

Czechia 2024 Digital Decade Country Report

Czechia's performance towards the Digital Decade targets and objectives.

In 2023, Czechia made notable progress in enhancing digital skills. However, important **challenges persist** in the roll out of Fibre To The Premises networks. Although SMEs need to progress in the take up of digitalisation, Czechia has advanced in the up take of Artificial Intelligence.





Two main strengths or areas of progress

Basic digital skills

69.1% of the population has at least a basic level of digital skills, well above the EU average (55.6%). Czech students benefit from the introduction of digital subjects in primary and secondary school curricula and the availability of digital tools in schools.

Advanced technologies

Czechia aims to excel in cutting-edge technologies like quantum, microchips, and Artificial Intelligence, as well as upskill its population to keep up with innovation. To nurture its ambitions and keep up with the growing adoption of Al by its enterprises, Czechia is updating its National Strategies.



Two main weaknesses or areas to improve

Connectivity infrastructure

Reaching 100% coverage for Very High-Capacity Networks (VHCN) will be challenging due to the slow roll-out of fibre (whose coverage currently stands at 36.1%) and a very low take-up of fixed broadband capable of 1 Gbps speed (2.95% of fixed broadband subscriptions).

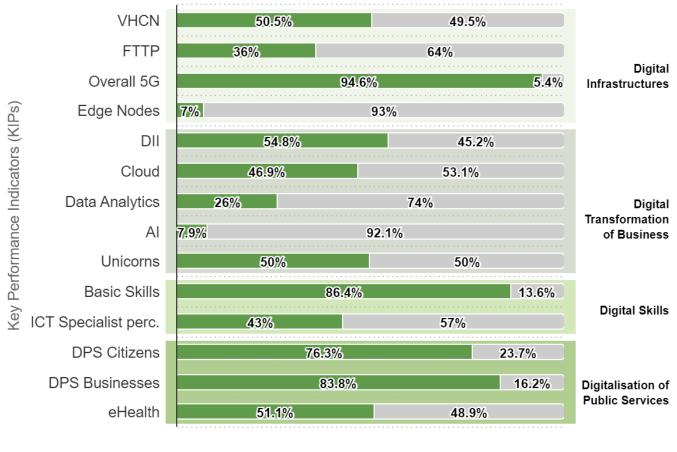
Digitalisation of SMEs

Despite having technology-intensive companies in areas such as microelectronics, quantum computing and AI start-ups, 49.3% of SMEs have at

Czechia's Key Performance Indicators

Observed and forecasted Key Performance Indicators as percentage of the EU target





Country coverage (% of the EU target)Distance from the EU target

A fully interactive graph is available on the web page.

Czechia's Digital Decade strategic roadmap

Czechia's roadmap demonstrates that the country plans **some efforts** to achieve the Digital Decade objectives and targets. It sets targets for 12 out of 14 key performance indicators (KPIs) and, while 5 of them are aligned with the EU 2030 ambitions, 7 are lower, including the targets measuring the take-up of advanced technologies by enterprises. To achieve its digital transformation, Czechia plans to allocate a total budget (excluding private investments) estimated at **EUR 1.77 billion (0.6% GDP).**

^{* 2023:} last observed data (DESI 2024, SDDR24); 2024-2030: forecast as per Member States' trajectories



Digital rights and principles

The Special Eurobarometer 'Digital Decade 2024' reports that 46% of Czech respondents does not believe the EU protects their digital rights well (-5% compared to 2023). Concerns have escalated, particularly with 58% worried about children's online safety and 44% about control over personal data. These findings underscore the **need to reinforce digital rights at national level.** On the positive side, 57% value freedom of expression and 55% appreciate the availability of privacy-friendly technologies, both figures aligning closely with EU averages.



Country-Specific Recommendations

Czechia must improve its performance towards the Digital Decade targets and objectives, to foster competitiveness, resilience, sovereignty, and promote European values and climate action.

Connectivity infrastructure

Accelerate the rollout of FTTP, by raising awareness on the benefits of Gigabit networks, simplifying permits procedures for rolling out networks and promoting the construction of fibre-ready buildings.

Digitalisation of SMEs

Continue and scale up the subsidy calls for digitalisation of SMEs to increase their capacity building through supporting services in the implementation of their project.

Adoption of advanced digital technologies by enterprises

Review the mix of measures to support the adoption of advanced digital technologies including AI, cloud and big data to understand the decline in adoption.

ICT specialists

Increase the attractiveness of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) studies and ICT careers, especially among women.

e-Health

Make more health data types available to citizens through the online access service and increase the supply of health data.

For more information and the full list of recommendations, please consult the <u>report</u> (https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/digital-decade-2024-country-reports).

More on the Digital Decade Report 2024



<u>Digital Decade 2024 report: Country fact pages</u> (https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/factpages/digital-decad e-2024-report-country-fact-pages)

Check out the progress of all Member States and extracts of country-specific recommendations. $\hfill\square$

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