

## The Digital Compass

The digital compass translates the EU's digital ambitions for the next decade into clear, concrete targets, setting out a European way for the digital decade.

European Union 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of digitisation for European society. Digital technologies bring with them new ways to learn, entertain, work, explore, and fulfil ambitions. They also bring new freedoms and rights, and give EU citizens the opportunity to reach out beyond physical communities, geographical locations, and social positions.

However, there are still many challenges associated with the move to a digital world that need to be addressed. The EU must increase its strategic autonomy in tech and needs to develop new rules and technologies to protect citizens from counterfeit products, cybertheft, and disinformation. Most importantly, the EU needs to address the digital divide.

Therefore, over the next decade – the digital decade – the EU's vision is for a digital world that empowers people and businesses, and that is shaped around a human-centred, sustainable and more prosperous approach.

The digital compass sets out objectives to achieve the EU's vision for the digital future. It uses the four points of the compass to identify the main goals to reach over the next decade:

1. a digitally skilled population and highly skilled digital professionals
2. secure and substantial digital infrastructures
3. digital transformation of businesses
4. digitisation of public sectors

Key policy areas to ensure these goals are met include cloud computing, artificial intelligence, digital identities, data, and connectivity.

The digital compass can also support the EU in meeting objectives in the European Green Deal, helping Europe to reach its goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030. Digital technologies help to reduce environmental impact significantly. For example, the widespread use of videoconferencing plays a part in reducing flight emissions. And, digital technologies play a role in creating a greener approach to agriculture, energy use in buildings, and more sustainable city planning.

Press release of 09/03/2020 on the Digital Decade

Digital Decade in a nutshell

Q&A on the Digital Decade

Communication "2030 Digital Compass" (.pdf)

## **Related Content**

### **Dig deeper**

Leading the Digital Decade 1-2 June 2021

Leading the Digital Decade, held 1-2 June, was a two-day online event focused on Europe's digital transformation towards 2030.

The Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI)

The Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI) summarises indicators on Europe's digital performance and tracks the progress of EU countries.

## **Components of the Digital Compass**

### **Digital skills**

The EU has developed a range of policies and initiatives to increase digital skills in both the...

### **Supporting industry**

The EU supports businesses across Europe adapt to the digital world.

### **Connectivity**

Today connectivity determines our lives. The Commission is working closely with EU countries...

### **Trust Services**

The EU has introduced rules to strengthen trust services and ensure our online activity is secure...

### **Smart public services and environments**

Smart public services refer to the use of technology to provide services to citizens at local...

### **Artificial intelligence**

Artificial intelligence (AI) refers to machine-based systems that can make predictions...

# Data

Data is everywhere and growing at an unprecedented pace. We are defining today a European approach...

# High Performance Computing and Quantum Computing

High performance computing offers new possibilities in digital, which Europe is ready to harness.

# International Relations

The world has grown smaller: we travel and communicate with remote parts of the world with ease. So...

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