

Newsletter N.2



Notes from Paolo Vercesi, eCF Council project coordinator

16 December 2016

Our first project year has passed by. First, let's thank the partnership and EACEA for their cooperative support.

During the first Transnational Meeting – held in Sofia in June 2016 – our partnership discussed the first two main project outcomes: the definition of the ICT professional Transnational Frame and of a Reference Scheme for ICT-related VET. Part of the Meeting focused on planning the next step: develop two Learning Units sets made of the 15 eCF e-competences identified as most relevant by 100 stakeholders surveyed at the beginning of the project.

The team dealing with the first set of 6 e-competences worked very hard, making use of focus groups and online meetings.

From October to December 2016 the project quality procedures were implemented, new useful tools delivered and the submission of the EQAVET model started, in order to guide the design, at a later stage, of the eCF Alliance Training programme. The eCF Alliance Steering Committee defined the governance model in line with the Quality standards set.

2017 will be a challenging year. We need to invest our best efforts to support the partners involved in the development of the competences training platform. We will also organise five national workshops, gathering relevant stakeholders and collecting feedback. We will continue to involve industry and listen to its needs.

Let's roll up our sleeves and build the online platform, the eCF Council internal engine able to ignite the spark on the eCF 3.0 implementation!

European IT Professionalism Framework launched in Brussels

14 December 2016

On 6 December 2016, the European IT Professionalism Framework was launched during the IT Professionalism conference in Brussels. There is broad consensus about the crucial importance of e-skills for Europe given the e-skills shortages, gaps and mismatches that have a continuing negative effect on achieving further growth, competitiveness, innovation and employment in Europe.

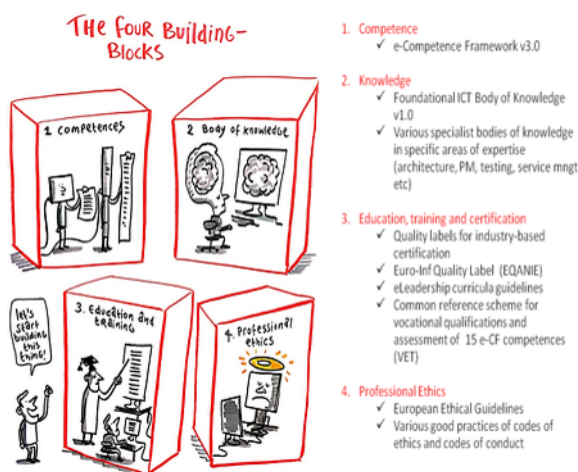
This Framework will be an important step to encourage further growth of the knowledge, skills and competences of the European IT workforce and people.

This framework is the outcome of a project by a consortium of Capgemini Consulting, EY and IDC that started in September 2015 and was commissioned by DG Growth and EASME.

Four building blocks of IT Professionalism

The European IT Professionalism Framework includes concrete standards (like the e-CF) and tools and guidelines that contribute to a common understanding of IT professionalism.

The aim of the framework is to help strengthen the IT profession using four building blocks: competences; body of knowledge; education and training and certification; and professional ethics. It contributes to the continuous development of knowledge, competences and skills of professionals, and offers e.g. employees and educational institutions means to support those activities.



Value for all stakeholders

The adoption of the IT Professionalism Framework holds the promise of a universal language. It can offer to **practitioners** an international recognition of IT competences and knowledge, enhancing their mobility and credibility. It also brings improved clarity over career paths and competence requirements. **Employers** could benefit from reduced cost, effort, and time to recruit, deploy, train and develop suitable IT resources, as well as an increasingly competent professional IT workforce. For **education providers** that see improved demand due to life-long learning requirements, the Framework could also bring increased market size opportunities resulting from improved transparency and comparability of educational offerings. **Professional Associations** play an important role in promoting the Framework and the concept of professionalism. It is their chance to mature the IT profession and boost Membership and take up a stronger role. Of course, with an increasingly IT enabled economy and **society**, this could also reduce risks stemming from this uptake as well as improved employment prospects.

