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ANNEX 28

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**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**
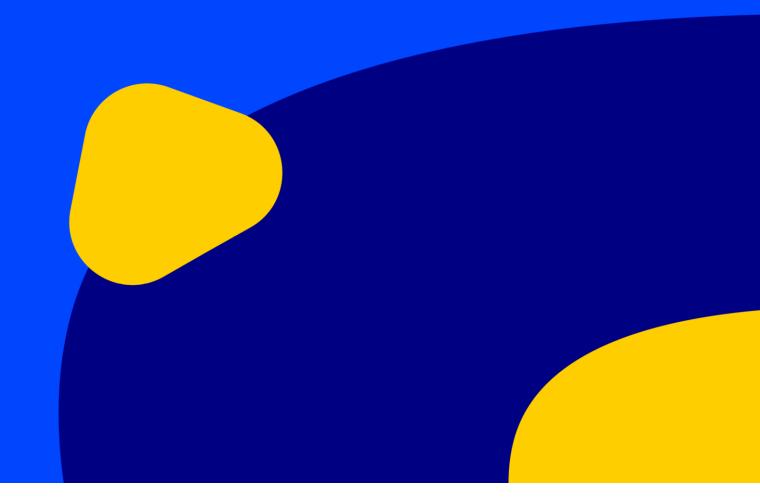
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European Commission

# SHORT COUNTRY REPORTS 2025

## Sweden

# Executive summary

**Sweden continues to seek to be a leading country in digitalisation. Although it has good digital infrastructure, it lags behind on e-Health. Its population scores high in both basic and advanced IT skills. The country is taking several steps to further digitalise its public services and to promote the use of AI.**

**Sweden shows a moderate level of ambition in its contribution to the Digital Decade having set 13 national targets, 54% of which are aligned with the EU 2030 targets. The country is following its trajectories well with 83% of them being on track (on the basis of the 2024 trajectories defined for 6 KPIs out of 8 analysed). The country is currently revising its national digitalisation strategies and is expected to submit its revised roadmap only later in 2025. Sweden addressed 55% of the 9 recommendations issued by the Commission in 2024, either by implementing significant policy changes (11%) or making some changes (44%) through new measures.**

Its fibre and 5G coverage keep increasing; however, connecting the remaining buildings will become increasingly costly. A substantial part of Sweden's Resilience and Recovery Plan was reserved for supporting the expansion of broadband connectivity in rural areas.

| Digital Decade KPI [1] | Sweden | | | | EU | | Digital Decade target by 2030 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | DESI 2024 (year 2023) | DESI 2025 (year 2024) | Annual progress | National trajectory 2024 (3) | DESI 2025 | Annual progress | SE | EU |
| Fixed Very High Capacity Network (VHCN) coverage | 88.5% | 89.7% | 1.4% | - | 82.5% | 4.9% | 98.5% | 100% |
| Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) coverage | 83.9% | 85.6% | 2.0% | - | 69.2% | 8.4% | 98.5% | - |
| Overall 5G coverage | 90.3% | 98.6% | 9.2% | 99.0% | 94.3% | 5.9% | 100.0% | 100% |
| Edge Nodes (estimate) | 32 | 63 | 96.9% | - | 2257 | 90.5% | - | 10000 |
| SMEs with at least a basic level of digital intensity (2) | - | 86.6% | -0.2% | - | 72.9% | 2.8% | 95.0% | 90% |
| Cloud | 66.0% | - | - | - | - | - | 94.0% | 75% |
| Artificial Intelligence | 10.4% | 25.1% | 141.9% | 15.4% | 13.5% | 67.2% | 39.5% | 75% |
| Data analytics | 35.0% | - | - | - | - | - | 56.5% | 75% |
| AI or Cloud or Data analytics | 73.1% | - | - | - | - | - | - | 75% |
| Unicorns | 39 | 39 | 0.0% | 44 | 286 | 4.4% | 64 | 500 |
| At least basic digital skills | 66.4% | - | - | - | - | - | 89.7% | 80% |
| ICT specialists | 8.7% | 8.6% | -1.1% | 9.7% | 5.0% | 4.2% | 12.9% | ~10% |
| eID scheme notification | | Yes | | | | | | |
| Digital public services for citizens | 93.3 | 85.9 | -7.9% | 87.0 | 82.3 | 3.6% | 90.0 | 100 |
| Digital public services for businesses | 96.0 | 90.4 | -5.8% | 88.7 | 86.2 | 0.9% | 90.5 | 100 |
| Access to e-Health records | 77.9 | 77.9 | 0.0% | 75.5 | 82.7 | 4.5% | 78.5 | 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)

