



## Article 2: Fostering Digital Innovation in CCI: A New Perspective from the EPICURIOUS EU Survey

In the evolving landscape of the Cultural and Creative Industries (CCIs), the EPICURIOUS project, funded by the EU's Erasmus+ program, plays a pivotal role. This initiative not only seeks to understand the nuances of youth engagement in CCIs but also focuses on enhancing digital competencies, a critical component for success in today's digitalized world.

The comprehensive EPICURIOUS EU survey, spanning seven European Union countries, delves into the digital acumen of young individuals, particularly those outside the conventional realms of education, employment, or training. The report is a rich tapestry of insights, examining various aspects such as participants' digital skill levels, familiarity with online learning, and their inclination towards digital training. It provides a window into the existing digital competencies and the aspirations of young people in relation to the digital dimension of CCIs.

An intriguing aspect of the survey is the diversity in digital skill levels among participants. A significant portion self-assesses their digital proficiency at a moderate to advanced level, yet there remains a notable gap in expertise. This disparity highlights an opportunity for tailored e-learning initiatives, aiming to bridge these gaps and enhance digital literacy.

The findings also shed light on the participants' experiences with online training, revealing a landscape where a substantial number have embraced online learning, yet some remain unexposed. This dichotomy underscores the need for accessible, inclusive digital education strategies that cater to varied levels of prior experience.

Importantly, the survey respondents articulate a strong preference for practical, hands-on training in digital skills. They express a yearning for learning experiences that blend theoretical knowledge with practical application, aligning with contemporary educational methodologies that emphasize experiential learning.

In conclusion, the EPICURIOUS project, informed by these insights, stands at the forefront of empowering young people in CCIs. By fostering digital literacy and offering personalized, practical training, the project not only enhances employability in CCIs but also contributes to the personal and professional growth of Europe's youth, shaping them into versatile, digitally adept individuals ready to embrace the dynamic challenges of the creative economy.



## Digital Skill Gaps

The EPICURIOS EU survey uncovers a nuanced landscape of digital competencies among young people in the CCIs. This diversity in digital skill levels is not merely a statistical observation but a call to action. The survey indicates that while a considerable segment of participants rate their digital skills as moderate to advanced, there is a conspicuous disparity in actual digital expertise. This gap between perceived and actual skills is a critical area of focus for our project.

Also, the project confronts a dual challenge: first, to accurately assess the real level of digital proficiency among participants, and second, to develop tailored e-learning initiatives that address these identified gaps. This approach is vital in transforming perceived competencies into tangible, employable skills.

Moreover, the survey highlights a need for a varied approach in digital education, recognizing the different starting points of participants. For some, the journey in digital literacy begins with foundational skills, while for others, it involves building upon existing knowledge to achieve advanced competencies. The preference for practical, hands-on training in digital skills, as expressed by survey respondents, further underscores the necessity of an experiential learning model. This model should seamlessly integrate theoretical knowledge with real-world applications, ensuring that learners can apply their digital skills in practical, creative contexts.

Therefore, the Epicurious project aims to equip young individuals with the necessary digital prowess by addressing the digital skill gaps revealed in the survey. This training is not just about imparting knowledge but about fostering a generation of digitally literate, creatively empowered individuals who can navigate and shape the dynamic landscape of the CCIs.

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