IC3 Digital Literacy Global Standard Six

AND THE EUROPEAN DIGITAL COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK:

DIGCOMP

IC3
DIGITAL LITERACY
C E R T I F I C A T I O N

Information and data literacy

Communication and collaboration

DigComp

Problem solving

Digital content creation

Safety

It all starts with
IC3 DIGITAL LITERACY

THE Critical Need
FOR DIGITAL LITERACY
AROUND
THE WORLD

DIGITAL LITERACY FOR THE LONG-HAUL: PREPARING FOR THE TECHNOLOGIES OF TOMORROW

Digital literacy has never been more important than it is now. In fact, it's essential to those looking to further their education and career in a digitally accelerated 21st-century workplace.

The 2021 Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI)[1] released by the European Commission reveals that, "86% of citizens used the internet regularly... [but] having an internet connection and using the internet is not sufficient; it must be paired with the appropriate skills to take advantage of the digital society."

Burning Glass Technologies[2], in collaboration with the UK Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), found that "Digital skills are required in at least 82% of online advertised openings across the UK." The World Economic Forum[3] also signals the need, noting that, "9 out of 10 jobs will require digital skills, yet today 44% of Europeans aged 16-74 lack even basic digital abilities."

Certiport identified this skills gap 20 years ago, leading to the development of the IC3 Digital Literacy certification programme, which was designed to bridge the skills gap. This programme validates competencies across the essential skills, principles, and concepts within digital literacy to ensure

achievement in learning. The programme is aligned with and contributes to numerous international standards, making it the most comprehensive affirmation of digital literacy knowledge and skills available.

"There can be no doubt, especially after recent years, about the critical importance digital literacy skills play across society, within the workforce, and throughout education. They are the bedrock of skills required, not merely for economic recovery but to ensure learners, current and future, have the foundation they need to succeed."

Fiona Fanning, Certiport,
Director of European Affairs

1. "The Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI)." European Commission, 9 Aug. 2021, https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/desi.

2. Nania, Julia, et al. "No Longer Optional: Employer Demand for Digital Skills." Burning Glass Technologies, June 2019, https://www.burning-glass.com/wp-content/uploads/no_longer_optional_report.pdf.

3. "Annual Report 2019-2020." World Economic Forum, 23 Nov. 020, https://www.weforum.org/reports/annual-report-2019-2020.

DIGCOMP DEFINES DIGITAL COMPETENCE

DigComp is the European reference framework that describes what it means to be digitally competent. It focuses on people and the skills they need to create, communicate, and solve problems with technology. The DigComp framework covers five areas that include 21 competences, each with eight levels of proficiency to support digital skill development as a lifelong goal.

Certiport recently contracted two independent DigComp experts to examine the alignment of Global Standard Six (GS6) to DigComp 2.1. Dr. Stefano Kluzer and Sandra Troia concluded, "Based on our assessment, the overall alignment of IC3 Digital Literacy GS6 (levels 1, 2, and 3) with the European DigComp 2.1 (DC2.1) framework is high."

SETTING THE GLOBAL STANDARD: GS6

The credentialing industry is rooted in standards. Global standards help us maintain safety and excellence in every field, allowing us to understand the baseline of practice needed to not only contribute effectively but drive industry forward.

The IC3 Digital Literacy programme has been a supporter of the DigComp Framework since 2013, believing that DigComp provides an important reference for digital competence development at the policy level, and a practical tool to offer guidance to learners. Certiport recognises the value of this framework in encouraging learners to do more than consume technology — including learning to make technology work for them.

The IC3 Digital Literacy programme has also earned a seal of alignment from the leading digital skill standard body in North America, the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE). ISTE says, "Considering the scope, depth, and quality of the knowledge and skills assessed in the IC3 Digital Literacy GS6 suite, ISTE Reviewers found significant alignment to the ISTE Standards for Students."

....

"Digital skills for all have now become even more important than ever. We are pleased to see that digital skills training providers are using DigComp, the European Digital Competence framework, to help the EU achieve its target of at least 80% of adults with basic digital skills by 2030."

Yves Punie PhD,
Deputy Head of Unit, European Commission
Joint Research Centre

....

Furthermore, this programme works closely with the Global Digital Literacy Council, a leading industry advisory body, to ensure IC3 Digital Literacy is always on the forefront of what it means to be digitally competent.

IC3 Digital Literacy continues to lead — validating desired learning outcomes, driving accessibility, and maintaining global standards through a network of over 15,000 Certiport testing centres. Having delivered more than 6 million certifications in 19 languages across 148 countries, IC3 Digital Literacy is truly a global standard dedicated to supporting UNESCO's Sustainable Development Goals through quality education.

CERTIPORT: LEADING WITH DIGITAL LITERACY

To ensure that IC3 Digital Literacy keeps pace with the rapid advancements of technology, Certiport continually updates its standards and objective domains. The newest version, Global Standard Six, saw a major restructuring, now using tiers to cover all objectives and concepts based on competency level, meeting learners where they are and advancing them to where they need to be.

