17 June 2025

Champions for the Digital Decade Financial Support to Third Parties

Open Call documentation

Contents

Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Full term
EU	European Union
EC	European Commission
DSJP	Digital Skills and Jobs Platform
NC	National Coalition
FSTP	Financial Support to Third Parties
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
C4DD	Champions for the Digital Decade
CEF	Connected Europe Facility
DEP	Digital Europe Programme
MOOC	Massive Open Online Courses
HaDEA	European Health and Digital Executive Agency
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
EEA	European Economic Era
OCT	Overseas Countries and Territories

C4DD- FSTP Call summary

Title	Champions for the Digital Decade – Financial Support to Third Parties
When	Deadline: 31 August 2025, 23:59 CET
Target Entities	National Coalitions for Digital Skills and Jobs
Application form	https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/FSTP_call_C4DD
Activities	• Launch a national website and connect it to the Digital Skills and Jobs Platform (for newly established National Coalitions) • Technical maintenance, upgrading, and security updates for the national platform (for existing NCs' websites) • Presentation of the National Coalition and its members/activities in 4 categories • Overview of relevant national and regional strategies with description • Overview of EU initiatives and programmes in digital skills and jobs, relevant news and events • Presentation of 20 good practices from the national/regional/local level, with in depth • Presentation of 3 good practices • Presentation of 8 good practices from the Core Platform published on the national website • Presentation of 10 resources on digital skills • Presentation of 50 training opportunities targeting different groups of end- users • Presentation of 10 national and international financing opportunities in the field of digital skills • Publication of at least 20 relevant events in the calendar • Publication of at least 3 original news/announcements per month • Publication of at least 3 news/announcements per month transferred from the Core Platform

- Publication and distribution of 2 original press releases per year

- Organisation of at least 2 events, reaching on average 50 participants per event

- Each National Coalition will use the e-Translation tool on the Core Platform to translate content from their national website and publish it on the Core Platform.

- Each National Coalition must contribute at least 45 content items to the Core Platform.

- Additionally, each National Coalition must pull and translate at least 120 content items from the Core Platform to publish on their national website.

Introduction

This document provides information on the call for proposals launched under the Champions for the Digital Decade (C4DD) project to award Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP). The funding is intended for National Coalitions (NCs) to support the development, upgrade, and integration of their national websites with the Digital Skills and Jobs Platform (DSJP). The aim is to enhance the visibility, accessibility, and interoperability of digital skills initiatives across Europe. This action contributes directly to the objectives of the Digital Decade Policy Programme and the Union of Skills, including increasing the share of adults with basic digital skills, growing the number of ICT professionals, and promoting inclusion—particularly gender equality—in the digital sector.

About C4DD Project

Launched in March 2025 and funded under the Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL-2024-ADVANCED-DIGITAL-06- Advanced Digital Skills) the Champions for the Digital Decade (C4DD) project is committed to strengthening the development, maintenance, and expansion of national digital skills ecosystems. It builds upon previous efforts, including the CEF-TC-2019-2 and CEF-TC-2020-2 calls, which helped establish connections between DSJP and 22 National Coalition websites. The project supports the continuity and technical upgrades of existing NC websites while facilitating the formation of National Coalitions in Member States where there none, and their connection to DSJP. Enhancing the visibility and accessibility of national digital skills initiatives at the European level is a key objective, ensuring that information about training, jobs, and opportunities reaches a wider audience.

Currently, 13 National Coalitions with established national websites are actively participating in C4DD, alongside one National Coalition without established national website and one National Coalition in the process of establishment. The project will improve website interoperability and enable seamless content and data exchange between national and EU platforms, strengthening the overall digital skills ecosystem in Europe.

