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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

European Union and British Council inaugurate Centre of Excellence for Digital and Hi-Tech Skills in Peshawar

11 February 2026, Peshawar, Pakistan:

The European Union, in partnership with British Council, today inaugurated a Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Digital and Hi-Tech Skills at the Institute of Management Sciences (IMSciences), Peshawar, under Team Europe’s TVET Sector Support Programme.

The launch ceremony was attended by senior government representatives, development partners, and education stakeholders, including the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan, and the Country Director of British Council in Pakistan. The Centre marks an important milestone in efforts to strengthen Pakistan’s technical and vocational education and training (TVET) system by expanding access to industry-relevant digital and hi-tech skills, with a particular focus on youth and women.

In its first phase, the Centre will train 60 learners. Programmes focus on high-demand digital and technology areas such as artificial intelligence, data science, cyber security, and emerging digital technologies. Strong interest has already been demonstrated, with over 1,500 applications received following the opening of course registrations.

The initiative forms part of the broader Team Europe approach, through which the European Union and its Member States support skills development, job creation, and institutional strengthening in Pakistan. It also contributes to the EU’s Global Gateway strategy, which focuses on investing in people, skills, and sustainable development partnerships.

[Draft – EU Ambassador quote to be inserted]

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Speaking at the ceremony, Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, [Name], welcomed the launch of the Centre and highlighted its importance for the province’s future workforce.

“Skills development is central to our vision for economic growth and job creation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. This Centre of Excellence reflects our government’s commitment to preparing young people, especially women, for the opportunities of the digital economy. Through partnerships like this, we are strengthening institutions, aligning training with market demand, and ensuring that our youth are equipped to compete nationally and globally.”

Mr. James Hampson, Country Director, British Council in Pakistan, said:



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“British Council is proud to have supported the delivery of this Centre of Excellence under the Team Europe TVET Sector Support Programme. This milestone reflects our role in translating shared ambition into practical, high-quality learning environments that respond to labour-market needs. By strengthening institutions and delivery systems, we are helping create pathways from skills development to meaningful livelihoods for young people, particularly women.”

Programme Background

The TVET Sector Support Programme is a multi-year initiative funded by the European Union and jointly implemented by British Council and GIZ. The programme supports Pakistan’s efforts to improve the relevance, quality, and inclusivity of skills development, particularly in digital and high-growth sectors.

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