Digital Cohesion

Europe’s ambitions for digital inclusiveness

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DESI: Monitoring the EU digital competitiveness

What is DESI?

- Tracking **digital competitiveness** progresses in EU Member States
- 4 cardinal points:
DESI shows a multi-speed Europe

- Member States are consistently improving their performance, but gaps remain.

- Divergences are not decreasing: best performers also progress more

- Strong use of RRF allocation for digital in Austria, Germany and Ireland.

- Lowest scoring countries tend to be the ones investing the smallest share of their RRP in digital (RO, SK, LV, and HR).

- Sustained investments and robust policies are the recipe to increase digital performance (e.g. ES, MT and IE)
1st Focus: Inequalities in digital skills

**Basic digital skills (across countries)**

- **NL**: Top performer, 79.4%
- **BG**: Lowest performer, 29.4%

**Basic digital skills (EU level)**

- **Rural**: 48%
- **Urban**: 62%

**ICT specialists (EU level)**

- **FI**: Top performer, 7.6%
- **EL**: Lowest performer, 2%
Funding for digital skills (basic and advanced)

Recovery and Resilience Facility (until 2026)
- More than EUR 20 billion for digital skills
- Most of the National Plans foresee investment to tackle the digital divide, equipping the population with digital skills and training additional ICT specialists

Digital Europe Programme (2021-2027)
- €580 million for advanced digital skills
- Consortia of at least 3 member states, and institutions from less advanced countries in DESI index are encouraged to apply to the calls.

ERDF
Obj. ‘Smarter Europe’ (Shared)

ESF +
Investment in education and skills (Shared)

ERASMUS+
When crossborder dimension
2nd focus: Connectivity divide

Gigabit Network coverage
- EU: 59%

5G coverage
- EU: 14%

Objective: 100% of households

Objective: 100% of populated areas

Average tested connection speed of broadband in Local Administrative Unit (Source: 8th Cohesion Report)
Investments for closing the connectivity gap

**Recovery and Resilience Facility (until 2026)**

- More than 13 billion for connectivity
- Roll out of digital connectivity networks in the next three years, especially in rural regions, including 5G and 5G corridors deployment.

**Connecting Europe Facility – CEF Digital (2021-2027)**

- EUR 2 billion over 7 years for high-performance connectivity infrastructures
- Directly managed by the Commission through its HADEA Agency,
Digital Decade targets

**Digital Skills**

- **Adults with basic digital skills**
  - NOW: 56%
  - TARGET: 80%

- **Employed ICT specialists**
  - NOW: 8.4 million
  - TARGET: 20 million

**Digital Infrastructures**

- **Gigabit network coverage**
  - NOW: 59%
  - TARGET: 100%

- **5G coverage**
  - NOW: 14%
  - TARGET: 100%

The EU production of semiconductors, including processors, makes up

- NOW: 10%
- TARGET: ≥20% of world production in value

There are 10,000 edge nodes in the EU for better, secure and sustainable data processing.

By 2025, the first EU computer with quantum acceleration is paving the way for cutting-edge quantum capabilities.

**Digital Transformation of Businesses**

- **Businesses using**
  - Cloud computing services
    - NOW: 26%
    - TARGET: 75%
  - Big data
    - NOW: 14%
    - TARGET: 75%
  - Artificial Intelligence
    - NOW: 25%
    - TARGET: 75%

- **SMEs with at least a basic level of digital intensity**
  - NOW: 60%
  - TARGET: >90%

- **There are 122**
  - Double the number of unicorn startups in Europe

**Digitalisation of Public Services**

- **Online access to key public services** (related to career, studying, family, regular business operations, moving)
  - NOW: 75/100 services for citizens
  - TARGET: All services for citizens and businesses
  - TARGET: 100% of Europeans with access to digital health records & 80% using a digital id