C4DD is implemented by a consortium of 17 partners:

- EUN Partnership AISBL (coordinator)

- DIGITALEUROPE AISBL

- Sdruzhenie Digitalna Natsionalna Koalitsiya (Bulgaria)

- Narodni Pedagogisky Institut Ceske Republiky (Czech Republic)

- Stiftung Digitale Chancen (Germany)

- Dansk IT (Denmark)

- AS BCS Koolitus (Estonia)

- Ypourgeio Psifiakis Diakyvernisis (Greece)

- Asociacion Multisectoral de Empresas de la Electronica, las Tecnologías de la Información y la Comunicación de las Telecomunicaciones y de los Contenidos Sociales (Spain)

- Asosiacija Langas I Ateiti (Lithuania)

- WIDE ANDCO (Luxembourg)

- Latvijas Informacijas un Komunikacijas Tehnologijas Asociacija (Latvia)

- eSkills Malta Foundation (Malta)

- Associação DNS.PT (Portugal)

- Universitatea din Bucuresti (Romania)

- Zavod Digitalno Inovacijsko Sticisce Slovenije (Slovenia)

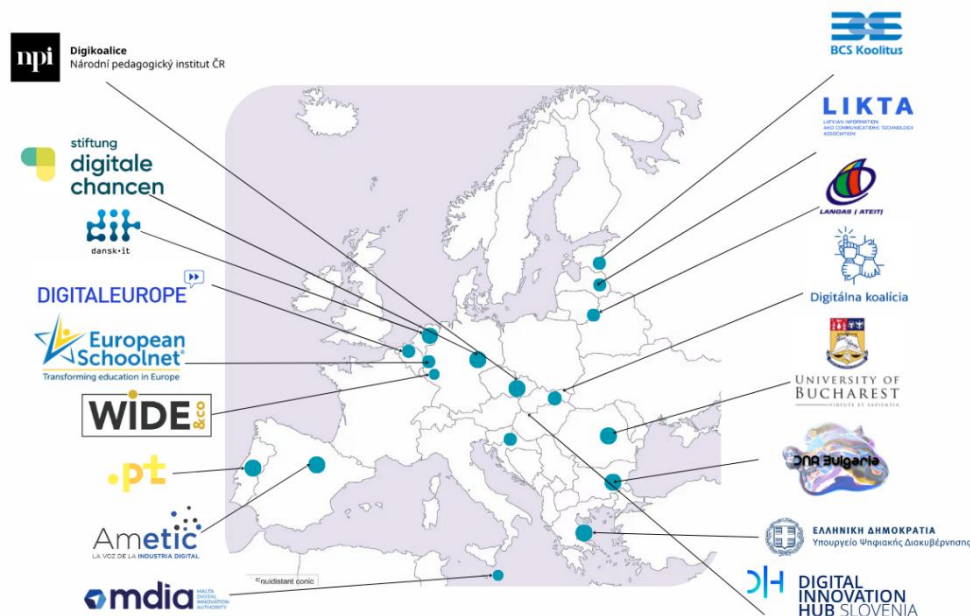- Narodna Koalicia pre Digitalne Zrucnosti a Povolania Slovenskej Republiky (Slovakia)

Figure 1. Consortium composition

C4DD is launching a Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) mechanism to provide a funding support for National Coalitions that are not part of the consortium, to develop, upgrade, and integrate their websites with DSJP. This funding will support interoperability efforts, ensuring smooth data sharing between national websites and DSJP while fostering collaboration, knowledge sharing, and digital skills training across the EU. By enhancing the digital skills ecosystem, fostering inclusivity, and driving innovation, this initiative directly contributes to the Digital Europe Programme and strengthens Europe's digital competitiveness and resilience.

Background

The European Union is facing a critical shortage of both basic and advanced digital skills, creating a significant challenge for the internal market. Addressing this gap is essential for the widespread adoption of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, cloud computing, the Internet of Things (IoT), extended reality, quantum computing, semiconductors, and blockchain, as well as for strengthening key areas like cybersecurity and coding.

To tackle this issue, the Digital Decade Policy Programme has set ambitious targets for 2030, aiming to ensure that 80% of European adults have at least a basic level of digital skills and to increase the number of ICT professionals in Europe to 20 million. Promoting gender inclusivity in the tech sector is also a priority, with a focus on increasing the participation of women in ICT roles. These efforts are complemented by

the Union of Skills objectives, which aim to deliver higher levels of both basic and advanced digital skills and to provide individuals with continuous opportunities to update and acquire new skills.

