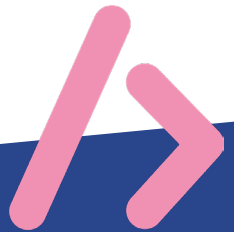


OUR IMPACT IN 2024



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FOREWORD

Michael Vollmann

Europe Lead Education, Amazon Community Impact.

Michael leads Amazon's philanthropic education efforts in Europe, driving initiatives aimed at equipping underserved youth with tech skills they need to succeed in the jobs of the future. He is passionate about advancing equity in computer science education, particularly through programs like Amazon Future Engineer, which provide vital opportunities for young people to prepare for careers in technology.

"I am inspired by the profound impact of initiatives like Meet and Code in shaping the digital future for young people across Europe. In 2024, we saw over 32,000 participants engage in coding and tech education workshops, with 40% coming from underserved backgrounds and 32% from socially deprived neighbourhoods. These numbers are more than just statistics, they represent real lives being transformed through access to technology and education."

This program stands out not only for teaching coding skills but for transforming education biographies. It boosts participants' confidence, ignites curiosity, and cultivates a sense of belonging and growth in the tech industry. Beyond the metrics, it's about personal growth—helping young individuals transition from self-doubt to empowerment, equipped with skills and a renewed belief in their potential.

I am particularly encouraged by the 42% female participation rate in 2024, a clear indication that when we create opportunities, young women embrace them and bring invaluable perspectives to technology. Meet and Code is enabling a generation to tackle the challenges of tomorrow with critical thinking, problem-solving, and technical expertise.

At Amazon, we are proud to support this vital mission. By collaborating with local non-profits, Meet and Code is building a more inclusive digital future, ensuring that every young person has the opportunity to thrive in our digital age."



Clemens Frede

Managing Director at Haus des Stiftens.

In this role, Clemens shapes the vision and impact of the organization, demonstrating leadership and innovation in the realm of civil society and philanthropy.

"Meet and Code continues to break down barriers to technology, opening doors for young people who might otherwise be excluded. With 40% of participants from underserved backgrounds and 22% without access to personal IT devices, these workshops go beyond coding—they create opportunities that inspire hope and build futures. Seeing more than 60% of participants report that the events helped them gain insights for future career choices, has been a powerful reminder of the transformative impact of this initiative, and how it has also become a compass for the future."

By addressing global and local challenges such as educational inequality, the gender gap in IT, and community building, Meet and Code connects digital skills with real-world relevance. These workshops not only teach coding but empower participants to think critically about their world, combining strategic technology use with accessibility and community-driven learning.

The program's emphasis on innovation, from digital literacy toolkits to exploring AI's potential, ensures it remains impactful. As non-profits continue to tackle pressing issues and equip participants with future-ready skills, Meet and Code strengthens its role as a catalyst for inclusive growth and a brighter digital future."



Anna Sienicka

Senior Vice President at TechSoup.

Anna works to advance social inclusion, leverage civic technology to support civil society in safeguarding democracy, fighting for social and climate justice, and defending universal human rights.



"This year has demonstrated the power of collaboration in making a difference in the lives of underserved and underrepresented youth across Europe. Spanning 13 European nations, the initiative reached over tens of thousands of participants, 6.7% of which are living with disabilities and over 33% are from low-income households. These numbers are a testament to an important truth: technology has the power to transcend privilege and open doors for all.

Yet, the impact goes far beyond statistics. The energy and enthusiasm at the coding and digital skills workshops is undeniable. Feedback from participants has been overwhelmingly positive, with 85% saying the events fully met their expectations, and 89% indicated they experienced the workshops as a lot of fun". This joy is more than just a measure of satisfaction; it shows that digital learning can inspire creativity, spark ambition, and create pathways to personal and professional growth.

As we look ahead to 2025, the focus must remain on sustaining and expanding these efforts. It's not enough to teach coding; we must prepare young people for the opportunities and challenges of a rapidly evolving digital world. By partnering with non-profits, we are fostering diversity, improving access, and arming young people with the tools they need to thrive in the tech-driven economy of tomorrow.

Through these collective efforts, we can achieve widespread digital literacy, inspire youth to pursue fulfilling careers, and build a socio-economic landscape of equal opportunity. Together with NGOs across Europe, we are helping young people realize their potential and envision a bright future in the technological sector."



Haus des Stiftens
Engagiert für Engagierte

amazon future engineer



About Meet and Code: Inspiring Digital Futures

Our Mission and Vision: Driving Europe's Digital Future

Picture a Europe where every young mind is armed with the digital skills needed to shape their future. Meet and Code is turning this vision into reality by championing collective effort and collaboration. Through attending innovative workshops and events hosted by non-profit-organizations (NPOs), participants not only gain coding expertise but also develop confidence and creativity to navigate the digital economy.

This approach allows Meet and Code to deliver inclusive workshops that go beyond coding basics. These events inspire young people to see technology and computer science as a tool for change, equipping them to tackle real-world challenges and harness digital opportunities.

Overall impact

Since its launch in 2017, Meet and Code has reached over 330,000 young people aged 8 to 24 across more than 35 European countries, supporting the implementation of over 9,000 coding projects led by local non-profits.

How Meet and Code Works

Meet and Code provides microgrants, resources, and community support to local non-profit organizations across Europe. These grants enable them to organize free digital skills workshops, such as hackathons, coding lessons, and robotics classes, for children and youth aged 8 to 24. This year, Meet and Code workshops took place from June to end of October.