Highlights of the conference in Brussels

During the conference, 25 expert speakers from industry, academia, professional associations, government and other stakeholders shared their view on IT professionalism from various angles. Besides presentations on European policy initiatives, it was particularly interesting to hear from experts from Canada, Japan and the US how these countries initiate actions towards closing the skills gap and increasing the digital talent pool.

The conference also saw the presentation of a first version of European Ethics Guidelines and various initiatives that have been launched in Spain, Italy and Ireland to implement the IT Professionalism Framework. The agenda, speakers and accompanying presentations are available on [the website](#).

Get involved and provide feedback

For more information or suggestions and recommendations please contact Niels van der Linden, project lead of the European IT Professionalism Framework project, via niels.vander.linden@capgemini.com.



Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition - Boosting Europe's Digital skills

7 December 2016



On 1 December the European Commission launched the Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition, together with Member States, industry, social partners, NGOs and education providers, to continue develop a digital talent pool and ensure Europe's growth and competitiveness.

The launch event in Brussels was attended by Vice-President Ansip, Commissioner Oettinger (responsible for Digital Economy & Society) and Commissioner Tibor Navracsics (responsible for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport) together with Alexander De Croo, Deputy Prime Minister of Belgium.

The event was also the occasion to award the four winners of the Digital Skills Awards 2016.

The Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition is one of the ten key initiatives proposed by the Commission under the New Skills Agenda for Europe, presented in June this year. Building on the results of the Grand Coalition for Digital Jobs (2013-2016) and the EU e-skills strategy, the Coalition brings together Member States and a variety of stakeholders to pledge action and to identify and share best practices.

The Coalition commits to tackling the skills gaps at all levels, from the skills needed by high-level ICT professionals to the skills needed by all European citizens to live, work and participate in today's digital economy and society.

Great emphasis is put on the consolidation of the existing 13 National Coalitions and the creation of coalitions in the remaining 15 Member States (MSs). MSs are invited to develop comprehensive national digital skills strategies, including concrete measures to bring digital skills and competences to all levels of education and training, supporting teachers and educators and promoting the active involvement of business and other relevant stakeholders.

Companies and organisations taking action to boost digital skills in Europe can become member of the Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition, pledge for concrete short-term actions, join or create National or Local Coalitions for Digital Jobs, or participate in events and other activities to share success stories and best practices.

For more information: <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/digital-skills-jobs-coalition>

Join the Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition's LinkedIn community to get in touch with the other members of the Coalition.

Practical implementation of e-CF and other factors for boosting ICT professionalism in Europe

15 December 2016

e-Competences survey	
A.9	Innovating
E.8	Information Security Management
A.5	Architecture Design
A.1	INFORMATION SYSTEMS and Business Strategy Alignment
B.1	Application Development
B.6	Systems Engineering
D.1	Information Security Strategy Development
C.4	Problem Management
A.6	Application Design
D.2	ICT Quality Strategy Development
B.3	Testing
E.6	ICT Quality Management
A.3	Business Plan Development
A.7	Technology Trend Monitoring
B.2	Component Integration

Together with building consensus on a comprehensive and consistent ICT professionalism framework, the efforts of the eCF Alliance focus on practical testing of correlations between e-competences, vocational qualification systems, certification paths and content from the point of view of training providers.

The work of the consortium builds on the **results of a survey** run from November 2015 to March 2016 among more than 100 ICT-related companies and organisations in 6 European countries, meant to provide national-level input to a study on the-state-of-the-art on ICT professions and market, and employability trends. It involved VET providers, competence certifications and credit systems providers, social partners and professional associations.

The respondents highlighted that awareness of the private sector of EU standards is still low and the priorities for fostering the ICT profession are: educational programmes aligned with industry needs; embedding technical multi-disciplinarity in the curricula; and building further awareness of the importance of e-competences for innovation, competitiveness and employability.