A key initiative supporting these objectives is the Digital Skills and Jobs Platform (DSJP), which serves as a centralised hub for digital skills-related information, training, and funding opportunities across Europe. At the national level, National Coalitions (NCs) play a crucial role in connecting individuals and businesses with relevant digital skills initiatives through their dedicated websites. These national platforms are linked to the core DSJP, enabling the exchange of best practices, funding opportunities, career information, and stakeholder engagement across the EU.

Champions for the Digital Decade Financial Support to Third Parties

Objectives

The Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) mechanism under the Champions for the Digital Decade (C4DD) project aims to strengthen the capacity of National Coalitions (NCs) by supporting the development, enhancement, and interoperability of their national websites connected to the Digital Skills and Jobs Platform (DSJP). The overarching goal is to improve access to reliable, up-to-date information on digital skills, training, and workforce development opportunities, helping individuals upskill and reskill, and enabling organisations to address digital talent needs more effectively.

For established National Coalitions, the FSTP will support technical upgrades, content management improvements, ongoing platform maintenance, and enhanced stakeholder engagement. This includes translating and localising content, improving the flow of information between national websites and the DSJP, and raising the visibility of national digital skills initiatives.

For newly established National Coalitions in Member States where such platforms do not yet exist, the funding will support the creation and launch of integrated national websites. These platforms will act as centralised national access points for digital skills resources, including training, funding opportunities, best practices, and events. In both cases, the FSTP aims to foster multi-stakeholder collaboration, improve interoperability with the DSJP, and promote inclusive access to digital skills through targeted communication and outreach activities.

Additionally, online and offline events will play a crucial role in raising awareness about digital skills opportunities among individuals, businesses, and policymakers at both local and national levels. These initiatives will enhance collaboration and knowledge-sharing between stakeholders, strengthening Europe's digital skills ecosystem.

Outcomes and deliverables

The outcomes of this FSTP call will vary depending on the status of the National Coalition applicants. The main distinction lies in Activity 1, as newly established NCs or those without a national website will be required to develop a new national website and connect it to the Digital Skills and Jobs Platform (DSJP). Existing NCs with operational websites will receive funding for the technical maintenance, upgrading, and security updates of their platforms. All National Coalition applicants must implement the activities outlined in Activity 2 and Activity 3 to ensure a cohesive and comprehensive approach to digital skills development across Europe.

In **Activity 1:** Web Development, new National Coalitions must develop a national website/database that will serve as a structured and coherent web antenna to the DSJP, providing content and data on digital

skills and jobs in the official language(s) of their country. These websites must include interoperable links to the Core Platform, ensuring alignment with technical specifications. For NCs with existing national websites, the focus will be on upgrading, maintenance, and implementing security updates, ensuring continued functionality and reliability.

Activity 2: Services, Content, and Community-Related Activities will require all NCs to develop and manage relevant digital skills content on their national websites. This includes presenting information about the National Coalition and its members, as well as curating and displaying relevant EU initiatives, funding opportunities, events, and training resources from the Core Platform. Each NC will implement an interoperable repository of good practices connected to the Core Platform and a repository of resources on digital skills, including strategies, training materials, case studies, and non-proprietary MOOCs. They will also highlight advanced digital skills training opportunities, ensuring accessibility across various learning formats and educational providers.

To further support digital skills promotion, NCs will present funding opportunities at national and EU levels, publish relevant events in an online calendar, and produce news and skills intelligence reports to inform stakeholders about digital skills needs in their country. Additionally, they will organise webinars, online events, and peer-to-peer learning exchanges, contributing to the knowledge-sharing and community-building efforts of DSJP. Communication, promotion, and community management activities will also be a key focus, ensuring the visibility and engagement of stakeholders through press releases, newsletters, social media, and digital outreach strategies.