**According to the 2025 special Eurobarometer on the 'Digital Decade'**, 85% of Swedes consider that the digitalisation of daily public and private services is making their lives easier. On the action of the public authorities, 97% consider it important to counter and mitigate the dissemination of fake news

and disinformation online. And on competitiveness, 82% 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

Infrastructure indicators (VHCN, FTTP, 5G) are all above the EU average. 5G coverage, in particular, has increased over recent years, following allocation of the remaining spectrum in the 900 MHz, 2.1 GHz and 2.6 GHz band. However, Sweden indicated in its Roadmap that it will not fully reach the target of 100 % VHCN coverage due to the high cost of connecting the last buildings. Sweden is well advanced in switching off its copper network, which is expected to be completed in 2026. The country excels in promoting an environment conducive for start-ups and has a large number of unicorns given the size of its economy. Since last year, Sweden has made good progress in the use of AI by enterprises. In 2023 Sweden asked an AI Commission to analyse and present proposals for making the best use of AI. Sweden is currently assessing the report, which was presented in November 2024. Cybersecurity is a priority for Sweden as demonstrated by the creation of its National Cybersecurity Centre and the presentation of a new cyber security strategy in March 2025.

## Protecting and empowering EU people and society

Sweden has for several years been a front runner in basic and advanced digital skills. It has the largest share of graduates with a degree in ICT in the EU. In February 2025 Sweden presented a strategy to increase the number of graduates in science and technology. The strategy sets several long-term targets on the share of science students in secondary school and the number of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) students.

Sweden's ICT landscape is characterised by a high proportion of enterprises providing ICT training and a large share of ICT specialists in total employment. However, the country faces challenges in maintaining growth rates in these areas, particularly in the context of enterprises providing ICT training and the overall number of ICT specialists. The notable exception is the growth rate of female ICT specialists, which is significantly higher than the EU average, indicating a positive trend towards gender diversity in the ICT sector.

Sweden, however, remains below the EU average in online access to electronic health records and is at risk of not meeting the EU target of 100% by 2030.

## Leveraging digital transformation for a smart greening

Sweden's Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP) is focused on the green transition, with specific reforms and investments primarily targeting carbon-intensive sectors. To do this, the **RRP** supports local and regional investments to reduce climate emissions and in the transition of industry, energy efficiency in multi-dwelling housing, rail transport and biodiversity.

## National digital decade strategic roadmap

Sweden did not submit an adjustment to its national Digital Decade roadmap. An adjusted roadmap is expected later in 2025. The initial roadmap is composed of 40 measures with a budget of EUR 3.5 billion, EUR 2.8 billion of which comes from public funding (equivalent to 0.5% of GDP).

## Funding & projects for digital

Sweden allocates 21% of its total recovery and resilience plan to digital (EUR 674 million)[1]. In addition, under cohesion policy, EUR 230 million, representing 13% of the country's total cohesion policy funding, is dedicated to advancing Sweden's digital transformation[2].

Sweden is a participating state of the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking (JU) and of the Chips JU.

Sweden is not yet active in the Digital Decade's Best Practice Accelerator[3].

## Digital Rights and Principles

According to a support study, Sweden has been relative active in implementing the **European Declaration on Digital Rights and Principles**, with 54 initiatives overall and 15 new initiatives launched in 2024. Sweden is most active in the area of digital education, training and skills and interactions with algorithms and artificial intelligence systems. Less activity has been identified with regards to fair and just working conditions. Measures in the area of solidarity and inclusion appear to have most impact on the ground, in contrast to those addressing freedom of choice.

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**Recommendations**

- **5G:** Encourage operators to speed up the deployment of 5G stand-alone core networks.
- **Fixed broadband**: Ensure completion of the fibre network.
- **eHealth:** Continue efforts to increase the availability of electronic health records.
- **Artificial Intelligence:** Continue to encourage the use of AI by enterprises.
- **ICT specialists and advanced skills:** Continue the work to increase the number of STEM graduates.
- **Green:** Monitor and quantify the emission reductions of the digital solutions deployed.

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[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.