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## 21st Century Skills and Digital Literacy: EU context for the DIGA Learning Programme

*Creativity, entrepreneurship, learning-to-learn, digital competence and other 21st century skills and competences are emerging as more and more important for innovation, growth and participation in a digital society and economy.*

*The key challenge for research and policy is to make sure that supply and demand for new skills and competences are matched: How can or should these new skills and competences be defined, described, thought, acquired and recognised?*

Learning and skills are key contributors to society and the economy. As modern societies and economies are changing due to, amongst others, globalisation and technological progress, a fundamental transformation of education and training (E&T) throughout Europe is required to deliver the knowledge and skills needed for growth, employment and participation in society. This forms an important part of the Europe 2020 agenda and its various flagships and policy initiatives.

**The New Skills Agenda presented by the European Commission in 2016 (COMM 2016 – 381) is centred around three key work strands:**

1. Improving the quality and relevance of skills formation
2. Making skills and qualifications more visible and comparable
3. Improving skills intelligence and information for better career choices

The Commission has made it clear, that EU-level actions alone will not suffice. Success depends on the commitment and expertise of many players: national governments, regions, local authorities, businesses and employers, workers and civil society, and people themselves, taking up opportunities to make the best of their talents. In particular, social partners will have a key role to play in ensuring the Agenda is successfully developed and implemented, and keeps pace with the fast-changing needs of our labour market and society.

The Commission proposes **10 actions** to be taken forward over the next two years. A number are announced with the adoption of the new Skills Agenda for Europe on 10 June 2016:

- A **Skills Guarantee** - renamed '[Upskilling Pathways: New Opportunities for Adults](#)' - aims to help adults acquire a minimum level of literacy, numeracy and digital skills and/or acquire a broader set of skills by progressing towards an upper secondary qualification or equivalent.
- A review of [the European Qualifications Framework](#) and the [related annexes](#) for a better understanding of qualifications and to make better use of all available skills in the European labour market.
- The '[Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition](#)' to support co-operation among education, employment and industry stakeholders.
- The '[Blueprint for Sectoral Cooperation on Skills](#)' to improve skills intelligence and address skills shortages in specific economic sectors.





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Subsequent actions include:

- A revision of the [Europass Framework](#), offering people better and easier-to-use tools to present their skills and get useful real-time information on skills needs and trends which can help with career and learning choices. A [proposal](#) to revise the Europass Decision was adopted by the Commission in October 2016.
- A '[Skills Profile Tool Kit for Third Country Nationals](#)' to support early identification and profiling of skills and qualifications of asylum seekers, refugees and other migrants.
- **Making [Vocational Education and Training \(VET\) a first choice](#)** by enhancing opportunities for VET learners to undertake a work based learning experience and promoting greater visibility of good labour market outcomes of VET.
- A review of the [Recommendation on Key Competences](#) to help more people acquire the core set of skills necessary to work and live in the 21<sup>st</sup> century with a special focus on promoting entrepreneurial and innovation-oriented mind-sets and skills.

**The DIGA Learning Programme** has been developed in this context to provide an opportunity for *Enterprise Trainers and Educators* across Europe to enhance their digital knowledge and understanding in order to consider how to integrate digital skills, tools and processes into their business start-up and development training and support activities.

Based on research carried out by partners from the UK, Bulgaria, Ireland, Lithuania, Norway, Slovenia, Spain that analysed the needs and experiences of learners considering entrepreneurship as a career option, entrepreneurs running their own small businesses and their teachers and advisers, a 5-module learning programme has been designed.

The diga Learning Programme was launched 16 October 2016 in Brussels and includes the following five (5) modules:

1. Enhancing Digital Awareness and Knowledge
2. The Role and Use of Digital Technologies and their Benefits to Business
3. Making Digital Deliver for the Start-up and Small Business
4. Enabling and Supporting the Development of an Entrepreneurial Digital Strategy
5. Designing Integrated (Digital Competence) Entrepreneur Support / Programmes

Each module involves sharing information and knowledge as well as small group and individual activities. Reports, case studies and a range of learning tools are included throughout the programme

Thank you for your interest in the DIGA project.

<http://digaproject.eu/>

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