Global Standard Six comprises three levels that embody several high-quality assessment strategies focused on validating achievements in learning. The new structure allows learners to experience the connections between competency levels. This comprehension-based model means the certifications are stackable, making implementation of Global Standard Six customizable to the learner's needs.

- **Level 1** certifies that candidates **KNOW** the foundational concepts of each competency area.

- **Level 2** certifies candidates' ability to **DO** by demonstrating their efficacy across digital environments safely and securely.

- **Level 3** certifies candidates' ability to **LEAD** by demonstrating skills related to managing systems and processes, solving problems, and providing guidance.

Learners are awarded a certification for each competency level as they progress and additionally a master certification for passing all levels.

"Digital literacy skills are no longer optional, to the degree that the children of parents or guardians without those skills find themselves at a big disadvantage. It is vital that we hold a global standard of digital literacy that includes the ability to safely embrace new technologies, leverage available technologies, communicate globally in a search for understanding, and always continue learning."

Joan Lambert,
Certiport, Senior Content Developer

The objective domains of the IC3 Digital Literacy GS6 are: Technology Basics, Digital Citizenship, Information Management, Content Creation, Communication, Collaboration, and Safety and Security. See the IC3 Digital Literacy mapping to DigComp on the next page.

DigComp Area

IC3 Digital Literacy DigComp Competences

LEVEL 1 **LEVEL 2** **LEVEL 3**

1 — Information & Data Literacy

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.1.	Browsing, searching, and filtering data information, and digital content								
1.2.	Evaluating data, information, and digital content								
1.3.	Managing data, information, and digital content								

2 — Communication & Collaboration

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.1.	Interacting through digital technologies								
2.2.	Sharing through digital technologies								
2.3.	Engaging in citizenship through digital technologies								
2.4.	Collaborating through digital technologies								
2.5.	Netiquette								
2.6.	Managing digital identity								

3 — Digital Content Creation

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.1.	Developing digital content								
3.2.	Integrating and re-elab digital content								
3.3.	Copyright and licences								
3.4.	Programming								

4 — Safety

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4.1.	Protecting devices								
4.2.	Protecting personal data and privacy								
4.3.	Protecting health and well-being								
4.4.	Protecting the environment								

5 — Problem Solving

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5.1.	Solving technical problems								
5.2.	Identifying needs and technological responses								
5.3.	Creatively using digital technologies								
5.4.	Identifying digital competence gaps								

IC3 DIGITAL LITERACY TAKES IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL

- Certiport is a Pledger to the Digital Skills for Jobs Coalition and has received two gold badges for validating over 335,000 Europeans' digital skills and one gold badge for providing free learning solutions during the COVID-19 pandemic, recognised in their Hall of Fame.

- IC3 Digital Literacy Global Standard Six is currently available in multiple languages and can be localised upon request for your country, region, or area.

- IC3 Digital Literacy also includes the technology basics that are expected in order to progress along DigComp's competency levels (defined by UNESCO as Area Zero).

- IC3 Digital Literacy also includes Internet Commerce basics that are not included in the DigComp competencies but can be found in the DigComp for Consumers Framework.

- IC3 Digital Literacy explicitly addresses the visual representation of data as a segment of content creation. DigComp 2.1 does not but they will explore adding it to DigComp 2.2.

- IC3 Digital Literacy explores managing a cyclical design process for digital projects, which is a higher competence and considered level 7 within DigComp.

- IC3 Digital Literacy also includes an emphasis on soft skills associated with communication that are generally overlooked by other digital literacy programmes.

- IC3 Digital Literacy includes the physical impact of digital tools and technologies on the individual, under its Safety and Security domain, to ensure computer users understand the aspects of long-term use and how to mitigate potential issues.

Certiport, a Pearson VUE business, is dedicated to driving digital literacy initiatives around the world. IC3 Digital Literacy is delivered as the preferred solution for measuring and validating digital literacy skills in students, employees, and learners of all ages. It has been endorsed or formally recognised by the following organisations:

Supreme Council Of Universities Egypt	National Coalition Of Certification Centres (NC3)	Ministry Of Education Taiwan	Ministry Of Information And Communication, Vietnam

Thailand Professional Qualification Institute	Iraqi Ministry Of Higher Education And Scientific Researc	Arab Administrative Development Organization (Arado)	E.Oman: Ministry Of Information Technology – Civil Service

Ministry of Educations Professional Academy of Teachers, Egypt	Skills USA	Romanian Ministry Of Education

Italian Ministry of Education	UNESCO's Sustainable Development Goals	American Council On Education*	Digital Economy Promotion Agency, Thailand

Government Of Poland	Technical And Vocational Training Corporation, Saudi Arabia

*The American Council on Education recommends university credit hours for completion of the IC3 Digital Literacy certification. To learn more, visit: **https://www.acenet.edu**.

To learn more about Certiport's IC3 Digital Literacy Global Standard Six, please visit **www.certiport.com/ic3**