EUROPEAN BOARD: #EUnited We Act for Professional Insertion through Digital Skills

Digital technologies are deeply transforming our lives at both the personal and professional levels. Heavily disrupting the current job market, they are offering a plethora of new job opportunities in Europe: 500,000 job vacancies are expected in the ICT sector by 2020. Classical training centers and academic structures, mostly targeting people from privileged parts of our societies, cannot produce a large enough workforce to respond to this demand in such little time.

We - members of the Simplon.co network of digital factories - support the current and future generations in acquiring the technical and professional skills necessary to the digital transformation of our society. Since 2013, more than 4,028 underprivileged people and 46,542 kids in France, Romania, Belgium, Spain and Switzerland have participated in free and intensive digital trainings with a 75% rate of positive outcomes. Through the implementation of our training programmes, we are striving to promote more diversity in the tech sector. Currently 34% of our trainees are women, and we are on track to achieve parity within all of our training programmes by 2020.

Last June in Marseille, we formally joined our forces in order to reach even more citizens and employers with our active pedagogy methods and innovative social franchise-model. We launched a European Board in order to maximise our social impact in Europe and design new training courses tailored to the emerging industries and technological trends.

Our #EUnited vision is to create a cohesive group of European actors that will promote professional insertion through sustainable digital inclusion in the EU by providing free digital skills training programmes based on our very own active pedagogy framework. Our group will collaborate closely on a number of issues that we deem to be crucial to digital skills education and innovation such as:
-   develop stronger advocacy tools for digital skills education;
-   share best practices for more efficient digital skills trainings;
-   further expand our network of European digital skills training centres;
-   improve the scope of our fundraising and business models;
-   maximise our job placement strategy with key account partners; and
-   continuously adapt and evolve our training offerings (content, tools, & curriculum).

By doing so, we commit ourselves to implementing additional innovative and concrete actions to address the challenge of unemployment due to digital exclusion. We furthermore invite other European coding schools to join us in our mission through ad-hoc actions in favor of professional insertion through digital inclusion for all, or through adherence to our active pedagogy framework which grants full membership to our board. Join us today in working towards a more inclusive future for all.

Description of each Board member

SIMPLON.CO

Simplon.co is a network of 69 inclusive digital schools in France and abroad. We firmly believe that digital transformation is a powerful vehicle for social innovation and that it can enable those who struggle to access training and/or the job market, to become the talents of tomorrow, by finding a job or to becoming an entrepreneur. Simplon.co provides free and intensive training bootcamps for jobseekers and other vulnerable populations (women, NEETS, refugees) to help them find a job in the tech sector. Simplon.co is also a rich ecosystem of digital service production, events and activities where both regions and businesses experience digital transformation.

Website: https://simplon.co/
Contact: Zoé Boissel - zboissel@simplon.co

BECODE

BeCode is a new generation of training centers that offers a free IT training. BeCode is active in 6 cities in Belgium (Brussels, Charleroi, Genk, Liège, Antwerp and Gent). Our target audience consists mostly of underprivileged people (school dropouts, NEETS, long-time unemployed…). On average, BeCode achieves more than 80% positive outcome after the training. During 7 months and at a full-time rate, the learners are intensively trained to master web technologies, enabling them to develop websites, web applications and hybrid mobile applications. All this using a mix of :

- Meta learning : We teach how to learn in order to stay up to date in the ever-evolving technologies.
- Active methodology : No lecture courses, the pedagogy is active and allows us to reach a more creative audience.
- No discrimination : Gender, religion, skin color, age, degrees : WE DON'T CARE !
- Free of charge : the training is completely free. A laptop can be provided for those who need one.

Website: https://www.becode.org
Contact: Alexandre Plennevaux - alexandre@becode.org

FACTORIA F5

Factoría F5 is the exclusive partner of Simplon in Spain. Created as a non-profit association, it opened its first coding school in Barcelona early 2018 with 20 coders learning full stack web-development. A couple promotions later, it now plans to open three new coding schools in Madrid, Bilbao and Gijón by the end of 2019 ! In the years to come, Factoría F5 wants to build a national network of coding schools in Spain creating alliances with major players of tech and social areas and cooperating at European level. Simplon inclusive bootcamp model is a highly relevant answer to major social and economical issues in Spain. It is especially meaningful for assessing specific challenges such as youth unemployment and gender and accessibility gaps.

Website: http://factoriaf5.org/
Contact: info@factoriaf5.org

REALISE

Founded in Geneva in 1984, Réalise has set up a training model based on professional practice for jobseekers with practical and soft skills but little to no academic qualifications, drawing inspiration from the learning method for adults successfully developed in Switzerland. As a part of the requalification programme, Réalise trains around 450 people each year in the fields of logistics, gardening, outdoor maintenance, laundry, cleaning, industry, watchmaking and electro-mechanical assembly. Through internships, it also supports and simplifies its trainees placements in companies, and integrates its partners into trainings on subcontracting mandates. In addition to this historic programme, the cantonal measurement, iEmploi, is also being implemented, which enables around 150 people to find a job through training, particularly through trainings in French and basic IT tools. Réalise also has a service for upgrading computer equipment in order to resell it in its store at second-hand prices.

Website: http://realise.ch/fr/formations-coaching-la-formation-digitale
Contact : info@realise.ch

SIMPLON ROMANIA / ETIC

Simplon Romania/Etic Association is an NGO with the mission to provide digital skills and trainings in ITC accessible to everyone. Since 2014, we have developed and personalized training programs for all age groups, with an extensive national reach: more than 3500 kids and 500 adults. Our desire is to make the tech world more inclusive and open to diversity. Everyday we make a difference by addressing our clients' and target audience's problems. What makes us stand out is our agility, professionalism and adaptability. During 4 years since we started, we have developed educational programs for all age groups, contributing directly

to the development of the Romanian IT industry but also to the digital education landscape. Our workshops and courses promote creativity and digital skills development through new learning experiences. We are passionate about technology and we strongly believe that empowering people with tech skills can help us find the right solutions to current problems our society faces.

Website: http://www.simplonromania.org/
Contact: contact@simplonromania.org