



#EuropeanDefenceChallenge



@ASSETs+



@ASSETS_Plus



@ASSETs_Plus_EU

| www.europeandefencechallenge.eu

The European Defence Challenge was established under the ASSETs+ project (2020-2023)

What is the European Defence Challenge?

A great opportunity for students to boost their careers and open new horizons.

The European Defence Challenge (EDC) is an open competition to attract young talent to the Defence industry and to encourage them to initiate a career in defence-related technologies.

EDC invites European students to think about a current problem in the domain of Defence and propose a solution.

Originally launched under the **ASSETs+ project** – Alliance for Strategic Skills Addressing Emerging Technologies in Defence (2020–2023) – it has continued under the coordination of **Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini** and will carry on in its forthcoming editions within the framework of the **Skills4ADC+ project** (Skills for the Aerospace and Defence Community).



www.assets-plus.eu

The Alliance for Strategic Skills addressing Emerging Technologies in Defence (ASSETs+), an Erasmus+ project and a member of the **Pact for Skills**, aimed to build a sustainable human resources supply chain for the European Defence Industry by boosting innovation through both attracting highly skilled young workers and upskilling existing employees.

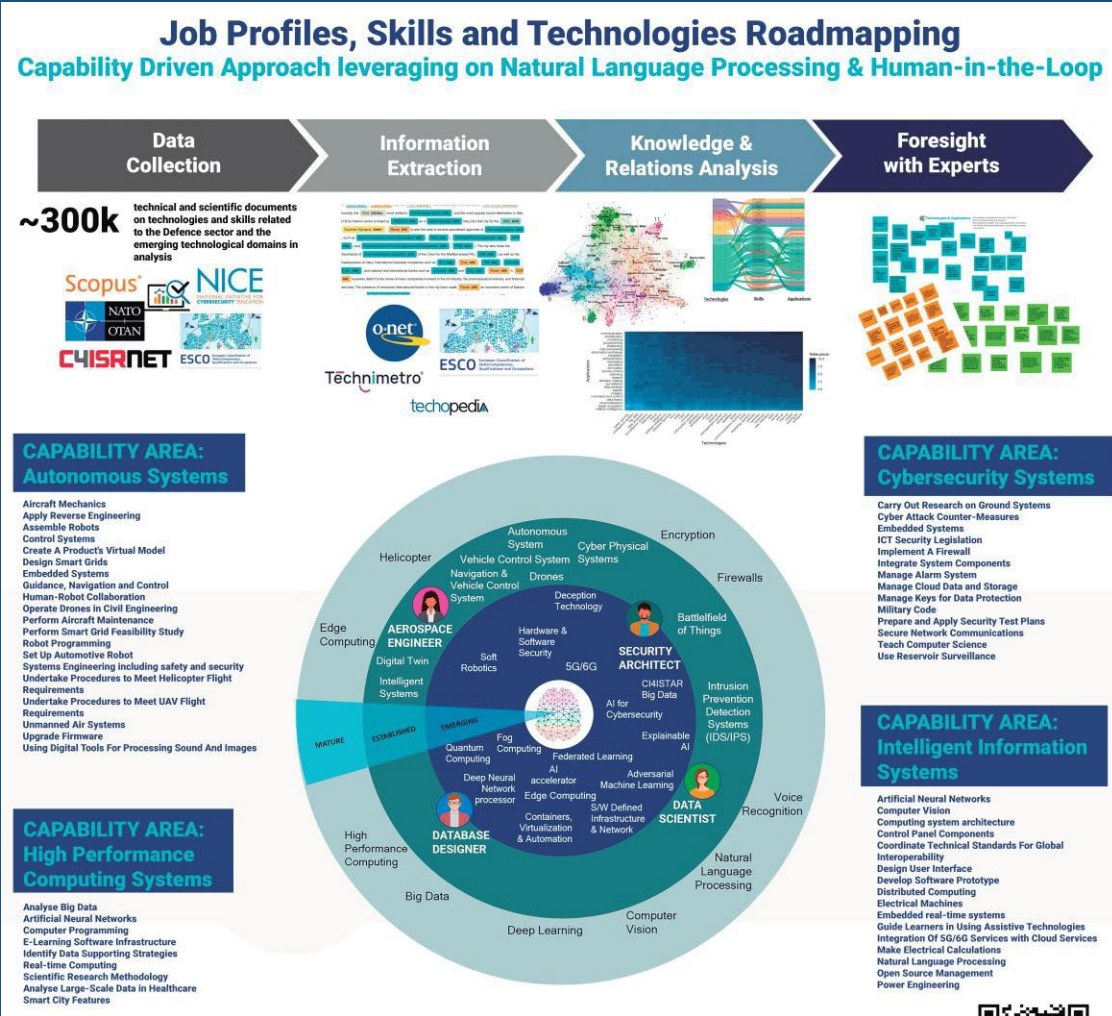
The project was built on close collaboration between the Defence Industry, sectoral organizations, Higher Education Institutions, Vocational Education and Training providers and research centres, with 30 partners from 8 countries and a broad ecosystem of stakeholders.

