

Digital Agenda

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for Europe



The ICT industry: research and innovation for the digital economy

The Digital Agenda aims in particular to tackle the major problem of under-investment and fragmentation in Europe's ICT research.

Europe's ICT expenditure in research and development (R&D) stands at only 40% of US expenditure. This is a strategic weakness considering that ICT is the most important enabling technology in the modern economy.

The Digital Agenda will aim to leverage more private investment through the strategic use of pre-commercial procurement and public-private partnerships, by means of EU regional and other funding for research and innovation and by maintaining the pace of yearly increases of the EU's ICT R&D budget established in European research framework programmes, at least until 2013.

The ICT industry also faces a significant lack of highly skilled ICT professionals to meet its current and future job requirements. The European Digital Agenda is addressing this problem by

encouraging ICT education and proposing measures to increase its attractiveness for career development. The availability and better preparedness of ICT professionals will encourage the sound growth of the industry, whose development largely depends on the skills and competences of people.

For people already using ICT skills and working in the tech-sector, the Digital Agenda will help identify and recognise the competences of ICT practitioners, so that companies in need of employees with particular ICT skills can easily identify them.

Want to know more? Check http://europa.eu/information_society/digital-agenda

Any comments or questions? Send an e-mail to INFISO-DIGITAL-AGENDA@ec.europa.eu