

ITUEvents

## ITU Regional Forum for Europe on Digital Skills Development

16 March 2021  
Online meeting

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Organized within the framework of the ITU Regional Initiative for Europe on accessibility, affordability and skills development for all, to ensure digital inclusion and sustainable development.



Organized by:



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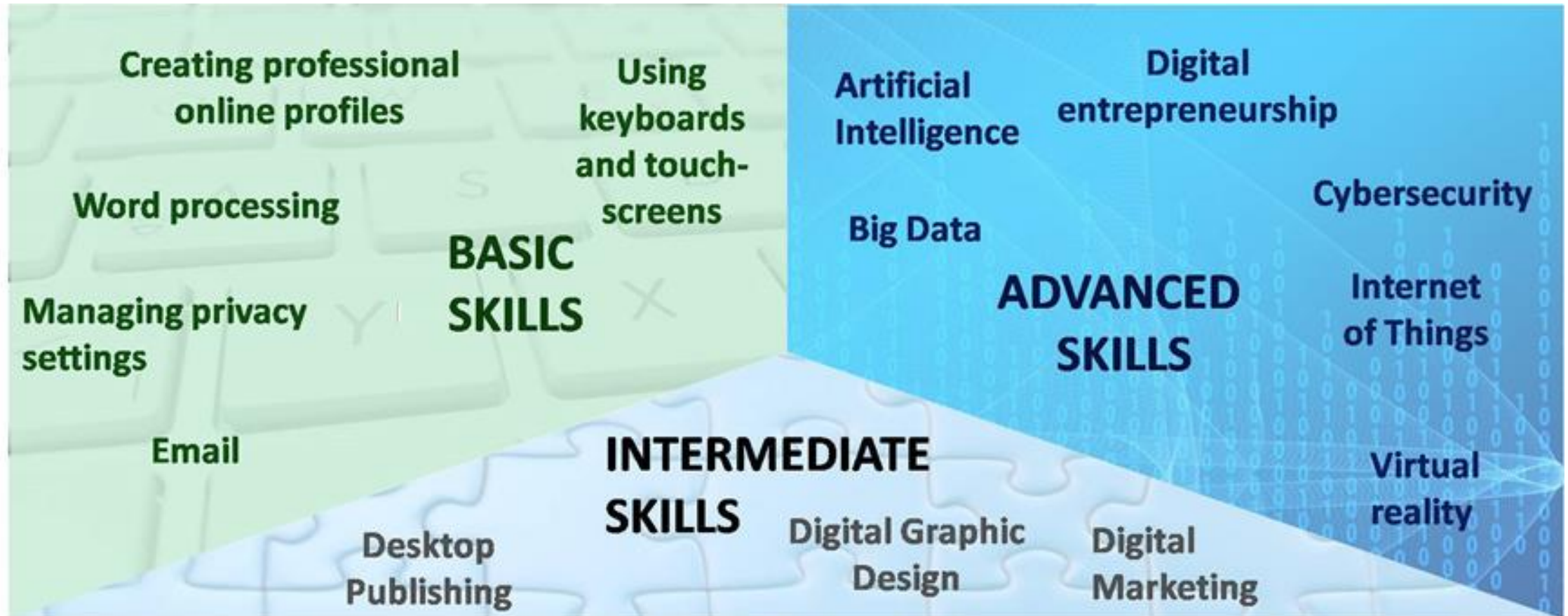
# Covid-19 revealed the huge connectivity challenge ...

- 90% of schools closed at some point (UNESCO) – remote learning?
- 93% of global workforce affected by workplace closures due to Covid-19 (ILO) – remote working?
- Teaching, learning, working from home requires reliable and affordable Internet connection, and digital skills
- But: 46% of the world population is still offline - even where broadband connectivity is available (ITU)

## ... and the growing digital skills gap

- Lack of digital skills one of the main barriers to Internet usage
- 65% of people in developing countries lack skills to use the Internet
- Strong growth of employment in ICT-related industries (even during Covid)
- Skills gap in Europe:
  - around 40% of the population lacks basic digital skills
  - Nine out of ten future jobs in Europe require digital skills
  - Shortage of IT-specialists in the labour market
  - Only one in six ICT specialists are female
- To address the challenge: European Skills Agenda and Digital Education Plan

# Digital skills gaps exist at all levels



# Capacity development – ITU's solution

**Objective:** To develop capacities and skills for the digital economy

## Training

Developing and delivering training courses and capacity development workshops for ICT professionals and policy makers.

## Research

Developing and disseminating research and policy guidelines on digital capacity and skills development.

