



Experts workshop on descriptors of

Digital Competence

Definitions of digital competence

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Collecting definitions

- 17 definitions
- Length: from 19 to 309 words
- More variety in the input of experts than in definitions of frameworks
- Experts' definitions changing over time
- Some trends/commonalities – although further analysis will be needed

A note on definition

- In research, formulating definitions is a rather futile thing as those definitions are seen as stipulative, attempts to freeze a concept.
- Rather, definitions should be **real definitions** (as they are called) and should reflect our present understanding of a notion.
- This leaves room for conceptual development, which is necessary for scientific progress. And it leads to discussions which are not futile but productive.
- Definitions may either be given in the form of a **list of typical examples (a notion's extension)**, which is useful to get a feel for something, or a **set of characteristics that one attempts to be necessary and jointly exhaustive (a notion's intension)**. Even though that hardly ever is possible, attempting to do so makes for precision of formulations.
- We should aim for real definitions, both of a notions extension and intension.

Recurring themes

- Technology rapidly changing (so definitions/descriptors should follow this trend)
- Social capital or cultural background (as learning domains)
- Personal goals or necessity to adapt digital competence descriptors to individual needs
- Technology as tools (mediator)
- Personalisation: granularity of a framework



Thank you for your attention

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<http://is.jrc.ec.europa.eu/pages/EAP/DIGCOMP.html>