



ECDL AND DIGCOMP

**DESCRIBING, DEVELOPING & CERTIFYING
DIGITAL COMPETENCE**

We live in an increasingly digital world where people work, socialise, and receive public and private services online.

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According to the OECD, ICT in the workplace is now required in all but two occupations: dishwashing and food cooking. Having insufficient digital skills is likely to have a negative impact on people's employability and life quality. EU data shows that 169 million Europeans (44%) and 86 million people in the EU labour force (37%) have insufficient digital skills (DESI, 2017).



DESCRIBING DIGITAL COMPETENCE – DIGCOMP

In order to understand what the key elements of digital competence are and how to assess it, the European Commission developed a Digital Competence Framework for Citizens – DigComp.

DigComp proposes a set of digital competences for all citizens to achieve goals related to work, learning, leisure and participation in society. Individual competences (21 in total) are grouped into five competence areas: Information and Data Literacy, Communication and Collaboration, Digital Content Creation, Safety and Problem solving.

DigComp provides a common reference for digital competence in Europe. It aims to assist citizens and organisations to identify digital competence gaps and to reflect on how to address them. It also helps policy makers to formulate policies in the area of digital competence and serves as an inspiration for education and training providers to improve digital competence of various target groups.

- > 2013: the first version of DigComp is developed by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC)
- > 2016: Update Phase 1 - DigComp 2.0: the Conceptual Reference Model
- > 2017: Update Phase 2 - DigComp 2.1: eight proficiency levels and examples of use



ECDL Foundation has been an active stakeholder in development of this framework from its initial stages, sharing our expertise in defining, structuring and assessing digital skills. We attended a number of workshops where we provided our inputs for the content of this framework. We have now carried out an exercise of mapping the ECDL programme to DigComp, which has been identified as an implementation example by JRC (the details of the mapping are available on next page).

DigComp Area	DigComp Competences	ECDL Modules
<p>Information and Data Literacy</p>	<p>Browsing, searching and filtering data, information and digital content Evaluating data, information and digital content Managing data, information and digital content</p>	<p>Computer Essentials Information Literacy</p>
<p>Communication and Collaboration</p>	<p>Interacting through digital technologies Sharing through digital technologies Engaging in citizenship through digital technologies Collaborating through digital technologies Netiquette Managing digital identity</p>	<p>Online Essentials Online Collaboration ICT in Education</p>
<p>Digital Content Creation</p>	<p>Developing digital content Integrating and re-elaborating digital content Copyright and licences Programming</p>	<p>Word Processing Spreadsheets Presentation Using Databases Advanced Word Processing Advanced Spreadsheets Web Editing Image Editing Project Planning 2D CAD Advanced Database Advanced Presentation</p>
<p>Safety</p>	<p>Protecting devices Protecting personal data and privacy Protecting health and well-being Protecting the environment</p>	<p>IT Security</p>
<p>Problem Solving</p>	<p>Solving technical problems Identifying needs and technological responses Creatively using digital technologies Identifying digital competence gaps</p>	<p>Computing ICT Troubleshooting*</p> <p><small>* Coming in 2017</small></p>

Note: Some modules may support more than one competence area - for example, Computing relates to Programming in Digital Content Creation, as well as Problem Solving; Computer Essentials and Online Essentials both include issues relating to Safety.

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- > The DigComp framework is a general, high level description of the set of competences relevant for users of digital technology. ECDL offers specific solutions in this area.
- > ECDL Foundation has been an active stakeholder in all stages of DigComp development.
- > ECDL modules were mapped both to DigComp 1.0 and 2.0. JRC has reviewed these mappings and identified them as implementation examples of using the framework.
- > ECDL is using the DigComp framework in practice. For example, ECDL Poland has translated DigComp 2.0 to Polish and developed DIGCOMP PROFILE Certificates.
- > ECDL certificates can be used as a proof of acquired competence for various purposes, for example in the Europass CV (similarly to languages certificates that prove language levels indicated in the language grid).

Digital competence

SELF-ASSESSMENT				
Information processing	Communication	Content creation	Safety	Problem solving
Proficient user	Proficient user	Independent user	Independent user	Proficient user

Digital competences - Self-assessment grid

ECDL Advanced (Word Processing, Spreadsheets, Database, Presentation)

Europass CV Digital Competence Grid

ECDL Foundation supports international initiatives such as DigComp, which help to provide structure in digital skills area and assist individuals and organisations in understanding the competences that they need now and in the future.

For further information on ECDL and its relationship to DigComp, contact info.digcomp@ecdل.org

ABOUT ECDL FOUNDATION

ECDL Foundation is an international organisation dedicated to raising digital competence standards in the workforce, education and society. Our certification programmes, delivered through an active network in more than 100 countries, enable individuals and organisations to assess, build and certify their competence in the use of computers and digital tools to the globally-recognised ECDL standard, known as ICDL outside Europe.

As a nonprofit social enterprise, ECDL Foundation benefits from the unique support of experts from national computer societies and partners worldwide to develop vendor-independent standards which define the skills and knowledge required to use digital technology effectively. We work with education and training partners, local and regional authorities, national governments, international development organisations, as well as public and private sector employers in all sectors, in the delivery of our programmes.

The quality and reputation of ECDL is built on almost twenty years of experience in delivering our certification programmes to over 15 million people and in more than 40 languages worldwide, with more than 2.5 million ECDL tests taken annually. Our success is maintained by our ongoing innovation in certification programme development, our commitment to rigorous test design methodologies, and consistent adherence to our quality assurance standards.

ECDL Foundation supports the initiatives of National Operators of the programme in Europe and the Arab States from our headquarters in Dublin, Ireland and our European office in Brussels, Belgium. We have also established three regional operations – ICDL Africa (based in Rwanda), ICDL Asia (based in Singapore) and ICDL Americas (based in Panama). All ECDL Foundation operations work closely with regional, national and local partners to develop the global network of ECDL Accredited Test Centres.



Digital Skills and
Jobs Coalition

