

Chips JU Skills Development Call (2026)

Overview of the Skills Development topics under the
Chips for Europe Initiative

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Skills Development Call – Overview

- Part of the Chips for Europe Initiative (2026 work programme)
- Objective: address Europe's semiconductor talent gap
- Three main initiatives:
 1. Pilot Federation,
 2. Stimulation of Chip Design,
 3. Skills Hubs of Excellence
- Supports long-term education and training actions (≥ 5 years)

1. Pilot Federation – Context & Objectives

- Focus on vocational education and training (VET) in semiconductors
- Workers in semiconductors are facing unprecedented changes in how work is organised,
- Continuous up/re-skilling is essential for workers and industry to respond to the rapidly changing needs of current jobs
- Also to allow transition from industrial sectors with surplus workforce to new jobs in expanding sectors.
- Addresses technician shortages and need for reskilling/upskilling
- Aims to establish a Pilot Federation of European VET providers.

1. Pilot Federation – Key Features

- This Federation should lay down the foundation for the first long-term VET provider network at European level targeted to semiconductors
- Design and delivery of training programmes, industry-aligned curricula
- Micro-credentials for lifelong learning
- Mutual recognition of qualifications, standardized curricula and certification easily transferable across EU
- Supports cross-border mobility
- Increased inflow into the sector of students and workers
- Collaboration with IA and CCCs

1. Pilot Federation - Action details

- DIGITAL Simple Grant
- EUR 10 M max EU budget, covering up to 50% of the eligible cost, co-funded with the National Funding Authorities
- One stage call
- 7 July 2026 – 17 September

2. Stimulation of Chip Design Context & Rationale

- Europe needs stronger advanced chip design capabilities
- Design skills are critical for competitiveness of EU ecosystem and growth of European fabless companies
- This call seeks to lower barriers to entry in chip design, tape-outs and enhance the overall attractiveness of the semiconductor sector
- Attract and prepare new generations of chip designers
- Complements Design Platform, Pilot Lines and CCCs

2. Stimulation of Chip Design Scope

- Expand hands-on education in design across EU, integrate practical design experiences into university and VET programmes
- Access to fully funded and widely accessible tape-out programme (MPW)
- Funded tape-outs in die-sharing programmes for undergraduate and high-school students
- At least 60% of the budget shall be allocated to supporting students' tape-outs
- Strong complementarities and synergies with existing efforts such as EUROPRACTICE and the Design Platform
- Strong links with industry and academia
- Awareness raising, education pathways, train the teacher and talent attraction

2. Stimulation of Chip Design Action details

- DIGITAL Coordination and Support Action
- EUR 15 M max EU budget, covering up to 50% of the eligible cost
- One stage call
- 7 July 2026 – 17 September

3. Skills Hubs of Excellence – Status

- Aimed at higher education and advanced training in semiconductors
- Topic not yet approved at the time of this presentation
- Details will be addressed once formally adopted

Key Takeaways

- Skills Development is a core pillar of the Chips for Europe Initiative to support Europe's long-term semiconductor workforce:
 - ✓ Pilot Federation targets VET and technician-level skills
 - ✓ Stimulation of Chip Design support talents for advanced design
 - ✓ Skills Hub of Excellence
- Full information available in the [Chips JU 2026 Work Programme](#) (Appendix 8, Initiative part)

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