The EU's long-term EU budget, also known as the multiannual financial framework, will boost digital technologies and aid in recovery from the pandemic.

The digital sector is crucial to ensuring a strong recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and building a sustainable future that supports people and businesses. The new multiannual financial framework (MFF) ensures that it has the support to do so. It includes instruments and funding programmes such as:

- the Digital Europe Programme
- the Connecting Europe Facility
- Horizon Europe
- Creative Europe

The entire budget of the new MFF stands at €1.21 trillion. In addition, the Commission proposed a new recovery instrument called Next Generation EU. This is worth €806.9 billion and will run from 2021-2024. Next Generation EU will feed into some of the digital strands. For example, the digital strand of the Invest EU programme.
The 7 main EU budget programmes

Digital Europe Programme


The Digital Europe Programme will strengthen investments in a range of areas, including:

- supercomputing and data processing capacities;
- core artificial intelligence (AI) capacities such as a data spaces and libraries of AI algorithms;
- cybersecurity;
- digital skills, expanding the best use of digital capacity in EU’s society and economy;
- support to the digitalisation of businesses and public administrations.

The Digital Europe Programme is designed to fill the gap between research and deployment of digital technologies. It will bring the results of research to the market for the benefit of Europe's citizens and businesses, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Digital Europe Programme: Worth €7.6 billion in current prices.

Connecting Europe Facility - Digital

The Connecting Europe Facility (https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/activities/connecting-europe-facility) supports trans-European networks and infrastructures in the transport, telecommunications and energy sectors. It is investing in broadband networks, as a part of the EU’s wider efforts to build infrastructure that can handle emerging and future processes and applications.


Horizon Europe

Horizon Europe (https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en) is a 7 year funding programme for research and innovation that will continue the work of Horizon 2020. It will fund vital research in health, resilience and the green and digital transitions.

Horizon Europe includes a dedicated budget for ‘Digital, industry and space’. This budget will develop research and high-end innovation in enabling technologies, such as:

- artificial intelligence and robotics
- next generation Internet
- high performance computing
- big data
- key digital technologies
- 6G
It will also aid research into combining digital with other technologies. Overall, it is expected that around 35% of Horizon Europe will support work for the digital transition. The work of Horizon Europe will be complementary to that of the Digital Europe Programme.

**Horizon Europe: €95.5 billion in current prices.**

**InvestEU**

InvestEU (https://europa.eu/investeu/home_en) will provide crucial support to companies in the recovery phase and ensure a strong focus among private investors on the EU’s medium- and long-term policy priorities. In particular, the European Green Deal and digitalisation. At least 10% of the programme will feed into digital goals.

**InvestEU: EU Budget guarantee of €26.2 billion with the aim of mobilising more than €372 billion in public and private investment.**

**Creative Europe MEDIA**


**Creative Europe MEDIA: Worth €1.4 billion**

**EU4Health**

EU4Health (https://ec.europa.eu/health/funding/eu4health_en) is a new programme intended to strengthen health security and prepare for future health crises. Approximately 10% of this programme will be used for digital transformation of the health sector.

**EU4Health: Worth €5.3 billion**

**Recovery and Resilience Facility**

Supporting digital transformation is key to building resilience and advancing recovery. The Recovery and Resilience Facility (https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/recovery-coronavirus/recovery-and-resilience-facility_en) is a new programme that will offer financial support for investments and reforms, including in relation to the green and digital transitions and the resilience of national economies. It will be linked to the European Semester.

The Commission has proposed that each recovery and resilience plan include a minimum level of 20% of expenditure related to digital.

**Recovery and Resilience Facility: Worth €672.5 billion**

**Finding funding**

There are many ways to access funding in the EU, and each programme has its own procedures for applying to calls. For an overview of what support is available and where to apply, businesses and individuals can use the access to finance portal or contact their local managing authorities.
Access to finance

The [access to finance portal](https://europa.eu/youreurope/business/finance-funding/getting-funding/access-finance/index_en.htm) helps businesses and entrepreneurs find financial support. This could be through loans or equity finance. The portal directs you to local financial institutions where you can apply for EU financing.

Regional funding

Regional policy is the EU’s main investment area, covering one third of the EU budget – and it includes digital projects.

Businesses, organisations, administrations and citizens can contact their local managing authority to obtain grants or loans. This funding could cover one or several regions, or even cross-national borders.

One example in Portugal is the [Operational Programme COMPETE 2020](https://www.compete2020.gov.pt/), which focuses on research and development support to SMEs and entrepreneurship.


[Subscribe to the latest news on this topic and more](https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/dae/user-subscriptions/2544/create)

[Synergies between shared and direct management funds – draft Commission notice](https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/dae/user-subscriptions/2544/create)
Guide to EU funding opportunities to digitalise businesses
Funding and tenders portal
Follow the latest progress and learn more about getting involved.
Follow the Commission's work on tech and digital @DigitalEU (https://twitter.com/DigitalEU)

**Funding opportunities**

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS | 12 October 2023 - 29 January 2024**

*A European public sphere: a new online media offer for young Europeans - 2023*  

For the fourth year in a row, the European Commission will support the production of daily, thought-provoking and trustworthy content on current affairs from across Europe for and by young Europeans.

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS | 28 September 2023 - 23 January 2024**

*Call for proposals - Cloud, Data and Artificial Intelligence*  
The EU is launching a call for proposals in the field of Cloud, Data and Artificial Intelligence (DIGITAL-2023-CLOUD-DATA-AI-05) under the Digital Europe Programme. Information and procedures on how to apply can be found on the Funding and Tender Opportunities portal.

**CALL FOR TENDERS | 15 September 2023 - 17 October 2023**


The European Commission is launching a call for tenders for a study to support the implementation and enforcement of the Digital Markets Act (“DMA”) on contestable and fair markets in the digital sector.

**CALL FOR TENDERS | 01 September 2023 - 02 October 2023**


A funding opportunity for those working on digital twins and smart cities was published on 1st September.

Related Content

Dig deeper

EU support for the digital public sector

The Commission wants to ensure the public sector is able to keep pace with new technologies and benefit from innovation.

EU support for education and training
The Commission offers a number of education and training opportunities to help you get started in digital, such as entrepreneurship guidance, exchanges and more.


The EU offers a range of support for businesses, from start-ups to scale-ups to small and medium enterprises and beyond. You can find out more on this page.


The Commission offers a range of support to researchers and digital innovators, from programmes such as Horizon Europe to innovation funding and more.


The Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL) is a new EU funding programme focused on bringing digital technology to businesses, citizens and public administrations.


The digital part of the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF Digital) will support and catalyse both public and private investments in digital connectivity infrastructures between 2021 and 2027.

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