

How to become a Green IT professional?

Companies and organisations have progressively started integrating Green IT in their IT and CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) strategy and policies. This is mainly driven by three reasons. Becoming “green” is good for the planet (ethical and civic approach); good for the image of the company (a company who appears more “green” sells more because customers see it with more empathy); good for the business (a well governed “Green IT” strategy allows to reduce IT operational costs, waste recycling costs during the product/service life). In a nutshell, the company benefits of a “greener” view because its image is improved, costs are managed efficiently and its environmental footprint is lower.

For the design and implementation of projects related to Green-IT in companies and organisations, specialists are needed. According to a survey carried out within the framework of GRIN-CH, a European project supported by the Lifelong Learning Programme of the EU, there is a shortage of specialists in the design and implementation of a “Green IT” strategy in companies.

“Green IT” professionals should have technical experience with systems and devices used in the IT field and also dispose of experience in designing and implementing complex IT architectures and measuring their efficiency. However, these so-called “hard skills” do not suffice. To achieve this objective, transversal competences, the so-called “soft skills”, e.g. team spirit, leadership, attention to details and precision, ability to explain and to convince other employees and professional are necessary.

The GRIN-CH project has identified the necessary skills and competences 5 Green-IT Role Profiles, which are accessible on the e-Jobs Observatory <http://www.e-jobs-observatory.eu/sites/e-jobs-observatory.eu/files/Green-IT%20Role%20Profiles%20draft.doc>, the “new skills for new jobs” web-portal. These are: *Green-IT software engineer, Green-IT infrastructure and operations expert, Green-IT auditor, Green-IT Consultant and Green-IT ambassador.*

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