



The Digital Skills Standard

ICDL Europe

DIGCOMP AND ICDL

Mapping ICDL to the European Digital
Competence Framework



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

DigComp proposes a set of digital competences for all citizens. 21 individual competences are grouped into five competence areas: **Information, Communication, Content Creation, Safety, and Problem Solving**. Eight proficiency levels—ranging from Foundation to Highly Specialised—are defined for each of the competences.



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 have if they complete the module successfully. By mapping these learning outcomes to the competence levels in DigComp, we can see how different ICDL modules map to the competences. We can also see what level, or levels, of the competence they map to. You can see a simplified mapping of modules to competence areas in our graphic. A much more detailed mapping is available on request.

DigComp area	ICDL modules mapped to area		
Information and data literacy	 Smart Digital  Computer Essentials	 Online Essentials  Cyber Security	 Information Literacy  Databases
Communication and collaboration	 Smart Digital  Cyber Security  Online Essentials  Computer Essentials	 Online Collaboration  Information Literacy  ICT in Education  Web Editing	 Presentations (Advanced)  Digital Marketing
Digital content creation	 Smart Digital  Online Essentials  Computer Essentials  Information Literacy  Presentation  Spreadsheets  Documents	 2D Design  Project Planning  Using Databases  Web Editing  Image Editing  ICT in Education  Coding Principles	 Documents (Advanced)  Databases (Advanced)  Management Spreadsheets  Presentations (Advanced)  Data Analytics
Safety	 Smart Digital  Online Essentials  Computer Essentials	 Cyber Security  Data Protection  Documents (Advanced)	 Management Spreadsheets  ICT in Education
Problem solving	 Smart Digital  Online Essentials  Computer Essentials  Presentation	 Spreadsheets  Documents  Coding Principles  Databases	 Web Editing  Image Editing  2D Design  Presentations (Advanced)

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.

UNESCO

UNICEF

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.

**JRC DigComp in
Action**

Find out more about these references at
icdleurope.org/policy-and-publications/recognitions/



