

**INTERSESSIONAL PANEL OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION  
ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD)**

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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’

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- **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](mailto:adam@goodthingsfoundation.org)) for any further input.