

## Gérald Santucci

Ambassador, Interop-VLab



Gérald Santucci is an internationally recognized expert on Internet of Things and Enterprise Systems, with specific interest in privacy, cybersecurity and ethics. He is currently Ambassador of the Interop-VLab. He has worked in the European Commission Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CONNECT, formerly DG XIII and then DG INFSO), first as an Expert in the RACE (Advanced Communications) program (1986-1988), then as an Official (1988-2017). From 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 he was Adviser for Cross-cutting Policy/Research Issues, with focus on Knowledge Management, integration of Research/Innovation, Regulation and Policy, and "Data4Policy". He has been Head of the Unit "Knowledge Sharing" (2012-2016) and Head of the Unit "Networked Enterprise & Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)" (2006- 2012). In 2010-2012, he chaired the Internet of Things (IoT) Expert Group, composed of about 40 members from Government, Industry, and Civil Society, which held a leadership role in worldwide discussions on IoT Identification, Architectures, Privacy and Security, Ethics, Standards, and Governance.

### Defining a Global Skills Agenda: a Prerequisite to Digital Economy Agendas

All countries today are committed to building digital agendas that harness the potential of new disruptive digital technologies, including AI, IoT or Blockchain, for meeting 21st century needs of individuals, communities and organizations. However, in order to reap the full benefits of any Digital Agenda, it is imperative to improve the quality of skills and their relevance for the labor market. Millions of people lack adequate reading and writing skills, and even more have poor numeracy and digital skills. This puts them at risk of unemployment, poverty and social exclusion. On the other hand, a large number of people work in jobs that do not match their talents and aspirations. Furthermore, too few people have the entrepreneurial mindset and competences to start their own business. Therefore, increasing skills levels, promoting transversal skills and finding ways to better anticipate the labor market's needs, are essential to improving people's chances in life, and support fair, inclusive and sustainable growth as well as more cohesive societies. Skills are vital for prosperity, jobs, growth and sustainable well-being. DEC 2018 is a unique opportunity to recommend regional and global cooperation towards defining a comprehensive, collaborative and coherent new Skills Agenda, based on advanced digital technologies, to ensure that no-one is left behind, and that world countries nurture the high-end skills that drive competitiveness and innovation.