



## **ADDRESSING THE DIGITAL SKILLS DEFICIT**

*Adopted at the YEPP Council Meeting, Kyiv, Ukraine  
On the 5<sup>th</sup> of December 2015*

### **Recognising:**

- The previous efforts of YEPP to concentrate on the issues that are currently holding the union back in terms of digital development and progress<sup>1</sup>;
- The measures put in place by the EU in terms of the Digital Single Market Strategy and its ambitious goal to deliver €415 billion per year to the regional economy and 3.8 million jobs by the end of 2016;
- PAAC data shows that between 7% and 27% of adults have no experience in using computers;
- Almost half of the EU population (47%) is not properly digitally skilled and in the near future 90% of jobs require some level of digital skills.

### **Acknowledging:**

- That by 2020, the European Commission has estimated that there will be at least 825,000 open vacancies in the ICT sector due to a lack of skilled personnel<sup>2</sup>;
- Of the 50 nations that Tufts University studied in their "Digital Evolution Index", 23 were European. Of these 23, only four made it into the praiseworthy "Stand Out" category because they have shown high levels of digital development in the past and continue to remain on an upward trajectory. The four were Switzerland, Ireland, Sweden and Estonia<sup>3</sup>;
- One of the priorities for President Juncker's Europe 2020 Jobs and Growth strategy is sustainable growth through the Digital Agenda for Europe.

### **YEPP calls on:**

- Member States and Education Institutions to increase their focus on science, technology, engineering and maths within schools so that European graduates can match the opportunities offered;
- The EU Institutions to promote a greater involvement of third parties in the second and third level education systems, specifically corporations and businesses so they can advise what skills will be required of the workforce of tomorrow e.g. Bloomberg University and data analytics labs<sup>4</sup>;

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<sup>1</sup> <http://youthpepp.eu/sites/default/files/library/SingleMarketWhitePaper.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/grand-coalition-digital-jobs-0>

<sup>3</sup> <http://fletcher.tufts.edu/eBiz/Index>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.bloomberg.com/professional/education/>

- Governments, industry and educational bodies to build the academic and practical skills for success in the technical sector and help foster the talent needed to boost the digital economy;
- European Commission to commission a report into the implementation of European e-competence framework across the 28 members and assess its success;
- Member States to introduce subsidised ICT courses targeted at people who are digitally illiterate so that our society as a whole becomes familiar with the use and importance of ICT;
- All Member States to consider connecting ICT courses to unemployment programmes and benefits so as for the unemployed population to gain skills while job seeking.