

How to apply

European Digital Skills Awards 2023

Who can apply

Applications are welcome from all types of organizations, public, private, academic, research and/or training centres, schools, SMEs or Large Corporates, EU funded projects consortia, public administrations, NGOs, and citizen initiatives who are running or have completed a **project or initiative to support the adoption of digital skills in one of the 5 categories of the awards**.

Eligibility criteria

- The project or initiative must be either **completed (at the latest during 2022), or be currently running and have already accomplished 50% of its identified milestones**. What does this mean in practice? It means that your project or initiative can apply if you are already reaching some of the goals you have set; projects that are in launch phase, or that have not yet produced a measurable impact cannot participate.
- The project or initiative needs to have been implemented **in one or more countries of the European Union**.

Projects with various partner organisations can apply only once, and the submission can be done either by the project leader/coordinator or a partner organization that has received prior consent from the coordinator. This means that if a project is implemented in various countries, it can only apply once.

Applications for projects that do not fit these requirements will be rejected automatically.

Categories

The applications can be presented for **only one of the following categories**:

- ▶ **Empowering Youth in Digital** (i.e. projects to attract the younger public to ICT professions, media literacy initiatives for the younger public, emerging technologies courses for the younger public, hackathons etc)
- ▶ **Digital Upskilling @ Work** (i.e. digital upskilling and reskilling initiatives in various sectors, facilitation of job placement of ICT professionals of all levels)
- ▶ **Digital Skills for Education** (i.e. projects specifically aimed at digital upskilling for teachers and/or students and school administrations)
- ▶ **Inclusion in the Digital World** (i.e. digital training and media literacy initiatives for the elderly, unemployed, vulnerable groups, accessibility)
- ▶ **Women in ICT Careers** (i.e. projects specifically aimed at increasing the number of women ICT professionals or for the digital upskilling of women in the workforce or younger women in ICT) .

If your project or initiative touches various categories, you must choose only one of them for the application.



How to apply

To apply, the contact person from the candidate organization must first **register on the Digital Skills and Jobs Platform**, create a **user profile**, and **create an Organization Profile** ([you can download the instructions here](#)). Please verify first that your organization is not already registered, as indicated in the instructions. If you are in doubt whether your organization is registered or not, please get in touch with the Platform team by emailing info@digitalskillsjobs.eu.

Once the registration of the organization is completed, the applicant must fill in the application [online following this link](#)– please use the same email address that was used to create the Organization on the Digital Skills and Jobs Platform, this will be the email for all further contacts regarding the Awards.

The deadline for applications is 8 April 2023 at 12 CET; after the deadline the registration platform will be closed. Should you experience any problems applying online, you can contact the Platform team via email at info@digitalskillsjobs.eu.

Each application will include:

- **A description of the project**, country/region involved, partners and target public, and the desired milestones set;
- The connection between the project and the **Digital Decade goals for Digital Skills**;
- **Impact**: what are the goals of the project? Indicate the milestones and give a status update on the accomplishment of the specific project milestones to evaluate the current impact;
- **Sustainability**: describe how the project can be scalable or sustainable in future years
- **Replicability**: how the project can be shared and recreated in other contexts – or if it has already been replicated with success, please detail how and where;
- **Innovation and originality**: why is this project innovative and what sets it apart from the others?
- **Outreach and dissemination**: how is this project presented to the target public, communicated and promoted in order to reach its target public
- **Accessibility**: please indicate the measures taken to allow people with a disability to participate of the initiative, or access the services or trainings from a technical point of view (accessibility of digital products).

Selection procedure and timeline

The application and selection procedures will be divided in 3 phases with the following timeline:

Applications

Applications for the awards will be open from 20 February to 8 April 2023.

Pre-selection and selection of the winners for each category

After the closing of the applications, the Digital Skills and Jobs Platform Team will pre-evaluating the applications following the selection criteria specified below. For each category, up to 5 applications will be selected, based on the scoring obtained for each evaluation criteria. The finalist applications will be then presented to the jury, composed of



5 members belonging to European and International organisations active in the field of digital skills. The jury will meet to discuss the finalist applications and select the winners for each category.

