Europaudvalget 2025
KOM (2025) 0290 - Meddelelse
Offentligt

EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 16.6.2025
COM(2025) 290 final

ANNEX 12

ANNEX

to the

Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council and the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions

State of the Digital Decade 2025: Keep building the EU's sovereignty and digital future

{SWD(2025) 290 final} - {SWD(2025) 291 final} - {SWD(2025) 292 final} -
{SWD(2025) 293 final} - {SWD(2025) 294 final} - {SWD(2025) 295 final}

European Commission

SHORT COUNTRY REPORTS 2025

Germany

Executive summary

Germany continues to excel in domains related to developing advanced technologies, such as semiconductors and edge nodes. However, the country is lagging behind in providing digital public services, has low digital skills, and incomplete high-capacity network coverage. This highlights the need for more focused measures, which would also further boost businesses' uptake of digital technologies.

Germany shows a substantial level of ambition in its contribution to the Digital Decade, with nine national targets, 89% of which are aligned with the EU 2030 targets. The country is following its trajectories well with 75% of them being on track (considering 2024 trajectories defined for 4 KPIs out of 8 analysed). Germany addressed 33% of the 12 recommendations issued by the Commission in 2024 by making some changes through new measures.

Germany's new Federal Government assumed office in early May 2025. The government's coalition agreement outlines ambitious goals for digital policy and digitalisation, and the focus on digital policy is reflected by the newly established Federal Ministry for Digitalisation and Government Modernisation. This coalition agreement may result in an accelerated digitalisation of Germany, thereby contributing to the objectives of the Digital Decade.

Digital Decade KPI (1)	Germany				EU		Digital Decade target by 2030	
	DESI 2024 (year 2023)	DESI 2025 (year 2024)	Annual progress	National trajectory 2024 (3)	DESI 2025	Annual progress	DE	EU
Fixed Very High-Capacity Network (VHCN) coverage	74.7%	77.4%	3.5%	-	82.5%	4.9%	100.0%	100%
Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) coverage	29.8%	36.8%	23.4%	-	69.2%	8.4%	100.0%	-
Overall 5G coverage	98.1%	99.1%	0.9%	-	94.3%	5.9%	100.0%	100%
Edge Nodes (estimate)	358	652	82.1%	-	2257	90.5%	-	10000
SMEs with at least a basic level of digital intensity (2)	-	79.9%	1.6%	-	72.9%	2.8%	91.0%	90%
Cloud	38.5%	-	-	-	-	-	-	75%
Artificial Intelligence	11.6%	19.8%	71.0%	-	13.5%	67.2%	-	75%
Data analytics	37.1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	75%
AI or Cloud or Data analytics	58.0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	75%
Unicorns	67	69	3.0%	-	286	4.4%	-	500
At least basic digital skills	52.2%	-	-	-	-	-	80.0%	80%
ICT specialists	4.9%	5.3%	8.2%	4.9%	5.0%	4.2%	5.3%	~10%
eID scheme notification		Yes						
Digital public services for citizens	75.8	78.9	4.1%	75.8	82.3	3.6%	100.0	100
Digital public services for businesses	78.6	77.5	-1.4%	78.6	86.2	0.9%	100.0	100
Access to e-Health records	87.0	87.0	0.0%	100.0	82.7	4.5%	100.0	100

(1) See the methodological note for the description of the indicators and other metrics
(2) DESI 2025 reports the version 4 of the Digital Intensity Index, that is comparable with the DII value from DESI 2023 (referring to year 2022) for the calculation of the annual progress. It is not comparable to the national trajectory that is based on version 3 of the index.
(3) National trajectory value if present in the national roadmap and if the indicator was measured in DESI2025 (year 2024)

Germany

According to the special Eurobarometer on 'the Digital Decade' 2025, 74% of German citizens consider that the digitalisation of daily public and private services is making their lives easier. Concerning the action of the public authorities, 88% consider it important to counter and mitigate the issue of fake news and disinformation online, and regarding competitiveness, 82% consider it important to ensure that European companies can grow and become 'European Champions' able to compete globally.

A competitive, sovereign, and resilient EU based on technological leadership

Germany is making significant strides in expanding its connectivity infrastructure, with 5G coverage nearly meeting the Digital Decade target, and an ambitious national goal for 100% fibre-to-the-premises (FTTP) by 2030. The country is a leader in the number of edge nodes and is taking proactive steps in quantum computing and semiconductor technologies. While several measures, particularly for FTTP, are expected to yield results soon, Germany still faces challenges. It lags behind the Digital Decade's gigabit connectivity objectives and struggles with access to Very High-Capacity Networks (VHCN) in rural areas, where coverage is below the EU average. Additionally, FTTP availability is limited to only a fraction of households, representing half of the EU average coverage. Although Germany has nearly achieved full 5G coverage, actual usage based on 5G SIM cards remains poor. Despite the relatively high number of unicorns, there is still room to improve the availability of funding for start-ups and to reduce their administrative burdens.

