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ANNEX 26

ANNEX

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

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European Commission

SHORT COUNTRY REPORTS 2025

Slovenia

Executive summary

Slovenia can rely on a well-developed digital infrastructure but lags behind in digital skills. The country is very active in several cutting-edge technology projects, particularly in quantum, semiconductors, cloud and Artificial Intelligence (AI). Slovenia shows a high level of ambition in its contribution to the Digital Decade having set 13 national targets, 100% of which are aligned with the EU 2030 targets.[1] The country is following its trajectories moderately well with 63% of them being on track (considering 2024 trajectories defined for 8 KPIs out of 8 analysed). Slovenia addressed 82% of the 11 recommendations issued by the Commission in 2024 by making some changes through new measures.

In 2024, 5G coverage increased considerably, including in rural areas. However, the country lags behind in basic digital skills and ICT specialists, which may also be one of the factors limiting the uptake of advanced technologies in SMEs. An exception is AI adoption by enterprises, which has recently shown considerable progress. Often in collaboration with other EU Member States, the country takes an active role in several pioneering technology projects, including those focused on quantum computing, semiconductors, cloud computing and AI.

Digital Decade KPI (1)	Slovenia				EU		Digital Decade target by 2030	
	DESI 2024 (year 2023)	DESI 2025 (year 2024)	Annual progress	National trajectory 2024 (4)	DESI 2025	Annual progress	SI	EU
Fixed Very High Capacity Network (VHCN) coverage	78.5%	79.6%	1.5%	80.0%	82.5%	4.9%	100.0%	100%
Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) coverage	78.5%	79.6%	1.5%	82.0%	69.2%	8.4%	100.0%	-
Overall 5G coverage	82.1%	96.7%	17.8%	74.0%	94.3%	5.9%	100.0%	100%
Edge Nodes (estimate) (2)	8	16	100.0%	-	2257	90.5%	-	10000
SMEs with at least a basic level of digital intensity (3)	-	67.6%	0.4%	-	72.9%	2.8%	90.0%	90%
Cloud	36.0%	-	-	-	-	-	75.0%	75%
Artificial Intelligence	11.4%	20.9%	83.7%	33.0%	13.5%	67.2%	75.0%	75%
Data analytics	19.1%	-	-	-	-	-	75.0%	75%
AI or Cloud or Data analytics	44.7%	-	-	-	-	-	-	75%
Unicorns	0	0		-	286	4.4%	7	500
At least basic digital skills	46.7%	-	-	-	-	-	80.0%	80%
ICT specialists	3.8%	4.3%	13.2%	6.0%	5.0%	4.2%	10.0%	~10%
eID scheme notification		Yes						
Digital public services for citizens	77.0	78.6	2.0%	76.0	82.3	3.6%	100.0	100
Digital public services for businesses	84.0	85.0	1.2%	90.0	86.2	0.9%	100.0	100
Access to e-Health records	87.6	87.5	-0.1%	83.0	82.7	4.5%	100.0	100

(1) See the methodological note for the description of the indicators and other metrics
(2) Slovenia aims to contribute to this target through the deployment of edge nodes by 200 companies.
(3) 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.
(4) National trajectory value if present in the national roadmap and if the indicator was measured in DESI2025 (year 2024)

[1] While the KPI on edge nodes measures the number of edge nodes deployed, Slovenia intends to contribute to the target of 10 000 edge nodes with 200 companies deploying edge nodes.

According to the special Eurobarometer on 'the Digital Decade' 2025, 78% of Slovenian citizens consider that the digitalisation of daily public and private services is making their lives easier. Concerning the action of the public authorities, 90% 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

The fibre to the premises coverage is relatively high in Slovenia and very high capacity network coverage is gradually increasing, although some rural gaps remain. The country is taking action to reduce these gaps. 5G coverage increased significantly, including in rural areas, and fibre-to-the-premises coverage remains strong. The country is actively advancing strategic technologies such as quantum computing, semiconductors, cloud computing and AI. To strengthen its ecosystem and capacities, it is establishing Competence Centres for semiconductors and AI, and will host an AI Factory featuring a supercomputer. With the exception of the businesses' uptake of AI, where Slovenia has made significant progress recently, the uptake of more accessible digital technologies that could enhance competitiveness on a larger scale for SMEs is relatively low. This limitation may partly stem from a shortage of sufficiently skilled employees. For the start-up sector, initial steps are being taken to enhance framework conditions, such as through legislative changes. However, several initiatives are still under development, and venture capital expenditure and funding via capital markets remain relatively low. Slovenia is developing cyber awareness and capabilities across multiple areas, including securing infrastructure and providing trainings in the public sector, safeguarding healthcare systems and launching pilot training programmes within the education system.

