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Digital Decade 2025 country reports

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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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DIGITAL DECADE 2025
COUNTRY REPORTS

Czechia

Czechia

Contents

Executive summary

Czechia benefits from a strong performance in digital skills and nationwide 5G coverage, but still lags in the rollout of very high-capacity networks (VHCNs) and the digital transformation of businesses. At the same time, its dynamic start-up ecosystem, deepening AI capabilities, and growing investments in strategic technologies like quantum and semiconductors underpin its ambition to strengthen digital sovereignty and resilience.

Czechia shows a low level of ambition in its contribution to the Digital Decade, having set 14 national targets, only 43% of which are fully aligned with the EU 2030 targets. Nonetheless, the country is following its trajectories well, with 75% of them currently on track (on the basis of the 2024 trajectories defined for all 8 KPIs analysed). Czechia addressed 82% of the 11 recommendations issued by the Commission in 2024, either by implementing significant policy changes (9%) or making some changes (73%) through new measures.

The 2024 adjustment to Czechia's national Digital Decade strategic roadmap reflects a more coherent and strategically aligned approach. It introduces new targets (e.g. for fibre to the premises (FTTP), edge nodes), strengthens SME support measures, and reaffirms the country's priorities for, semiconductors, and start-ups. Gaps remain - for instance, no explicit measures were introduced for edge node deployment or accelerating stand-alone 5G and eID uptake. Overall, the adjusted roadmap represents a meaningful improvement in terms of policy clarity, sectoral depth, and alignment with EU objectives. However, several measures could benefit from stronger financial commitment and more ambitious targets.

Digital Decade KPI [1]	Czechia				EU		Digital Decade target by 2030	
	DESI 2024 (year 2023)	DESI 2025 (year 2024)	Annual progress	National trajectory 2024 [3]	DESI 2025	Annual progress	CZ	EU
Fixed Very High Capacity Network (VHCN) coverage	50.5%	53.9%	6.7%	63.7%	82.5%	4.9%	95.0%	100%
Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) coverage	36.0%	40.6%	12.6%	39.4%	69.2%	8.4%	60.0%	-
Overall 5G coverage	94.6%	99.1%	4.7%	87.3%	94.3%	5.9%	100.0%	100%
Edge Nodes (estimate)	10	21	110.0%	21	2 257	90.5%	144	10000
SMEs with at least a basic level of digital intensity [2]	-	70.8%	2.0%	-	72.9%	2.8%	80.0%	90%
Cloud	35.2%	-	-	-	-	-	60.0%	75%
Artificial Intelligence	5.9%	11.3%	90.8%	8.6%	13.5%	67.2%	21.0%	75%
Data analytics	19.5%	-	-	-	-	-	35.0%	75%
AI or Cloud or Data analytics	43.1%	-	-	-	-	-	60.0%	75%
Unicorns	4	4	0.0%	4	286	4.4%	6	500
At least basic digital skills	69.1%	-	-	-	-	-	80.0%	80%
ICT specialists	4.3%	4.5%	4.7%	5.1%	5.0%	4.2%	7.0%	~10%
eID scheme notification		Yes						
Digital public services for citizens	76.3	81.5	6.7%	80.2	82.3	3.6%	100.0	100
Digital public services for businesses	83.8	86.3	3.0%	87.3	86.2	0.9%	100.0	100
Access to e-Health records	51.1	77.4	51.6%	54.6	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)								

According to the special 2025 Eurobarometer on the Digital Decade, 73% of Czechs consider that the digitalisation of daily public and private services is making their lives easier. On the action of the public authorities, 78% consider it important to counter and mitigate the issue of fake news and disinformation online. And on competitiveness, 81% 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

Czechia is steadily advancing in strategic digital sectors such as AI, semiconductors, and quantum technologies, backed by increased public investment and consistent national strategies. While 5G coverage is nearly universal, broadband infrastructure (FTTP, VHCN) still lags behind EU averages. Despite a vibrant start-up scene and strong R&D potential, SMEs face barriers to adopting digital technologies and securing financing. Addressing gaps in infrastructure, scale-up finance, and digital tech uptake will be key to boosting Czechia's competitiveness and digital sovereignty.

Protecting and empowering EU people and society

Digital inclusion is a strong point for Czechia, with widespread basic digital skills and minimal gender or rural-urban gaps. Reforms in digital education and support for ICT careers are progressing, with a growing focus on women and older learners. Public services are improving rapidly, particularly eHealth access and citizen-facing services. Digital civic participation and resilience against disinformation are still weak points and need stronger engagement policies.

Leveraging digital transformation for a smart greening

While Czechia has begun to acknowledge the importance of the twin green and digital transition, this area remains underdeveloped. A new energy efficiency law for data centres is a notable step, but the roadmap lacks fully-fledged digital sustainability measures. Scattered initiatives exist - in smart grids, soil monitoring, and recycling - but there is still no comprehensive national strategy for green digitalisation.

National Digital Decade strategic roadmap

Czechia submitted its adjusted national Digital Decade roadmap in January 2025, featuring strengthened targets and revised measures, particularly in the areas of enterprise digitalisation and emerging technologies. The update reflects an improved strategic alignment with EU priorities. It also addresses several recommendations issued in the 2024 State of the Digital Decade Report by introducing missing targets for FTTP and edge nodes, and clarifying uptake trajectories for AI, cloud, and data analytics. However, some targets remain relatively cautious compared to EU benchmarks - such as 60% FTTP coverage and 7% ICT specialists by 2030, but 5G targets are well-aligned. The roadmap retains national priorities around AI, quantum, and semiconductors. It consolidates the number of measures supporting the Digital Decade targets and objectives at 58 with a total budget of EUR 2.26 billion, equivalent to 0.71% of Czechia's GDP in 2024. While the roadmap demonstrates progress in depth, sectoral scope, and coherence, continued efforts are needed to improve rural connectivity, raise the level of ambition of workforce targets, and strengthen support to the digital and green transition.

