

Digital Skills and Jobs Platform: Call for Expression of Interest for Topic Experts for Digital Briefs – 2025 series

EXPERTS' CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE PLATFORM PAPERS SERIES OF
DIGITAL BRIEFS - 2025



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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**. In 2021, the Platform was launched in the framework of Connecting Europe Facility Programme (CEF) and since then has grown into a vibrant and diverse community of stakeholders and actors in the field of digital skills and jobs from all around the EU Member States - today counting over 15.000 members. In 2024, funding for the Platform under the [Digital Europe Programme](#) (DIGITAL) ensured its ability to continue to enforce the digital skills pillar of the programme, and DSJP received a 'renewed mandate' to contribute to boosting the digital competences of European 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. With 22 National Coalitions for Digital Skills and Jobs in the EU Member States connected to the Platform, national-level news, strategies, and good practices can now reach an EU-wide audience in minutes. Behind the editorial approach of Digital Skills and Jobs Platform is an ambition to continue providing up-to-date information on digital skills and jobs in a way so it is understood by all, whilst ensuring the Platform can offer a sufficient amount of advanced-level content to cater to more experienced digital professionals (whether their goal to upskill in their current area of expertise or venture onto other technologies they have an interest in). Users of the Platform can also build a fully personalised learning path, saving different learning contents and moving on to more advanced opportunities and levels of difficulty at their own pace.

The Digital Briefs series on the Platform are the product of an effort to go one step further in offering more **in-depth and high-quality content on key topics in the field of digital skills and jobs and key technologies, whilst reflecting the diversity of perspectives at the core of the EU's strengths.**

Each brief is presented in the form of a deep-dive: a longer, in-depth article following the approach of an academic paper (ranging between 2.000 – 3.000 words, excluding references), which focuses on a relevant topic around digital skills and jobs and/or technology, in a user-friendly format, style, and tone. Some examples of deep-dives already published are available below.

- [Digital Experts – a deep-dive](#)
- [“All Things Data: a skilled workforce in a data-driven future?” \(deep-dive\)](#)
- [AI: a high-stakes game, but at what cost? \(deep-dive\)](#)

The Digital Briefs already online are the result of 3 previous calls for expression of interest for topic experts to lead on producing the papers in the series.

It is within this context that the **Digital Skills & Jobs Platform is launching a fourth call for expression of interest for experts to contribute with the research, drafting, and writing of the digital briefs on the topics 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.**

Alongside this pool, the Platform is **now gathering a talent pool for experts in digital skills and jobs and specific technologies (e.g., AI, machine learning, robotics, web and mobile applications' development, IoT, big data, blockchain, etc.).** Should we consider your expertise relevant, there will be an opportunity for you to be invited to join this database.



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 HaDEA, (the European Health and Digital Executive Agency) 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 2025, 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 Jobs 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.

Digital Briefs – List of topics

For this fourth call for the Digital Skills and Jobs Platform Briefs, we welcome expressions of interest for any of the 10 topics listed below. All topics should be tackled from the prism/perspective of digital skills and jobs. The exact scope and final titles may be elaborated in discussion with the selected expert, and tweaked as a result.

1. Gaps in EU Regions: examining digital skills challenges and actions to address these across EU regions (a comparative analysis of the state-of-play in at least 4 EU Member States);
2. Merging disciplines for knowledge to boost the ratio of women in ICT - how can we get more girls engaged in ICT by integrating good practices and lessons learnt from across spheres (education, government affairs, ICT, social sciences, etc).
3. Digital skills through the prism of inequality: rethinking strategies to tackle emerging and known silos of discrepancies (rich vs poor, young vs old, male vs female, etc).
4. 'Generation Cyber': developing strategies for cybersecurity skills training and enhancing awareness of cyber threats, with cybercrime on the rise in recent years.
5. Green IT and Energy Efficiency: what are some of the ways in which we can reduce the energy and environmental impact of digital technologies and infrastructure (data centres, waste management, blockchain's environmental impact).
6. The right to privacy: how far does one's right to privacy extend in a digital world sped up by the intensifying development of AI and other digital technologies? What are some ways hackers can gain access to our accounts, and what may the consequences be?
7. What is cryptography and how, can it be used to power societal good?
8. Unveiling European capacity-building: an overview of strategies to ensure European competitiveness in innovation in the context of an intensifying global race to pioneer technology.
9. Digitalising the Fourth Estate: an exploration of the changing role of media as the primary channel for information distribution and the impact on public discourse and opinion.
10. Blockchain and the road ahead: an overview of blockchain technology and its potential to transform financial markets, the banking sector, and government processes.

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 a member of the Digital Skills and Jobs 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 to which the Digital Briefs should correspond, 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 end of February until the end of 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 HaDEA, the European Health and Digital Executive Agency, 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 – for example, topic preferences.

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 [section 5, Deadline for Expression of Interest below](#).

5. Deadline for expression of interest

This call is published on Thursday, 30 January 2025, here: <http://www.eun.org/about/vacancies>



The deadline for receipt of applications is Friday, 14th February 2025 (23:59 CET).

Interested experts *may send questions until 5th February 2025 (including)* to the email addresses specified further down. Answers will be published on the page of the call referenced above by *Friday, 7th February 2025*.

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), and
- the DSJP editorial team (editorial@digitalskillsjobs.eu)