**Insufficient ICT Skills Highlighted as Area of Concern for Progress of the European Commission's Digital Agenda for Europe**

*8th October 2012*

The annual review of progress towards a smart, sustainable and inclusive EU maximising the potential of ICT has highlighted the lack of ICT skills as an issue. In recognition of its ongoing support of the Digital Agenda for Europe (DAE), ECDL Foundation promotes the Digital Agenda for Europe and reaffirms its commitment to the key digital literacy and digital inclusion aims of the DAE by raising awareness of the DAE through the dissemination of its logo.

As the leading international digital skills certification authority, ECDL Foundation and its pan-European network of National Operators, which includes ECDL Malta, have affirmed their commitment to the goals of the Digital Agenda, and have pledged to support its implementation. Specifically, they have committed to:

- Engage with 5,000,000 citizens to ensure they have the opportunity to acquire digital skills and competence

- Decrease by 3% the current number of 150 million people who do not have the skills to use the Internet, and promote the use of e-government services and the benefits of e-commerce to these future e-citizens

- Promote digital skills development programmes in all levels of education throughout Europe to enhance and modernise education systems, while providing today's youth with the skills necessary for mobility in tomorrow's labour market

- Take special measures to ensure that marginalised groups, such as the unemployed, older people, people with disabilities, and those in remote locations are empowered to participate in the Information Society

- Work with Member States in the development of long-term digital literacy policies, using certification as a measureable outcome in the return on investment in digital skills programmes, and ensuring that ICT skills are incorporated in national education policies.

*With half the EU labour force lacking digital competence Europe has to build its productivity and increase competitiveness. ECDL Foundation and ECDL Malta are working to get 'every European digital'.*

In Malta, ECDL Malta is responsible for operating ECDL certification programmes on behalf of the ECDL Foundation which is the certifying authority of the world's leading end-user computer skills certification programme.

For more information about the ECDL programmes view our website www.ecdl.com.mt.

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