Activity 3: Post-Editing and Localisation of Content will ensure that all National Coalitions translate and localise relevant content between English and their official language(s), making information accessible to national audiences while also sharing valuable national insights with the wider European digital skills community. This includes translating and reviewing EU policy information, skills intelligence, best practices, funding and training opportunities, news, and events. To facilitate efficient translation, NCs will have access to the European Commission's translation system (eTranslation), with the responsibility of reviewing and refining machine-generated translations before publication results.

Concrete actions

More concretely the objectives stated above will be addressed via a number of concrete actions. National Coalitions websites are a gateway to variety of opportunities to empower citizens and organisation into their digital transition by offering relevant training opportunities, news, events, expert articles, etc to support skilling and upskilling. In particular, with regard to the outputs published on the National Coalitions websites, every National Coalition will meet the following KPIs:

- Launch a national website and connect it to the Digital Skills and Jobs Platform (for newly established National Coalitions).

- Technical maintenance, upgrading, and security updates for the national platform (for existing NCs' websites)

- Presentation of the National Coalition and its members/activities in 4 categories

- Overview of relevant national and regional strategies with description

- Overview of EU initiatives and programmes in digital skills and jobs, relevant news and events

- Presentation of 20 good practices from the national/regional/local level, with in depth

- Presentation of 3 good practices

- Presentation of 8 good practices from the Core Platform published on the national website

- Presentation of 10 resources on digital skills

- Presentation of 50 training opportunities targeting different groups of end- users

- Presentation of 10 national and international financing opportunities in the field of digital skills

- Publication of at least 20 relevant events in the calendar

- Publication of at least 3 original news/announcements per month

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Each National Coalition will use the e-Translation tool on the Core Platform to translate content from their national website and publish it on the Core Platform.

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Eligibility criteria

Eligible Candidates

The recipients of this FSTP are National Coalitions for digital skills and jobs. National Coalitions are multi-stakeholder partnerships that bring together a wide range of stakeholders with the common goal of promoting digital literacy at all levels of society. These coalitions bring together ICT and ICT-intensive companies, training providers, ministries of education and labour, public and private employment services, and civil society organisations. Their joint efforts focus on developing national digital skills strategies and action plans, expanding industry-led training programs, certifying digital skills, improving school and university curricula, and raising awareness of digital skills and ICT careers. Special emphasis is placed on attracting young people and women into digital careers.

The Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) will be provided to either:

1. National Coalition coordinators, or

2. Members of a National Coalition who have received official authorisation from their Coalition's coordinator to receive and use the funding exclusively for National Coalition activities.

For newly established National Coalitions, the organisation claiming to be the coordinator must provide support letters from key national-level stakeholders (e.g. public and governmental bodies) to confirm their coordinating role and legitimacy.

To be eligible to apply, National Coalitions must include with their application documented evidence of support from key national stakeholders. These stakeholders can include government bodies, national-level ICT authorities, ICT and ICT-intensive companies, training providers, ministries of education and labour, public and private employment services, and civil society organizations. The supporting evidence must acknowledge the coalition's contribution towards achieving the Digital Decade targets.

Eligible Countries

The C4DD FSTP mechanism is open to National Coalitions established in EU Member States (including overseas countries and territories (OCTs), as well as in non- EU countries such as listed EEA countries and those associated with the Digital Europe Programme. This includes those funded under the CEF-TC calls of 2019 and 2020, namely Italy, Cyprus, Poland, Sweden, Ireland, Belgium, Austria, Croatia, and Hungary., as well as newly established National Coalitions in France, Netherlands and Finland.

National Coalitions that are members of the **C4DD consortium are not eligible to apply for this call**. These include coalitions from Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Greece, Malta, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Luxembourg, Germany, Estonia, Latvia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Denmark, and Lithuania.

