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WELCOME TO SKILL!



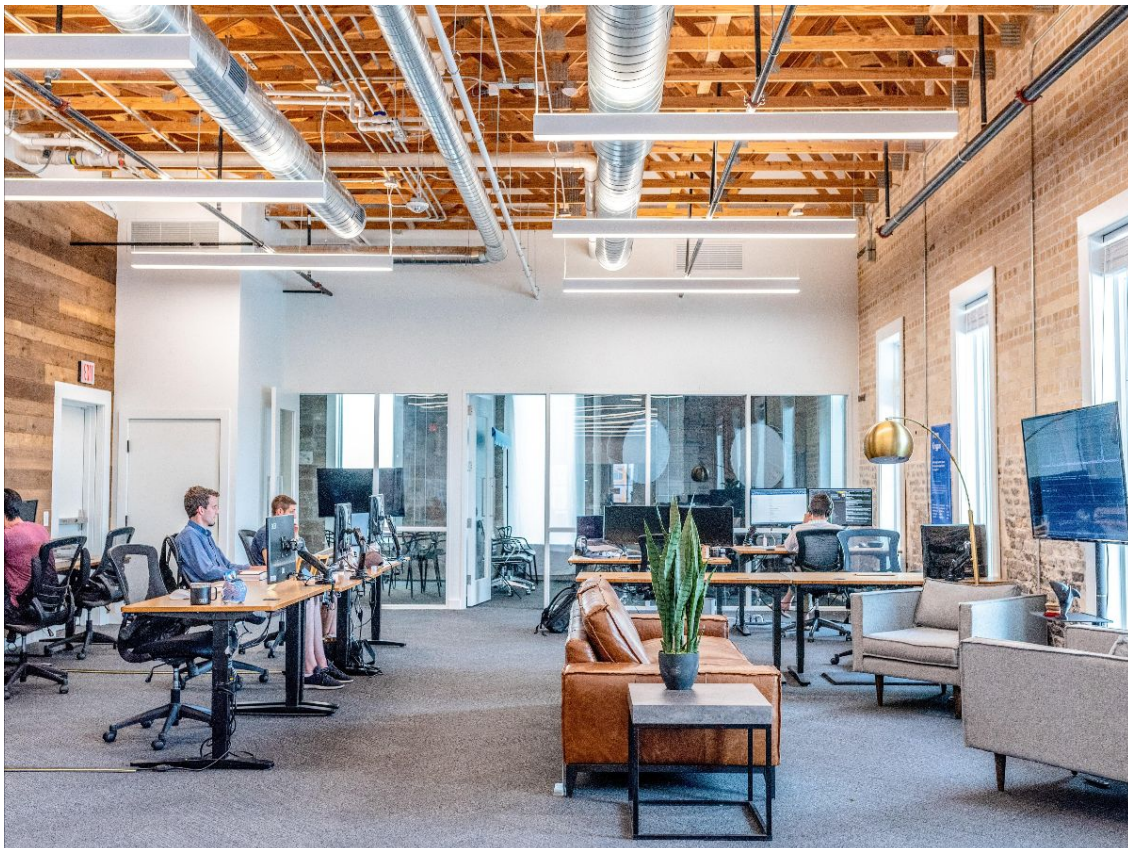
The **Soft sKills dligital Learning for the ICT workforce** (SKILL) is a leading project that bridges the gap between exponential technological advances and soft skills.

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THE CONTEXT

The 21st century is characterised by a rapid socio-economic change featured with a progressive ICT innovation, which saw a further push made by the Covid-19 pandemic, making workers focus more on their technical and computer skills.

However, **the rapid increase and spread of hard skills undermines the growth and development of the equally relevant soft skills**, producing a growing lack of managers and employees who possess soft skill capacities, such as **critical thinking, emotional intelligence or people management** – unfortunately, most ICT small to medium enterprises (SMEs) and micro-firms cannot afford soft skills training programs especially in these difficult times.



OUR GOALS AND RESOURCES

This is exactly where and why the SKILL project takes the fields with a strong and diversified partnership comprising seven teams of locally, nationally, and internationally-recognized experts representing universities, SMEs, e-training organizations, non-profit foundations, and VET providers from 6 countries – Malta, Spain, Italy, Greece, Cyprus, and Slovenia – willing to cooperate and achieve their common resolution: to enhance the flourishing of soft skills in the ICT sector SMEs.

In other words, **SKILL aims to provide ICT SMEs and micro-firms – that might not otherwise have access to such training resources – with a freely-available, easily accessible, timely, innovative curriculum, relevant and engaging learning experiences, and appropriate training guides in a number of languages.**

In order to achieve this major goal, SKILL foresees a **7-step strategy**:

1. **Identification**, via an in-depth study, of **soft skills shortages** in the 4.0 ICT sector and of **knowledge gaps in the target groups** of actors in the ecosystem. Its results will yield a soft skills framework to guide the following step.
2. Creation of a transnational **training curriculum on soft skills** for ICT personnel, managers, and trainers that will define desired soft skill competencies, such as emotional intelligence, collaboration, or problem-solving.
3. **Creation of digital learning resources for teachers and trainers** on soft skills that are meant to bridge the gaps and to help them incorporate soft skills training into existing ICT programs/courses.
4. Design and **development of learning scenarios**, based on the proposed curriculum, intended to facilitate the simulation and testing of future activities.
5. Design and **development of simulations and games** for soft skills.
6. **Development of the soft skills training e-Learning platform**, to create an online multi-disciplinary transnational ICT soft skills training centre.
7. **Development of a soft skills training methodological handbook**, that will guide adult educators, trainers, and managers of ICT SMEs and micro-firms on how to use the curriculum, learning scenarios, simulations, and the e-learning platform.



WHERE DO WE STAND? WHAT IS COMING NEXT?

We are more than happy to announce that SKILL has already accomplished the first steps; in fact, the partnership has identified what soft skills an ICT graduate/employee needs to perform professional duties and the gap between what ICT employees can do and what they are required to do. It has also **addressed the demands/requirements of stakeholders**, compiled their demographic profile, found out how they use soft skills daily, specified their perceptions on difficulties that they face on the job and assessed the extent to which their needs are met through currently available programs and books.

We are already putting this knowledge to good use in the development of the other project's resources!



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