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Enabling proficient use of ICT to empower individuals, organisations, and society.

Digital Agenda
1001100101011101110000100 2010–2020
for Europe

Digital Skills in the Digital Agenda for Europe

Prof. Vasile Baltac

President CEPIS

Member of the board ECDL Foundation

Agenda:

- Introduction

- Threat

- Solution

- Outcome

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Introduction

Council of European Professional Informatics Societies

- informatics professionals from 33 countries in greater Europe
- over 350,000 IT professionals enrolled in 36 Member Associations

ECDL developed by CEPIS in 1996

- ECDL Foundation established in 1997

Introduction

- ECDL and ICDL have grown exponentially
  - With the support of ECDL Foundation much has been achieved

- **At a time of economic upheaval, the role of ICT in empowering people is more crucial than ever**

- The budget cuts and instability around the world increases
  - the risk of exclusion
  - the risk of skills falling down the list of priorities
  - the risk of training and certification being perceived as removable budget lines

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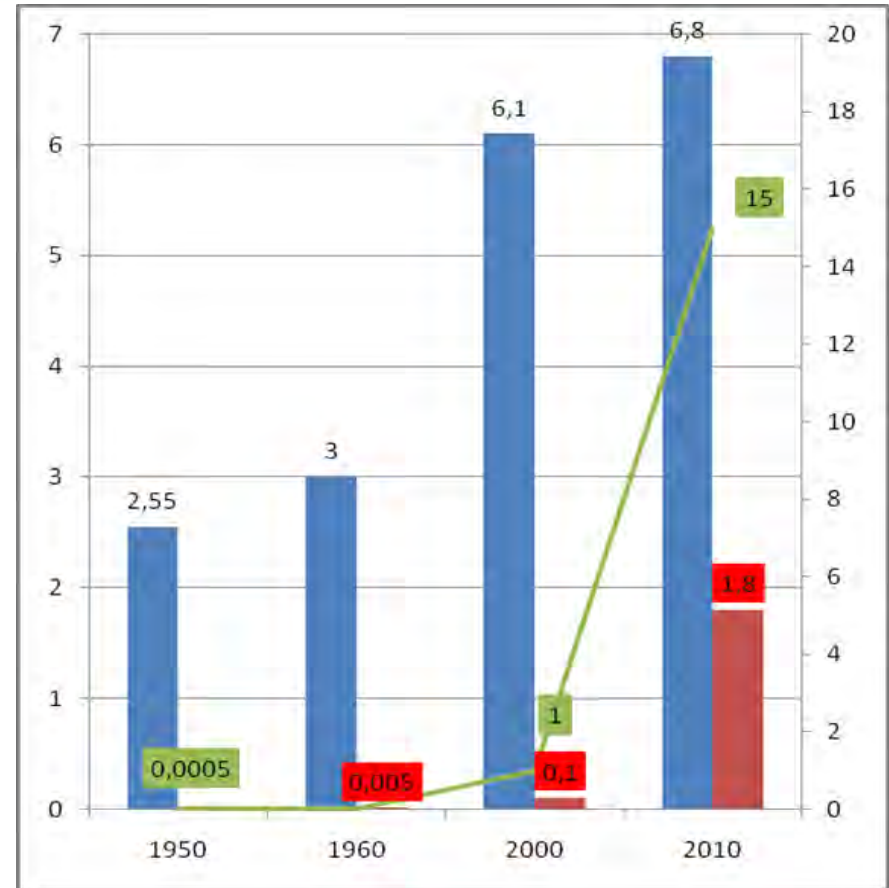
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eSkills – a Challenge for the Modern Society

- New skills needed
  - ICT Practitioner skills
  - ICT User skills
  - E-business skills
- 2010 vs. 1950
  - World Population x 2.6
  - ICT Practitioners x 4,000
  - ICT Users x 400,000

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New IT Laws?

