Executive summary: Key actions of the activities of the Strategic Policy Forum on Digital Entrepreneurship

July 2016
Four reports influencing EU policy making

- **Cities and regions as launch pads for digital transformation**
- **Big data and B2B digital platforms: The next frontier for Europe's industry and enterprises**
- **Upskilling European industry: New operational tools wanted**
- **A digital compass for decision makers: Toolkit on disruptive technologies, impact and areas for action**

**EU actions and communications influenced by the reports**

- **Model regions and cities of digital transformation**
  - Develop a common framework for benchmarking at local and regional level
  - Roll out and update the blueprint for regions and cities of digital transformation
  - Promote experimentation among smaller and less advanced cities
  - Offer expert advisory services, coaching, mentoring, facilitation, to regions and cities

- **Smart specialisation platform on industrial modernisation and investment**
  - Matching smart specialisation priorities related to industrial modernisation

- **Public-Private Partnership on cybersecurity**
  - Trigger €1.8 billion of investment by 2020

- **Accelerating the uptake of Big Data and set-up of B2B digital platforms**
  - Encourage data-driven business models
  - Stimulate strategic investments on EU data infrastructures

- **Blueprint for sectoral cooperation on Skills**
  - Identify sectoral skills needs and development of concrete solutions
  - Implementation following the Upskilling European Industry toolbox
  - Pilot sectors: automotive, maritime technology, space, defence, textile and tourism

- **New Skills Agenda communication (June 2016)**
  - Improve the quality and relevance of skills formation
  - Making skills and qualifications more visible and comparable
  - Improving skills intelligence and information for better career choices

- **Supporting the organisation of digital compass for EU policy-makers**
  - Disruptor Cockail organised at the “Digital Economy: let’s get ready for the new jobs!” conference in Luxembourg (November 2015)
  - High-level Conference on the digital transformation of European industry and enterprises in Brussels (February 2016)
  - Digital compass organised at the Informal Meeting of Ministers responsible for Competitiveness in Bratislava (July 2016)
Cities and regions are entering a new era of transformation. A digital transformation embracing social, economic, urban, mobility, educational, technological and cultural changes. The smart city concept which is gaining momentum globally already highlights the key investments being made for the technological transformation of cities and regions. Further, territories have an important role to play as launch pads for digital transformation by all and for all.


Find out more and submit your own digital transformation initiatives at: www.digitallytransformyourregion.eu

Release of the Blueprint at the Open Innovation 2.0 conference – May 2016

Case studies
1. Amsterdam’s collaborative economy
2. Rejuvenating Barcelona with digital technologies
3. Bilbao’s digital transformation strategy
4. Bristol: the world’s first open city
5. Espoo, an established high-tech hot-spot
6. Hamburg: Capitalizing on its entrepreneurs
7. Lisbon’s engines of growth
8. Lodzkie, a region specialized in ICT
9. Lund, the City of Ideas
10. Turning Luxembourg into a digital nation
11. Côte d’Azur: anchoring its leading position
12. Tallinn: a city of the future
13. Trento: Building on past achievements

Upcoming EC initiative
Model regions and cities of Digital Transformation:
- Develop a common framework for benchmarking at local and regional level;
- Funding of the roll out and update of the blueprint for regions and cities of digital transformation
- Promote experimentation among smaller and less advanced cities
- Offer expert advisory services, coaching, mentoring, facilitation, to regions and cities
Big data and B2B digital platforms: The next frontier for Europe’s industry and enterprises

Big data and digital platforms present enterprises with significant new opportunities. This report looks into the potential to create new value in three important industries: automotive, healthcare/pharma, and mechanical engineering. It sets out the key challenges of digital transformation in each of these industries, assesses key success factors, and provides recommendations on how to overcome remaining problems and speed up the modernisation process.

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Six recommendations

1. Appoint Chief Data Officers (CDOs) in each Member State to take full advantage of big data based on non-personal or anonymised data; promote data quality and standards, champion effective data curation; and, maximise the social and economic value of public sector open data.

2. Invite the CDOs to work collaboratively and develop European guidance for enterprises on how to harness the benefit of big data in the public and private sectors, in the light of European values and sensibilities.

3. Develop an EU-wide action plan for the deployment of 5G that involves all stakeholders from industry, the public sector and funding providers, as well as explores innovative financing models.