Funding & projects for digital

Czechia allocates 23% of its total recovery and resilience plan to digital (EUR 1.9 billion)[1]. In addition, under cohesion policy, EUR 1.9 billion, representing 9% of the country's total cohesion policy funding, is dedicated to advancing Czechia's digital transformation[2].Czechia is a member of the Alliance for Language Technologies European Digital Infrastructure Consortium (EDIC) and of the Local Digital Twins towards the CitiVERSE EDIC. The country is directly participating in the Important Project of Common European Interest on Microelectronics and Communication Technologies (IPCEI-ME/CT) and is a participating state in the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking (JU) and of the Chips JU.

Czechia also contributes to the Digital Decade's Best Practices Accelerator[3] through its flagship initiative, Czech Digital Week 2023, presented as part of the Digital Skills Cluster.

Digital rights and principles

According to a support study, Czechia has been relatively active in implementing the **European Declaration on Digital Rights and Principles**, with 76 initiatives overall and 9 new initiatives launched in 2024. Czechia is most active in the area of digital education, training and skills. Less activity has been identified with regards to fair and just working conditions and a fair digital environment. 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
- **VHCN and FTTP:** Accelerate the rollout of fibre (FTTP) and Very High-Capacity Networks (VHCN), particularly in rural areas, and streamline permitting procedures and raising awareness about gigabit connectivity benefits among businesses and households.
- **Edge computing:** Introduce concrete measures to support the deployment of edge nodes and operationalise the national 2030 target. Ensure dedicated funding and public-private coordination mechanisms are in place.
- **SMEs and advanced technologies:** Continue and expand targeted support for the digital transformation of SMEs, with particular focus on reducing the adoption gap for AI, cloud, and data analytics between SMEs and large enterprises. Increase the visibility of support tools and foster regional innovation ecosystems to diffuse digital solutions.
- **ICT specialists:** Strengthen the attractiveness and labour market relevance of ICT careers, with a special focus on boosting the number of female ICT professionals. Further align digital education and reskilling programmes with business needs, especially in cybersecurity, AI, and advanced digital technologies.
- **Cybersecurity:** Strengthen cybersecurity preparedness, particularly in critical infrastructure sectors. Finalise the new National Cybersecurity Strategy and clarify funding mechanisms to support implementation across public and private sectors.

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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.

- **Digital and green transition:** Develop a comprehensive strategy to align digitalisation with environmental goals.

A competitive, sovereign and resilient EU based on technological leadership

Czechia's digital competitiveness is an essential component of its broader economic strength, particularly as the country seeks to leverage digital transformation to boost innovation, productivity, and global market positioning. Czechia's economy remains export-driven, with strong industrial foundations particularly in automotive manufacturing, machinery, electronics, and ICT-related products. Recently, the digital sector has gained greater prominence, supported by significant strategic investments, notably in areas such as artificial intelligence (AI), quantum technologies, microelectronics, and advanced digital services.

The updated National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2030 represents a cornerstone of Czechia's digital ambitions. Developed by the Ministry of Industry and Trade, this strategy aligns closely with the broader Digital Czechia Strategy, designating AI as a strategic technology under the TWIST programme, which boasts a substantial budget of approximately EUR 200 million (CZK 5 billion). TWIST prioritises not only AI but also quantum technologies and microelectronics, with a strong emphasis on translating research and development (R&D) into practical commercial applications. Initiatives under this programme include subsidy schemes, retraining courses, and direct support for SMEs adopting innovative AI solutions.

Quantum research also forms an important element in Czechia's push for digital competitiveness. The continued development of its National Strategy for Quantum Technologies (NKS) aims at nurturing the quantum ecosystem - from fundamental research and education to commercial applications. Despite some delays, such as postponing the deployment of the LUMI-Q quantum computer, Czechia maintains its ambitious role within the broader European quantum research landscape.

Czechia's start-up ecosystem, although vibrant, faces ongoing challenges. Currently hosting four unicorns, Czechia shows potential in scaling innovative digital enterprises. However, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and start-ups continue to encounter significant barriers, including limited access to venture capital, particularly during critical scale-up phases. To address these challenges, Czechia has intensified its efforts through multiple programmes, including the Technology Incubation initiatives supporting 250 start-ups, the EUSPA Business Incubation Centre, as well as dedicated acceleration programmes aimed at facilitating international market expansion. Efforts have also been directed at bolstering local venture capital infrastructure through a dedicated 'Fund of Funds' initiative, aimed specifically at increasing investment in deep tech and improving the availability of angel investment.

Despite considerable progress, digital infrastructure remains a mixed picture. While the coverage of high-speed broadband and 5G has experienced robust growth rates surpassing EU averages, overall penetration levels of Very-High Capacity Networks (VHCN) and Fibre remain below EU benchmarks. Similarly, the adoption by enterprise of key digital technologies, including cloud computing (35.23%), data analytics (19.49%), and AI (11.26%), trails behind EU averages. The gap between SMEs and large

enterprises in adopting these technologies further highlights structural challenges, which, if addressed, could significantly elevate Czechia's competitive standing.

From a broader economic perspective, **the ICT sector in Czechia accounted for 4.93% of Gross Value Added in 2022, standing marginally below the EU average of 5.46%.**[4] Moreover, the ICT sector significantly contributes to the country's R&D activities, accounting for 26.91% of business expenditure on R&D and employing 26.21% of total R&D personnel. This strong involvement suggests a solid foundation for further digital innovation, reinforcing Czechia's potential to grow its digital economy and reduce reliance on external technology providers.

Overall, Czechia's strategic focus on advanced digital technologies, robust investment frameworks, and targeted support for start-ups positions the country to enhance its digital competitiveness significantly. Continued policy emphasis on addressing infrastructure gaps, improving SME digitalisation, and fostering a more dynamic start-up ecosystem will be crucial for sustained progress.

According to the **2025 Eurobarometer[5], a large majority of Czech respondents (76%) consider building efficient and secure digital infrastructures, including connectivity and data processing facilities, to be an important priority for public authorities.** While this is slightly lower than the EU average of 86%, it still reflects strong public support for investment in robust digital infrastructure.

Building technological leadership: digital infrastructure and technologies

Czechia is rapidly expanding its digital infrastructure, with strong progress in 5G coverage, which now reaches nearly all households, including in rural areas. While Fibre-To-The-Premises (FTTP) and VHCN coverage still lag behind EU averages, both are growing at above-average rates. The country is also advancing in emerging strategic technologies. It has adopted a National Semiconductor Strategy, increased investments in AI, and plays an active role in quantum computing through the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking (JU). Overall, Czechia is steadily enhancing its digital foundation while stepping up efforts to contribute to EU technological leadership.

