

Useful tips for your career in the IT sector

Lateral entry into the IT sector

Personal goal setting:

Start by identifying your interests, skills, and goals. What aspects of IT are you passionate about? What specific roles or areas interest you? Define clear career goals that will serve as your guide. Keep in mind that the IT industry is diverse. Decide if you want to specialize in software development, IT support, data analytics, cybersecurity or another area. Your choice should be based on your interests and skills.

Acquire IT skills:

If you don't have any prior knowledge of IT, it's advisable to learn the basics. You can use online courses and tutorials to teach yourself an understanding of programming, networking, databases, and other basic concepts. Depending on what area of IT you're interested in, you may need to learn more advanced skills. Attend specialized courses and work on your own projects (for example, your own homepage where you can present code samples) to gain practical experience. Here you can find out from the employment agency whether you can have a course financed by an education voucher, for example..

Networking and Mentoring:

Make contacts in the IT industry to learn from the experiences of others. You can do this by attending local meetups and online formats to meet professionals and other career changers and gain insights into the industry. If you're looking for personal support, you can find a mentor who can help you with your professional development. They can offer valuable advice, insight and support. For this you can, for example, use the mentoring offer in the F.ITranet.

Motivation and self-confidence:

Believe in yourself and your skills. The lateral entry can be exhausting, but with motivation, commitment, willingness to learn and perseverance you can achieve your goals. Even if you have little or no previous experience in IT, you are sure to have some "transferable skills" from your previous jobs that could be useful in the IT sector. These could be analytical thinking, problem solving skills, strong communication skills, project management skills or creativity.

Gaining experience, even without internships:

Employers often value (hands-on) experience. Work on your own projects, create a portfolio website, participate in a hackerthon, or contribute to open source projects to demonstrate your skills. Online courses with certificates of completion can also help expand your knowledge and make it demonstrable to potential employers.

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