Protecting and empowering EU people and society

Slovenia lags behind in digital skills. Its population has a relatively low level of basic digital skills. Despite ongoing efforts to improve basic digital skills across various demographic groups, it remains to be seen whether these initiatives will effectively bridge the significant gaps. The current education reform presents an opportunity to integrate digital skills into the curriculum, which will be crucial in addressing this issue. Although Slovenia has made good progress in increasing its proportion of ICT specialists within the workforce, it still lags behind the EU average. The relatively low share of ICT specialists may be one of the factors limiting businesses' adoption of advanced digital technologies. While training programmes for acquiring advanced digital skills in specific technologies are available, they appear to be insufficient to meet the demand for ICT specialists. Additionally, despite Slovenia's efforts in anticipating future job market trends and the demand for ICT specialists, addressing these dynamic needs remains challenging. In this regard, integrating digital skills into the ongoing higher education reform will be crucial. The availability of digital public services in Slovenia is a bit less widespread than in the EU, especially when it comes to cross-border services. However, their uptake is higher than the EU average. Slovenia plans to enhance the digital transformation of public authorities, in particular on data access and on municipality level. Furthermore, the country is preparing the Digital Healthcare Act, a major project that aims to drive digital transformation in the healthcare sector.

Leveraging digital transformation for a smart greening

Slovenia is taking steps to support the green transition through digital technologies, building on its existing measures and introducing new ones as part of its adjusted roadmap. Initiatives range from modernising green public procurement and creating digital twins to establishing circular and digital business models. However, current efforts still appear to be fragmented and there does not yet seem to be a systematic approach to fully leverage their potential together.

National Digital Decade strategic roadmap

Following a public consultation, Slovenia submitted a fully revised national Digital Decade roadmap on 31 January 2025[2]. This document will also serve as the Action Plan for the Digital Slovenia 2030 strategy, which was adopted in 2023. The roadmap contains some new or changed measures compared to the initial roadmap submission in 2023 and maintains its ambitious national target values. However, several measures have been removed from the adjusted roadmap, especially those linked to Digital Decade objectives and all measures linked to start-ups. The revised roadmap addresses a limited number of the roadmap recommendations issued in 2024. All national target values were kept in line with the EU's 2030 ambition level and the additional target on e-ID uptake, the quantitative estimates on how Slovenia will contribute to the semiconductor and the edge nodes targets were maintained. The update is composed of 81 measures with a budget of EUR 685 million, which represents 1.02% of Slovenia's GDP. While it brings some new impulses in line with the new Commission's priorities in areas like green ICT, AI and semiconductors, the update does not sufficiently address the country's challenges and is not fully aligned with its very ambitious national targets, especially in the areas of basic and advanced digital skills and digitalisation of businesses.

Funding & projects for digital

Slovenia allocates 20% of its total recovery and resilience plan to digital (EUR 513 million)[3]. In addition, under cohesion policy, EUR 287 million, representing 9% of the country's total cohesion policy funding, is dedicated to advancing Slovenia's digital transformation[4].

Slovenia is a member of the three established EDICs; the Alliance for Language Technologies EDIC, the Local Digital Twins towards the CitiVERSE EDIC and of the EUROPEUM EDIC on blockchain. Slovenian entities are indirect and/or associated partners in the IPCEI on Microelectronics and Communication Technologies (IPCEI-ME/CT) and in the IPCEI on Next Generation Cloud Infrastructure and Services (IPCEI-CIS).[5] Slovenia is also a participating state in the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking (JU) and in the Chips JU.

[2] Government approval pending due to some changes linked to the Digital Slovenia 2030 Action Plan. For the purpose of the Digital Decade Policy Programme, the content of the roadmap submitted on 31 January 2025 can be considered final. Corrigendum to Digital Decade Country Report Slovenia 2024: The initial national roadmap was adopted by the Slovenian Government in December 2023, before its publication and submission to the European Commission.

[3] 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.

[4] 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.

[5] Corrigendum to Digital Decade Country Report Slovenia 2024: Slovenian entities are indirect partners in the Important Project of Common European Interest on Next Generation Cloud Infrastructure and Services (IPCEI-CIS).

Slovenia leads the Digital Skills cluster of the Best Practice Accelerator[6]. In this context, it led the organisation of five workshops and shared four Slovenian best practices on digi info points, an adult digital literacy program, mobile heroes (for older people) and digital training for children and young people).

Digital Rights and Principles

According to a support study, Slovenia has shown rather limited activity in implementing the **European Declaration on Digital Rights and Principles**, with 38 initiatives overall and 3 new initiatives launched in 2024. Slovenia is most active in the area of Solidarity and inclusion. Less activity has been identified with regards to privacy and individual control over data. 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 participation in the digital public space.

Recommendations

- **ICT specialists:** Improve the early identification of labour market needs and address them accordingly through training offers and with the help of the higher education reform.
- **Basic digital skills:** Increase and intensify education and training offers and integrate digital skills into the education curricula from an early age.
- **SME take up:** Provide continuous support to SMEs and create enabling framework conditions for their uptake of digital technologies.
- **Advanced technologies:** Quickly implement measures to increase the uptake of advanced technologies by businesses, with a focus on SMEs.
- **Cybersecurity:** Sustain and enhance activities to increase cybersecurity in the sectors of public services and education and introduce these with activities to support businesses.
- **Unicorns/startups**: Quickly implement measures to improve framework conditions and access to funding for start-ups.
- **Green:** Enhance digital technologies to support the green transition, in particular by addressing the interaction between green and digital initiatives in a more systematic manner.

[6] 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.