- Demand for ICT User Skills doubles every 2 ½ years

- Demand for ICT Practitioners Skills doubles every 2 years

- Schmidhuber's Law: Intervals between successive radical breakthroughs in computer science decrease exponentially; a new one come twice as fast as the previous one

- **We have to be prepared for this challenge!**

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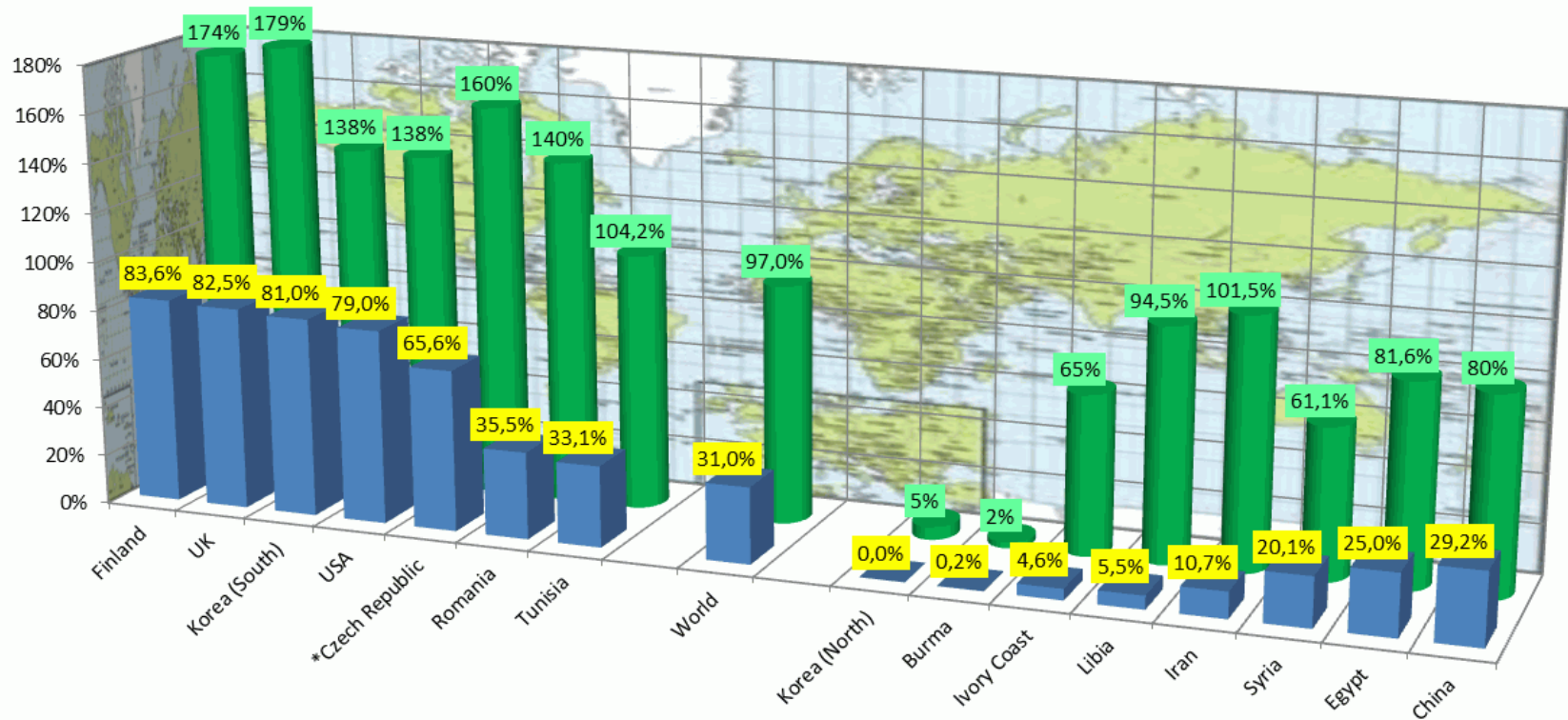
Challenges

- Technology developed at greater pace
- Implementation delayed by need for skills
- e-Inclusion challenges
  - Digital Divide
  - Digital Competences

9

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Digital Divide

Penetration Internet and telephone (2010)