Connectivity infrastructure

Czechia's VHCN coverage, both in total and for households in sparsely populated areas, remains among the lowest in the EU despite recent improvements. In 2023, total VHCN coverage in Czechia was 50.54%, compared to the EU's 78.64%, while in 2024, it reached 53.91%, remaining below the EU's 82.49%.

The growth rate for total VHCN coverage in Czechia stood at 6.7%, exceeding the EU's 4.9%, which signals positive momentum but has yet to compensate for the significant gap in absolute coverage levels. For households in sparsely populated areas, Czechia's coverage in 2023 was 7.22% and in 2024 it was 10.04%, lower than the EU's 55.59% and 61.89%, respectively. The growth rate for this category stood at 39.1%, outperforming the EU's 11.3%, but from a very low baseline, underscoring persistent disparities in rural access. Overall, the country is lagging behind compared to its national trajectory.

Czechia's FTTP coverage is also below the EU average. In 2023, total FTTP coverage in Czechia was 36.05%, compared to the EU's 63.87%, while in 2024, it reached 40.58%, remaining below the EU's 69.24%. The growth rate for total FTTP coverage in Czechia was 12.6%, exceeding the EU's 8.4%. For households in sparsely populated areas, Czechia's coverage in 2023 was 7.2% and in 2024 it was

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10.04%, lower than the EU's 52.55% and 58.78%, respectively. The growth rate for this category stood at 39.4%, outperforming the EU's 11.9%. Both urban and rural areas continue to face structural challenges in Fibre roll-out, which may also constrain the digitalisation of businesses, particularly SMEs operating outside major hubs. Overall, the country is on track with its national trajectory.

Czechia's overall 5G coverage exceeds the EU average. In 2023, total 5G coverage in Czechia was 94.6%, compared to the EU's 89.05%, while in 2024, it reached 99.08%, remaining above the EU's 94.35%. The growth rate for total 5G coverage in Czechia was 4.7%, below the EU's 6.0%. For households in sparsely populated areas, Czechia's coverage in 2023 was 72.7% and in 2024 it was 95.3%, higher than the EU's 71.10% and 79.57%, respectively. The growth rate for this category stood at 31.1%, outperforming the EU's 11.9%.

Czechia's 5G coverage in the 3.4-3.8 GHz band is below the EU average. In 2023, total 5G coverage in this band in Czechia was 39.3%, compared to the EU's 51.06%, while in 2024, it reached 42.36%, remaining below the EU's 67.72%. The growth rate for total 5G coverage in this band was 7.8%, below the EU's 32.6%. For households in sparsely populated areas, Czechia's coverage in 2023 was 32.28% and in 2024 it was 32.3%, higher than the EU's 15.86% and 26.19%, respectively. The growth rate for this category stood at 0.1%, below the EU's 65.1%.%.

Czechia's 5G spectrum assignment for pioneer bands is below the EU average. In 2024, the percentage of harmonised spectrum assigned in Czechia was 66.67%, compared to the EU's 73.4%. It remained at 66.67% in 2025, while the EU's grew to 74.63%. Czechia saw no growth between 2024 and 2025, while the EU's growth stood at 1.7%.

Czechia's digital economy and society index shows a mixed performance. While the country excels in overall 5G coverage and growth in sparsely populated areas for VHCN and FTTP, it continues to lag behind in overall Fibre and VHCN deployment which may hinder the digitalisation of enterprises. The 5G coverage in the 3.4-3.8 GHz band and the 5G spectrum assignment for pioneer bands also need improvements.

VHCN and FTTP

In its adjustment to the national strategic roadmap, Czechia proposed a new target for FTTP coverage of 60% by 2030. This new target is a step forward from the previous roadmap, which did not define any specific FTTP goal. Although the new FTTP target is below the EU ambition, it appears realistic given Czechia's starting point and recent growth trends. Coverage stood at 36.1% in 2023, standing significantly below the EU average of 64%. However, the country has demonstrated increasing momentum with almost a 17% annual increase in installed FTTP lines during the first half of 2024 alone. Considering this accelerated pace, alongside the adoption of EU-level measures such as the Gigabit Infrastructure Act and the Action Plan to implement certain measures to support the planning and construction of electronic communications networks, designed explicitly to simplify network roll-out procedures and promote Fibre-ready constructions, the 60% target by 2030 seems attainable, though continued efforts and proactive policy support remain necessary.

On VHCN, Czechia's target of 95% remains unchanged from the original 2023 roadmap. While this target aligns closely with the EU ambition, it remains a challenging target to achieve. In 2024, VHCN coverage stood at approximately 53.91%, facing persistent barriers including slow roll-out - attributable to low consumer take-up of high-speed broadband,- and lengthy permit processes for infrastructure deployment. Further measures may be required to ensure the 95% target remains achievable within the timeframe.

Czechia

In terms of market developments, 2024 saw notable consolidations with significant mergers and acquisitions impacting the competitive landscape. CETIN, the incumbent operator, undertook major acquisitions, including Nej.cz and Nordic Telecom Regional, increasing its market share.

Investments in fixed networks continue, with annual investments rising by approximately 3.7% to EUR €362 million (CZK 8.93 billion) according to the National Regulatory Authority for telecommunications. The continued deployment by both major and local operators indicates a positive market dynamic supporting the expansion of Fibre coverage.

According to Czech authorities there is currently no formal or official plan to switch-off the copper network, and no specific timeline has been established for this transition. The authorities refer to investments already made in Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) networks, which still play an important role in certain rural areas. As a result, a complete copper switch-off by 2030 does not seem to be realistic.

5G

Czechia maintains its ambitious target of 100% 5G coverage by 2030, which is contingent on satellite technology capable of delivering comparable performance to terrestrial 5G networks. Given the observed coverage of 99.08% in 2024, this target remains very realistic and aligns with the EU's ambitions for comprehensive coverage. Overall, it appears that Czechia is on track according to its national trajectory.

The national adjusted roadmap includes seven measures supporting 5G deployment, ranging from spectrum auctions to subsidies for underserved areas.

