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Contribution of the United Kingdom
to the CSTD 2017-18 priority theme on ‘Building digital competencies to benefit from existing and emerging technologies with special focus on gender and youth dimensions’

DISCLAIMER: The views presented here are the contributors’ and do not necessarily reflect the views and position of the United Nations or the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.
The UK's National College for Digital Skills. The College aims to train up to 5,000 students by 2020, delivering a higher technical level of digital skills (levels 3 to 6) across a diverse range of sectors including banking, gaming & business. The college aims to design and deliver an education that helps all students, especially women and people from low-income backgrounds to progress into higher - digital roles in a sector where there is a skill shortage. Their commitment is to recruit 50% women and 50% of students from a diverse backgrounds to the college. Employers will play a central role in the governance of the college, and in the development and delivery of the curriculum. There is more information and contacts at the website: https://ada.ac.uk/

Earlier this year, the UK Government published a Digital Inclusion and Skills Policy, which is available here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/digital-inclusion-and-skills-policy/digital-skills-and-inclusion-policy. Primary legislation has been passed through the Digital Economy Act 2017, and we are in the process of developing the secondary legislation and full details of a "basic skills digital entitlement". The UK Government also funds the Good Things Foundation, which supports and/or grant funds to approx. 5,000 businesses and centres to deliver basic digital skills to adults in England. For more information about this you could contact Adam Micklethwaite (adam@goodthingsfoundation.org) for any further input.