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.

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EU provides €1 million in funding to the Office of the Envoy on Technology of the UN's Secretary-General over the next two years. This contributes to the financing of the Office's work as well as the Envoy's outreach activities.
European Chips Act: Commission and Member States launch a stakeholder consultation on the European semiconductor value chain

The European Commission and Member States launched a consultation on the semiconductor value chain.

Digital Economy and Society Index 2022: overall progress but digital skills, SMEs and 5G networks lag behind

The European Commission has published the results of the 2022 Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI), which tracks the progress made in EU Member States in digital.

Commission presents new European Innovation Agenda to spearhead the new innovation wave

Building on the substantive work that have been done already to foster innovation in the EU, the New European Innovation Agenda aims to accelerate the development and scaling up of innovation across the Union through a coherent set of actions.

Browse Boosting European digital Industry
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.

Digitising industry

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

European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs) are one-stop shops supporting companies to respond to...

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