Despite recommendations from the 2023 State of the Digital Decade report, Czechia did not introduce specific measures to assign the 26 GHz band in its adjusted roadmap. Nonetheless, preparations for allocating this band have advanced, with the national regulatory authority for telecommunications, the Czech Telecommunication Office (CTU) planning a public discussion in 2025 focused on implementing an improved authorisation approach, particularly facilitating Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) and indoor applications.

Czechia has partially addressed previous recommendations by setting conditions within the licensing framework to encourage operator-driven deployment in the 3.4-3.8 GHz band. However, the roadmap still lacks specific new measures on promoting the widespread deployment of business-to-business (B2B) and business-to-consumer (B2C) applications and accelerating stand-alone 5G core network development.

In parallel, Czechia has already completed the allocation of the 700 MHz band, which was fully assigned during a spectrum auction launched in August 2020. The authorisations became effective at the beginning of 2021 and were granted to three mobile network operators (MNOs).

Investment in mobile networks saw significant growth, with total investments increasing annually by approximately 23.6% to approximately EUR 422.1 million (CZK 10.5 billion). All MNOs actively upgraded and broadened their radio access network (RAN) infrastructure to support comprehensive 5G deployment. Particular attention has been given to coverage of rail corridors, tunnels, and identified 'white spots' areas.

Despite robust overall coverage, the deployment of 5G in the critical 3.4-3.8 GHz band has progressed slowly.

2024 recommendation on connectivity infrastructure: (i) Accelerate the rollout of FTTP, among others by raising awareness on the benefits of Gigabit networks, by simplifying processes and permits for rolling out networks, and by promoting the construction of fibre-ready buildings. (ii) Ensure sufficient access of new players to spectrum for innovative business-to-business (B2B) and business-to-consumer (B2C) applications and encourage operators to speed up the deployment of 5G stand-alone core networks.

The Czechia made some efforts to address the recommendation through new policy actions in 2024. Czechia's adjusted roadmap introduces new policy targets and continues efforts to improve connectivity, particularly in the roll-out of Fibre networks. The adoption of a new FTTP coverage target of 60% by 2030 is a notable step forward. However, despite this progress, VHCN roll-out remains significantly below the EU average and lags behind the national trajectory. On 5G, while total coverage has nearly reached 100%, progress on the critical 3.4-3.8 GHz band remains limited, and no specific measures have been introduced to promote deployment of B2B/B2C applications or accelerate the development of stand-alone 5G core networks. Czechia plans to consult on the assignment of the 26 GHz band in 2025, but the roadmap lacks concrete new actions in this area. Overall, while some important actions have been taken, further policy efforts are needed to fully address the 2024 recommendation.

Semiconductors

Czechia aims at significantly advancing its strategic positioning in the semiconductor sector. A central pillar of Czechia's semiconductor ambitions and one of the central elements of the adjusted national strategic roadmap, relates to the implementation of the National Semiconductor Strategy, adopted in October 2024.

The Strategy sets out a clear vision to substantially upscale national semiconductor production capacity - targeting a 300% increase by 2029 - and mobilise 9 000 skilled semiconductor professionals. Moreover, it sets out detailed measures to improve research, commercialisation of technologies, and international collaboration, underpinning Czechia's contribution to the European Chips Act and broader EU technological sovereignty.

The Strategy highlights the urgency of reducing dependence on global supply chains, particularly those concentrated in geopolitically sensitive regions such as Southeast Asia and seeks to reinforce Europe's - and by extension Czechia's - strategic autonomy. It builds on five strategic pillars (i) aligning with the European Chips Act through the establishment of a national competence centre and investment incentives; (ii) boosting Czech exports of advanced technologies by 200% relative to 2022 levels; (iii) supporting cutting-edge R&D and strengthening funding for applied semiconductor research; (iv) expanding the national talent pool through education and targeted migration policies; and (v) promoting entrepreneurship and the internationalisation of Czech SMEs within the semiconductor field.

The Strategy is also firmly embedded in the broader national innovation agenda, alongside the National AI and National Quantum Strategies, forming a cohesive framework for advancing emerging and key technologies. The strategy also includes a detailed implementation roadmap with measurable targets, risk assessments, and long-term budgetary impact estimates, reflecting a systemic and results-oriented approach. By focusing on enhancing human capital, improving export performance, and enabling innovation ecosystems, the National Semiconductor Strategy positions

Czechia as a growing contributor to the European semiconductor landscape and an emerging player in this sector.

Moreover, Czechia can count on a dynamic ecosystem of actors operating in semiconductors: a key actor in this area is the Czech National Semiconductor Cluster (CNSC), created in 2022. The CNSC acts as a national coordination body linking universities, major semiconductor companies, start-ups, and public institutions, focusing on joint research initiatives, innovation projects, and practical commercialisation. Czechia is also actively involved in regional collaboration through the Alliance of European Semiconductor Regions, connecting 12 key European regions to foster an integrated semiconductor value chain aligned with EU strategic objectives.

The measures adopted are well-aligned with the overarching EU objectives and are set to make a clear and direct contribution to enhancing EU technological sovereignty. Czechia's active engagement within the European Semiconductors ecosystem, combined with strategic domestic investments and coordinated research initiatives, directly contributes to reducing the EU's dependency on external semiconductor suppliers.

Edge nodes

According to the latest Edge Nodes Observatory report, Czechia has shown positive momentum in edge-node deployment, with the number of edge nodes increasing sharply from 10 in 2023 to 21 in 2024. However, it remains at an early stage of development relative to the ambitious national goal set for 2030.

Previously, Czechia had not established a specific target or trajectory for edge nodes in its original 2023 roadmap. The adjusted roadmap addresses this gap, proposing a notably ambitious target of reaching 144 edge nodes by 2030. Given the current status of 21 nodes, achieving this target will require sustained acceleration and strong commitment from both public and private actors.

While the adjusted roadmap clearly identifies the 144-node target, it does not set out specific measures or mechanisms for achieving this increase. According to Czech authorities edge-node development is currently taking place largely within private sector initiatives, notably driven by mobile network operators.

At this stage, the primary forum for policy discussion and coordination is the 5G Alliance, where Czechia plans to discuss and define further strategic actions. Feedback from mobile operators during these consultations suggests a continuing momentum, with an anticipated addition of 10-20 new edge nodes by private actors during 2025. While engagement by private sector is encouraging, the roadmap currently lacks detailed plans for public sector involvement or specific policy incentives that might be required to significantly accelerate deployments.