4. Develop multi-vendor test beds for new generation digital solutions. These multi-stakeholder funded facilities would allow for the mutualisation of cyber-security, big data tests and third party assurance, thus facilitating the market uptake of these technologies by large corporates.

5. Promote European digital identity management solutions for objects and people.

6. Carry out a sector-by-sector analysis of the opportunities for the development of European business-to-business platforms. Establish multi-stakeholder groups in promising sectors to develop a sector action plan for such platform development.

Three transformational pan-European initiatives

A. Make Europe the first market for autonomous vehicles

B. Put big data at the heart of a project to improve health outcomes and reduce care costs associated with a major disease

C. Create a pan-European smart industry programme

Release of the report at the Hannover Messe – April 2016

Related EC communication

Digital Single Market technologies and public services modernisation communication package (April 2016)

- Communication on Digitising European Industry: Reaping the full benefits of a Digital Single Market
- Communication on a European Cloud Initiative—Building a competitive data and knowledge economy in Europe
- Communication on Priorities of ICT Standardisation for the Digital Single Market

Upcoming EC initiative

Smart specialisation platform on industrial modernisation and investment

- Foster interregional cooperation based on matching smart specialisation priorities related to industrial modernisation

Accelerating the uptake of Big Data and set-up of B2B digital platforms

- Encourage data-driven business models
- Stimulate strategic investments on EU data infrastructures

Public-Private Partnership on cybersecurity

- Trigger EUR 1.8 bn of investment by 2020 to better equip Europe against cyber-attacks and to strengthen the competitiveness of its cybersecurity sector
Upskilling European industry: New operational tools wanted

Europe is facing a widening skills gap that is having an impact on the ability of EU businesses and governments to benefit from the opportunities of advanced technologies and digitalisation. At the same time, the advent of new technologies and digital tools is making many manual jobs obsolete, while creating demand for new types of skills. This has created an urgent need to upskill and re-employ the workforce that is becoming redundant.


An industry and social partners-led toolbox for upskilling the workforce

1. Industry diagnosis
2. Tailored company solutions
3. Pilot test
4. Impact monitoring

Four key recommendations

1. Create an industry and social partners-led toolbox with specific action recommendations
2. Foster company, sectoral, regional and multi-stakeholder digital academy initiatives
3. Promote and support entrepreneurship as an opportunity for acquiring digital skills and career conversion
4. Define a pan-European financial scheme between the European Social and Regional Funds, the Commission, Member States and Industry

Related EC communication

New Skills Agenda (June 2016)
- Improve the quality and relevance of skills formation,
- Make skills and qualifications more visible and comparable,
- Improve skills intelligence and information for better career choices.

Upcoming EC Initiative

Blueprint for Sectoral Cooperation on Skills
- Identify sectoral skills needs and development of concrete solutions
- Implementation following the Upskilling European Industry toolbox
- Pilot sectors: automotive, maritime technology, space, defence, textile and tourism

Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition:
- Identify and share best practices
- Develop comprehensive national digital skills strategies
A digital compass for decisions makers: toolkit on disruptive technologies, impact and areas for action

Digital transformation and technological advances are giving rise to disruptive business models which profoundly impact on industries, businesses and citizens and drastically challenge current regulatory environments. It is essential for policy makers to understand the functioning of new technological applications, as well as their social, economic and regulatory implications, so as to be able to set the framework conditions that will allow Europe to take full advantage of digital opportunities.

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The three stages of a digital compass

1. Demonstrating the technology

Entrepreneurs and innovators are invited to showcase their disruptive technologies to an audience of decision makers. This presentation is immersive, with decision makers being invited to try the technologies by themselves so they can develop a better understanding of their applications and their economic and social potential.

2. Focus on its impact

The goal of this stage is to provide a sound understanding of the social, economic and regulatory implications of each disruptive technology. The impact on jobs, on existing businesses and on the creation of new businesses is explored, as well as the implications in terms of skills requirements and education. Finally, the legal aspects are analysed with the issues of adapting the existing legal framework and of the need for new legislation.

3. Moving forward

This final stage enables policy makers to reflect on the next steps to be taken to support the uptake of the technology. Key drivers and obstacles will be identified together with the entrepreneurs and innovators and policy recommendations will be formulated. The objective is to identify topics and areas where action is required in order to take these opportunities further.

Release of the report at the Informal Meeting of Ministers responsible for Competitiveness – July 2016

Supporting the organisation of digital compass for EU policy-makers

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