SUPPORTING SPECIALISED SKILLS DEVELOPMENT:

BIG DATA, INTERNET OF THINGS AND CYBERSECURITY FOR SMES

EASME/COSME/2017/007

European
Commission

Supporting digital skills development in SMEs in Europe

The digital revolution is not only about large tech companies but essentially about start-ups and SMEs that provide or use digital solutions. SMEs compose 95% of the European economy. The variety is huge, from innovative and fast-growing companies that provide or use digital solutions, to those that face significant challenges such as acquiring the necessary skills to benefit from digital technologies. Addressing hard to fill digital skills' requirements will allow SMEs to continue to push the European economy forward.

The main objective of this new initiative is to research, design, test and validate specific measures supporting specialised skills development related to Big Data, Internet of Things (IoT) and Cybersecurity for SMEs in Europe. The activities are performed with a view to supporting the goals set out in the new Skills Agenda for Europe, especially in the blueprint for sectoral cooperation on skills. Special attention will be devoted to building synergy with activities stemming from the European digital skills and jobs coalition.

Objectives

The work is based on a demand-led, pragmatic and results-oriented approach with a view to proposing concrete measures. This includes the creation of a toolbox with tailored solutions for SMEs. Targets will be IT professionals, advanced users and managers in SMEs that want to use Big Data and IoT in their organisations and value chains. A very important and related challenge is to ensure Cybersecurity, while providing or using Big Data and IoT. The emphasis will be on relevant measures targeting SMEs that seek to identify and address skills gaps. The results of the initiative should contribute to strengthening SMEs' workforce adaptability and capacity for the short to medium term.

Results of this initiative

- A shared vision for skills development for SMEs on Big Data, Internet of Things and Cybersecurity for the coming years until 2023
- A toolbox facilitating the implementation of the vision, supporting measures and a roadmap to support countries in the implementation. The toolbox will consist of a self-assessment tool, recommendations for the way forward and best practices
- A monitoring mechanism to monitor skills gaps and to track progress of the implementation in the coming years until 2023

Activities

Close collaboration with SME communities throughout Europe is key to deliver a vision, toolbox and roadmap that is practically usable for SMEs and will help them forward. To reach the goals of this initiative, the following activities will be performed:

- In-depth interviews with 50+ key experts (first round February – June 2018, second round May 2019);
- Online surveys addressing 150+ stakeholders from SMEs throughout Europe (first round February – June 2018, second round May 2019);
- Six workshops across Europe – first one taking place 6 June 2018 in Brussels;
- European conference and final version of the toolbox (November 2019);
- Final report and dissemination of results (December 2019).

You're invited to share your expertise and contribute to this initiative!

The aim of this initiative is to support SMEs in leading or keeping up with the digital transformation. Your expertise and experience are vitally important. Are you an IT professional, advanced user or manager in an SME who made a start in applying Big Data and/or IoT, while addressing Cybersecurity challenges? Or are you preparing these steps? You can help by participating in our survey, an interview, or one of our workshops. Please contact niels.vander.linden@capgemini.com for more information and for regular news updates.

Surveys and interviews will take place across 2018 and 2019. For the precise dates and location of the workshops please contact us.

	Date	Workshop objective
1	6 June 2018	Validate initial findings and agree on the next steps and the design of a common vision
2	September 2018	Consolidate the state-of play, review progress to date and hear the views of the experts on the initial proposal for the shared vision
3	November 2018	Review the progress to date and the views and comments of experts on the final proposal for a common vision
4	April 2019	Discuss initial proposals for supporting actions and the creation of the toolbox, plus soliciting ideas regarding next steps
5	June 2019	Validate proposals for supporting actions and the creation of the toolbox and foster consensus on the next steps
6	September 2019	Review and validate the final results of the work and the key messages to be included in the final report

Sign up

For more information and to sign up for the survey, an interview, or participation in one of the workshops, you can visit our website: www.digitalskills.sme.eu

For questions, please contact:

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