

International Relations

The European Union works with countries around the world and international organisations to ensure technology helps to improve lives everywhere.



© metamorworks - iStock Getty Images Plus

The Internet brings the world into people's living rooms, offices and schools. The global world comes to us through websites offering big lists of movies, as well as online office and teaching tools that allow people from around the world to work on the same project.

When everything functions well, we may not realise the amount of work that goes on behind our smartphones or computer screens. However, whenever we cannot access content online or, by contrast, our children are able to access content that is not appropriate for their age, we may notice that hidden below the surface there is a whole machine working to make the Internet safe for people and businesses. And, that this machine is working not only in Europe, but also around the world.

Europe has a lot to offer in building better societies and economies around the globe. The European Union already works with international partners in areas including trade, security and the rule of law, and digital should be no different. The Internet should be free and secure, there should be no trade barriers online, and terrorist content should have no place on it.

The EU's aim for the Digital Decade is to make the digital world work to the benefit of all. The EU's work on digital policies focuses on several geographical areas, such as the EU neighbourhood, developing countries in Africa and the Mediterranean and developed countries such as the US and Japan. It is leading the way in policy areas including digital trade, data sharing, and pushing global companies to behave responsibly online.

Some examples of the EU's digital work around the world include:

- supporting an internet governance forum to keep the internet free, open and secure
- partnering with the Western Balkans for lower roaming charges
- improving connectivity with other continents, for example through a new digital data highway linking Europe and Latin America, as well as a new Connectivity Partnership with India
- introducing the EU4Digital programme
- countering the use of the Internet for terrorist content, repression or social control
- creating a global network of digital experts in EU delegations to other countries
- hosting annual ICT and digital dialogues with global partners

Latest

DIGIBYTE | 01 June 2021

New digital data highway linking Europe and Latin America renews transatlantic cooperation

The EllaLink transatlantic cable connecting the European and South American continents was inaugurated during the Digital Assembly 2021. This marks the official closing of the connectivity gap thanks to 6,000 kilometres of submarine cable, reducing the current latency by 50% and bringing it under 60 milliseconds.

DIGIBYTE | 11 May 2021

EU and India to work together for a stronger digital cooperation and to tackle the pandemic

India and EU leaders have agreed to build a sustainable and comprehensive Connectivity Partnership, as well as cooperate on supercomputers to bring solutions to challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, during the 16th EU-India Summit held on the 8th of May.

PRESS RELEASE | 19 March 2021

Digital Day 2021: EU countries commit to key digital initiatives for Europe's Digital Decade

Today, at the online Digital Day 2021, Ministers representing EU Member States signed three Declarations to pool efforts and resources to promote international connectivity, incentivise the rollout of clean digital technologies and improve

the regulatory environment for start-ups and scale-ups. These tangible commitments will help accelerate Europe's green and digital transformation and will contribute to the vision and goals of Europe's Digital Decade.

DIGIBYTE | 19 March 2021

Digital Day 2021: Europe to reinforce internet connectivity with global partners

At Digital Day 2021, 25 Member States, as well as Iceland and Norway, committed to reinforcing internet connectivity between Europe and its partners in Africa, Asia, the European neighbourhood, the Western Balkans and Latin America, by signing the Declaration on "European Data Gateways as a key element of the EU's Digital Decade".

[Browse Foreign policy](#)

Related Content

Dig deeper

Foreign policy

As more countries are inspired by the European digital model, European companies have more opportunities to do business, creating more jobs for citizens.

Source URL: <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/policies/international-relations>