Available budget

Total available funding: 180,000 EUR

- **Maximum grant per recipient National Coalition with established website: 60,000 EUR**

- **Maximum grant per new recipient National Coalition without an established website: 75,000 EUR**

The Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) under the C4DD project offers differentiated funding amounts based on whether the applicant is a newly established or existing National Coalition (NC). The funding is structured to support specific activities aimed at developing or enhancing national websites and promoting digital skills initiatives. The breakdown is as follows:

For New National Coalitions:

- **Activity 1:** Development of a new website – 30,000 EUR

- **Activity 2:** Stakeholder engagement and integration with the DSJP – 37,000 EUR

- **Activity 3:** Post-editing and localisation – 8,000 EUR

For Existing National Coalitions:

- **Activity 1**: Technical upgrade and maintenance of the existing website – 15,000 EUR

- **Activity 2:** Services, Content, and Community-Related Activities 37,000 EUR

Activity 3: Post-editing and localisation – 8,000 EUR* *Please note, the final grant amounts may vary depending on the number of selected applications.*

Timetable and deadlines

Timetable and deadlines (indicative)

Call opening:	June 2025
Deadline for submission	31 August 2025
Evaluation	September 2025
Information on evaluation results	End of September 2025
Project start date/implementation	October 2025
Project end date	February 2027

Evaluation Criteria

1. Relevance

- Alignment with the objectives and activities aforementioned in this call.

- Contribution to the [Digital Decade Policy Programme](), specifically by increasing the proportion of European adults with at least basic digital skills to 80%, reaching 20 million ICT professionals, and promoting gender inclusion in the technology sector by 2030.

- Alignment with the [Union of Skills]() objectives, by supporting the development of both basic and advanced digital skills and providing individuals with opportunities to regularly update and acquire new skills throughout their lives. Contribution to strengthening National Coalitions for digital skills and jobs and the Advanced Digital Skills priorities.

- Synergies with relevant national and European policies, strategies, and initiatives.

2. Implementation

- Maturity of the project: Clear goals, timeline, and feasibility of implementation.

- Operational capacity: Ability of the applicants to execute the proposed activities effectively. Applicants must demonstrate the necessary know-how, qualifications, and resources to successfully implement the project. In particular, they must provide evidence of their operational capacity through the general profiles—qualifications, experience, and relevant IT expertise—of the staff responsible for managing and implementing the project.

3. Impact

- Expected outcomes and deliverables: Contribution to closing digital skills gaps at the national level.

- Strengthening national digital skills ecosystems: Engagement with stakeholders such as industry, academia, public institutions, and civil society.

- Scalability and sustainability: Potential for long-term impact and replication at regional/national levels.

- Addressing financial barriers: Strategies to secure additional funding and ensure long-term viability.

Evaluation criteria	Description
Relevance (max 5 points)	How does your project align with the objectives and activities outlined in the call, and what concrete steps will you take to achieve them? How does your project complement and create synergies with existing national and European digital skills policies, strategies, or initiatives?
Implementation (max 5 points)	Does your project have clear goals, a well-defined timeline, and a feasible implementation plan to ensure successful execution? What experience and resources do you have to effectively implement the proposed activities and achieve the expected outcomes?
Impact (max 5 points)	How will your project contribute to closing digital skills gaps at the national level, and what measurable outcomes do you expect to achieve? How will you engage key stakeholders (industry, academia, public institutions, and civil society) to build a stronger digital skills ecosystem? What strategies do you have in place to ensure the project's long-term impact and potential for replication at regional or national levels? How do you plan to secure additional funding and ensure the financial sustainability of your project beyond the initial funding period?