Announcing the finalists and winning projects

- a) The projects selected as finalists will be presented on 25 May 2023 in an online event and will be published in the Digital Skills and Jobs Platform and promoted via the @DigitalSkillsEU Social media channels (Facebook and Twitter).
- b) The winners of the awards will be announced during an online event in the month of June, and the winners will be invited to come to Brussels to receive the awards and participate in a co-creation workshop organized by the Digital Skills and Jobs Platform, together with the network of European National Coalitions for Skills and Jobs.

Evaluation criteria

The finalist applications will be evaluated by the jury, which will be attributing a scoring based on 5 criteria for a maximum of 30 points, based on the table below.

Indicator	Description	Score – Max 30
Impact	How is the project/initiative impacting its target beneficiaries? What is the wider impact of the actions implemented as part of the project/initiative? Please define the milestones and goals set and the status (completed, ongoing). For ongoing project please specify the state of advancement regarding the set milestones.	5
Sustainability/ Scalability	How is the project supported (through funding or self-sustainable) and is the project meant to continue in time? What are the sources of financial support, and is the project structured in a way that will allow it to expand in the future?	5
Replicability	Can the project be replicated in other countries/regions and is any support envisioned for other organisations wishing to implement it in their area? If any use of software is envisioned, is this open source or can a license be extended to third parties also?	5

Innovation and originality	Is the project innovative in its area/region of implementation? What are the innovative characteristics? (This can refer to both technology or tools used or to processes or to the outreach strategy).	5
Outreach and dissemination	How is the project being disseminated to reach its target public and to make a wider impact? Please mention, if applicable, use of social media and communication strategies implemented.	4
Clarity of presentation	The applications will be also evaluated based on the clarity of the application content.	3
Accessibility and inclusion	3 points will be awarded to projects and initiatives that have insured that all tools, online and offline, are available for users of all abilities (accessibility of online platforms and alternative content options for people with disabilities to participate in the project/initiative). These criteria will be evaluated for all applications, not exclusively for the candidatures for the Inclusion category.	3

Pre-selection and evaluation of applications - Transparency

The pre-selection of the applications received will be carried out by the Digital Skills and Platform Team, a consortium of organisations led by European Schoolnet and consisting of Tremend, DIGITALEUROPE, LIKTA, European DIGITAL SME Alliance and Public Libraries 2030. In the case of applications involving one or more of the consortium partners, the said applications will be evaluated by another partner which is not involved in the candidate project.

The jury members for the final evaluation will be selected based on both competence and experience criteria on the 5 award categories, and on the lack of involvement in any of the finalist projects, so as to avoid conflict of interest.

Prizes

The **winners** of each category will receive the following:

- ▶ Mention and presence in the online event to announce the winners;
- ▶ Publication of their initiative/project on the Digital Skills and Jobs Platform and promotion on the @DigitalSkillsEU Social Media accounts
- ▶ A trophy and certificate;
- ▶ An invitation to participate in the awards ceremony in Brussels and to be part of the co-creation workshop, with travel and accommodation expenses offered by the organisers.

The **finalists** for each category will have their project/initiative presented in the Digital Skills and Jobs Platform and promotion on the @DigitalSkillsEU Social Media accounts.

Additional rules for the applicants

The submission of an application for the European Digital Skills Awards 2023 implies full acceptance of these Regulations.

The provision of partial or untruthful information during the presentation of the application will result in exclusion from the Awards.

Participants guarantee that the candidate initiative does not infringe the copyright or intellectual property rights of third parties. It also relieves the organisers of any claim or dispute for any reason made by third parties that may arise regarding the use and exploitation of the initiatives promoted in the context of the aforementioned Awards.

The organisers reserve the right to exclude initiatives whose content violates the intellectual property rights of third parties, is contrary to the law, public order or morality.

Under no circumstances may the applicants make claims against the organisers, in relation to participation in this award and any failure to select the initiative presented.

The organisers reserve the unquestionable right to cancel or suspend the competition and the distribution of prizes at any time in the event that factors beyond their control do not allow operations, all candidates will be promptly notified of this.

Participants will be able to communicate and disseminate their participation in the Awards and the result achieved using the press-kit provided by the Digital Skills and Jobs Platform team.

Contacts

For any questions regarding the application process, or if you are unsure if your project is eligible, please contact the Digital Skills and Jobs Platform team at info@digitalskillsjobs.eu.

Ready to apply? [Click here to submit your application!](#)