Source: World Factbook

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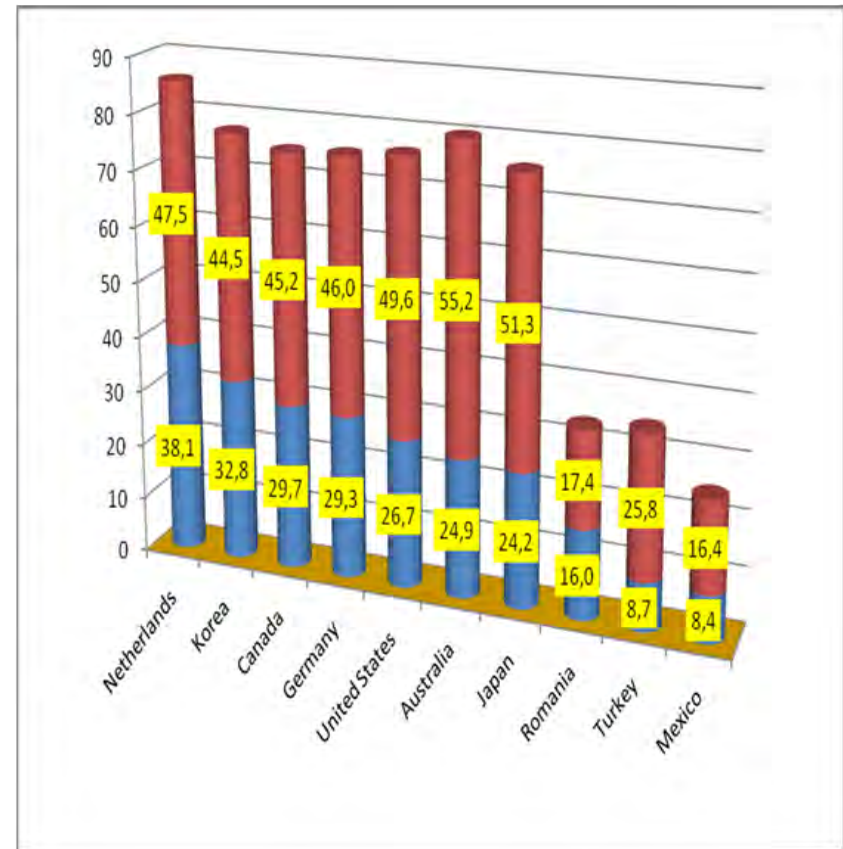Enabling proficient use of ICT to empower individuals, organisations, and society.

2nd Digital Divide

- In 2010 still facing 1st and developing 2nd Digital Divide

- Broadband Divide (Chart)

- End-user skills are imperative for eInclusion

- Best practice: ECDL

Time to advance from Digital Literacy to Digital Competency!

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eSkills Gap

- ICT User Skills Gap - related to e-Inclusion as well as economic growth

- ICT Professional Skills - Supply and demand
  - Europe faces Shortages
    - up to 70,000 ICT practitioners (E-Skills in Europe: Matching Supply to Demand – a CEPIS Report 2008)

- Gap expected to grow even more dramatically

- All types of ICT skills are demanded
    - European Commission "e-Skills for the 21st Century: Fostering Competitiveness, Growth and Jobs"
    - 700,000 by 2015? (*eSkills Monitor study. Monitoring eskills supply and demand in Europe,* European Commission 2009)

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Europe 2020 Strategy

"Strategy to get out of the crisis and prepare EU economy for the next decade"

Key areas:

- Technology
- Innovation and research
- Skills

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EU 2020 – European Strategy for Smart Sustainable Growth

EU 2020

7 Flagship Initiatives

1. **Innovation Union**
2. **Youth on the Move**
3. **Digital Agenda Europe**
4. Resource Efficient Europe
5. Industrial Policy for a globalisation era
6. **An Agenda for new skills and jobs**
7. European Platform Against Poverty

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Digital Agenda Performance Targets

- Broadband targets
- Digital Single Market
  - 50% of the population should be buying online by 2015.
- Digital inclusion
  - Increase regular internet use from 60% to 75% by 2015 and from 41% to 60% for disadvantaged people.
  - Halve the proportion of population that has never used the internet by 2015
- Public services
  - 50% of citizens using eGovernment, with more than half of them returning filled-in forms.

