Module 1 – Digital Skills for Green Entrepreneurship

Unit 1: Introduction to Digital Skills

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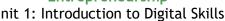
Index

Unit 1: Introduction to Digital Skills

The technological revolution and the constant development of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) have completely changed the way we communicate, train, access leisure, culture and even our way of relating to each other.

We live in a digital society. A digital society that needs competent citizens in technological and digital environments. Being digitally competent means using digital technologies critically and safely for the benefit of personal, social and professional development. Not being digitally competent, on the other hand, represents a serious obstacle, a factor of inequality among citizens caused by differences in access to and management of technology.

In an increasingly globalized and digital world, it is urgent to ensure that citizens have the necessary basic digital skills. The rapid digital transformation of the economy and society has turned digital skills into basic and indispensable tools for personal and professional development and adaptation to new realities.

Digital skills are important for working, studying, accessing services and buying products, or keeping in touch with friends and family. Take this test to learn more about your digital skills, find out what your level is, and take the next step to improve them: https://europa.eu/europass/digitalskills/screen/home .

This unit aims to highlight and provide additional resources on:

- Why digital skills are imperative for every entrepreneur.
- Presentation of the European Digital Competence Framework for Citizenship (DigComp).

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Understand the concept of digital skills and its importance in today's era.
2. Familiarise yourself with the European Digital Competence Framework for Citizenship (DigComp) as a common reference.

1. What are digital skills?

Figura 1: Habilidades digitales.

Digital competences are knowledge, skills and attitudes that are required for a critical and safe use of ICTs, through the strategic use of information, in order to be able to work, interact with other people, interact with the Administration, shop online, entertain ourselves, etc., all with tools typical of digital technologies.

As mentioned, digital skills are developed along a continuum and are constantly updated in line with changes in technology. Digital skills frameworks play a crucial role in capturing the range of skills as well as these changes, enabling policymakers and digital skills providers to ensure that their training programmes and plans remain relevant and current. Many international organizations and agencies have developed digital skills frameworks. Below, we highlight the work of the European Commission: the Digital Competence Framework for Citizens (or DigComp).

[Watch Video: Youtube 2'15 mins] What are digital skills and why are they important?' https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=edCSAINyDYQ

2. DigComp - European Digital Competence Framework for Citizenship: a common reference framework

The European Digital Competence Framework for Citizens, also known as DigComp, is an instrument to help policymakers formulate policies that support the development of digital competence and the planning of education and training initiatives to improve citizens' digital competences.

'DigComp is a tool to improve citizens' digital competence, help policymakers formulate policies that support the building of digital competences, and plan education and training initiatives to improve the digital competence of specific groups. DigComp also provides a common language on how to identify and describe key areas of digital competence and thus offers a common reference at European level.'

DigComp is used to help measure and improve people's digital skills. It consists of five main components:

1. **Digital skills:** the ability to use basic tools and technologies. Information and data competence: the ability to evaluate, process, create, and share information and data.

2. **Communication and collaboration:** the ability to communicate and collaborate effectively through digital platforms.
3. **Problem solving:** the ability to identify and solve problems using digital tools.
4. **Security:** The ability to recognize security risks and act safely in digital environments.
5. This framework serves as a guide for educational institutions, employers, and individuals. As digital skills become increasingly important, frameworks like DigComp can help individuals and communities become digitally competent.

Additional resources:

Vuorikari, R., Kluzer, S. and Punie, Y., DigComp 2.2: The Digital Competence Framework for Citizens - With new examples of knowledge, skills and attitudes, EUR 31006 EN, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2022, ISBN 978-92-76-48882-8, doi:10.2760/115376, JRC128415. Available at https://dx.doi.org/10.2760/115376

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