



About ECDL Foundation

ECDL Foundation is the global leader in end-user ICT skills certification, with over 10 years' experience in implementing certification programmes across 146 countries. ECDL Foundation was established by the **Council of European Professional Informatics Societies (CEPIS)** as a not for profit organisation in 1997. Its mission is to enable the proficient use of ICT that empowers individuals, organisations and society through the development, promotion and delivery of high-quality certification programmes around the world.

ECDL Foundation Certification Body

ECDL Foundation programmes are developed through a rigorous and inclusive process. They are developed to the highest standards, to ensure the relevancy of the end-user ICT skills that they specify. The programme development process draws on Subject Matter Experts from across the globe. Each ECDL Foundation module is created with a vendor independent approach, giving candidates the flexibility and freedom to acquire digital skills and confidently apply them in a variety of software environments.

ECDL Foundation's global delivery network operates under the highest quality assurance standards to achieve consistency of implementation. ECDL Foundation places value on its social responsibility, and its certification programmes are designed so that they are accessible to all citizens, irrespective of age, gender, status, ability, or race.

Value of Certification

At the core of ECDL Foundation programmes is the user. Its certification programmes are focused on providing individuals with the ability to understand and use technology in both personal and professional contexts. Possession of ICT skills contributes to socioeconomic progress in nations across the world. The development of knowledge-based economies is ultimately dependent on all members of society possessing suitable levels of skills. Acknowledging this, ECDL Foundation's certification programmes aim to raise the level of human capital and support economic development.

Certification is the only way to provide genuine objective verification of an individual's skills. Providing a clearly defined independent benchmark of skills, certification enables individuals and organisations to reach and demonstrate an appropriate level of competence. It provides an accurate measure of human capital of large organisations and society, demonstrating a measurable return on investment in education, infrastructure and people. Independent studies have highlighted the increase in productivity achieved by having certified skilled employees.

International Recognition

ECDL Foundation's programmes have been successfully introduced on every continent, providing an internationally recognised certification for a huge variety of people in many different environments. A commonly used global standard within education systems (secondary and vocational levels), Governments (Public Administrations and Ministries), and commercial organisations (Small and Medium Enterprise to large Multinationals), ECDL Foundation's programmes are used to increase the value of human capital and achieve productivity gains through developing competent students and employees.

In addition to the international adoption of ECDL / ICDL and other programmes by these sectors, ECDL Foundation's programmes have been delivered to many economically, socially and regionally marginalised people through funding and support from Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives, international development agency funding and other non-governmental organisations (NGO's).

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programmes are one of the key methods for delivering ECDL Foundation's programmes internationally in both developed and emerging markets to marginalised groups or sectors. CSR investment in the training and certification of ECDL / ICDL has had real benefits in terms of giving individuals the skills to gain employment, thus enhancing their lives and helping them to break out of poverty cycles.

NGO's: As both an operational and advocacy based NGO working in the area of digital literacy, ECDL Foundation has established relationships and collaborates with NGO's in developing countries. Established NGO's provide access to invaluable resources and infrastructures which enable the delivery of ICT certification programmes. Many ECDL Foundation programmes have been successfully implemented in developing nations, through working together in partnership with local and International NGO's, including development organisations such as UNDP and World Bank.

Benefits for Test Centres

- Training providers who become Approved Test Centres demonstrate that they conform to training and testing practices of a high standard in terms of integrity and efficiency.
- Provision of training based on the ECDL Syllabus adds value to training content – trainees are provided with an opportunity to test their skills and receive an internationally recognised certification.
- Approved Test Centres have the possibility of attracting more candidates thus stimulating the local economy and labour market.
- There is a commercial opportunity associated with ECDL training and testing.
- Approved training materials, based on the ECDL Syllabus, are readily available through a wide network of approved courseware providers.

How to become an approved Test Centre

Since its inception, over 8 million candidates have enrolled in ECDL Foundation's main certification programme, ECDL (known as ICDL outside Europe). ECDL Foundation's programmes are delivered around the world through licensed National Operators of the ECDL Foundation. A core element of the programme delivery is quality and every test centre must be approved through the National Operator and operate under guidelines which guarantee the same high level of delivery around the world. Please visit www.ecdl.org to find out details about the National Operator in your country.

ECDL Foundation Programme Range

ECDL Foundation's range of end-user ICT certification programmes is suited to all levels of computer experience, from absolute beginners to expert users. There are ten main programmes within the ECDL Foundation programme range, from EqualSkills, at entry-level, to specialised and professional programmes for ICT practitioners, such as EUCIP. The certification programmes are localised and offered in the national language of each country.

ECDL / ICDL

A test of practical skills in computer application usage.

A programme consisting of 7 modules covering computer theory and practice, raising candidates IT knowledge levels and their proficiency in the use of common computer applications.

EqualSkills

Computers and the Internet for complete beginners.

An introduction to computer basics including the Internet and email.

ECDL / ICDL WebStarter

Essential skills in the design, creation and maintenance of a website.

A certification programme in which the user develops core skills required to design, create and maintain a website.

ECDL / ICDL CAD

Core skills in 2D Computer-aided design.

A programme which covers the core principles and skills of 2D CAD.

EUCIP

European Certification for Informatics Professionals.

A professional certification and competence development scheme aimed at IT practitioners and undergraduates.

ECDL / ICDL Advanced

An advanced computer application skills certification.

A higher-level programme designed for those who have successfully reached ECDL / ICDL skills levels and wish to enhance their computer proficiency.

e-Citizen

An introduction to how the Internet and email works.

A programme which enables individuals to actively participate in the e-Society and use the Internet effectively in their daily lives.

ECDL / ICDL ImageMaker

An introduction to digital image manipulation software.

A certification programme which gives the user the fundamental skills required to use and manipulate digital images.

ECDL / ICDL Health

A qualification for users of patient data systems.

An end-user qualification for health professionals and support staff using patient data systems.

CTP

Certified training professional.

An international certification in ICT training, CTP is a programme suitable for both trainers and organisation.