At present, Czech authorities have not finalised a national monitoring framework for edge-node deployment, which remains under consideration. Given the substantial planned growth, quickly establishing a clear monitoring mechanism will be essential for evaluating progress and adjusting policy interventions as necessary.

2024 recommendation on Edge nodes: as edge computing is an important component of AI, future network deployment, and the Internet of Things, Member States should consider edge-node deployment when creating investment programmes and strategies in these areas.

No information available on measures taken to address the recommendation. While the establishment of a clear and ambitious numeric target in the roadmap is commendable, Czechia has not communicated any measure to support the deployment of edge nodes across the country and the absence of explicit accompanying measures raises concerns attainability of the goal.

Quantum technologies

Czechia continues to prioritise quantum technologies as a strategic domain within its broader digital and innovation policies. Work is ongoing to finalise the National Strategy for Quantum Technologies (NKS), designed to strengthen the national quantum ecosystem across fundamental research, education, commercialisation, and application domains, including quantum computing, communication, sensors, metrology, and materials.

Czechia remains actively engaged in key European initiatives through the IT4Innovations National Supercomputing Centre in Ostrava, which operates the Karolina supercomputer and supports AI development. As reported in the 2024 Digital Decade report, Czechia is set to host one of Europe's first quantum-accelerated computers through the LUMI-Q consortium. Co-funded by EuroHPC JU and nine partner countries with a EUR 5 million budget, the system will be connected to Karolina and available to academia, industry, and public sector users. Its installation is expected by September 2025.

In addition**, Czechia has expanded its support for strategic digital technologies through the TWIST Programme, launched in December 2024 with approximately EUR 200.88 million (CZK 5 billion) budget**. The Programme targets the development and commercialisation of emerging technologies, including quantum, AI, and semiconductors.

Czechia also participates in the AI Factories initiative through the LUMI AI Factory, with IT4Innovations joining the broader LUMI consortium. The project, with a EUR 602.65 million overall budget (CZK 15 billion) and a Czech contribution of over EUR 22.10 million (CZK 550 million), aims to create a comprehensive ecosystem providing access to high-performance computing infrastructure, datasets, and AI expertise. Co-funded by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and the European Union, the initiative is expected to significantly enhance AI adoption in both science and industry.

Supporting EU-wide digital ecosystems and scaling-up innovative enterprises

Czechia continues to make gradual but meaningful progress in scaling-up digital transformation across its enterprise landscape. In 2024, 70.81% of SMEs reached at least a basic level of digital intensity - just short of the EU average. As highlighted in the Draghi Report, deepening digital capabilities is essential for Europe's competitiveness, and Czechia's SME digitalisation path will be pivotal for the resilience of its export-oriented economy. While adoption of advanced technologies like AI, cloud, and data analytics has significantly improved - especially with AI use among businesses nearly doubling in 2024 - gaps remain, particularly for smaller firms.

On the innovation front, Czechia's start-up ecosystem remains active and expanding, supported by a growing range of tailored funding instruments, incubation schemes, and internationalisation initiatives. Nonetheless, challenges around scale-up financing and technology transfer persist, making continued strategic support and private investment mobilisation critical for future growth.

SMEs with at least basic digital intensity

In 2024, 70.81% of SMEs in Czechia had at least a basic level of digital intensity, reflecting a relatively modest increase from 68.02% in 2022, with a growth rate of 2% per year. This growth rate has led Czechia to fall just short of the EU average of 72.91% in 2024. Notably, among all Czech SMEs, 32.61% had a high or very high digital intensity, aligning closely with the EU average of 32.66%. Overall, positioning itself slightly below EU standards, Czechia still has room for improvement in the digitalisation of its SMEs.

Czechia's national target for SME digitalisation remains unchanged from the previous roadmap, set at 80% by 2030. Given the observed digitalisation trends and current measures in place, the target remains ambitious but achievable, provided that consistent and targeted support is maintained and expanded in the coming years.

Czechia's adjusted roadmap introduces notable measures to bolster SME digitalisation, particularly through two flagship calls under the Operational Programme Technologies and Application for Competitiveness (OP TAC), funded by the European Regional Development Fund.

- **'Digital Enterprise – Call I':** Allocating approximately EUR 39.8 million (CZK 1 billion) to support SMEs in implementing Industry 4.0 elements. The measure covers non-production digital technologies, including software, hardware, cybersecurity solutions, logistics technologies, sensor networks, and digital twins. Demonstrating high demand, 679 applications were received in 2024 requesting approximately EUR 167 million, indicating strong interest among Czech SMEs. Due to this success, a follow-up call (Digital Enterprise – Call II) with EUR 47.7 million (CZK 1.2 billion) will launch in Q4 2025, explicitly targeting SMEs outside Prague.

- **'Application – DEEP TECH – Call III':** With EUR 119 million (CZK 3 billion), this measure supports innovative industrial research and experimental development projects in advanced technological areas including AI, Big Data, 5G, and semiconductors. The expected outcome includes prototypes, validated technologies, digital solutions, and other practical innovations, targeting between 120 and 160 projects.

Both measures demonstrate an effective strategy towards achieving the ambitious SME digitalisation target. Nonetheless, continued monitoring, expanded outreach, and additional clarity on long-term funding and implementation mechanisms will be critical for maintaining momentum and fully realising these objectives.

Despite robust funding and strategic initiatives, Czech SMEs still face substantial barriers to digitalisation and scale-up. A key challenge highlighted by Czech authorities is the complex and lengthy authorisation processes for deploying digital infrastructure. Authorities have responded by preparing an Action Plan focused on simplifying permits and accelerating infrastructure deployment, aiming for its approval by late 2025.

Access to finance, particularly for digital start-ups and SMEs scaling up their businesses, is another critical issue. Czech authorities have implemented targeted programmes such as the Technology Incubation Programme, which currently supports 150 start-ups (with a total target of 250), offering funding, mentoring, and investor networking. Also, the EUSPA Business Incubation Centre provides additional tailored support. Furthermore, Czechia's 'Funds of Funds' Programme, coordinated under the Deputy Prime Minister's office, aims to improve venture capital availability and address gaps in angel investment, particularly for deep tech ventures.

