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
Public consultation on a set of European Digital Principles
Consultation and discussion forum on the EU’s 2030 Digital Decade vision
The Master in Artificial Intelligence for Public Services (AI4Gov) is a new higher education programme funded by the European Union, and developed by four leading European...
universities in the fields of digital, technology, and engineering science.

CONSULTATION | 22 June 2021 to 03 August 2021
Consultation and discussion forum on the EU’s 2030 Digital Decade vision

The Commission launched a consultation and a discussion forum in view of preparing the Digital Decade policy programme, building upon the Communication on the Digital targets for 2030.

CONSULTATION | 12 May 2021 to 02 September 2021
Public consultation on a set of European Digital Principles

As a follow-up to its Digital Decade Communication of 9 March, the Commission launched a public consultation on the formulation of a set of digital principles to promote and uphold EU values in the digital space. This consultation, open until 2 September 2021, seeks to open a wide societal debate and gather views from citizens, non-governmental and civil society organisations, businesses, administrations and all interested parties. These principles will guide the EU and Member States in designing digital rules and regulations that deliver the benefits of digitalisation for all citizens.

NEWS ARTICLE | 07 May 2021
Europe Day 2021 goes Virtual

Join in and discover this year's virtual Europe Day: explore a virtual Berlaymont, find out about the work of other Institutions, Services, and Directorates-General, and and see what’s going on around Europe to mark #EuropeDay celebrations.

Browse the Digital Decade
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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 to adapt to the digital world by coordinating initiatives...

**Connectivity**

The EU’s goal is for Europe to be the most connected continent by 2030.

**Trust Services**

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

**Digital public services and environments**

The Commission is using digital technologies to improve public services and develop smart cities.

**Artificial intelligence**

The EU aims to build trustworthy artificial intelligence that puts people first.
Data

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

Advanced computing

EU investment in high performance computing and computing technologies will enable Europe to lead...

International Relations

The European Union works with countries around the world and international organisations to ensure...

Source URL: https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/policies/digital-compass