

A clear message is that the number of ICT practitioners in Europe has been growing over the past decades and will continue to grow in the future in spite of the current crisis. In this context more and more complicated we need to assure the resilience of our economy, the well-being of people and nature in all regions of Europe in a more democratic and transparent way. Green technologies contribute to balancing environmental protection and economic development, which is critical to creating a sustainable society. Green development is an essential part of economy modernization. With our “kind of consuming our planet Earth”, we approached to the critical moment and broke sustainability far ago. Right now, humankind is consuming 60% more resources than nature can regenerate. In other words, we need the resources of 1.6 Earths to provide the current level of production and way of life. If the consumption rate does not change, by 2050, we will need the resources of 3 Earths.

The times for words is passed, is time for actions. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its core are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries – developed and developing – in a global partnership. We deliver the sustainable development goals framework: 1)No poverty; 2)Zero hungry; 3)Good health and well-being; 4)Quality education; 5)Gender Education; 6)Clean water and sanitation; 7)Affordable and clean energy; 8)Decent work and economic growth; 9)Industry, innovation and infrastructure; 10)Reduced inequality;11) Sustainable cities and communities; 12)Responsible Consumption and Production; 13)Climate Action; 14)Life below water; 15)Life on land; 16)Peace and justice strong institutions; 17) Partnerships to achieve the goal.

All of these aims at different level call a transformation of economies and societies. This transformation is based on the processes of digitisation and digitalisation in order to assure the modernization of economies and their sustainability. Or, in other words, we must understand all these green phenomena and put them in digital processes. In all these processes no matter what they are, the people must be mainly equipped with e-skills.

The aim of this paper is to show the relationship between e-skills of European workforce and the green economy development. Eurofound analyses each 5 years the working conditions in in companies and at individual workforce level, and provide a rich data regarding the extent to which e-skills are used.

In an article published on the occasion of the ”EU Industry ” in 2020, 19% of all enterprises with at least 10 employees and self-employed people in the EU employed ICT specialists. Accordingly Eurostat (isoc_ske_itspen2), among EU Member States, the shares of enterprises employing ICT specialists were highest in Belgium and Ireland (both 30%), followed by Denmark, Hungary and Malta (all 29%). On the other hand, the shares of enterprises employing ICT specialists were lowest in Italy (13%), Romania, Lithuania and Bulgaria (all 16%). While over three-quarters of large enterprises (having more than 250 employees) in the EU employed ICT specialists (76%), they were employed in less than half of medium-sized enterprises (42%) and in less than a fifth of small enterprises (14%).

Furthermore, the highest proportions of enterprises employing ICT specialists were in information and communication activities (72% of enterprises), professional, scientific and technical activities (30%), and the electricity, gas, steam, air conditioning and water supply sector (26%). On the other hand, the smallest proportions of enterprises employing ICT specialists were in construction activities (8%), accommodation activities and the retail trade sector (both 12%). As we can see, the others like professional, scientific and technical,

electricity, gas, steam, air conditioning and water supply activities and also the ICT sector, all of them involve e-skills in order to be used to modernization and innovation. Innovation in green technologies can provide a double gain: reducing the burden on the environment while contributing to the technological modernisation of the economy. In fact green economy is linked to competitiveness, to productivity in a long term perspective. E-skills is also related to a better productivity of work.

In fact, we may need to profoundly rethink what it means to produce value in the first place. When thinking about the future of work and education we face a choice: persist with the widespread contradictory habit of thought that expects both too much and too little of education – or focus on what education can do well, changing our completely our view. In this direction we must develop the e-skills of people too.

Our day's trends show that strong local skills ecosystems support businesses in attracting the talent they need to remain competitive, workers in keeping up with changing labour markets and development of skills that are sought by the market, while ensuring that no one is left behind.

This paper elaborates an empirical analysis of the temporal and geographical distribution of e-skills and the green economy development. The econometric analysis based on Eurostat data base and the results of Eurofound survey on working condition, and on companies, use for e-skills a panel of data covering 27 European countries and regions ((NUTS-1 and NUTS-2, (<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/microdata/european-union-labour-force-survey>)) for the period 2010 – 2020. For green development we will use OECD database indicators for cities and regions and also data provided by European Environment Agency. The first results show a positive relationship between skills linked to ICT and green technology and argue that e-skills acquisition is a need of regions' ability to specialise in new technological domains assuring the sustainability of European economy. The results obtained highlight the importance of e-skills development in the context of the transition towards a greener economy and opens up new debates of Smart Specialization Policies.

The green development is summarized as a Green Growth Index and used to understand in-depth analysis of each region discussing the scores of efficient and sustainable resource use, natural capital protection, green economic opportunities, and social inclusion at a regional level.

Green development include a wide range of indicators which may highlight the possibility to draw a path of different kind of green diversification among the regions of Europe.

References

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