Survey participants also identified 15 e-competences -among the 40 listed in the e-CF- that according to them are the most important for ICT professionals and should be developed and analyzed from an educational outcomes and educational objectives perspective:

- A.9 Innovating
- E.8 Information Security Management
- A.5 Architecture Design
- A.1 Information Systems and Business Strategy Alignment
- B.1 Application Development
- B.6 Systems Engineering
- D.1 Information Security Strategy Development
- C.4 Problem Management
- A.6 Application Design
- D.2 ICT Quality Strategy Development
- B.3 Testing
- E.6 ICT Quality Management
- A.3 Business Plan Development
- A.7 Technology Trend Monitoring
- B.2 Component Integration

According to the stakeholders who answered the survey, the domains where the gap between supply and demand is bigger are:

- Software development – indicated by 27 respondents
- Business/ management (i.e. project management, strategical thinking, agile methodologies etc.) – indicated by 26 respondents
- Cyber security– indicated by 14 respondents.

Many of the results from this survey were confirmed in the analysis made by Capgemini Consulting, Ernst & Young, and IDC in the [interim report](#) on the “Development and Implementation of a European Framework for the IT profession” released in June 2016.

e-Competence Qualification Profiles

12 December 2016

e-Competence Qualification Profile							
Title	<Name of the Competence> e-CF <Code>						
Description	<The generic description of the competence according to the e-CF>						
Sample Roles	<Name of the role, e.g. from the CEN Profiles> ESCO <Code>						
Prerequisite Foundational Knowledge	<Title of the Foundational ICT Body of Knowledge>						
Main Subjects	<Subject> <Topic>						
Learning Outcomes	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Description</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><Level description from the e-CF></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Level 1</td> <td> Understanding <Understanding/knowledge element> Skills <Skill> ECVET Points Indication <Number> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Description	<Level description from the e-CF>		Level 1	Understanding <Understanding/knowledge element> Skills <Skill> ECVET Points Indication <Number>
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Literature Examples	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Author</th> <th>Title</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><Author name(s)></td> <td><Book title></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Author	Title	<Author name(s)>	<Book title>		
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In the beginning of July the partners of the eCF Alliance involved in work package 3 (Vocational ICT qualification and certification scheme) delivered the β -version of a Reference Scheme for ICT Related Vocational Qualifications, based on the European e-Competence Framework (e-CF) 3.0. EXIN was in the lead of this work package, with great support from the other partners in the project.

The purpose of this reference scheme is to “translate” e-Competences into Qualifications. The scheme will guarantee VET mutual comparability and harmonisation of e-skills curricula at the EU level to enable ICT skilled professionals’ and workers’ mobility.

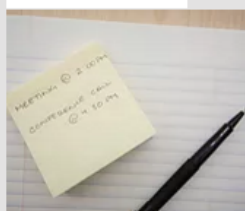
The reference scheme developed sets the basis for further work within the project. It is fully aligned with the e-CF competences and their proficiency levels. Developing learning units based on this scheme will guarantee that students are able to acquire specific competences at a defined, comparable level. The scheme will be updated making a link to the ESCO IT occupations, once these will be made available in the course of 2017. Regarding ECVET (European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training), references will be added once the learning units are finalised.

After the delivery of the β -version, feedback, comments and change proposals were collected. They will be taken into consideration for a later update and for the final version to be delivered at the end of the project. The work of the partners is now gravitating around the development of learning units (work package 4) for the following 6 e-CF competences, identified as particularly relevant to industry in the beginning of the project:

- A.1 IS and Business Strategy Alignment
- A.6 Application Design
- A.7 Technology Trend Monitoring
- B.3 Testing
- D.2 ICT Quality Strategy Development
- E.8 Information Security Management

Working on the development of learning units partners already came across several challenges and possible improvements. For instance, a quick win was made by integrating the knowledge areas of the Foundational ICT Body of Knowledge (BOK), an important pillar (1 of 4) of the ICT Professionalism framework.

Save the Date



Workshop on ICT standards in public procurement

When: 24 January 2017

Where: Brussels

More info: <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/workshop-ict-standards-public-procurement>

Conference “High-Tech and Leadership Skills for Europe – Working together to increase the talent pool for the European Single Market”

When: 26 January 2017

Where: Brussels

More info: <http://leadership2017.eu/>