



Irish Digital Skills
and Jobs Coalition

Mary Cleary,
Deputy CEO,
ICS & ICS Foundation



EU Launch 1st Dec, 2016



DIGITAL SINGLE MARKET
Digital Economy & Society



A large group of people, including officials and representatives from various organizations, are posed for a group photo on a stage. Behind them is a large blue screen displaying the text "Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition". To the left, another screen shows the coalition's logo and the text "Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition".

Digital Skills & Jobs Coalition

All organisations, groups or government bodies **taking action to boost digital skills** in Europe can become members

#DSJCoalition

Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition



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National Coalitions and emerging initiatives

There are currently 17 National Coalitions and emerging initiatives and more are expected to be launched in 2017.

- [Belgium](#)
- [Bulgaria](#)
- [Cyprus](#)
- [Czech Republic](#)
- [Estonia](#)
- [Hungary](#)
- [Ireland](#)
- [Latvia](#)
- [Lithuania](#)
- [Luxembourg](#)
- [Malta](#)
- [Poland](#)
- [Romania](#)
- [Slovakia](#)
- [Slovenia](#)
- [Spain](#)
- [UK](#)



Irish Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition

ICS invited by CEPIS and supported by the European Commission to coordinate the formation of a national coalition with the objectives of:

- Supporting the current workforce to become professionals with a range of skills needed to adapt in a rapidly changing world
- Preparing young people to be the effective workforce of the future

Track record in the field

What is it?

- Multi-stakeholder partnership
- Seeks to tackle shortage of digital skills in Europe
- Considering the growing demand for:
 - ICT related professionals
 - Digital skills in all industries
 - Digital inclusion for all citizens
- Aligned to 2016 Skills Agenda for Europe

- Train
- Re-skill
- Up-skill

the labour force with the digital skills they need to remain employable and to gain productivity

Coalition Objectives

The Irish Coalition will support the EU goals to:

- **Educate and train** more young people for digital professions to create a large pool of talented young digital professionals, with increased female participation
- **Up-skill and re-skill** the European labour force with the digital skills they need to remain productive in the jobs they have and to become employable for new ones
- **Modernise our education** and training systems for the digital age, bringing digital skills and competences to all levels of education and training.
- **Improve the digital skills** of all citizens so that they can play an active role in modern society, strengthening social inclusion.



European
Commission



Digital
Skills EU



ICS
Foundation

The Irish Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition was launched on 27th April, 2017. It is a multi-stakeholder partnership focussed on tackling the digital skills shortage and on upskilling everybody to take advantage of the digital economy and society. Representatives of academia, all education sectors, industry, the public service, the not-for-profit sector have come together to ensure that Ireland joins in the European effort to leverage the rewards of digitisation.

WHAT'S NEW

Keep informed with the latest Tech news.

News



Webinar: Digital skills development actions and the use of ESF and ERDF funds

The **Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition** brings together governments, companies, social partners, NGOs and education providers to tackle the digital skills gap in Europe.

Organisations involved in the Coalition undertake various actions to boost

Events



Webinar: Digital skills development actions and the use of ESF and ERDF funds

The **Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition** brings together

ICS as coordinator of the coalition will:

- Promote the coalition and get all stakeholders on board
- Create a one-stop shop portal, listing initiatives, events, resources that support coalition objectives
- Collate data and communicate updates on existing initiatives
- Exchange best-practice with coalitions in other European countries
- Communicate EU funding calls
- Support the professionalism agenda of ICS

Official Launch 27th April

Official Launch on 27th April, 2017

Minister Mary Mitchell O'Connor

EC – André Richier

DSJC EU Secretariat Pia Grochowsky

Pledge ceremony

Partners so far...



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- DBEI
- DES
- DCCAE
- DPER
- Digital Skills Academy
- DCU
- TAP/Bridge21
- CESI
- UL
- Technology-Ireland
- Solas

- Xylinx
- NTMA
- CyberActive
- FIT
- Ibec
- INOU
- IVI
- PDST
- SQS
- TLCF
- TCD
- TechIreland

A Few Words from our Champions



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LORD DAVID PUTTNAM

“As Ireland’s Digital Champion I warmly welcome, and am only too happy to support the establishment of the Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition with its mandate to create change, to support the current workforce in becoming professionals with the range of skills needed to adapt and prosper in a rapidly changing world. This is an important time for the country to establish an effective coalition; synchronizing efforts at a national level to make technology available to all - to equip Ireland’s young people to be competitive on a world stage. The coalition provides an opportunity to promote national activities and endeavors at the European level. Our National Coalition will open Ireland to the exchange of best practice with National Coalitions in other member countries. This is an exciting ambition, and I look forward to watching the outcome as things develop.”



E-HEALTH IRELAND

“eHealth Ireland welcomes the formation of an Irish Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition as part of the New Skills Agenda for Europe. eHealth Ireland supports the fulfillment of the coalition’s objectives of:

1. Developing digital skills to enable all citizens to be active in our digital society
2. Transforming teaching and learning of digital skills in a lifelong learning perspective, including the training of teachers
3. Developing digital skills for the digital economy, e.g. upskilling and reskilling workers, jobseekers; actions on career advice and guidance
4. Developing high-level digital skills for ICT professionals in all industry sectors

The objectives related to digital adoption among all citizens complements the eHealth Strategy for Ireland bringing improved population wellbeing through increased and efficient use of technology. Objectives associated with strengthening professional skills are also part of the eHealth Strategy to enable a more effective health service. eHealth Ireland endorses the Irish Computer Society (ICS) as coordinator of an Irish Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition of stakeholder partners, and supports the effort to collaborate and share best practice within Ireland and across other EU member states. eHealth Ireland pledges a commitment to this partnership by supporting ICS activities such as IT Professionals Day and Tech Week that promote the coalition objectives.”