Selection criteria

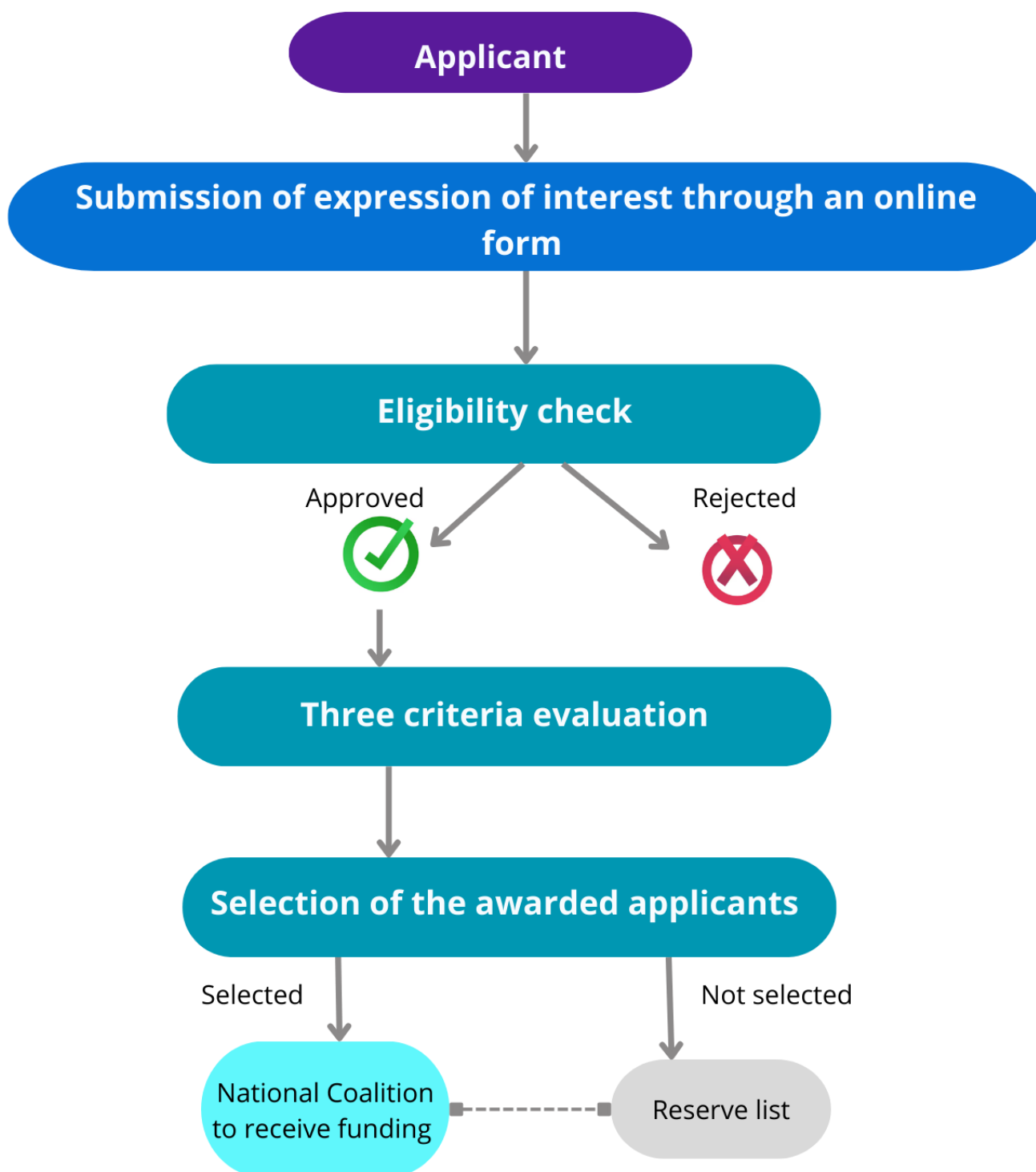| Selection Criteria	Description
1. Relevance	
Alignment with Call Objectives	The proposal aligns clearly with the objectives and activities described in the FSTP call.
Synergies with Policies/Strategies	The project aligns with relevant national and European policies, strategies, and initiatives.
2. Implementation	
Project Maturity & Feasibility	The goals, timeline, and feasibility of the project are clearly defined and realistic.
Operational Capacity	The applicants have the necessary ability, resources, and experience to execute the project effectively.
3. Impact	
Expected Outcomes & Deliverables	The project will contribute to closing digital skills gaps at the national level, and clear deliverables are expected.
Stakeholder Engagement	The project engages with relevant stakeholders (industry, academia, public institutions, civil society) to strengthen the national digital skills ecosystem.
Scalability & Sustainability	The project is designed for long-term impact and has the potential to be replicated at regional/national levels.
Addressing Financial Barriers	The proposal includes strategies to secure additional funding and ensure the long-term viability of the project.

