Supporting industry

The EU supports businesses across Europe to adapt to the digital world by coordinating initiatives, focusing investments, and boosting skills.

There are two million companies in the EU, representing 33 million jobs, and contributing a significant amount to economic growth. Chances are, if you don’t work in industry yourself, you know someone who does. And, changes to industry affect us all. This section addresses industry in a broad sense, including such vertical sectors as manufacturing, mobility, energy and agriculture.

One big change that is sweeping through EU and global industry right now is digitisation – business and industry finding digital answers to their challenges. This change is affecting how businesses do business and how people do their jobs.

The EU leads the digitisation of industry on many fronts but not everyone is at the same level. Smaller businesses, food and drink businesses, crafts, construction and publishing are among the types of businesses that are falling behind in using digital technologies to help their customers, and to manage what they do.

Global competition is also heating up, so to keep EU jobs safe and EU products and services at the high standards of quality and safety that we expect, EU industry cannot be left behind.
The EU is here to support businesses to adapt and move with the times. It has identified 5 strands to focus on to unlock the full potential of digitisation for businesses:

1. establishing a European platform of national initiatives on digitising industry
2. creating Digital Innovation Hubs
3. strengthening leadership through partnerships and industrial platforms
4. introducing a regulatory framework for the digital age
5. preparing Europeans for the digital future

The EU’s support in digitising industry won’t only make life better for business - it will also help people and the environment. The EU supports projects that bring together technologies that can make sci-fi a reality. For example, EU projects are being developed to give you smart control over your energy use to help you to save money, to give you the self-driving car of your dreams, and to keep the food we grow and eat clean, green, and safe.

The EU's standardisation strategy will help businesses in the digital decade by ensuring interoperability of products and services, reducing costs, improving safety and fostering innovation. It will also support industry, in particular SMEs, to participate in standardisation. For example, by reinforcing building critical mass and contribution to standardisation in EU R&D&I programmes, like Horizon Europe or Digital Europe Programmes, and supporting the participation of EU experts in standardisation.

As we head further into the 2020s, the EU’s support for the digitisation of industry and businesses will be guided by the vision of the Digital Decade, where thinking will focus on how technology can help people.

Subscribe to the latest news on this topic and more
The EU SME Strategy for a sustainable and digital Europe
The digitalisation of agriculture

The digitalisation of agriculture
The digitalisation of the energy system
The digitalisation of the mobility sector

Follow the latest progress and learn more about getting involved.
The Commission has selected a consortium that will develop ‘Simpl’ - a secure middleware platform that will support data access and interoperability among European data spaces, unleashing the power of data-driven innovation.
The Commission has selected a consortium that will develop ‘Simpl’ – a secure middleware platform that will support data access and interoperability among European data spaces, unleashing the power of data-driven innovation.

DIGIBYTE | 14 November 2023
Commission awards 2023 Innovation Radar award to Zymvol for developing ground-breaking software to design new enzymes

On 13 November, the Commission awarded prizes to Europe's most promising innovations that have emerged from EU-funded research and innovation projects

PRESS RELEASE | 27 September 2023
First report on the State of the Digital Decade calls for collective action to shape the digital transition

The first report on the State of the Digital Decade, published earlier this week, provides a comprehensive look at progress towards achieving the digital transformation to empower a more digitally sovereign, resilient, and competitive EU.

Browse Boosting European digital Industry
Related Content

Dig deeper

Startup Europe

Startup Europe strengthens networking opportunities for deep tech scaleups and ecosystem builders to accelerate the growth of the European startup scene.

Industrial platforms and large-scale pilots
Digital industrial platforms are key to placing Europe ahead in the digital transformation, linking technology building blocks and industrial applications.


The European Commission is supporting businesses across Europe adapt to the digital world by coordinating initiatives, focusing investments, and boosting skills.

Other


European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs) are one-stop shops supporting companies and public sector...

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