The Commission recognises the shortage of skilled workers in semiconductor technologies and shares the concerns of companies. Skills are addressed in the proposal for the Chips Act through the establishment of a network of competence centres across Europe, offering training and skills development as well as targeting support for internships, apprenticeships and dedicated scholarships for Master’s and PhDs, also aiming at increasing female participation.

Several other initiatives have been already launched: the Pact for Skills, part of the European Skills Agenda, through the Microelectronic Partnership, mobilises relevant stakeholders to equip, up- and re-skill the workforce; the Digital Education Action Plan 2021-2027 boosts digital skills of citizens, preparing recent graduates for the labour market; the European Institute of Innovation and Technology offers education and training programmes that match the needs of the semiconductor industry. Training in digital technologies is also an objective of the Digital Europe Programme - a call has been launched for education or training providers and professional associations and additional calls are planned for September 2022 with a focus on university curricula. Moreover, the Digital Skills and Jobs Platform provides open access to a variety of high-quality information on digital skills, funding, training and jobs. In October 2021, the Commission launched a Structured Dialogue on Digital Education and Skills, inviting Member States to agree on key enabling factors to make digital education effective and inclusive. Finally, the Commission is currently working on a European Innovation Agenda, which focuses on talent development to support Europe’s innovation capacity.