

European e-Skills Week 2012 Closes on a High Note in Copenhagen

Brussels, Friday 30 March 2012: European e-Skills Week 2012 – a pan-European campaign backed by the European Commission - came to its conclusion after hundreds of exciting events and activities delivered across thirty-six countries.

Her Royal Highness, Crown Princess Mary of Denmark welcomed hundreds of students, IT industry leaders, member state officials and representatives from education at the European e-Skills Week 2012 Closing Event – Future Jobs and e-Skills in Europe.

The European e-Skills Week 2012, an initiative of the European Commission's DG Enterprise and Industry, is driven by the European Commission's Communication on "e-Skills for the 21st Century", and complements other European Commission initiatives including the EUROPE 2020 Strategy, the Digital Agenda for Europe, and 'An agenda for new skills and jobs,' which are addressing the critical issues of unemployment and skills gaps in Europe.

The partners and stakeholders in European e-Skills Week today also published the [Copenhagen Declaration on e-Skills](#) that outlined the strong support that the European Commission has across all member states and beyond for the objectives outlined in the [2007 Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions](#). The Declaration is a complement to the latest version of e-Skills Manifesto, which will be published in fully in June 2012 – an [interactive version of the Manifesto](#) may be found on line for comment

The Closing Event featured prize giving for the European e-Skills Week Competition. Winners included more than twenty talented young people from eight countries. They demonstrated excellent use of digital skills for education, e-safety, health, sport, research and entrepreneurship. The closing event also featured an opportunity for young entrepreneurs to meet with senior industry representatives in Apprentice Dragons Den.

Marc Durando, Executive Director of European Schoolnet, says: 'We are delighted to have brought together so many different stakeholders and young people to drive forward this important education initiative. We are committed to ensuring that Europe's young people are prepared to engage in Europe's digital future and be equipped to work in the digital age. European Schoolnet is proud to have been involved in delivering the European e-Skills Week 2012 and we look forward to continuing the positive collaboration we have built with industry and government to ensure that all future generations of Europeans can live, work and play in the digital age. We hope that e-Skills Week continues in the years to come.'

John Higgins CBE, Director-General of DIGITALEUROPE says: 'ICT industry members have stepped up to demonstrate our collective commitment to ensuring that all Europe remains competitive and continues to benefit from productivity growth that can be delivered through the digital technology sector. We remain strong supporters of the European Commission's important initiative to drive down unemployment, engage citizens in the knowledge economy and ensure that businesses have access to the skilled workers they will need to operate in today's global digital economy.'

Find out more about e-Skills Week here: <http://eskills-week.ec.europa.eu>

Ends

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European Schoolnet (www.europeanschoolnet.org) is a network of 30 Ministries of Education in Europe and beyond. European Schoolnet was created 15 years ago to bring about innovation in teaching and learning for its key stakeholders: Ministries of Education, schools, teachers and researchers.

ABOUT DIGITALEUROPE (formerly EICTA),

DIGITALEUROPE



DIGITALEUROPE (www.digitaleurope.org), is the voice of the European digital technology industry. Our membership includes large and small companies in the Information and Communications Technology and Consumer Electronics Industry sectors. DIGITALEUROPE membership is composed of 61 major multinational companies and 41 national associations from 29 European countries. In all, DIGITALEUROPE represents more than 10,000 companies all over Europe with more than 2 million employees and over EUR 1,000 billion in revenues.