ANDRUS ANSIP

VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Dear Code Week Ambassadors,

Thank you for presenting the 2015 Code Week initiative.

I share your view that coding, and more broadly digital skills and creativity in using digital technologies, is at the core of efforts to equip people in Europe with a set of skills that they need to participate fully in digital society and also remain employable.

The Digital Single Market project is about maximising the growth potential of Europe's digital economy through investment in ICT infrastructure, research and innovation to raise industrial competitiveness, as well as inclusiveness and people's skills. Change is needed in training and education to make sure that vacancies for digital jobs in Europe can be filled, and for European society to reap the benefits of the digital revolution. Your initiative can serve as a source of inspiration for promoting digital skills across Europe and beyond.
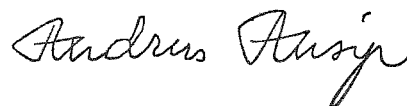
The success of Europe Code Week so far is proof that your passion for coding and learning together really makes a difference. Code Week provides opportunities for young and old, boys and girls, men and women to build an application, learn about software and acquire skills such as communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity. All of these are in demand for the jobs of today and tomorrow. It also provides a platform for sharing good practice across different EU countries. What makes Europe Code Week unique is that it was founded and organised by passionate volunteers who come from different professional backgrounds and different walks of life.

Europe Code Week is a significant partnership opportunity for everyone from across the digital, training and education fields. Together, we can bolster the impact of coding activities and digital literacy within our local communities and across Europe. It is also vital to raise collective awareness of the importance of coding and focus on developing computational thinking skills so that we can promote and stimulate competiveness and continuous innovation in our communities.

Your voluntary work has been impressive and I am grateful for your efforts. Let us build strong grassroots support for digital skills for the benefit of Europe.

I wish you best of luck for Code Week 2015.

Yours sincerely,

Andrus Ansip