



The Digital Skills Standard

ICDL Foundation

DIGCOMP AND ICDL

Turning DigComp Competences into Real Skills



icdl.org



Digital competences have never been more important. Millions of people across Europe and around the world are relying on their digital skills for education and work today.

DigComp is a critical tool for understanding digital competence. It helps align training, certification, and the needs of the job market. It increases mobility, opens educational opportunities, and helps empower individuals with digital skills.

ICDL is an exemplary implementation of DigComp

ICDL can be used as a reliable and trustworthy measure of digital skills that is fully compatible with DigComp.

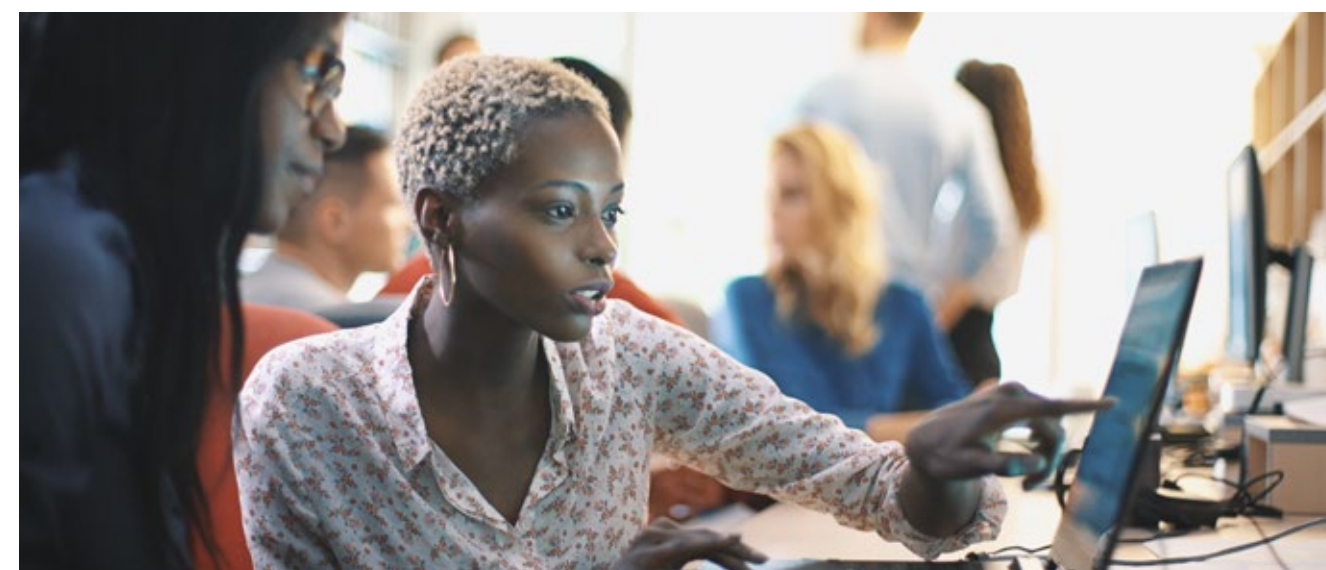
ICDL and DigComp

We have been involved in DigComp for a number of years. Through engagement with the development of DigComp, we have contributed insights from our experience in certifying digital skills. We bring an [employability and work-related skills perspective](#) to DigComp and have developed a number of our programmes in line with competences featured in DigComp.

What is DigComp

DigComp is a framework of digital competence created by the European Commission. It aims to help the development and understanding of digital competence in Europe.

With this shortened one to make more room: DigComp proposes a set of 21 digital competences for all citizens. Competences are grouped into five competence areas and four proficiency levels.



Mapping ICDL to DigComp

We mapped ICDL to DigComp by comparing the learning outcomes from each ICDL module against the competence descriptions for each competence level. ICDL modules can be broken down into specific learning outcomes describing the skill or knowledge that a candidate is expected to attain on successful completion of the module. By mapping these learning outcomes to the competence levels in DigComp, we see how different ICDL modules map to the competences. We also see what level, or levels, of the competence they map to. The graphic below shows a simplified mapping of modules to competence areas. A much more detailed mapping is available on request.

DigComp area	ICDL modules mapped to area			
Information, search, evaluation and management		AI Essentials		Big Data
		Cyber Security		Cloud Computing
		Databases		E-Commerce
		Spreadsheets		Spreadsheets (advanced)
Communication and collaboration		AI Essentials		Computer & Online Essentials
		Digital Marketing		E-Commerce
		Information & Collaboration Essentials		Internet of Things (IoT)
		Spreadsheets		Spreadsheets (advanced)
Content creation		AI Essentials		Application Essentials
		Computer & Online Essentials		Data Analytics
		Documents		Documents (advanced)
		Image Editing		Information & Collaboration Essentials
		Presentation		Presentations (Advanced)
		Robotics		Spreadsheets
		3D Design		Coding Principles
				Databases
Safety, wellbeing and responsible use		AI Essentials		Computer & Online Essentials
		Data Protection		Documents (Advanced)
		ICT in Education		Information & Collaboration Essentials
		Spreadsheets (advanced)		Cyber Security
Problem solving		AI Essentials		Application Essentials
		Computer & Online Essentials		Databases
		Documents (advanced)		E-Commerce
		Information & Collaboration Essentials		Internet of Things (IoT)
		Presentations (advanced)		Project Planning
				Coding Principles
				Documents

Independent references of ICDL to DigComp

The high degree to which ICDL covers the DigComp framework has been independently validated. A 2018 study carried out by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics indicated that ICDL covered DigComp more comprehensively than 8 other international digital literacy frameworks or schemes.



UNICEF published a paper on digital literacy for children that argued that the UN agency should use the DigComp framework to develop its own digital literacy strategy for children. The paper also noted that ICDL has been used in 31 countries as a competence framework, and highlights that both the DigComp framework and the Digital Kids Asia-Pacific framework are compatible with ICDL.

The experience of ECDL Poland in using ICDL to cover DigComp competences in a practical skills development project has been highlighted in the JRC's 'DigComp in Action' publication.



Find out more about these references at <https://icdl.org/references-and-endorsements/>