2024 recommendation on digitalisation of SMEs: Continue and scale up the subsidy calls for digitalisation of SMEs to increase their capacity building through supporting services in the implementation of their project.

The Czechia made some efforts to address the recommendation through new policy actions in 2024. Czechia has positively responded to the 2024 recommendation by launching clearly defined, well-funded programmes, specifically designed to address SMEs' needs and enhance their technological readiness. This particularly applies to the 'Digital Enterprise – Call I' measure. While these actions directly address previous recommendations, ensuring sustained engagement and proper implementation will be essential to maintain this progress.

Take up of cloud/AI/data analytics

The latest available data reveals that in 2023, 35.23% of Czech enterprises used cloud services, slightly below the EU average of 38.97%. More specifically, SMEs had a similar uptake of more than 1 out of 3 (34.29%), while nearly 3 out of 5 (58.39%) large enterprises adopted cloud services. This indicates a gap of 24.1 percentage points between SMEs and large enterprises in Czechia, which is below the EU-level gap of 31.68.

In 2023, in Czechia, 19.49% of enterprises used data analytics, lagging behind the EU average of 33.25%. SMEs showed lower uptake at 18.2% (approximately 1 out of 5), while 51.47% (approximately 1 out of 2) of large enterprises engaged in data analytics. This indicates a gap of 33.27 percentage points between SMEs and large enterprises, which is lower than the EU gap of 39.72 percentage points.

In 2024, 11.26% of enterprises in Czechia used AI technology, only slightly lower than the EU average of 13.48%. Czechia thus experienced **a very large increase in uptake of AI by its enterprises**, almost doubling its value (a 90.85% increase) compared to 2023, when the uptake was at 5.9%. Notably, in 2024, SMEs had an uptake rate of 10.1%, while large enterprises exhibited a notably higher usage rate of 40.48%. This indicates a gap of 30.38 percentage points between SMEs and large enterprises, which is in line with the EU gap.
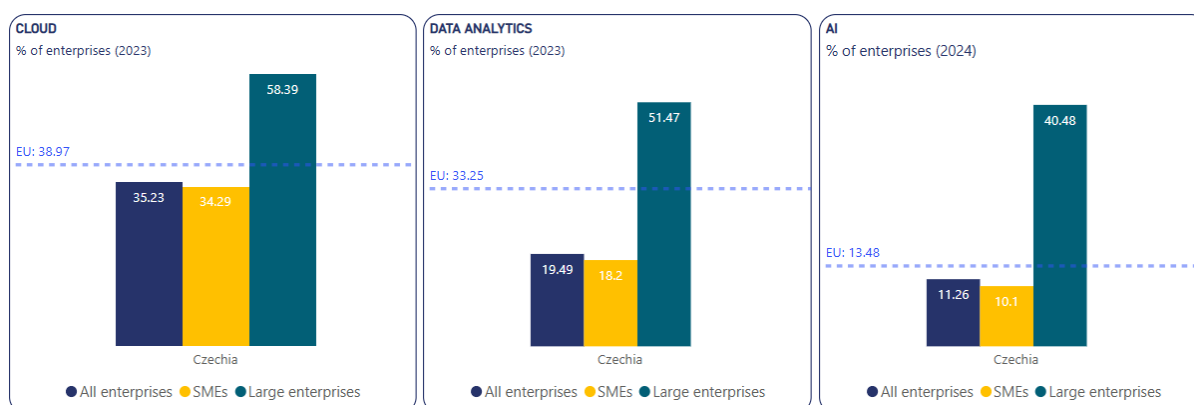
43.11% of enterprises in Czechia used AI technologies, sophisticated or intermediate cloud computing services, or performed data analytics in 2023, which reveals a lag compared to the EU average of 54.7%. More specifically, the uptake among SMEs was slightly lower at 41.77%, while large enterprises exhibited a higher engagement of 76.33%. This indicates a percentage point difference of 34.56 in uptake between SMEs and large enterprises in Czechia, which is in line with the EU-level gap.

In 2022, SMEs in Czechia produced 39.6% of the value added in the economy, while large enterprises contributed 37.4% to the total. Notably, SMEs accounted for roughly 96.2% of the enterprises with more than 10 employees, while large enterprises represented 3.8%.

The adoption of cloud computing, data analytics, and AI technologies in Czechia showed a mixed performance. The country lags behind EU averages in all three areas, particularly with respect to data analytics and AI adoption. In line with EU trends, a notable disparity also existed in technology adoption between SMEs and large enterprises. While large enterprises demonstrated relatively high levels of adoption, SMEs trailed behind in the adoption of all technologies. This mirrors broader EU trends, where large enterprises consistently outpace SMEs in technology adoption, with significant implications for Czechia's economy, given that SMEs account for nearly 96% of enterprises with more than 10 employees and produce nearly 40% of the country's value added.

- **Cloud**

Czechia's national cloud adoption target remains unchanged at 60% by 2030. The latest data shows that 35.23% of Czech enterprises used cloud services in 2023, standing slightly below the EU average (38.97%). However, significant progress is still needed to achieve the target of 60%.

To facilitate reaching the 60% cloud adoption target, Czechia has reinforced several comprehensive measures outlined in its roadmap. Notably, these include initiatives broadly targeting cloud adoption among enterprises, research organisations, and public authorities under the measure 'Reaping the Benefits of Digitalisation'. In addition, explicit support for cloud solutions among SMEs and enterprises is provided through measures such as 'Support for Industry 4.0 investments' and 'Direct support for digital transformation'. These measures are designed to significantly enhance cloud solution uptake, addressing existing barriers through targeted funding, strategic guidance, and improved access to digital infrastructure. Continued monitoring and targeted outreach, particularly towards SMEs, will be important to fully achieve the intended impact of these policies.

These measures are sufficiently broad and relevant; however, to achieve the target close monitoring in terms of their impact will be required. Additional targeted support may also be needed, particularly addressing SMEs' unique barriers to cloud uptake.

- **Data Analytics**

The adjusted roadmap increased Czechia's national data analytics adoption target from 25% to 35% by 2030, influenced by the expected positive impacts of the European Data Act. Currently, Czechia remains behind the EU average, with only 19.49% of enterprises using data analytics in 2023. SMEs show a low adoption rate of 18.2%, compared to 51.47% among large enterprises. However, the gap of 33.27 percentage points is lower than the EU average gap (39.72 points), indicating the potential for moderate progress.