ASSETs+ main results

Technology & skills analysis

Education & training

ASSETs+ designed education & training programmes to provide professionals (Defence & AeroSpace) as well as undergraduate and graduate students, with new skills related to key technologies that will be expected in the Defence sector in the coming years, most notably: Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, C4ISTAR and Cybersecurity.





Next editions

The Challenge will carry on in its forthcoming editions within the framework of the **Skills4ADC+ project** (Skills for the Aerospace and Defence Community):



- **Erasmus+ project**
- **2-year project** (March 2026 – 2028)

The project aims to reinforce Europe's capacity to anticipate and respond to **emerging skills needs** in the **aerospace and defence** sectors.

It supports the design of forward-looking, inclusive, and cross-sectoral **upskilling and reskilling** strategies aligned with key EU priorities such as the green and digital transitions, cross-industry mobility, and defence industrial readiness.

Skills4ADC+

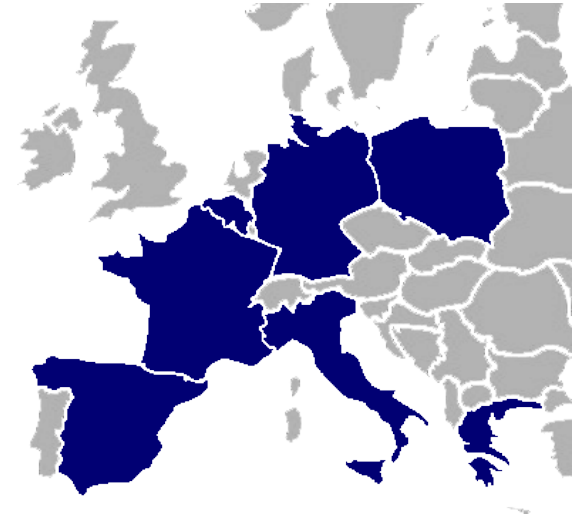
Skills for Aerospace and Defence Community



Skills4ADC+ Consortium

13 partners from 7 European countries

- Industry leaders, SMEs, universities, training providers, and clusters
- Partners connected through the **Pact for Skills** initiative
- Collaboration designed to strengthen Europe's strategic autonomy



Coordinated by Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini:

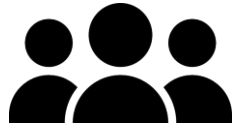


AIRBUS





European Defence Challenge – Some numbers



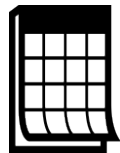
883 students
registered



24 countries



126 institutions



29 webinars with defence experts and public events



43%



57%



55% undergraduated

45% graduated

AGE ~ 23



TOPICS of previous editions

I EDITION 2020-2021: “Which technologies and technology bricks are particularly relevant for Europe’s sovereignty in defence and security?” Host: University of Bordeaux

II EDITION 2021-2022: “Remote everything? To what extent can unmanned assets interact with humans in the field for defence operations?” Host: Polytechnical University of Madrid

III EDITION 2022-2023: “Security – threats identification and defence strategies”
Host: Rzeszow University of Technology

IV EDITION 2023: “Leading through Complexity: Effective Management in Defence Environment”.
Host: University of Pisa

V EDITION 2024-2025: “Towards a Safer Tomorrow: Multidisciplinary Approaches to Landmine Clearance and Security Enhancement” Host: Royal Military Academy, Brussels

VI EDITION 2025-2026: “From STEM to strategy: Empowering young minds to shape Europe’s aerospace & defence future”. Hosts: Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini and Rzeszow University of Technology

Who can participate?

All undergraduate or graduate **students** from all faculties in European universities, vocational education and training centres, and other institutions dedicated to education.

Students are strongly encouraged to **team up in pairs**, finding a partner in a different university or country.

Guidelines

- ✓ Register on the website www.europeandefencechallenge.eu
- ✓ Write a 1 page proposal (500-600 words) that present a new usage or suggest improvements on a new technology, and submit it to: challenge@assets-plus.eu
- ✓ If the proposal is selected for the second stage of the Challenge, the participants will be asked to expand the description to 10 pages (5000-6000 words) which should be a development of the previously submitted proposal
- ✓ **IMPORTANT:** Students are strongly encouraged to team up in pairs, finding a partner in a different university or country. Teams will get an additional point in the final score.
- ✓ A fresh view is valued. It is required to include not only technological but also economic, environmental, social, ethical and/or political analysis within the proposal.

Are you interested in becoming a partner of the European Defence Challenge?

There are different ways of collaboration:

- Provision of thematic experts
- Proposal assessment panel
- Promotion and outreach
- Sponsorship





VI EDITION
2025-2026

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