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EU Digital Agenda

Pillar 1	SINGLE DIGITAL MARKET
Pillar 2	ICT ENABLED BENEFITS FOR EU SOCIETY
Pillar 3	INTER-OPERABILITY & STANDARDS

ENHANCED DIGITAL LITERACY SKILLS AND INCLUSION

| Pillar 6 | RESEARCH & INNOVATION |
| Pillar 7 | ENHANCED DIGITAL LITERACY SKILLS AND INCLUSION |

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Pillar 7: Enhanced digital literacy skills and inclusion

Action 57: Make digital literacy and competences a priority for the ESF

Action 58: Develop tools to recognise and identify competences of ICT practitioners and users

Action 59: Make digital literacy and skills a priority of the "New skills for new jobs" Flagship

Action 62: Propose EU-wide indicators of digital competences and media literacy

Action 66: Member States to promote long-term e-skills and digital literacy policies

Action 68: Member States to mainstream eLearning in national policies

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Digital Literacy & Digital Competence

- ICT knowledge and skills
    - used to be the domain of professionals only
- Computer Competence
    - used to be expected from experienced users
- Computer Literacy
    - is currently considered to be a natural part of basic skills
- Computer Literacy
    - is being transformed into Digital Literacy
- Digital Literacy is a prerequisite for Digital Competence

From Digital Literacy to Digital Competence

Excellence

Competence

Literacy

Awareness

Illiteracy

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How to achieve the DAE goals?

- DAE assumes digital literacy of citizens
- To gain any knowledge and skills we need education

- Functional and efficient educational processes
  - education (training, courses, requalification…)
  - Objective and independent testing of acquired knowledge and skills

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Digital Literacy & Digital Competence

- Digital Literacy

  - of general public, public administration, students, unemployed persons, …

  - Significant part of citizens believes themselves to be digitaly literate, but in reality they have partial – selective knowledge

- International concept ECDL

  - Objective, independent and standardized technology for specifying the content and for testing of digital literacy, digital competencies and professional skills

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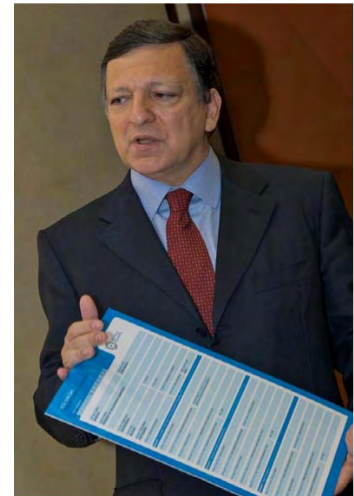
How do ECDL F and CEPIS support DAE?

Review of available resources

- Paneuropean network of national partners, professional organizations
- The partner in Czech Republic – Czech Society for Cybernetics and informatics (ČSKI)

ECDL F Commitment for DAE

Letter to president Barrosso

- Engage with 5 million citizens to acquire digital skills
- Decrease by 3% the 150 million citizens without skills
- Promote digital skills development in education
- Special measures to support marginalised groups
- Work for the development of long-term digital literacy policies.

ECDL Certificate
9,000,000

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Example of Good Practice:

EU Social Fund project at the **Czech Ministry of the Interior** (CZ 1.04./4.1.00/27.00004):

Main objectives:

- To create 2 e-learning courses for civil servants (MS Office 2003 + MS Office 2007)

- To achieve a number of 2,200 graduates of e-learning and 1,430 holders of the ECDL Start Certificate

Term: 1. 2. 2010 - 31. 1. 2013

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Skills for Czech Republic

Need for Strategy

*'to get out of the crisis and prepare
Czech economy for the next decade'*

Why those actions are relevant for Czech Republic:

- Opportunity to benefit from EU funding
- New Jobs need New Skills
- Czech Republic has a chance to lead the European Skills Space

ECDL Foundation and CEPIS activities

PARTICIPATION In EU GROUPS

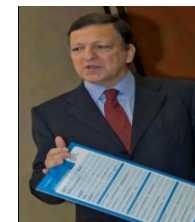**EVENTS**

ADVOCACY

CONSULTATIONS

INITIATIVES

HARDWORK

SUCCESSES

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Summary and Expected outcomes

- Czech Republic leading the European e-skills arena
- Digital Skills one of the funding priorities
- Certification required for all projects
- ECDL seen as a national standard

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Acknowledgement to the Czech Ministry of Interior

For long term support of number of educational activities targeted towards improvement of ICT skills and computer literacy

All the best to the citizens of the Czech Republic

on their way towards the goals of

Europe 2020 and DAE

![ECDL Foundation logo]

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Contact ECDL Foundation & CEPIS

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Thank you!

Děkuji !