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Effective education will strengthen the European semiconductor industry

The CHIPS of Europe (Creating Higher-Education Industry Programmes for the Semiconductor Industry of Europe) project is addressing the shortage of workforce in the EU semiconductor industry. In the next 4 years industry and academia will work together to increase the attractiveness of semiconductor-related study programmes and careers.

“The recent success of generative AI has emphasized the importance of academic talent for the microchip industry and Europe's economic success. The project has come at exactly the right time. “

Prof. Klaus Kreulich, Vice-Rector for Teaching Affairs, Munich University of Applied Sciences



Project consortium during the kick-off on 25 June 2024 in Munich; source: Alexander Ratzing

The need for more skilled workers in the EU semiconductor industry has increased due to the new investments via the EU Chips Act. If no action is taken, the EU semiconductor industry will face a shortage of 350,000 workers by 2030.

CHIPS of Europe will increase the attractiveness of semiconductor-related study programmes and careers. It brings together large companies and small and medium-sized enterprises, such as Infineon, Imec, X-Fab, Cadence, nextnano GmbH, and universities. The project includes partners from fascinating application fields such as medical and space which touch on the hearts and minds of future workforce.

Involving 14 full and 7 associated partners from 10 countries spread across Europe, the project employs targeted measures and will leave a sustainable impact on the European



press release



semiconductor ecosystem. Updated curricula and microcredentials on cutting edge topics in chips design, manufacturing, and packaging will be provided. Interactive teaching and learning methods will be developed, such as summer schools at fabs and virtual labs that are key to give more insights into the exciting environment of semiconductors.

CHIPS of Europe will build a full talent pipeline starting from secondary schools to minimize any lost potential. The share of female students in technical fields will be increased by targeted measures. Therefore, it is important to give more tools to teachers acting as mentors and to collaborate with female representatives from industry and academia as role models. To increase Europe's talent pool, an academic partner from Africa is associated. All activities are accompanied by public communications to foster positive awareness of semiconductors.

With CHIPS of Europe a tight network between industry, universities, and schools will be established to deliver the higher education required for Europe's digital decade.

Please visit the website www.chipsofeurope.eu for a complete list of project partners and further information.

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