context and relation to DIGITAL EUROPE

When applying for projects funded under the Digital Europe Programme (DEP) SO4, proposers should consider and set a link to the European Digital Skills Agenda. The agenda describes a basic policy on skills for funding digital skills related activities under DEP. The objectives of the European Skills Agenda (see concrete KPIs) are in line with activities funded under DEP and proposals should set their objectives in accordance with the policy goals.

What parts of the Policy are directly related to specific objectives (SO) in DEP

The **European Skills Agenda** includes several actions that align with and can be directly linked to funded actions under the **DEP**, particularly those focusing on digital skills (mainly under SO4). Key parts include:

- **Pact for Skills (Action 1)**
Promoting partnerships between governments, businesses, and education providers to ensure coordinated efforts for digital upskilling, including using resources from the Digital Europe Programme.
- **Boosting Vocational Education and Training (Action 4)**
Enhancing digital competencies in VET systems by incorporating advanced digital tools and technologies into training programs, supported by Digital Europe funds.
- **Digital Skills Development (Action 6)**
Supporting training and upskilling in advanced digital technologies to address the shortage of digitally skilled professionals.
- **Lifelong Learning and Upskilling Pathways (Action 8)**
Facilitating continuous learning opportunities for workers to acquire new digital skills, especially for sectors heavily impacted by digital transformation.
- **Improving Access to Digital Skills Training (Action 9)**
Supporting the creation and expansion of specialised digital skills training courses, including short-term certifications, funded through the Digital Europe Programme

Which activities in the current DEP Work Programme contribute to meeting the objectives of the policy

Activities funded under SO4 – Advanced Digital Skills contribute to the European Digital Agenda goals.

The DIGITAL WP2025-27 invests EUR 125 million in skills and trainings under **SO4**. New digital skills academies in quantum, AI, virtual worlds, and chips, for excellence in education and training programmes and initiatives in key sectors and specific target groups (e.g. Digital skills in health, Destination Earth, Women in digital) are planned. Several of the SO4 actions focus on strengthening the EU's AI talent pool, and the new digital skills academy on AI will cover latest advancements, including generative AI.

Also, under **SO2** the Data Space for Skills and under **SO1** the work supposed to be delivered by AI factories contribute to reaching the goals of the Digital Skills Agenda.

EDIH (funded under **SO2**) also contribute to the development of Advanced Digital Skills and the list of areas of activity where Multi Country Projects are suggested to be funded also includes two areas related to skills which are *High-tech partnerships for digital skills through the Pact for Skills* and *Skills training in cybersecurity*

Please match any specific activity mentioned in the policy with concrete call topics from the current/upcoming DEP Work Programme

Activities funded under Digital Europe mainly contribute to those actions of the European Skills Agenda that ensure people have the right skills for jobs (Actions 2-8).

Relevant topics from the DEP WP25-27 that are linked to those actions are the following. There are also a few procurements in the WP25-27, which are not considered in this list:

- 4.1 Sectoral digital skills academies (Lump Sum)
- 4.2 Excellence in higher education and training programmes in key digital areas and applied technologies (Lump Sum)
- 4.3 ELEVATE: European League of Advanced Digital Skills Academies (CSA)
- 4.4 European Advanced Digital Skills Competitions (CSA)
- 4.8 EdTech accelerator (CSA)

Events

For finding related events, please check out the following online calenders: [Shaping Europe's digital future](#), [HADEA](#), [Digital Skills & Jobs Platform](#)