Czechia's roadmap addresses data analytics uptake through comprehensive support measures. Notably, data analytics within enterprise digitalisation is explicitly promoted under the measures 'Reaping the Benefits of Digitalisation' and 'Direct support for digital transformation'. Furthermore, cohesion-funded initiatives such as 'Digital Enterprise – Call I & II' and 'DEEP TECH – Call III' provide significant support for advanced data analytics projects among SMEs.

In addition, the ongoing implementation of the 'RIS3 Strategy for New Technologies in Business ', introduced with the 2023 roadmap, plays an important role in promoting digitalisation. Digitalisation is through formative measures and training is aimed at fostering the use of technologies such as data analytics. Its implementation between 2023 and 2027 should supports the emergence of ICT-driven

firms and aims to expand digital technology uptake among businesses, particularly at regional and local levels.

Czech authorities anticipate positive impacts from the new EU Data Act Regulation, which should significantly facilitate data sharing and analytics, boosting adoption rates across enterprises.

- **Artificial Intelligence**

Czechia revised its national AI adoption target upwards, from 16% to 21% by 2030, in response to positive developments. The country recorded significant recent progress, with enterprise AI usage nearly doubling to 11.26% in 2024, closely approaching the EU average (13.48%). Nonetheless, the adoption gap between SMEs and large enterprises reflects EU-level disparities.

To support the ambitious AI adoption goal, Czechia introduced several targeted measures. Notably, the implementation of the 'National AI Strategy' explicitly addresses barriers such as limited SME awareness, high implementation costs, and skill shortages, providing tailored information tools, training, and affordable AI experimentation platforms for SMEs.

On AI, Czechia contributes to the OpenEuroLLM project, coordinated by Charles University, a flagship consortium funded under the Digital Europe Programme (EUR 37.4 million), which aims to develop multilingual open-source large language models. The project has received the prestigious Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP) Seal.

In addition, dedicated initiatives under 'OP TAC ', including the Digital Enterprise Calls and DEEP TECH initiatives introduced by the adjusted roadmap, offer substantial incentives to support innovative AI solutions within SMEs and enterprises. Digital Enterprise – Call I targets the digital transformation of SMEs through investments in Industry 4.0 technologies, including ICT systems, cybersecurity, intra-company connectivity, and digital twins - enablers that lay the groundwork for broader AI adoption. With EUR 40.18 million (CZK 1 billion) allocated under this call and significant interest shown by over 670 applicants in 2024, the measure has proven to be particularly attractive within the OP TAC framework.

Meanwhile, 'DEEP TECH – Call III' explicitly supports AI-focused industrial research and experimental development, alongside other deep tech areas such as Big Data, 5G, and semiconductors. Backed by EUR 120.53 million (CZK 3 billion), it aims to fund up to 160 high-impact projects delivering prototypes, functional samples, or digital solutions. This initiative is instrumental in driving the uptake of AI within Czech industry, with the potential for additional funding increases depending on demand. Together, these measures reinforce Czechia's ambition to strengthen its innovation base and accelerate AI deployment across the business sector.

These measures are strongly aligned with Czechia's ambitious AI objectives and sufficiently address the barriers that have been identified. Sustained momentum and targeted SME engagement are critical for success.

2024 recommendation on AI/Cloud/Data analytics uptake: review the mix of measures to support the adoption of advanced digital technologies, including AI, Cloud and big data to understand the decline in adoption. Stimulate the adoption of next generation cloud infrastructure and services by companies of all sizes, including by liaising with the Cloud IPCEI Exploitation office and/or the coordinators and the Member States participating in the IPCEI-CIS.

Czechia made some efforts to address the recommendation through new policy actions in 2024. Czechia has taken steps to strengthen the adoption of AI, cloud, and data analytics, particularly among

SMEs, through a more coherent mix of support measures introduced in the adjusted roadmap. While the country still lags behind the EU average in all three areas, recent progress - especially in AI uptake, which nearly doubled in 2024 - is noteworthy. In response to the 2024 recommendation, Czechia introduced targeted measures such as the Digital Enterprise Calls and DEEP TECH initiatives under OP TAC, offering substantial financial incentives for projects involving AI, cloud computing, and data analytics. These calls are expected to generated high interest among SMEs and accelerate digital transformation, particularly through the adoption of Industry 4.0 technologies and support for advanced R&D. While no specific reference was made to engagement with the Cloud IPCEI Exploitation Office, measures addressing cloud uptake were clarified and reinforced within the roadmap. Overall, the actions taken in 2024 demonstrate a positive, albeit partial, response to the recommendation.

Unicorns, scale-ups and start-ups

In 2024, Czechia maintained a stable ecosystem of four unicorn companies. The roadmap sets out a realistic target aiming at the emergence of 6 unicorns by 2030. This figure reflects both the current situation and the strength of the domestic innovation ecosystem.

Over the years, Czechia's has introduced support programmes indirectly and directly supporting the reinforcement of the country's start-up environment and digital innovation capabilities. Notably, CzechInvest, the government's business and investment development agency, remains central to the country's support framework. Since 2011, CzechInvest has supported around 680 start-ups domestically and 232 abroad, providing comprehensive assistance including funding, mentoring, consulting, training, networking, and facilitating connections between local and international investors.

Under the ongoing 'Technology Incubation Programme' (2022-2027), CzechInvest is targeting to support at least 250 innovative start-ups, with an allocated budget of EUR 25.6 million. As of early 2025, the programme has already supported 137 start-ups, reflecting solid implementation progress.

At the same time, the 'Akcelerace startupů' Programme, launched in 2024 specifically aims at the expansion of start-ups. The programme has a budget of EUR 8.5 million, intended to support at least 100 companies across diverse sectors. CzechInvest further promotes sector-specific innovation, such as through the European Space Agency Business Incubation Centre (ESA BIC), and the NATO's DIANA initiative, which fosters emerging and disruptive dual-use technologies.

