

2024

# Digital Skills and Jobs Platform: Call for Expression of Interest for Topic Experts January 2024

EXPERTS' CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE PLATFORM PAPERS SERIES  
11 JANUARY 2024



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# 1. Background

The [Digital Skills and Jobs Platform](#) is the home of digital skills and jobs in Europe and the heart of the Digital Skills and Jobs Community. Launched in the framework of the Connecting Europe Facility Programme (CEF), the Platform actively contributes to the objectives of the [Digital Europe Programme](#) (DIGITAL), a funding programme with a total budget of €7.5 billion, which aims to bring digital technologies closer to EU citizens, businesses, and public administrations alike. Enforcing the digital skills pillar of the programme, a key goal of the Platform is boosting the digital competences of EU society and workforce.

The Digital Skills and Jobs Platform is dedicated to everyone. It provides a wide range of high-quality information, resources, and training opportunities in the area of digital skills and jobs across all levels, from very basic to advanced. The Platform provides a dedicated [collaborative space](#) for the 10,000+ members of the [Digital Skills & Jobs Community](#). In terms of the Platform's approach to content, up-to-date insights are offered in an accessible way to new users, while more experienced professionals can benefit from targeted content, relevant to their interests, or field of competence.

The "Digital Briefs" series on the Platform go one step further in providing **in-depth and high-quality content on key topics in the field of digital skills and jobs. Each brief is presented in the form of a deep-dive: a longer, in-depth article on a core, relevant topic around digital skills and jobs, following the approach of an academic paper, in a user-friendly format.** The briefs explore a variety of perspectives and viewpoints from some of the best experts across business and academic disciplines. Some examples of deep-dives already published are available below.

- ["All Things Data: a skilled workforce in a data-driven future?"](#)
- [Digital Experts – a deep-dive](#)

The Digital Briefs already online are the result of two previous calls for expression of interest for topic experts to lead on producing the papers in the series – in March 2022, and respectively, April 2023.

Within this context, the Digital Skills & Jobs Platform is launching a third call for expression of interest for experts to contribute **with the research, drafting and writing of digital briefs on 7 topics in the field of digital skills and jobs, listed in [Section 2: The services to be supplied](#) of this document.** The Digital Briefs produced will be published within the [dedicated section](#) for in-depth overviews on the Platform.

## 2. The services to be supplied

EUN Partnership (coordinator of the consortium managing the Digital Skills and Jobs Platform – hereby called the Platform team, on behalf of the European Commission) is looking for experts to research, draft, and write papers in the area of digital skills and jobs.

The specific topics of the papers have been identified by the Platform team, in agreement with the European Commission (please see the full list further down in this section). They are based on a detailed business analysis, an analysis of user needs, and feedback from National Coalitions for Digital Skills & Jobs in the EU Member States.

For each paper, a lump sum of 1,000 Euro (excluding VAT) will be paid to the selected and contracted expert.

The experts selected shall have substantial experience in the topics they apply for, a background including research and analysis activities, and specific experience in writing such materials. They should be based in



Europe (EEA) and their context of work should be the European context. A good knowledge of English (the language the papers will be drafted and published), is essential. Experts should be reachable during standard office hours in Europe.

This Call welcomes expression of interest by individual experts. Application by groups and organisations will not be eligible.

Each expert can be contracted for a maximum of 2 papers in 2024, for a maximum lump sum of 2,000 Euro (please see the list below and read [Section 3. The conditions](#)).

**Each paper will need to respond to the following requirements.**

- The content of the paper should be original content and it should not be published in other platform or publications (please see also below about the content IPR), while it can be based on available and existing research, studies, and data.
- The content should also follow the core principles of the editorial guidelines of the Digital Skills and Platform and its criteria (for example relevance, reliability, accessibility, non for profit, transparency, clarity etc.) and provide an independent perspective on the topic.
- Language: English (British English).
- Format and content to be provided: core content of the paper (text, images, graphs etc.) and content for one infographic in A4 (text and information), to complement visually the article (The infographics will be then designed by the Platform team).
- Length of the article content: 2,000-3,000 words (references section not included).
- Structure of the infographic content: to be agreed upon confirmation of the expert, based on indications by Platform team and standard graphic format.
- The paper should also be complemented with appropriate references and quote/testimonials when relevant.

**For this third call for the Digital Skills and Jobs Platform Briefs, we welcome expressions of interest for the seven topics listed below. All topics should be tackled from the prism/perspective of digital skills and jobs. The exact scope and final titles will be elaborated in discussion with the expert.**

1. Digital inclusion across demographics: what are the challenges faced by different demographics (such as women over 40), and older people in general in acquiring digital skills, and how can we mitigate them?
2. Algorithms and disinformation: how do algorithms work, and how are they used to disseminate false information online? (across contexts but focusing on social media).
3. Changing skills landscape considering the twin digital and green transition: fostering resilience and new skillsets in a rapidly evolving world.
4. Attracting and retaining ICT specialists (e.g. strategies for attracting and retaining talent in the tech sector, challenges faced by companies in recruiting and getting digital experts to stay on board).
5. Access to public digital services: mitigating key issues for the most vulnerable (people with disabilities, older people, societal groups left behind the digital transformation).
6. Safeguarding fundamental rights in the Digital Decade (strategies to endure digital technologies respect core EU values - rights, freedom and democracy, latest EU legislation).
7. Ethics in AI: a high-stake game, but at what cost? (exploration of the role of ethics in AI development, deployment, and design).

