

EUROPEAN SKILLS AGENDA

Policy briefing

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: _____
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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

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

Context and relation to the Digital Europe Programme (DEP)

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.

Parts of the policy 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

Activities in the DEP Work Programme 2025-27 contributing to the objectives of the policy

Activities funded under DEP mainly contribute to those actions of the European Skills Agenda that ensure people have the right skills for jobs (Actions 2-8). There are also a few procurements in the WP25-27, which are not considered here.

DEP Call Topic	DEP Call	European Skills Agenda Action(s)	Reason
Sectoral digital skills academies	2, 4	Action 1 Action 6	Directly focused on large-scale reskilling/upskilling in key sectors.
ELEVATE: European League of Advanced Digital Skills Academies	2	Action 1 Action 2	Networks advanced skills academies and builds data/benchmarks on skill provision.

European Advanced Digital Skills Competitions	2	Action 1 Action 7	Boosts STEM participation, entrepreneurship, and skills excellence.
Digital Skills and Jobs Platform CSA	3	Action 9 Action 2	Coordinates certification and training, supporting learning accounts and skill intelligence.
EdTech Accelerator	3	Action 3 Action 4	Supports tools for large-scale up-skilling and modernising VET systems.
Excellence in higher education & training programmes in key digital areas	3, 4	Action 5 Action 6	Strengthens higher education in digital areas; supports transition skills.
Data Space for Skills	4	Action 2 Action 9	Supports skills intelligence and credential portability via skills data spaces.

Related policies and further information

The European Skills Agenda builds upon former actions of the Commission´s [2016 Skills Agenda](#). For tackling the skills and labour gaps it strongly connects to the [Union of Skills](#).

Check out the following online calendars for information on relevant events:
[Shaping Europe’s digital future](#), [HADEA](#), [Digital Skills & Jobs Platform](#)