

About the European Alliance on Skills for Employability

The European Alliance on Skills for Employability was launched in January 2006 to help bring access to IT, technical and other employability related skills to people from disadvantaged groups, thus contributing to the foundations of employability and inclusion in Europe. Its current members – Microsoft, State Street, Cisco and Comptia - share a strong commitment to the EU's Growth and Jobs agenda and are dedicated to building lasting partnerships to facilitate the provision of skills training for employability.

"Under the umbrella of the
European e-Skills Association"



Alliance Secretariat



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2010
European Alliance on
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Awards



"From job search to train ticket booking to communicating with a far away granddaugther, more tasks are being carried on-line and require digital literacy and e-skills. In today's economy regardless of country, industry sector or even function held in an organization, ICT skills are now a prerequisite to entering the job market, succeeding at work or creating one's business. The European Alliance on Skills for Employability is proud to participate to Europe's Digital Agenda vision and goals by celebrating the most innovative use of ICT training and skills development adopted by non-profits around Europe. Selected by a distinguished panel of experts in the field, these awards will bring to light exemplary grass roots projects where digital competences clearly help bolster the chances of a better economic future for many Europeans who had previously been underserved by technology..

Sylvie Laffarge, Director of Community Affairs, Microsoft Europe
Chair of the European Alliance on Skills for Employability

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EUROPEAN ALLIANCE
ON SKILLS FOR EMPLOYABILITY

Accessibility & Employability

RNIB Scotland Employment and Learning Centre Scotland, UK

Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) is the UK's leading charity offering information, support and advice to almost two million people with sight loss. Their Employment and Learning Centre's Border Project aims to support people with visual impairments by strengthening existing employability structures, introducing additional support services and raising the awareness and profile of sensory impairment in the region. Their ICT training for the visually impaired is complemented by general employability services such as guidance in CV construction, application forms, interviews, employment rights as well as activities that build non-vocational skills and strengthen self-confidence. www.rnib.org.uk/scotland



Educating for an Open Society, Romania

Education for an Open Society (EOS) promotes the Information and Knowledge Society across the wider community of Western Romania. Their current project aims to provide access of the disabled to new technologies and provide them with ICT training. EOS support is focused on people with intellectual or ambulant disabilities as well as the deaf and speech-impaired, delivering free IT training and certificates recognized by the Ministry of Education and facilitating labor market integration. www.ecentre.ro



Enable, Ireland

Enable Ireland is a leading national provider of services for people with disabilities and their families. Their Assistive Technology (AT) in Employment project focuses on increasing job retention among employees with disabilities, and promoting a higher level of uptake of AT in the workplace. Some of their key achievements include 'My Web My Way' - an online accessibility utility - and the delivery of online AT assessment to a number of adults with disabilities. In a further effort to promote employer awareness, they published a guide for employers to assistive technology, "Assistive Technology in the Workplace: A Tool For All," in partnership with IrishJobs.ie. www.enableireland.ie/at



Integrated Employability Approach and Collaborative IT

Telecentre Europe, Belgium

Telecentre-Europe increases the impact and effectiveness of telecentres throughout Europe by fostering knowledge sharing and learning amongst its members. An "Employability Toolkit" has been developed under the "Key Competences for All" project which addresses four key competences: 1. Digital competences; 2. Learning to learn; 3. Interpersonal and civic competences; 4. Entrepreneurship. A handbook is under development that will allow trainers and telecentres to apply the toolkit in their own environments. www.telecentre-europe.org



ESPLAI, Spain

Fundación Esplai's Red Conecta project aims to bridge the digital gap through elevating groups at risk of social exclusion and strengthening the employability of young people, women and the unemployed. Today 78 Red Conecta telecentres are operational throughout Spain, which provide communities with internet and computer access, in addition to ICT workshops. Esplai works in collaboration with over 70 partners, providing leadership, support and resources to ensure effective operation of telecentres around the nation. www.fundacionesplai.org



LITKA, Latvia

LITKA works toward increasing e-awareness in society and takes an active part in preparing professional ICT and digital skills programs. Their initiative has trained more than 50,000 people and 520 instructors, and developed a network of 31 Latvia@World training centers across the nation. LITKA also developed a number of easily-accessible online tools for self-evaluation on ICT skills in Russian, Latvian and English; E-Citizen and ECDL online tests, and an online-administrative tool to manage the organizational network. Their initiatives target underserved socio-economic groups including the unemployed, disabled, elderly, youth at risk, new mothers and ethnic minorities. www.litka.lv



CNCA, Italy

CNCA is a national Association which regroups more than 260 centers of rehabilitation in Italy, operating with the objective to support social and economic integration individuals who have been affected by drugs, alcoholism, illegal immigration, prostitution, or severe family problems. Their "IT in the Community" project uses IT to address the socio-economic divide, providing support to the most disadvantaged groups in the nation. In its 4 years, the program has trained 11,000 people in basic IT skills in 55 CNCA centers, with at least 1/4 of this group finding a job. www.cnca.it



PH International, Ukraine

PH International (Project Harmony Inc.) has been delivering effective, high-quality, citizen engagement programming throughout Eurasia and the Caucasus for over twenty-five years. The Information Dissemination and Equal Access (IDEA) project creates and supports community-based internet centers, providing free IT training and access to all, with particular focus on underserved groups such as people with disabilities, women, victims of trafficking, orphaned youth, or refugees. The program now counts 27 centers in 24 cities, and has benefited 75,000 people including 40,000 trainees. www.ph-int.org



FIT, Ireland

Fast Track to IT's (FIT) mission is to promote an inclusive Smart Economy by creating a fast track to marketable technical skills for those at risk of long-term unemployment. The organization represents one of the primary industry skills development initiatives facilitating collaboration with government, education and training providers and disadvantaged communities to enable greater access to employment for marginalized job seekers. FIT's role is focused on the development of market-led curricula, the coordination of training for employment courses and the delivery of soft skills support. To this day, the program has trained 8,000 individuals with nearly 70% of graduates progressing onto to employment and/or further education. www.fit.ie



CITEVE, Portugal

In partnership with Microsoft, The Technological Centre for the Textile and Clothing (CITEVE) has developed a program to provide basic IT skills of the unemployed of the textile industry in Portugal, to support their transition to a new occupation or help them in their entrepreneurial initiatives. The importance of this project lies in the growing disadvantages of the target audience, given its growing numbers, the average time of unemployment, and the lack of assistance currently available to them. The recently launched Challenge XXI aims at coordinating all initiatives which exist in the domain of qualifications and professional competences, and has benefitted 8,180 people to this day. www.citeve.pt



Youth and Employability

Fundación Tomillo, Spain

The organization's mission is to contribute to community and individual development through early educational activities, programs for social development, as well as training and employment initiatives. Their programs include ICT courses that enable students at risk of social exclusion to obtain a valid certification in English that increases their employability. To this day they have awarded 1,172 certificates and maintain a rate 84% of graduate employment after training. www.tomillo.org/v_portal/apartados/apartado.asp?te=193



Stiftung Digitale Chancen, Germany

The Digital Opportunities Foundation (Stiftung Digitale Chancen) recently launched "Surfing to the Job - Digital Opportunities on the Labour Market" targeted at improving Digital Literacy as well as employability of disadvantaged youths. It provides direct support to social workers that interact with youth on a regular basis and promotes digital literacy through online job search. A 21-step guided tour through online job search is accessible to people with disabilities as well as Turkish and Russian speakers. www.digitale-chancen.de

