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.

Digital industrial platforms are essential in many areas.

In connected smart factories they take data from the machinery and make it accessible to monitoring and controlling applications. This way, third parties can develop applications based on that data.

Digital industrial platforms are also useful to energy service providers. They can offer data services to consumers to allow them to exploit the flexibility of energy consumption across household appliances, electric vehicles and heating. This is a crucial step in maximising the use of renewables and the decarbonisation of energy.

And, these platforms can be used to support farmers in crop management. They can integrate location data and combine it with data from field sensors to enable seed planting and optimise the use of water in each field.

Equipped with appropriate business models, digital industrial platforms could be instrumental in the creation of ecosystems of market actors in a multi-sided marketplace. These ecosystems enable the creation of new innovative products and services and accelerate the development of worldwide standards.

While digital industrial platforms are essential for the integration of key digital technologies, large-scale piloting and experimentation is needed to gradually develop and mature such platforms.

To reinforce the European competitiveness in digital technologies, the Digitising European Industry
(DEI) initiative supports the development and large-scale piloting of digital industrial platforms, which are essential for the integration of various key digital technologies into real-world applications, processes, products, and services.

The EU, Member States, and regions are cooperating and co-investing under common priorities in order to advance large-scale pilots. Throughout 2018-20, with an investment of around €400 million, the EU reinforced its support to strategic next-generation platform building and piloting through various large-scale federating projects.

Under Horizon 2020, a total of around €1 billion of EU investment was made available for efforts in platform building, large-scale piloting, pilot lines, and other related activities under the DEI initiative. Some of these projects have already finished or are coming to an end, while others are just launching and will continue run into 2023. Inspired by the priorities set up by the working group on digital industrial platforms, these investments focused on the following areas:

- agricultural digital integration platforms;
- integration platforms and smart data solutions for energy: connected mobility, home and appliances;
- smart hospital and healthy living at home;
- digital service platforms for smart cities and rural communities;
- digital manufacturing platforms for connected smart factories.

As well as the areas mentioned above, the cross-cutting OPEN DEI coordination and support action aims to leverage the pooling of resources, share best practices, reinforce relationships and communicate the achievements of pilots in agriculture, energy, healthcare and manufacturing.

The IoT in European healthcare
Data solutions for energy and mobility
Large-scale pilots for European agriculture
Secure solutions for the IoT
Large-scale pilots in smart cities and smart rural communities
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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
The EU supports businesses across Europe to adapt to the digital world by coordinating initiatives, focusing investments, and boosting skills.
Interoperable and open digital solutions, as well as data sovereignty, are key to the digital transformation of the energy system.

Digitalisation: driving the transition towards smart and sustainable mobility

The EU supports the transport sector by rolling out new technologies in order to become cleaner, safer and more effective.

Large-scale pilots in the digitisation of agriculture

The Commission has set up large-scale pilots to drive the digitisation of agriculture in Europe.

Data solutions for energy: from mobility to home and appliances

The Commission has established numerous large-scale pilots to help drive the digitisation of industry across Europe and beyond in recent years.

See Also

Startup Europe

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

Digitising industry

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

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