Application process

Figure 2. Evaluation procedure

All interested applicants may submit their application at any time during the Call opening period through the form hosted by EUSurvey.

Applicants shall complete the online application form and upload the supporting documents

Application forms must be filled out in English.

To be considered admissible, an application must:

- Be submitted in the electronic submission system (above form) before the deadline stated in the Call

- Be written in the English language only.

- Be complete in all its parts.

- Respect the word count limits set out in each section of the application form

Evaluation process

Evaluation is divided into three stages: 1) Eligibility; 2) Quality of the proposal; and 3) Selection

1. **Eligibility**

   EUN as the coordinator of the C4DD will evaluate applications against the minimum eligibility criteria. The eligibility criteria are specified in this call document in the section "eligibility criteria" above. Applicants who are not in compliance with the above eligibility criteria will be subject to rejection at this stage.

2. **Quality of the proposal**

   Four representatives of C4DD consortium partners will evaluate each application. The evaluators will assess three areas ("evaluation criteria"). Each area will be scored on a scale of 0-5. Applicants must score at least 3 points for each evaluation criteria in order to be selected.

0	Proposal fails to address the criteria
1	The topic is inadequately addressed, or there are serious weaknesses.
2	The proposal broadly addresses the criteria but there are serious weaknesses
3	The proposal addresses the criteria well, but a number of shortcomings are present
4	The proposal addresses the criteria well with few shortcomings
5	The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criteria

After evaluation by the selection panel, applications will be ranked, and the highest scorers will be eligible for funding.

The maximum total score is 20 points

A minimum of 9/15 will be necessary to pass.

3. **Selection**

   The evaluation scores by each team will be reviewed by the full project partnership where the selection criteria are applied (see the above section, "Selection criteria"), and the final decision is taken. This decision is then formally ratified by the project General Assembly to decide on the winners, who will then be invited to draw up a contract with the coordinator of the C4DD project.

All proposals will be informed about the evaluation result. Successful proposals will be invited for grant preparation; the other ones will be put on the reserve list or rejected.

Exclusion criteria

Applicants will be excluded from participation if they:

- Are in bankruptcy, in liquidation, in legal proceedings, cessation of activity y or other similar situations according to their national law and regulation.

- Have been sentenced for corruption, fraud, or participated in a criminal organisation or any other illicit activities.

- Are under administrative sanctions.

- Have made false statements or concealed information for this call.

- Show significant deficiencies in complying with the main obligations under an EU procurement contract, grant agreement or grant decision.

- Are guilty of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of Regulation No 2988/95

- That do not show in their application documented evidence of support from key national stakeholders

The candidate(s) must certify to not fall in any of the above categories through the "Declaration of honour / financial declaration"

Proposal Documentation

C4DD FSTP call is supported by the following documentation which can be accessed on the DSJP and in the official website of the project coordinator. Ap0plicants must carefully review all relevant materials before proceeding with their submission.

Annex I: Call documentation (this document)

Annex II: Guidelines for applicants

Annex III: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) to support applicants for the FSTP call.

Where to get help?

If the applicants have any questions of require any further information about the call, they can contact the coordinator of the C4DD project at: C4DD@eun.org.

Disclaimer

This document is part of the Champions for the Digital Decade – C4DD project under EC grant agreement 101195051. Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HADEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) is NOT an EU action; the beneficiaries provide the financial support **in their own name** and **under their own responsibility**. The beneficiaries' own responsibility also includes the preparation and drafting of the content and conditions of the respective cascade calls. The publication of cascade calls in the EU Funding & Tenders Portal is made solely for information purposes with the aim to facilitate increased visibility of the cascade calls to the general public. The publication of cascade calls in the EU Funding & Tenders Portal publication shall not be construed as direct or indirect approval of the content and conditions of the cascade calls by the relevant EU funding authorities or as any form of waiver from the aforementioned responsibility.

In line with the above, when promoting the EU action the financial support must therefore NOT be presented as directly provided by the EU. The recipients (third parties) are NOT party to the Grant Agreement. **The beneficiaries remain responsible towards the granting authority for the proper use of the funding by the recipients**

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