

ECDL Foundation Welcomes European e-Skills Week 2012 and Pledges Support as e-Skills Ambassador

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European e-Skills Week is a major awareness-raising campaign of the European Commission with the aim of highlighting the growing demand for skilled Information and Communication Technology (ICT) users and professionals to drive a competitive and innovative Europe. The initiative will provide a unique pan-European platform to promote and share experiences and best practices in e-Skills, foster cooperation, and efficiently mobilise stakeholders.

In its capacity as a leading advocate of European digital literacy and digital inclusion, at both national and international level, ECDL Foundation warmly welcomes this initiative and announces its support as a pan-European stakeholder. Additionally, the CEO of ECDL Foundation, Mr. Damien O'Sullivan, has been appointed as an e-Skills Ambassador. ECDL Foundation will work with Digital Europe and European Schoolnet, who will coordinate the campaign on behalf for the European Commission.

The importance of e-Skills within Europe, and the need to attract as many people – particularly young people – to technology and to ICT-related professions, is crucial to economic recovery and growth; it is estimated that by 2020, 8.5 million new European jobs will be knowledge- and skill-intensive, such as high-level managerial and technical jobs¹.

According to ECDL Foundation's CEO, Mr. O'Sullivan:

“Now more than ever, it's important to raise awareness of the value of digital literacy and e-skills education, training and certification. I am pleased to serve as e-Skills Ambassador, as ECDL Foundation is committed to this message. We believe that it can help empower Europeans with the skills they will need for the jobs of tomorrow, and for a better quality of life in a digital society”.

Building upon the success of e-Skills Week 2010, this campaign promises to be an important platform to promote the benefits of digital literacy to national policymakers and the general public. This will ultimately help to address the skills deficit in Europe, and to generate a more digitally streamlined, competitive, and inclusive Europe.

About ECDL Foundation

ECDL Foundation is the certifying authority for the leading international computer skills certification programme - ECDL / ICDL. ECDL Foundation's mission is to enable proficient use of ICT that empowers individuals, organisations and society, through the development, promotion, and delivery of quality certification programmes throughout the world. With over 11 million candidates participating in a range of programmes, ECDL Foundation has set the global benchmark in end-user skills certification. For more information about ECDL Foundation, and about the ECDL / ICDL programme, please visit: www.ecdl.org

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¹ CEDEFOP (European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training) Briefing Note (2010)
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