



Coding to Save the Environment: ThinkYoung and Boeing Team up to Equip Young People with the Skills of the Future

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels | 1 July 2021

- In partnership with Boeing, ThinkYoung will host its **11th Coding Summer School in Brussels**.
- From July 5 to 9, **50 young people aged between 11 and 17** will get lessons in computer programming through five-day sessions with coding experts.
- This year's students represent **16 different nationalities**, of which **50 % are girls**, challenging the myth that coding and IT are disciplines that only interest boys.
- This year's theme will focus on the environment, and how technology and code in particular can have a positive impact on addressing the challenges facing our planet.

The Coding Summer School features an interactive curriculum that includes coding a personal blog or webpage in HTML5 and building a mobile game with JavaScript, as well as a half-day workshop with imagiLabs, an app and social network teaching coding to young girls. The students will also meet with aerospace and technology leaders who will explain why Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) skills are critical building blocks for rewarding future careers.

Advances in digital technology are having a colossal impact on our economy and society and are profoundly transforming the job market as well as the types of skills required for young professionals. This new reality leads to the **need of more skilled ICT professionals** in all sectors.

Additionally, **technological advancements can aid sustainable development** by finding innovative ways to manage waste minimisation, recycling, pollution control and change production processes – this is why this year's school will train youth in fundamental coding skills, with a focus on the environment.

*“The Coding Summer School aims to equip younger generations with digital and analytical competencies to solve societal challenges”, says **Andrea Gerosa, Founder of ThinkYoung**. “Climate and the environment are important concerns for our young participants, and we are proud to be able to show them how technology can help tackling these issues, so that they may one day launch their own project!”*

*“We are very excited to kick off another Coding Summer School with our NGO-partner ThinkYoung this year”, adds **Kim Stollar, Managing Director, EU & NATO Government Affairs, Boeing**. “This year, we are focusing our educational partnership on a matter that is very important to us as a company – the environment. We have set an ambitious goal for our student participants: how to shape environmental innovation to help build a sustainable future.”*



With the first Coding Summer School, launched in 2016, ThinkYoung and Boeing partnered to help young teenagers explore future job opportunities that digital skills could open up, particularly in aerospace. Since then, over 700 children and teenagers have taken their first steps into the STEM world through the Coding Summer School.

For more information, please visit: www.codingsummerschool.com

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Additional information

Increase in gender gap in the digital sector – European Commission study on Women in the Digital Age - <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/increase-gender-gap-digital-sector-study-women-digital-age>

Skills Mismatch 2: Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics
<https://www.thinkyoung.eu/Research/SKILLS-MISMATCH-2>

Approximately 900,000 jobs in science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM) and information and communication technology (ICT) within the European market are not filled due to a lack of skills, according to the European Commission, the executive body of the European Union (EU). That gap creates a declining competitiveness within the market.

In no other STEM subject in the EU is the gender gap larger than in the ICT sector. Out of 1,000 women with a bachelor's or similar degree, only 24 hold a degree in ICT. Of these 24 graduates, only 6 women end up working in digital jobs.

ThinkYoung's research papers on the **Skills mismatch and STEM** also exposed a significant gender gap in coding skills and pursuing careers in STEM and ICT fields. Female students and graduates report significantly lower levels of coding ability than their male counterparts.

About ThinkYoung – www.thinkyoung.eu

ThinkYoung is a youth-focused NGO and research hub based in Brussels, Geneva, Hong Kong and Nairobi. Its aim is to empower youth across the globe and make the world a better place for young people, by involving them in decision making processes and by providing decision makers with high-quality research on key issues affecting the young generation. ThinkYoung conducts studies and surveys, make documentary movies, write policy proposals, and develop educational programmes. So far, ThinkYoung projects have reached over 800,000 young people all over the world.

About Boeing in Europe – www.Boeing.com/Europe

Boeing has been part of the European aerospace community for many decades, contributing to its economic and technological growth. Boeing enhances European competitiveness by

The logo for ThinkYoung, featuring the word "Think" in a green script font and "Young" in a green sans-serif font.The logo for coding summer school, featuring the word "coding" in a blue sans-serif font, a red asterisk-like symbol, and the words "summer school" in a green sans-serif font.The Boeing logo, featuring a blue stylized "B" symbol followed by the word "BOEING" in a blue sans-serif font.

investing in the talent, skills and technologies offered by its scientists, engineers and technicians and actively supports educational, environmental and social programmes in the region. European airlines have partnered with Boeing to launch and operate new aircraft models such as the Boeing 787 Dreamliner, which boasts breakthrough technologies and systems from more than 60 major European suppliers. Boeing systems, solutions and services play an integral role in the military, peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance operations of NATO and many European nations.