A Few Words from our Champions



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MINISTER OF JOBS, ENTERPRISE AND INNOVATION, MARY MITCHELL O'CONNOR, T.D.

“ I fully endorse the formation of a National Coalition for Ireland as part of the new EU National Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition. This innovative initiative is well aligned with the Irish National ICT Skills Action Plan and the Digital Strategy for Schools. Their aim is to increase the supply of ICT professionals and improve the digital lifelong learning skills of all citizens. Digital skills competency is needed by individuals in occupations across all sectors of the economy, within both small and large enterprises. E- leadership skills will help realise the potential of ICT technologies to drive future business and employment growth.

I welcome the lead role of the Irish Computer Society as co-ordinator of a national coalition of stakeholder partners. I would encourage the collaboration of all stakeholders in the Coalition — including State agencies, employers, professional bodies, and education and training providers. The Irish Government is fully supportive of the work of the European Commission aimed at boosting digital skills and talent in Europe. ”



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS, CLIMATE ACTION & ENVIRONMENT.

“ I am writing to convey the support of the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment for Ireland's National Coalition under the new EU Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition initiative which is being established by the Irish Computer Society.

We welcome the opportunities presented by the National Coalition for increased collaboration, co-operation and sharing of best practice both within Ireland and across the broader European coalition.

The Department's National Broadband Plan and National Digital Strategy are just two of a number of policies designed to critically support the digital economy in Ireland and deliver the vision of a fully digitally enabled society. Delivery of ubiquitous high speed broadband under the National Broadband Plan is a strategic priority and the cornerstone of policy. The National Digital Strategy seeks to address the engagement issue by providing the impetus and support for companies, communities and citizens to realise the full social and economic potential of the digital world. ”



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Get Involved - Make a Pledge

- Eligible pledges can pre-exist
 - Coalition gathers data and consolidates initiatives under the one banner
- Report on previous coalitions cites main actions as:
 - Training for young people, especially coding
 - Activities to certify young people
 - Job placements
 - ICT Career events
 - New partnerships between business/educational sectors
 - Participation in awareness raising campaigns such as EU Code Week, Girls in ICT Week, Tech Week

What have we done?

- Held 4 partners meetings
- Established a Steering Committee
- Listed priorities
- Considered the Irish context
- Collated current Irish Initiatives

Steering Committee

| | | |
|----------|----------|-----------------------------|
| Dudley | Dolan | Q-Validas, Chair |
| Denise | Leahy | TCD |
| Kevin | Breen | CyberActive |
| Ted | Parslow | Third Level Computing Forum |
| Michael | Mooney | SOLAS |
| Jackie | O'Dowd | SFI |
| Helen | Johnston | FIT |
| Miriam | Judge | DCU |
| Barry | Lowry | Gov CIO, DPER |
| Ken | Jordan | NTMA |
| Adrienne | Webb | CESI |
| Martin | Delaney | IVI |
| Fergal | Ryan | Xilinx |
| Michael | Hanley | IVI |

Priorities

1. Modernise teaching content and pedagogies (LC CS)
2. Upgrade teacher skills and qualifications (TC member?)
3. Cooperation between education and industry
4. Leverage competence frameworks, Digcomp, e-CF etc)
5. Understand what we mean by digital skills
6. Obstacles to gaining digital skills
7. Up-skilling the labour force
8. Employers' responsibility to train workers
9. Generate public awareness of need for digital upskilling
10. Access funding for initiative and actions
11. ICT as career choice (girls too), informally and through curriculum
12. Alternative approaches to careers in IT (apprenticeships etc)

Considerations

1. Low income groups
2. International best practice
3. Add value to current actions
4. Make ICT attractive for girls
5. Consider job seekers
6. Knowledge and expertise sharing
7. Take pride in Ireland's achievements and reputation
8. Collect data on successes
9. Transferrable skills and critical thinking
10. Find gaps, avoid duplication
11. Lighthouse projects for quick win?

Actions - Initiatives

1. The ICT Skills Action Plan (DBEI)
2. The Digital Strategy for Schools (DES)
3. Digital Skills for Citizens (DCCAE)
4. Smart Futures: Initiative to promote STEM careers and act as an umbrella group: <http://www.smartfutures.ie/>
5. Tech Life Ireland: Promoting Ireland as a destination for tech talent (IDA, EI, DJEI): <https://techlifeireland.com/>
3. Tech Skillnet Programmes: Example: Technology Ireland ICT Skillnet: <http://www.ictirelandskillnet.org/>
4. Springboard Programmes (many focused on tech): <https://www.springboardcourses.ie/>

Actions

5. Supporting women in Tech and the workforce: CWIT (Connecting Women in Technology):
<https://www.facebook.com/ConnectingWomenInTechnology/>
6. 30% Club Ireland:
<https://30percentclub.org/about/chapters/ireland>
7. Women Reboot: <http://www.softwareskillnet.ie/women-reboot/>
8. FIT – various initiatives:
 - a. ICT Associate Professional (the new tech apprenticeship programme)
 - b. FIT ICT Skills Audit (due summer 2017)
9. Supporting e-Leadership Skills for a High-Tech Economy (DBEI)

Irish Coalition Structures

- Secretariat
- Steering Committee
 - Chair
 - Partners
 - Members
- Informal partnership
 - Open to all
 - Willing to share
 - Promote participation
 - Communicate widely
 - Monitor and evaluate

Next Steps

- Become a Partner
- Make a pledge
- Talk to me...

mary@ics.ie

087 2365674