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ANNEX 15

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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

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SHORT COUNTRY REPORTS 2025

Ireland

Executive summary

Ireland shows good progress in digital infrastructure and should further improve access to e-health records building on visible progress made in 2024. The country positions itself as a cybersecurity leader, particularly through strong implementation of the 5G Cybersecurity Toolbox and public cloud control investments.

Ireland shows a high level of ambition in its contribution to the Digital Decade, having set 11 national targets, 91% of which are very well aligned with the EU's 2030 targets. The country is following its trajectories moderately well, with 50% of them being on track (on the basis of the 2024 trajectories defined for 6 KPIs out of 8 analysed). Ireland addressed 64% of the 11 recommendations issued by the Commission in 2024, either by implementing significant policy changes (9%) or making some changes (55%) through new measures.

Fibre and very high-capacity network (VHCN) coverage continued to register strong growth in 2024, including in rural areas, and 5G coverage reached 89.9%, approaching 90%. The digitalisation of SMEs remains just above the EU average, while adoption of advanced technologies, such as AI, is broadly in line with the EU average. Ireland piloted the European Digital Identity Wallet and advanced the preparations for its eIDAS notification. The country also expanded initiatives to reduce the environmental footprint of public sector digital infrastructure, including by creating a new public service data centre and promoting green public procurement. Cyber resilience efforts were extended to SMEs and key sectors, with targeted actions in the health system.

Digital Decade KPI ⁽¹⁾	Ireland				EU		Digital Decade target by 2030	
	DESI 2024 (year 2023)	DESI 2025 (year 2024)	Annual progress	National trajectory 2024 (3)	DESI 2025	Annual progress	IE	EU
Fixed Very High Capacity Network (VHCN) coverage	78.5%	87.2%	11.0%	93.5%	82.5%	4.9%	100.0%	100%
Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) coverage	61.6%	73.5%	19.3%	-	69.2%	8.4%	-	-
Overall 5G coverage	85.3%	89.9%	5.4%	87.1%	94.3%	5.9%	100.0%	100%
Edge Nodes (estimate)	20	39	95.0%	18	2 257	90.5%	-	10 000
SMEs with at least a basic level of digital intensity (2)	-	73.4%	-0.5%	-	72.9%	2.8%	90.0%	90%
Cloud	53.1%	-	-	-	-	-	75.0%	75%
Artificial Intelligence	8.0%	14.9%	86.0%	18.0%	13.5%	67.2%	75.0%	75%
Data analytics	37.1%	-	-	-	-	-	75.0%	75%
AI or Cloud or Data analytics	64.1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	75%
Unicorns	12	13	8.3%	-	286	4.4%	-	500
At least basic digital skills	72.9%	-	-	-	-	-	80.0%	80%
ICT specialists	6.2%	6.3%	1.6%	7.5%	5.0%	4.2%	9.6%	~10%
eID scheme notification		No						
Digital public services for citizens	81.2	87.1	7.2%	82.0	82.3	3.6%	100.0	100
Digital public services for businesses	100.0	100.0	0.0%	100.0	86.2	0.9%	100.0	100
Access to e-Health records	11.4	24.5	115.8%	-	82.7	4.5%	80.0	100

(1) See the methodological note for the description of the indicators and other metrics.

(2) DESI 2025 reports Version 4 of the Digital Intensity Index, which is comparable with the DII value from DESI 2023 (referring to year 2022) for the calculation of annual progress. It is not comparable to the national trajectory, which 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 DESI 2025 (year 2024).

According to the 2025 special Eurobarometer on the Digital Decade, 77% of Irish people consider that the digitalisation of daily public and private services is making their lives easier. On the action of the public authorities, 92% consider it important to counter and mitigate the issue of fake news and disinformation online. And on competitiveness, 93% consider it important to ensure that European companies can grow and become 'European Champions' capable of competing globally.

[A competitive, sovereign, and resilient EU based on technological leadership](#)

Ireland's strong digital economy, driven by a dynamic ICT sector and a vibrant start-up ecosystem, benefits from high foreign direct investment and proactive innovation policies. Fixed infrastructure indicators (VHCN, fibre to the premises (FTTP)) are above the EU average, and Ireland is consolidating its role as a strategic digital gateway. 5G deployment continues steadily, although deployments in the 3.6 GHz band remain limited and there is a lack of demand for spectrum in the 26 GHz band. Ireland maintains a high level of SME digitalisation, but growth has been stagnating since 2022. Nevertheless, the uptake of advanced technologies, such as cloud, AI, and data analytics, remains strong. National strategies on semiconductors, edge computing, and quantum technologies advance the country's technological leadership. Moreover, cybersecurity resilience is being strengthened through targeted initiatives across enterprises and critical infrastructure.