Protecting and empowering EU people and society

Germany faces significant challenges in developing digital skills, having achieved only modest improvements in this area. The German government is making strides in several areas, yet it still behind in some key aspects. This not only hinders the uptake of digital services, but also effectively limits the workforce's ability to use data to improve business services. This issue is particularly relevant because, according to the German Country Report of 2024, SMEs' uptake of AI was hindered by the limited skills in this area. Even so, the German authorities have chosen not to introduce substantial new measures in the national roadmap, preferring instead to allow existing initiatives to take their course.

Germany tends to view these challenges through a wider lens, taking a holistic approach rather than addressing each metric individually. This method is reflected in various aspects, such as Germany's plans to increase the number of ICT specialists. Nonetheless, considerable room for improvement remains, especially in the use of electronic identification and the further digitalisation of public services. These gaps must be addressed to take full advantage of the opportunities presented by the expanding digital landscape and to ensure that Germany remains competitive and innovative on the global stage.

Leveraging digital transformation for a smart greening

Germany prioritises the dual green and digital transition and continues to implement key measures at both federal and state levels. The German population outperforms the EU average in recycling electronics, such as computers, phones, and tablets, although the overall recycling rates for IT equipment remain relatively low.

Germany

National digital decade strategic roadmap

On 21 December 2024, Germany submitted a revised national Digital Decade roadmap, addressing recommendations from the 2024 Country Report. The revised roadmap included stakeholder consultation. It is composed of 50 measures with a budget of EUR 102.1 billion, comprising EUR 46.8 billion from public budgets (equivalent to 1.09 % of GDP). New targets were added for ICT specialists and digitalisation of public services for citizens and businesses.

The revision brings impulses on quantum, AI and connectivity, as well as targeting several objectives in broader measures. However, the adjusted roadmap could do more to address the challenges in the area of digitalisation of public services for citizens and businesses.

Funding & projects for digital

Germany allocates 48% of its total recovery and resilience plan to digital (EUR 13.3 billion)[1]. In addition, under cohesion policy, EUR 2.2 billion, representing 11% of the country's total cohesion policy funding, is dedicated to advancing Germany's digital transformation[2]. Germany participating directly in the IPCEI on Microelectronics and Communication Technologies (IPCEI-ME/CT) and in the IPCEI on Next Generation Cloud Infrastructure and Services (IPCEI-CIS). It is also a participating member of the European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking (EuroHPC JU) and of the Chips JU[3].

Germany has contributed to the Best Practice Accelerator[4] by sharing several best practices in the 'Digital Skills' cluster as well as in the 'Business Uptake' cluster. In this context, the AI Opportunity Market (MaKi) and the Federal IPv6 Programme are noteworthy.

Digital rights and principles

According to a support study, Germany has been relatively active in implementing the **European Declaration on Digital Rights and Principles**, with 74 initiatives overall and 3 new initiatives launched in 2024. Germany is most active in the area of digital education, training and skills. Less activity has been identified with regards to putting people at the centre of the digital transformation. Measures in the area of freedom of choice appear to have most impact on the ground, in contrast to those addressing safety, security and empowerment.

Recommendations

- **Digital public services:** Accelerate the digitalisation of key public services by making additional public services available online, improving interoperability, as well as front-end and back-end digitalisation.
- **eID**: Launch targeted measures to ensure eID uptake and use.

[1] The share of financial allocations that contribute to digital objectives has been calculated using Annex VII to the Recovery and Resilience Facility Regulation. Last data update: 16 May 2025.
[2] This amount includes all investment specifically aimed at or substantially contributing to digital transformation in the 2021-2027 Cohesion policy programming period. The source funds are the European Regional Development Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, and the Just Transition Fund.
[3] Corrigendum to Digital Decade Country Report Germany 2024: Germany is not a member of the Local Digital Twins towards the CitiVERSE EDIC.
[4] The Best Practice Accelerator (BPA) is a platform that enables Member States to share successful measures and challenges encountered in their efforts to meet their Digital Decade targets and objectives. Best practices are made available to Member States via published in the BPA Repository and showcased in regular workshops, currently focused on three thematic clusters: Digital Skills, Green IT, and the Uptake of Digital Technologies.

Germany

- **ICT specialists:** Launch targeted measures to increase the attractiveness of STEM disciplines at school to boost the number of young people, including girls and women, interested in taking up ICT-related studies or careers.
- **Basic digital skills:** Improve the effectiveness of existing measures and evaluate whether increased efforts and/or additional measures are necessary in particular in the area of formal education.
- **Connectivity infrastructure**: Accelerate infrastructure roll-out of very high-capacity digital networks, especially fibre optics.
- **Unicorns/start-ups:** Implement measures to improve access to funding and reduce administrative burdens.
- **Cybersecurity:** Increase efforts in cybersecurity, particularly by increasing awareness amongst private and public entities.