Estonia 2024 Digital Decade Country Report

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

In 2023, Estonia made notable progress in digitalisation of public services. However, important **challenges persist** in reaching full gigabit coverage and the digitalisation of SMEs. In the past year, Estonia has advanced well in digital skills including ICT specialists.

2030 DIGITAL DECADE

REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE DIGITAL DECADE 2024

Estonia Country Report

Two main strengths or areas of progress

Basic digital skills and ICT specialists

The country performs above the EU average (55.6%), with 62.6% of the population having at least a basic level of digital skills. The country aims to improve this further through educational measures and lifelong learning for both educators and people. ICT specialists already make up a high percentage of the workforce in Estonia (6.7% against an EU average of 4.8%). The country also has the second highest percentage of female ICT specialists in the EU (26.8%).

Digitalisation of public services

Estonia is a front runner in providing key public services digitally, scoring 98.9 for digital public services for businesses and 95.8 for digital public services for citizens. In 2023, the government also introduced new online applications to streamline administrative processes for citizens and businesses.

Two main weaknesses or areas to improve

Connectivity infrastructure

Estonia is committed to improving digital infrastructures and technologies, but efforts are still needed to reach the EU 2030 targets. 76.9% of households currently have very high-capacity network (VHCN) coverage, below the EU average of 78.8%, and the recent annual growth is very limited (0.8%).
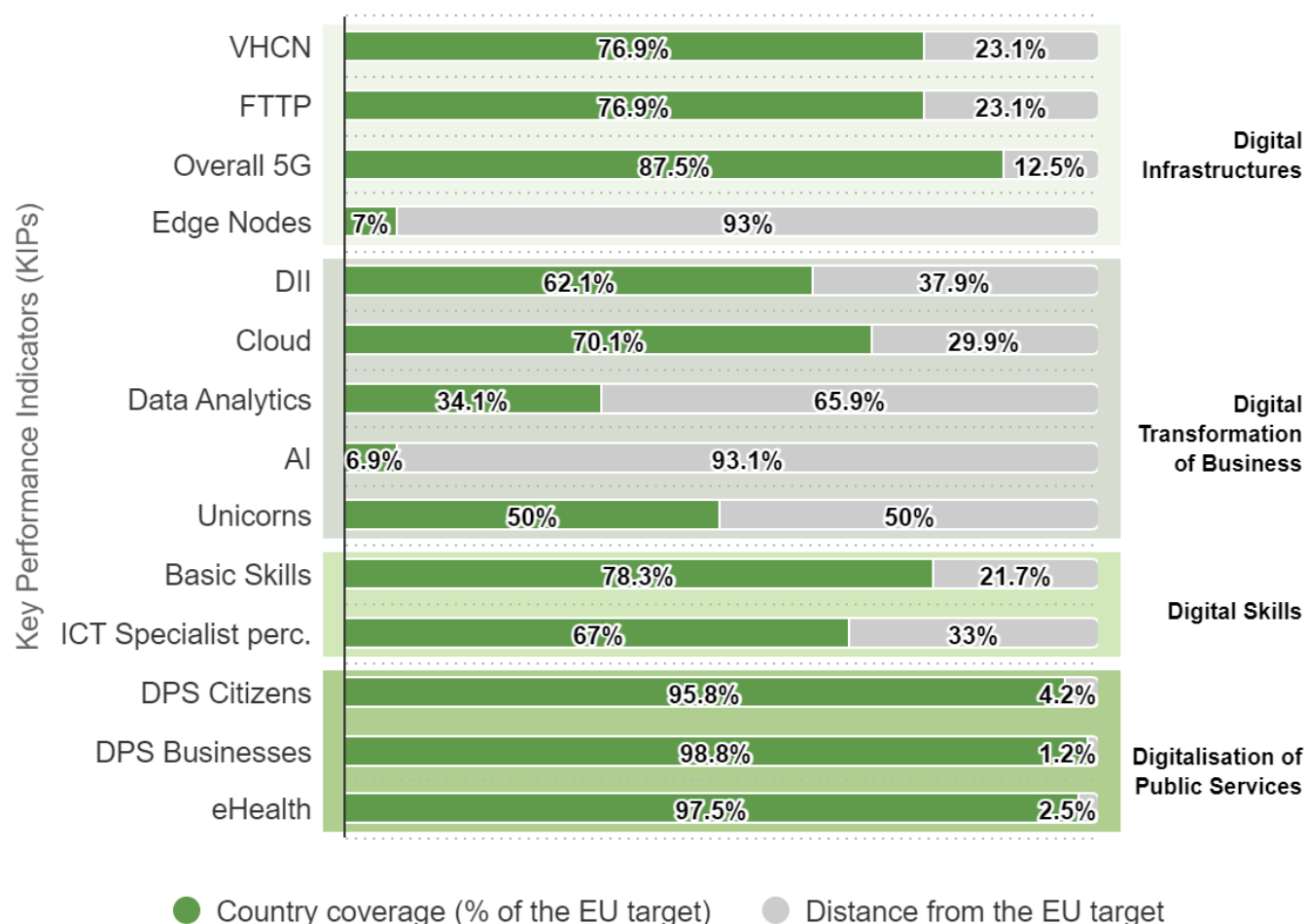
Digitalisation of SMEs