[Protecting and empowering EU people and society](#)

Ireland continues to perform strongly on digital skills and gender inclusion, with one of the narrowest rural-urban divides in the EU. However, significant disparities persist across education levels. Growth in the number of ICT workers remains modest, and a decline in employer-led training may undermine long-term readiness. Digital public services are a national strength, particularly for businesses, but further back-end integration is needed to improve efficiency and accessibility. Ireland advanced its eID roll-out and digital health strategy in 2024; however, access to electronic health records remains limited, and onboarding healthcare providers is at an early stage. Progress on online safety, media regulation, and electoral integrity accelerated, strengthening Ireland's commitment to a human-centric and trusted digital environment. Complementary tools provided by the national regulator, including broadband availability checkers, telecom comparison platforms, and anti-scam measures, further support digital empowerment and consumer protection.

[Leveraging digital transformation for a smart greening](#)

Ireland is strengthening the link between digital innovation and sustainability, with public strategies promoting energy-efficient infrastructure, green procurement, and support to SMEs' sustainable adoption of digital technologies. Projects, like Build Digital, and the Digital Transition Fund are advancing the decarbonisation of key sectors, and new policies encourage environmental criteria in ICT and construction. However, the absence of a unified system to monitor emissions reductions with digital solutions is still an issue. Green skills development has also been prioritised to ensure workers are ready for the twin transitions.

[National Digital Decade strategic roadmap](#)

Ireland submitted its adjusted Digital Decade strategic roadmap in November 2024. It expands the total number of measures to 81, including 22 new initiatives, with a total budget of EUR 9.2 billion, of which EUR 4.8 billion is from the public budget (equivalent to 0.90% of GDP). Maintaining its original structure and funding priorities, the roadmap confirms Ireland's strong focus on SME digitalisation, public service digitalisation, digital skills, and cybersecurity. Although no new national targets were

introduced, Ireland reiterated its commitment to gigabit coverage by 2028 and sustained investment in digital inclusion and connectivity. Based on the national strategy, Harnessing Digital, the roadmap continues to prioritise digital infrastructure, digital skills, cybersecurity, and support for innovation and scale-ups. All targets align with the EU's 2030 goals, except the one access to e-Health records (80% compared to the EU objective of 100%). Ireland has made some efforts to follow up the 2024 roadmap recommendations through new policy measures and updates.

Funding & projects for digital

Ireland allocates 34% of its total recovery and resilience plan to digital (EUR 312 million)¹. In addition, under cohesion policy, EUR 54 million, representing 5% of the country's total cohesion policy funding, is dedicated to advancing Ireland's digital transformation².

Ireland is a member of the Alliance for Language Technologies European Digital Infrastructure Consortium (EDIC) and of the Local Digital Twins towards the CitiVERSE EDIC. Ireland is directly participating in the Important Project of Common European Interest on Microelectronics and Communication Technologies (IPCEI-ME/CT). It is also a participating state of the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking (JU) and of the Chips JU.

Ireland has contributed to the Digital Decade's Best Practice Accelerator³ by sharing four practices, including three in the Digital Skills cluster (SuCCES, INGENIC, and TU Dublin's mentoring model for women in ICT) and one on the green transition (Build Digital). These initiatives reflect Ireland's strategic focus on skills, innovation, and sustainable infrastructure.

Digital rights and principles

According to a monitoring study, Ireland has been relatively active in implementing the [European Declaration on Digital Rights and Principles](#), with 89 initiatives overall and 4 new initiatives launched in 2024. Ireland is most active in the area of digital education, training and skills. Less activity has been identified with regards to a fair digital environment and sustainability. Measures in the area of putting people at the centre of the digital transformation appear to have most impact on the ground, in contrast to those addressing freedom of choice.

Recommendations

- **e-Health:** Accelerate the onboarding of healthcare providers and enable full access to electronic health records for everyone, including legal guardians and authorised persons, building on the implementation of the national Digital Health Strategy.
- **Artificial intelligence:** Continue to support applied AI innovation and skills development to strengthen Ireland's leadership in responsible, human-centric AI and accelerate its adoption by SMEs.

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 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 the BPA Repository and showcased in regular workshops, currently focused on three thematic clusters: Digital Skills, Green IT, and the Uptake of Digital Technologies.

- **Cybersecurity:** Strengthen efforts to address evolving threats, particularly for SMEs and public services.
- **ICT specialists and advanced skills:** make digital training and reskilling opportunities more accessible and more relevant to job market needs. Address the stagnation in gender participation in the digital sector through dedicated national measures.
- **Take-up of advanced technologies:** Support the adoption of advanced digital technologies (particularly AI and cloud) by businesses through the creation of regional ecosystems and industrial use-case pilots. Encourage the use of sovereign European solutions.
- **SMEs:** Improve the digitalisation of SMEs, including by prioritising support to those with lower levels of digital maturity, regardless of their size. Ensure the continuity of existing schemes beyond their current RRF funding.
- **5G:** Encourage the assignment of 5G mid-band spectrum and promote the deployment of stand-alone 5G networks and industrial use cases, including in rural and underserved areas.
- **eID:** Notify an eID scheme under the eIDAS Regulation to the Commission.