

Digital Skills and Jobs Platform: Call for Expression of Interest for Topic Experts for Digital Briefs – 2026 series

EXPERTS' CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE PLATFORM PAPERS SERIES OF
DIGITAL BRIEFS - 2026



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1. Background

About the Digital Skills & Jobs Platform

The [Digital Skills and Jobs Platform](#) (DSJP) is the home of digital skills and jobs in Europe and the heart of the Digital Skills and Jobs Community. Launched in 2021, and funded by the [Digital Europe Programme](#), the Platform supports the objectives of the EU Digital Decade Policy Communication linked to boosting the digital competences of European society and workforce. Today, the DSJP Community counts over 20.000 members active in the field of digital skills, ICT competencies and jobs, and continues to grow.

Content on the Digital Skills and Jobs Platform is dedicated to everyone. On the Platform, users can find a wide range of high-quality information, resources, reports, and training opportunities in the area of digital skills and jobs across all levels, from very basic to advanced. A one-stop-shop for the latest updates and news in the field of digital skills and jobs, content on the Platform is accessible and presented in an easy-to-understand way. At the same time, some sections cater to users with more advanced digital knowledge and ICT expertise.

About the Digital Briefs

The Digital Briefs series on the Platform are one of the sections offering more in-depth and high-quality content on key topics in the field of digital skills and jobs and key technologies, whilst reflecting the diversity of perspectives at the core of the EU's strengths.

Each brief is presented in the form of a deep-dive: a longer, in-depth article following the approach of an academic paper (ranging between 2.000 – 3.000 words, excluding references), which focuses on a relevant topic around digital skills and jobs and/or technology, in a user-friendly format, style, and tone. Some examples of deep-dives already published are available below:

- [“All Things Data: a skilled workforce in a data-driven future?” \(deep-dive\)](#)
- [AI: a high-stakes game, but at what cost? \(deep-dive\)](#)

The Digital Briefs already online are the result of several previous calls for expression of interest for topic experts to lead on producing the papers in the series.

It is within this context that the Digital Skills & Jobs Platform is launching a new call for expression of interest for experts to contribute with the research, drafting, and writing of the digital briefs on the topics listed in [Section 2: The services to be supplied](#) of this document. The Digital Briefs produced will be published within the [dedicated section](#) for in-depth overviews on the Platform.

2. The services to be supplied

The consortium behind the Digital Skills & Jobs Platform, coordinated by EUN, on behalf of HaDEA, (the European Health and Digital Executive Agency) is looking for experts to research, draft, and write papers in the area of digital skills and jobs.

The specific topics of the papers have been identified by the Platform team, in agreement with the European Commission (please see the full list further down in this section).

For each paper, a lump sum of 1,000 Euro (excluding VAT) will be paid to the selected and contracted expert.

The experts selected shall have substantial experience in the topics they apply for, a background including research and analysis activities, and specific experience in writing such materials. They should be based in Europe (EEA) and their context of work should be the European context. A good knowledge of English (the language the papers will be drafted and published), is essential. Experts should be reachable during standard office hours in Europe.

This Call welcomes expression of interest by individual experts. Application by groups and organisations will not be eligible.

Each expert can be contracted for a maximum of 2 papers in 2025, for a maximum lump sum of 2,000 Euro (please see the list below and read [Section 3. The conditions](#)).

Each paper will need to respond to the following requirements.

- The content of the paper should be original content and it should not be published in other platform or publications (please see also below about the content IPR), while it can be based on available and existing research, studies, and data.
- The content should also follow the core principles of the editorial guidelines of the Digital Skills and Jobs Platform and its criteria (for example relevance, reliability, accessibility, non for profit, transparency, clarity etc.) and provide an independent perspective on the topic.
- Language: English (British English).
- Format and content to be provided: core content of the paper (text, images, graphs etc.) and content for one infographic in A4 (text and information), to complement visually the article. (The infographics will be then designed by the Platform team).
- Length of the article content: 2,000-3,000 words (references section not included).
- Structure of the infographic content: to be agreed upon confirmation of the expert, based on indications by Platform team and standard graphic format.
- The paper should also be complemented with appropriate references and quote/testimonials when relevant.

Digital Briefs – List of topics

For this call for the Digital Skills and Jobs Platform Briefs, we welcome expressions of interest for any of the 11 topics listed below. All topics should be tackled from the prism/perspective of digital skills and jobs. The exact scope and final titles may be elaborated in discussion with the selected expert and tweaked as a result.