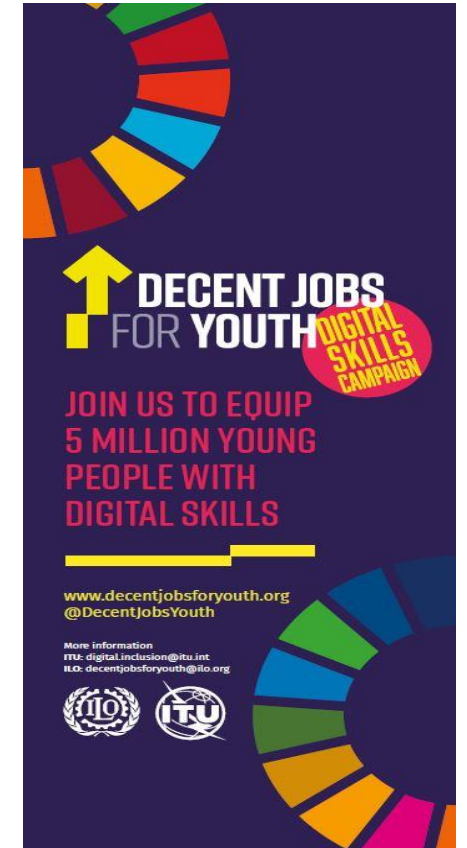
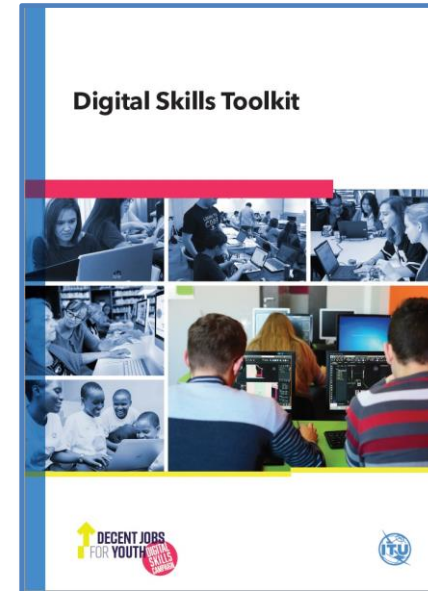
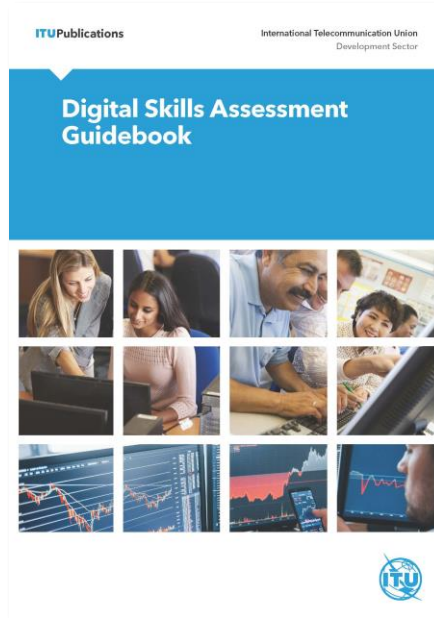
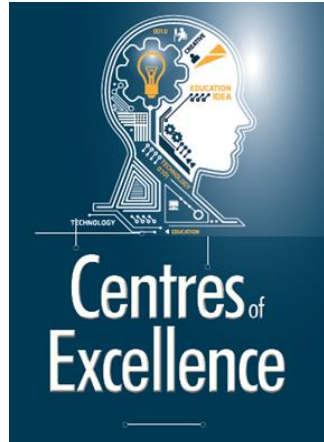
## Partnerships

Engaging in strategic partnerships with key players to increase impact and scale digital skills efforts in countries.





# ITU's products and services on digital skills



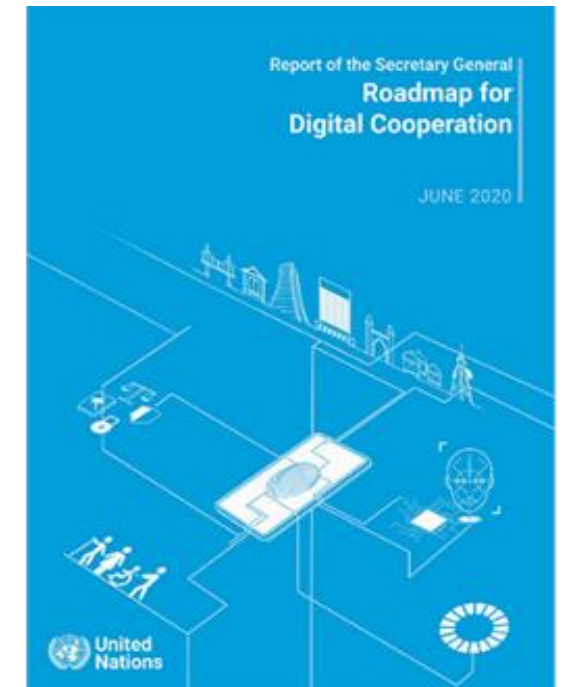
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# UN SG's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation – Digital Capacity Building work is led by ITU/UNDP

- Mapping of digital capacity initiatives
- Launch of a Multistakeholder Network (MSN) on digital capacity building
- Development of a Joint Facility on Capacity Development led by ITU/UNDP
- Clearinghouse function to match demand and supply
- Strengthen capacity development at country level



**THANK YOU**

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