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PRESS RELEASE #5

From Basic Literacy to Digital Capability: Europe 4.0 Digital Citizens Gathers in Gdańsk

APROXIMAR

On 29 September 2026, the Faculty of Management and Economics of Gdańsk University of Technology hosted Digital Skills for European Citizens, the Final Conference of the Europe 4.0 Digital Citizens project.

More than 30 participants took part: project partners, educators and training professionals working in digital skills development, adult learning and digital inclusion.

The conference was opened by Błażej Prusak, Vice-Dean for Research at the Faculty of Management and Economics, and by Łukasz Sienkiewicz, Professor at Gdańsk University of Technology and coordinator of the Europe 4.0 Digital Citizens project.

The programme was built around a single question, and deliberately a difficult one:

How can we ensure that the next stage of Europe's digital transformation is accompanied by an equally ambitious transformation in citizens' skills and opportunities to learn?

It is a question with measurable stakes. In 2025, **60% of European citizens aged 16 to 74 had at least basic overall digital skills**, short of the 80% target set for 2030 under the Digital Decade policy programme.*

Closing that distance will require more than basic literacy: it will require citizens who can understand the technologies now reshaping their work and daily lives.

* Eurostat (2025). Towards Digital Decade targets for Europe. Digital Skills Indicator, data extracted June 2025.

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Faculty of Management and Economics, Gdańsk University of Technology, 29 September 2026.

The Challenge and the Course Built for It

The day followed a deliberate arc. It opened with what lies beyond basic digital literacy, and with a problem every educator in the room would recognise: **how do you teach advanced digital subjects to people who are not technology specialists** and who often begin by assuming the subject is not meant for them?

The discussion kept returning to the same answer: **start from everyday experience.** Advanced digital topics become accessible when explained through practical, real-life examples rather than technical language, helping learners recognise their relevance regardless of background. Confidence grows from there.

The middle of the day belonged to the project itself. Partners presented the modules, the learning approach behind them, and how the Europe 4.0 Digital Citizens microcredential takes a learner from completed units through to a recognised record of what they have learned.

The course is free, entirely online and self-paced, in seven European languages. No prior knowledge or technical background is required. Those who complete a unit may take a structured assessment and obtain a Europe 4.0 Digital Citizens Microcredential, in line with the Council Recommendation of June 2022.

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EUROPE 4.0 DIGITAL CITIZENS

A Final Meeting and a Look Ahead

A Final Meeting, and a Look Ahead On 30 September, the consortium held its final Transnational Project Meeting, reviewing the conference and discussing the project's next steps.

The meeting closed with a visit to the Immersive 3D Visualization Laboratory of Gdańsk University of Technology, where students have developed more than 200 applications, from space operations to the treatment of phobias.

Orbital mechanics and clinical psychology are not fields that often share a toolkit. That the same laboratory serves both, and that most of the work was done by students still in training, says something the project has argued from the start: the barrier to doing something useful with advanced technology is lower than most people assume.





The consortium at the Immersive 3D Visualization Laboratory, Gdańsk University of Technology, 30 September 2026.

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EUROPE DIGITAL CITIZENS

The Project Ends. The Courses Don't.

Rather than marking an ending, this moment celebrates the outcomes of three years of collaborative work and the continued journey of the learning environment as it reaches and supports the people it was designed for.

Across seven countries — Poland, Austria, Greece, Portugal, Lithuania, Italy and Cyprus — adults are working through the courses at their own pace. Eight organisations built this together, each now carrying the pilot in its own country, in its own language, with the groups it knows best.

The initiative aims to support 1,400 adults currently employed or seeking work, with low or medium digital skills. Of these, 1,050 will also take the structured assessment and obtain the Europe 4.0 Digital Citizens Microcredential.

What Gdańsk made clear is that the hardest part was never the technology. It was reaching the people who had quietly concluded that these subjects were not meant for them.

That work continues. Registration is open in every partner country and takes around three minutes:

1. Go to the Course page on the project website
2. Under "Apply Now!", select your country
3. Complete the form and choose your topic
4. Receive your platform access by email

The courses are open. Choose your topic and begin at your own pace.

Explore the courses today!

https://europe40digitalcitizens.eu/

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