Meet and Code is aligned with EU Code Week, an initiative launched in 2013 by the Young Advisors, a group that supported Neelie Kroes, the former EU Commissioner for the Digital Agenda. The program is backed by the European Commission.

Events Tailored for Impact

From in-person coding boot camps to online app development sessions, the range of possible events is only limited by imagination. Events aim to make digital learning exciting and accessible to youth from diverse backgrounds. With Amazon Future Engineer's additional resources this year, organizers had access to:

- Python Learning Platforms for teaching coding interactively
- Coding for Climate Action learning materials, empowering youth to tackle environmental challenges.
- Career Insights through virtual Class Chats and virtual interactive Career Tours

Meet and Code Awards: Celebrating Creativity

In the 2024 edition, the Meet and Code Awards returned to recognize exceptional events in three categories aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

- Girls do IT!: Encouraging girls to pursue careers in technology.
- Diversity: Empowering underrepresented communities in digital education.
- Code for the Planet: Using coding to drive environmental action.

The winners of each category receive a €3000 cash prize at the annual Awards Ceremony.



2024 Impact at a Glance

Key facts about the program



13
countries

469
cities



580
non-profit organizations
supported

1,000
funded events



1,624
applications

32,000
event participants

Inclusivity - Meet and Code prioritizes reaching underserved and diverse communities

In an effort to foster inclusivity in technology education, Meet and Code has made it a priority to reach diverse and underserved communities. Through our 2024 workshops with NPO partners, we are creating meaningful opportunities for all:

- **40%** of participants were from underserved backgrounds
- **Around 42%** were female
- **6.7%** had disabilities

Breaking Barriers

To ensure technology education reaches those who need it the most, Meet and Code's mission is to continue broadening access to digital skills education for marginalised communities. Key insights from this year's participant data include:

- **More than 33%** came from low-income households
- **22%** lacked access to personal IT devices
- **26.5%** lived in socially deprived neighborhoods



Participants find the greatest benefit of the events to be gaining a deeper understanding of technology and programming.



Event Feedback

Meet and Code's impact is made tangible by reaching individuals who often face significant barriers to digital inclusion. The success of the program is clearly demonstrated by the data and overwhelmingly positive feedback from participants:

- **85%** said the events fully met their expectations
- **89%** agreed that the events were a lot of fun
- **82%** claim that the event helped to learn more about coding, one of the most significant perceived benefits of participating in Meet and Code events
- More than **60%** said the event helped them gain insights for future career choices
- After the events, more than **80%** stated that they would like to learn more about coding in general
- Over **93%** of participants indicated they were very satisfied or satisfied with the Meet and Code program
- **82%** said they would like to visit a Meet and Code event again

Empowering Non-Profit Organizations

The Meet and Code initiative has been a transformative force for NPOs, enabling them to address pressing socio-economic challenges through digital innovation. In 2024, **66%** of NPOs reported that their events were made possible thanks to the microgrants provided, and **27%** indicated that without funding support, their coding events would have been far smaller. Beyond financial support, the program significantly enhanced their digital capabilities, equipping them to host impactful events that addressed key socio-economic challenges, including:

- **Educational inequality: 22%**
- **Diversity and inequality: 19%**
- **Gender gap in IT: 17%**
- **Local community building: 16%**
- **Climate crisis: 9%**

The positive response from participating organizations further validated the initiative's effectiveness. Organizational feedback indicate the program's success, complementing the positive reactions from individual participants:

- **NPOs who said this years Meet and Code program fully met their expectations: 76%**
- **NPOs who said their events were successful: 78%**



Testimonials

Quotes from participants highlight the transformative power of Meet and Code:



Programming turned out to be easier than I thought. I want to do it more often!"

- Participant



We don't just learn to program—we program change and prove that girls can be leaders in IT."

- Participant



I didn't expect to like it so much, I thought programming a robot was way more difficult. I wish this could be like every day at school."

- Participant



Educators and NPOs also shared their insights:



Meet and Code provides a rare opportunity to access funding for experiences that would otherwise be impossible."

- Penpol School



It's inspiring to see technology reach kids who wouldn't have the chance otherwise."

- AISA



Over the past few years, as a teacher at our vocational school, this has meant bringing cooler, better, more contemporary experiences to the students. Yes, it takes time and energy, but it's always worth it."

- Karl-Hofmann-Schule Worms



Amazon volunteers attended an event in Berlin:

“

It was inspiring to see young minds engage with technology and computer science. The event provided hands-on experiences that sparked curiosity and creativity, helping these kids take their first steps toward future careers in tech. It was an honor to be part of a program that makes such a meaningful impact.”

- Alan, an Application Architect at Amazon Web Services



Outlook: Shaping a Digitally Inclusive Future

As we look to 2025, Meet and Code remains committed to fostering collaboration, inclusivity, and innovation. By arming Europe's youth with essential digital skills, the initiative paves the way for a future where everyone can thrive in a digital-centric world.

Through a collective effort involving local communities, nonprofits, and businesses, we are working together to shape a more equitable digital landscape.

Together, we're empowering the next generation of digital leaders to grow, innovate, and contribute to a more connected and sustainable society.

Learn more at www.meet-and-code.org or connect with us on social media. Watch our 2024 Meet and Code Impact Video [here](#).



www.meet-and-code.org

