

European Alliance on Skills for Employability



According to the European Union's i2010 Second Annual report, ICT drove nearly 50% of EU productivity growth between 2000 and 2004. In this context, eSkilled people are Europe's strongest asset when responding to global competitive challenges.

However, Europe is on the edge of a major IT skills shortage.

Europe will be short of 300,000 ICT-qualified staff by 2010

Poland will face an ICT-qualified staff shortage of 18,300⁽¹⁾

This raises the crucial issue of how best to boost IT literacy, tackle the digital divide and ensure lifelong learning in developed economies.

The Employability Alliance in Poland

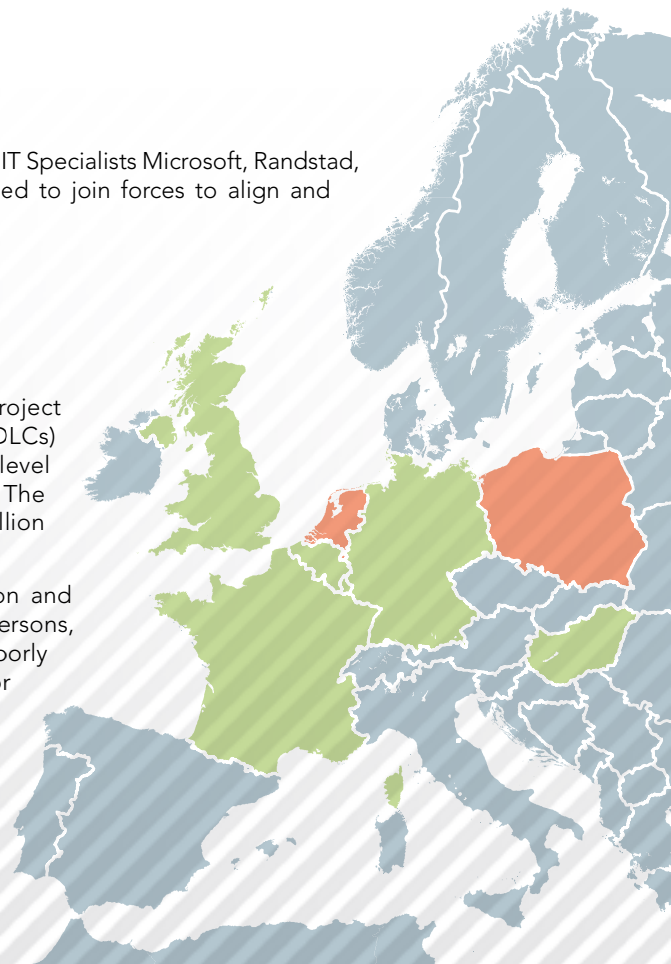
In Poland, the Foundation Supporting Physically Disabled Mathematicians and IT Specialists Microsoft, Randstad, State Street, Cisco and Comptia's Creating Futures Foundation have decided to join forces to align and develop project activities to enhance eSkills and employability.

In Poland, 50% of the population has no internet skills⁽²⁾

The Employability Alliance's Polish chapter is supporting the e-Centres Project which includes the use of the existing 400 Distance Learning Centres (DLCs) and 3000 Public Internet Access Points (PIAPs) to raise the workforce skills level through training on new technologies and stimulation of entrepreneurship. The program aims to reach 1-2 million people per year, among which up to 1 million people to take advantage of training courses and post-graduate curricula.

Special emphasis is placed on combating the phenomenon of information and social exclusion, as well as supporting most vulnerable groups: disabled persons, the elderly outside the labour market, inhabitants of rural areas with poorly developed IT infrastructure, young unemployed, unemployed women or women re-entering the labour market.

The Alliance will also target the needs of small and medium businesses and IT practitioners to help increase the competitive advantage of the Polish economy.



(1) Figures provided by the The Grid Talk Project, FP7, "Facing the Skills shortage", March 2009

(2) Figures provided by the i2010 Mid-Term Review 2008, COM(2008) 199

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About the Partners

- The **Foundation Supporting Physically Disabled Mathematicians and IT Specialists** is the strategic social partner of the Alliance and will ensure the overall management of the project.
- **Microsoft** is providing a large grant of supporting the development of e-learning centres infrastructure. It also provides software and hardware as well as digital literacy curriculum to be part of the educational platform deployed at e-learning centres.
- In addition to a cash donation, **State Street** is translating the IT-Fitness test into Polish. The IT-Fitness initiative was launched in 2007 in Germany to offer free tests to evaluate e-skills and has already reached 1 million people.
- **Randstad** provides assessment of labor market needs, utilizing its labor market expertise and knowledge in order to deliver training on how candidates should prepare for job search.
- The **Cisco Networking Academy** and **Cisco Entrepreneur Institute** are innovative education initiatives that deliver information and communication technology skills and entrepreneurial competence to improve career and economic opportunities around the world. In Poland, Cisco will combine its Networking Academy and Entrepreneur Institute with the e-Centres project in order to maximize training opportunities.
- **CompTia** is supporting a pilot project of its "Creating Futures" programme (www.creatingfutures.us/creating_futures.aspx), consisting in its first phase of supporting of 12 individuals from underprivileged social groups to, train for European Computer Driving Licence certifications, followed by internships and possibly employment entry-level opportunities agreed with local employers. In addition, **CompTIA** offers to the e-Centres project 12 free bundles of CompTIA Strata Certificate.



Microsoft



STATE STREET

randstad



CompTIA

About the European Alliance on Skills for Employability

On 31 January 2006 in Lisbon, the "European Alliance on Skills for Employability" was launched in the presence of Commission President Barroso. Its founding partners - **Cisco**, **CompTIA**, **ECDL**, **EXIN**, **Microsoft**, **Randstad**, **State Street** - have committed to help bringing access to IT, technical and other employability related skills to people from disadvantaged groups, thus contributing to build the foundations of employability and inclusion in Europe.



Microsoft

Chair Elena Bonfiglioli, Microsoft
elenab@microsoft.com



"Under the umbrella of e-skills
Industry Leadership Board"



Alliance Secretariat
secretariat@employabilityalliance.eu



EUROPEAN ALLIANCE
ON SKILLS FOR EMPLOYABILITY

www.employabilityalliance.eu