The percentage of SMEs with at least a basic level of digital intensity (55.9%) is falling behind the EU average (57.7%). Adoption of advanced digital technologies is also below the EU average, in particular on data analytics (25.6% of enterprises against an EU average of 33.2%) and artificial intelligence (5.2% of enterprises against an EU average of 8%).

Estonia's Key Performance Indicators

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

Estonia

KPI	Country coverage (% of the EU target)	Distance from the EU target	Category
VHCN	76.9%	23.1%	Digital Infrastructures
FTTP	76.9%	23.1%	Digital Infrastructures
Overall 5G	87.5%	12.5%	Digital Infrastructures
Edge Nodes	7%	93%	Digital Infrastructures
DII	62.1%	37.9%	Digital Transformation of Business
Cloud	70.1%	29.9%	Digital Transformation of Business
Data Analytics	34.1%	65.9%	Digital Transformation of Business
AI	6.9%	93.1%	Digital Transformation of Business
Unicorns	50%	50%	Digital Transformation of Business
Basic Skills	78.3%	21.7%	Digital Skills
ICT Specialist perc.	67%	33%	Digital Skills
DPS Citizens	95.8%	4.2%	Digitalisation of Public Services
DPS Businesses	98.8%	1.2%	Digitalisation of Public Services
eHealth	97.5%	2.5%	Digitalisation of Public Services

Key Performance Indicators (KIPs)

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

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

A fully interactive graph is available on the web page.

Estonia's Digital Decade strategic roadmap

The Estonian roadmap demonstrates that the country plans a **limited effort** to achieve the Digital Decade objectives and targets. It sets targets for 1 out of 14 key performance indicators (KPIs), which is lower than the EU 2030 ambitions. The roadmap does not specify the estimated budget to achieve its digital transformation (0% of GDP).

Digital rights and principles

The Special Eurobarometer 'Digital Decade 2024' reveals that, while 42% of Estonians believe the EU protects their digital rights effectively, this marks a decrease of 6 points from last year, and is below the EU average (45%). Concerns have intensified, particularly with 55% worried about children's online safety (+10% compared to 2023) and 46% concerned about control over personal data (+11%). These findings underscore **the need to reinforce digital rights at national level.** On the positive side, 66% appreciate the level of digital skills and education, and another 68% access to online public services, both well above the EU average.

Country-Specific Recommendations

Estonia 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

Continue the ongoing efforts to support very high-capacity network (VHCN), Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) and 5G rollout, including by fostering private investment and by stimulating take-up.

Digitalisation of SMEs

Further work on digitalising SMEs, especially for data analytics and AI.

Advanced technologies

Develop strategies and measures for semiconductors, edge nodes and quantum computing.

For more information and the full list of recommendations, please consult the report (https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news-redirect/833328).

More on the Digital Decade Report 2024

Digital Decade 2024 report: Country fact pages (https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/factpages/digital-decade-2024-report-country-fact-pages)

Check out the progress of all Member States and extracts of country-specific recommendations.