Experts selected for the previous two open calls are welcome to apply again.

**The experts will be involved in the following activities:**



- Definition of the final outline and scope of the papers they are selected for, through emails and/or short online calls with the Platform team.
- Research and drafting of the content for the paper and the related infographic, autonomously, including references and bibliography.
- Up to 3 feedback and revision cycles with the Platform team, for each paper (feedback from Platform team and revised version by the expert).
- Final revision of the layout/design of each paper and infographic, once delivered by the Platform team designer/s.

The experts will work in close collaboration with the Platform team overseeing the editorial activities of the Platform. The Platform team will provide detailed editorial guidelines, which needs to be followed by the experts, together with indications on tone and scope of each paper. The final outline and content scope of each paper will be agreed upon the expert and the Platform team upon signature of the contract and validated by the European Commission.

**The content development work (final version of the content and infographic content) should be delivered between February and June.** The exact duration of engagement would depend on the availability of experts and will be negotiated at the contract preparation stage. The exact time frame for delivery will be determined in conjunction with each selected expert.

For all outputs:

- The contractors are expected to do the work themselves.
- Experts will be required to waive IPR of content provided to EUN Partnership AISBL. The IPR will be then waived by EUN in favour of the European Commission for the purposes mentioned in the service contract for the Digital Skills and Jobs Platform (these clauses will be included and specific in the contract with the expert selected).

The method of appointment of the experts and the contractual conditions are more particularly described in [Section 3, The Conditions](#) of this Call.

## 3. The Conditions

To reply to this call, the applicants should express their interest via email, providing the following information and details:

- A Curriculum Vitae in English, including:
  - Information on the expert's education background and work experience.
  - Experience and examples of work carried-out (annexed to the CV or with URLs), similar to the type of tasks and activities outlined in this call for expression of interest (projects, articles, papers, publications etc.).
- The list of topics they express interest for (max. 3 topics in order of preference), each with a short teaser of the potential scope (angle, aspects to focus on etc.), for each selected topic, for maximum 50 words for each topic.

The selection of the successful applicant will be based on the following criteria:

- The experience of the expert in relation to the services to be performed as following:
  - Relevance of the experience in terms of the topics selected.
  - Relevance of the experience in terms of research and analysis activities and in writing independent publications, studies, reports, papers, and articles on the topics selected.



- Diverse background.
- Years of experience.
- Capacity to prove experience related to the European context and scope.
- The assessment of the short teasers for each topic and how this responds and matches the scope and approach of the Digital Skills and Jobs Platform.

The project Evaluation Committee may decide, at its entire discretion, to give a weighting to the various selection criteria.

Please note that the Evaluation Committee is not bound to select if the offers received are not of sufficient quality or for any other business reason. In such circumstances, we may re-issue this Call or cancel it completely.

The project Evaluation Committee may, at its entire discretion, decide to call the highest scoring candidates for an online interview, in order for them to present their offer directly to the Evaluation Committee and resolve any outstanding issues or questions.

Upon completion of the process of evaluation, the results of the selection will be communicated to all the applicants both successful and unsuccessful. Individual contracts will be signed with the successful applicants. No legal obligation will arise until the expert concerned has signed a contract with EUN Partnership.

## 4. Exclusion criteria

Applicants will be automatically excluded for selection and from an award if it falls within one of the situations listed below:

- a) They are subject to a conflict of interest.
- b) They are bankrupt or being wound up, are having their affairs administered by the courts, have entered into an arrangement with creditors, have suspended business activities, are the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations.
- c) They have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgment which has the force of res judicata.
- d) They have not fulfilled obligations relating to the payment of, social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which they are established.
- e) They have made false declarations in supplying information required by any public organization as a condition of participation in a procurement procedure or grant award procedure or fail to supply this information.
- f) They have been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which can be justified.

The applicant shall also be automatically excluded if the application together with attached CV is not received by EUN by the deadline listed in the section below, [Timescales and Deadlines](#).



## 5. Timescale and deadline for expression of interest

This Call is published on 11 January 2024 here: <http://www.eun.org/about/vacancies>

The deadline for receipt of applications is 23:59 CEST on 1 February 2024 by e-mail.

Interested experts may send questions until **17:00 CEST on Thursday, 18 January 2024** to the addresses below and answers will be published on the page of the call referenced above by end-of-business day, **Friday, 19 January 2024**.

Following evaluation of the submitted expressions of interest, the decision will be communicated via e-mail to the experts, who have submitted their expression of interest.

Interested applicants are invited to send their expression of interest with the information requested in **'Section 3 - The Conditions'** by e-mail to EUN Partnership to the attention of:

- Ms Galina Misheva ([galina.misheva@eun.org](mailto:galina.misheva@eun.org)), and
- the DSJP editorial team ([editorial@digitalskillsjobs.eu](mailto:editorial@digitalskillsjobs.eu))