Question for written answer E-006626/2014
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: Digital illiteracy

Combating digital illiteracy should be one of Europe's top priorities. According to the 2014 EU Digital Agenda Scoreboard, the widespread lack of IT skills among EU citizens is a serious cause for concern, as a new category of Europeans may be emerging: the 'digitally excluded', as Commissioner Neelie Kroes calls them. A quarter of EU firms struggle to find developers for their software, and nearly a third report that their employees have insufficient IT skills to meet their needs.

1.   Can the Commission say how much progress has been made in establishing EU-wide indicators of digital competences (action 62 of the Digital Agenda)?

2.   Is it working with the OECD, UNESCO, the International Telecommunications Union, the World Bank and third states to ensure that the relevant statistics are comparable at international level?

3.   Will it encourage EU citizens to take advantage of the massive open online courses (MOOC) on digital competences which have been made available as part of the Startup Europe programme, in particular by translating the content of the Iversity portal (currently in English and German) into other EU languages, as has been done on the OpenupEd portal for pan-European university-level MOOCs?