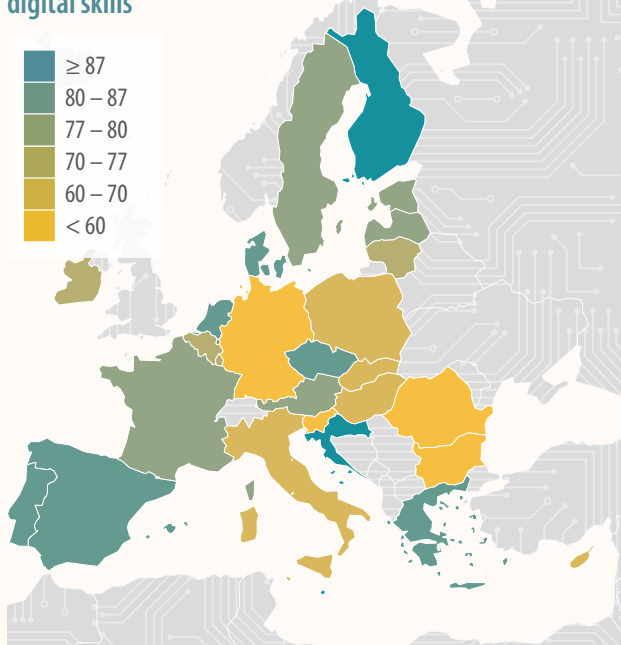


In 2021, 95 % of young Europeans aged 16-29 years reported using the internet every day. However, the share of young people with basic or above basic digital skills ranges from 93 % in Finland, 92 % in Malta, 89 % in Croatia and 87 % in Greece and the Netherlands, to just 49 % in Bulgaria and 46 % in Romania, with the EU average standing at 71 %. Some 76 % of all young people reported that they had performed basic computer tasks such as copying or moving a file or a folder, while slightly lower

Share of young people (16-29) with 'basic' or 'above basic' digital skills



shares had downloaded or installed software or applications (70 %). However, more technical skills, such as writing code in a programming language, were much less widespread, as just 13 % of young people declared having ever done so, although this was more than twice the share recorded for the adult population (6 %).

A comparison between the average proportion of young people and the average proportion of adults engaged in online activities shows that the largest difference between these two groups lies in their participation in social networks. Some 86 % of young people – the 'digital natives' – indulged in this activity in 2021, whereas the corresponding share of adults was 60 %. Although the internet can provide endless sources of information and offer opportunities to interact, it is important to enable and encourage users to analyse and critically evaluate the reliability of information provided. Despite the high number of young people accessing the internet, only 36 % engage in fact-checking activities. This is however ten percentage points higher than the corresponding share among the rest of the population.

Young people use the internet to learn and to look for jobs as well as for fun. The younger generation is more likely to follow an online course (35 %), or search for a job (25 %) than the rest of the population (19 % and 12 % respectively). The country with the highest share of young people following online courses in 2021 was the Netherlands (69 %), followed by Greece (63 %) and Slovenia (60 %). Similarly, 60 % of young Finns and 52 % of young Danes made use of the internet to look for work.

Young Europeans and the internet



95 % use internet daily



86 % participate in social networks



71 % have basic digital skills



36 % engage in fact-checking



35 % follow online courses



25 % search for a job

Data source : Eurostat, 2021