

Press Release

Global study finds that 56% employees lack the digital skills they need for jobs in the future

- **Vodafone Institute releases second part of “Digitising Europe” study which explores the acceptance of new technologies**
- **Survey reveals shortage of digital skills globally: 85% said they need digital skills in their jobs, 56% said that their skills are not sufficient**
- **Digitising Europe Summit with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Vodafone Group CEO Nick Read on 19th February 2019**

Berlin, 29 January 2019 – The Vodafone Institute today published the results of a global study that found that employees globally feel that they don’t have the digital skills they need for jobs in the future.

The "Industry and Employment" report is the second part of the “Digitising Europe” study, conducted by Ipsos on behalf of the Vodafone Institute, which examines whether the different degrees of digitisation correlate with the attitudes of the population. 9,000 people across 9 countries were surveyed for one of the first global studies on technology acceptance against the background of digitisation.

Key findings:

- Globally, 85% of respondents said they need digital skills in their job, but 56% said their skills need expanding and only 29% said their skills are sufficient.
- 78% of respondents in China and 70% in Bulgaria see a need to expand their digital skills, in contrast to 42% in the USA, 42% in the UK, 43% in Germany.
- Only 32% of European respondents learned their digital skills at work or during their studies, with 67% saying they had to teach themselves.
- 83% of Indian respondents and 76% in China get up to five or more hours of digital training each week, compared to less than 50% in Western Europe.
- In China, 53% of respondents spend between one and five hours of their own time per week improving their skills, with 14% spending longer. In Germany, only 35% and 6%, respectively, would do the same.

According to experts interviewed as part of the study, there are two factors that explain why Europeans feel less inclined to enhance their skills. Firstly, an individual’s efforts to acquire new skills are not met with sufficient merit or financial reward. Second, the idea that one person takes one job for life is still prevalent in

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Europe. In contrast, individuals in China and India have directly benefited from the rapid growth of digitisation in recent years.

Joakim Reiter, Chairman of the Advisory Board, Vodafone Institute, and Group External Affairs Director, Vodafone, said: “Digitisation is rapidly changing the world of work and the results of this study show that digital skills are now essential for every job. However, the expansion of digital skills must keep pace with the ever changing world of technology, which requires a major shift in the way we teach digital skills in schools, universities and the workplace.”

The "Industry and Employment" study, which includes expert commentary, is available here: [The Tech Divide – Part 2](#)

Countries included in the study: Bulgaria, China, Germany, India, Italy, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, USA.

The third part of the study will focus on "Governance" and will be published parallel to the Digitising Europe Summit, taking place on 19th February 2019 in Berlin. The Summit, which will include keynotes from German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Nick Read, CEO, Vodafone Group, will provide a platform for debate between high-ranking representatives from business and politics for an EU vision for the digital age. To learn more about the Summit, visit www.digitising-europe.com.

Vodafone Institute for Society and Communications

The Institute is Vodafone’s think-tank. We explore the potentials and responsible use of digital technologies for innovation, growth and sustainable social impact. Through research and events, we provide thought-leadership and offer a platform for dialogue between business, academia and politics.

We are committed to improving access to technology for all parts of society and thus develop and support on-the-ground projects for female empowerment and digital education. The wide-ranging expertise of the Advisory Board members reflects the Institute’s intention to act as a cross-sectoral platform.

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