1. An exploration of a new world made possible by quantum technology - *from futuristic tales to real-world practical advancements in the field in Europe.*
2. AI & Health – *How are advancements in AI breaking frontiers in medical technology? A focus on some use cases of AI uptake and deployment in healthcare for good that is bringing tangible benefits to humanity.*

3. Stepping into the metaverse: *what are the skills we need to make the most immersive environments?* (in the context of 1) development skills like XR and 3D modelling and 2) user skills – navigation, collaboration, safety).
4. Structural barriers for women in ICT as a direct impediment to competitiveness: *why do so few women progress into leadership roles, despite outperforming male counterparts in education and training?*
5. 'The wind of change': *is skill-based recruitment in the digital economy on the rise? A deep-dive into skill-based recruitment versus degree-based hiring in the ICT sector.*
6. 'Age ain't nothing but a number' – *closing the digital skills gap for adults in view of the Digital Decade targets.*
7. Digital skills for public good: *how can we build digital capacity for public servants in local administrations? What are the benefits from the digitalisation of public services and who are the leaders and the laggards amongst EU Member States?*
8. 'The weakest link': *at the intersection of Internet of Things and cybersecurity in a hyperconnected Europe, how can we build the skills to ensure connected devices are safe, and train EU workforce to manage IoT risks?*
9. 'Telling right from wrong': *an exploration of deepfakes, altered information and the media authentication and critical skills we need to tell what is real and what is not.*²
10. Deskilling or upskilling? *An exploration of roles being taken up (deskilled) by automation, with a focus on the skills and know-how workers can gain and deploy to transition to occupations less touched by the transformative effect of GenAI.*
11. 'Digital reskilling and mid-career transitions': *what helps and what hinders mid-career workers to reskill for digital roles?*

The experts will be involved in the following activities:

- Definition of the final outline and scope of the papers they are selected for, through emails and/or short online calls with a member of the Digital Skills and Jobs Platform team.
- Research and drafting of the content for the paper and the related infographic, autonomously, including references and bibliography.
- Up to 3 feedback and revision cycles with the Platform team, for each paper (feedback from Platform team and revised version by the expert).
- Final revision of the layout/design of each paper and infographic, once delivered by the Platform team designer/s.

The experts will work in close collaboration with the Platform team overseeing the editorial activities of the Platform. The Platform team will provide detailed editorial guidelines to which the Digital Briefs should correspond, together with indications on tone and scope of each paper. The final outline and content scope of each paper will be agreed upon the expert and the Platform team upon signature of the contract and validated by the European Commission.

The content development work (final version of the content and infographic content) should be delivered between April and July. The exact duration of engagement would depend on the availability of experts and

will be negotiated at the contract preparation stage. The exact time frame for delivery will be determined in conjunction with each selected expert.

For all outputs:

- The contractors are expected to do the work themselves.
- Experts will be required to waive IPR of content provided to EUN Partnership AISBL. The IPR will be then waived by EUN in favour of HaDEA, the European Health and Digital Executive Agency, for the purposes mentioned in the framework service contract for the Digital Skills and Jobs Platform (these clauses will be included and specific in the contract with the expert selected).

The method of appointment of the experts and the contractual conditions are more particularly described in [Section 3, The Conditions](#) of this Call.

3. The Conditions

To reply to this call, the applicants should fill in [this online form, via EU Survey](#).

The selection of the successful applicant will be based on the following criteria:

- The experience of the expert in relation to the services to be performed as following:
 - Relevance of the experience in terms of the topics selected.
 - Diverse background
 - Years of experience
 - Research, drafting, and editing skills
 - Capacity to prove experience related to the European context and scope.
- The assessment of the short teasers for each topic and how this responds and matches the scope and approach of the Digital Skills and Jobs Platform.

The project Evaluation Committee may decide, at its entire discretion, to give a weighting to the various selection criteria – for example, topic preferences.

Please note that the Evaluation Committee is not bound to select if the offers received are not of sufficient quality or for any other business reason. In such circumstances, we may re-issue this Call or cancel it completely.

The project Evaluation Committee may, at its entire discretion, decide to call the highest scoring candidates for an online interview, in order for them to present their offer directly to the Evaluation Committee and resolve any outstanding issues or questions.

Upon completion of the process of evaluation, the results of the selection will be communicated to all the applicants both successful and unsuccessful. Individual contracts will be signed with the successful applicants. No legal obligation will arise until the expert concerned has signed a contract with EUN Partnership.

4. Exclusion criteria

Applicants will be automatically excluded for selection and from an award if it falls within one of the situations listed below:

- a) They are subject to a conflict of interest.
- b) They are bankrupt or being wound up, are having their affairs administered by the courts, have entered into an arrangement with creditors, have suspended business activities, are the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations.
- c) They have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgment which has the force of res judicata.
- d) They have not fulfilled obligations relating to the payment of, social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which they are established.
- e) They have made false declarations in supplying information required by any public organization as a condition of participation in a procurement procedure or grant award procedure or fail to supply this information.
- f) They have been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which can be justified.

The applicant shall also be automatically excluded if the online form is not received by the Platform team by the deadline listed in [section 5, Deadline for Expression of Interest below](#).

5. Deadline for expression of interest

This call is published on Thursday, 12 March 2026, via EU survey, here:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/digital-briefs-2026-call-for-expression-of-interest>

The deadline for applications is Monday, 30 March 2026, 23:59 CEST.

Following evaluation of the submitted expressions of interest via the online form, the decision will be communicated via email.