In response to longstanding concerns regarding access to finance - particularly the shortage of angel investors and venture capital funding - Czech authorities introduced targeted financing instruments. A notable measure is the Fund of Funds under the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), launched in 2024 to catalyse private investments by reducing risks and improving access to pre-seed and seed funding, especially in strategic technology areas such as AI, Big Data, quantum computing, and Edge computing.

In addition, the 'Internationalisation Programme', launched in June 2024 under CzechInvest, supports Czech start-ups in entering international markets, providing financial resources, tailored mentoring, and strategic assistance to facilitate their global expansion.

Despite these initiatives, barriers remain prominent. Czechia continues to exhibit a relatively shallow venture capital market, limiting domestic start-ups' access to critical growth-stage financing. In 2023, total venture capital investments in Czech start-ups amounted to EUR 456 million, while the average

median pre-seed investment stood at EUR 960 000, highlighting modest initial funding levels compared to more developed ecosystems. Moreover, Czech entrepreneurs consistently identify a substantial gap between fundamental research and market-ready product development, often resulting in innovative projects remaining confined to research institutions due to insufficient early-stage funding.

The Czech start-up environment nonetheless shows strong fundamentals and attractiveness for investors. With over 3 000 active start-ups, representing about 5% of national GDP, and approximately 100 venture capital funds operating domestically, the ecosystem remains vibrant and internationally connected. According to the Startup Blink Global Ranking 2023, Czechia ranked 35th globally, demonstrating international competitiveness despite acknowledged financing challenges. Governmental efforts, supported by EU funds, regional aid programmes, and targeted initiatives such as the Technology Incubation Programme continue to enhance the business climate and investment appeal.
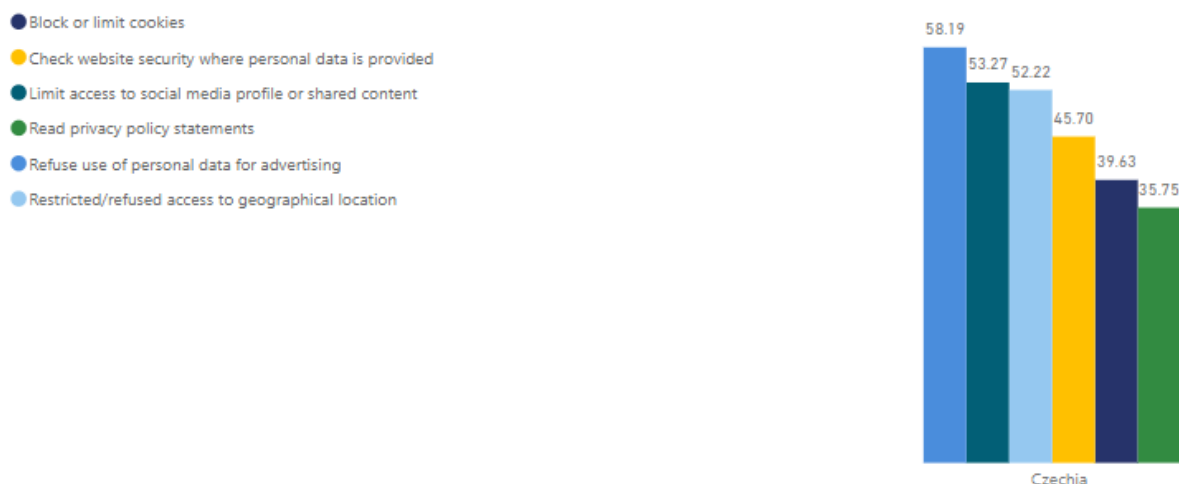
2024 recommendation on Unicorns: Support applied research for patents and ideas to be adapted to the market and create a business case for innovation; Facilitate access to capital for startups, including venture and growth capital.

Czechia made some efforts to address the recommendation through new policy actions in 2024. Czechia maintains a dynamic start-up ecosystem with solid fundamentals, though it continues to confront structural challenges, particularly related to access to scaling-up finance. Ongoing governmental measures effectively address some barriers, but continued strategic engagement, targeted support measures, and intensified efforts to attract private and international venture capital investments remain essential in achieving Czechia's full innovation potential by 2030.

Strengthening Cybersecurity & Resilience

In Czechia, approximately 4 out of 5 (81.98%) individuals reported taking at least one action to safeguard their personal data online in 2023, standing considerably above the EU average of 69.55%. More specifically, at national level, over half (57.31%) undertook three or more actions (and therefore could be considered as having above basic digital safety skills). Refusing the use of personal data for advertising purposes was the most common action, indicated by 58.19% of individuals, while reading privacy policy statements was the least common, undertaken by 35.75% of individuals.

Type of activities to protect personal data online (% of individuals)

- ● Block or limit cookies
- ● Check website security where personal data is provided
- ● Limit access to social media profile or shared content
- ● Read privacy policy statements
- ● Refuse use of personal data for advertising
- ● Restricted/refused access to geographical location

58.19 53.27 52.22 45.70 39.63 35.75

Czechia

In terms of enterprise cybersecurity, Czech businesses face a slightly higher occurrence of ICT-related security incidents compared to the EU average. In 2024, approximately 4.49% of Czech enterprises experienced ICT security incidents leading to unavailability of services due to external attacks such as ransomware or denial-of-service, compared to the EU average of 3.43%. Despite this challenge, Czech enterprises demonstrate strong awareness and preparedness. Around 92.08% of enterprises implement some form of ICT security measures (EU: 92.76%), and notably, 77.47% actively educate their employees on ICT security obligations, significantly exceeding the EU average of 59.97%. In addition, Czechia continues to make progress in deploying critical internet standards, with IPv6 deployment reaching 22% among end users and 37% on servers as of Q3-2024, demonstrating positive steps towards ensuring scalable and secure internet infrastructure.

When it comes to EU legislation, Czechia has not yet completed the transposition of the NIS2 Directive.

Czechia continues to emphasise cybersecurity as a strategic priority, particularly in the light of increased threats stemming from the geopolitical context, notably Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. The overall cybersecurity policy framework is currently guided by the National Cybersecurity Strategy and its associated Action Plan. This strategy comprehensively targets cybersecurity resilience across public administration, enterprises, and critical sectors including healthcare and infrastructure. Recognising the evolving threat landscape, Czech authorities started work in 2023 to update the National Cybersecurity Strategy. Contributions have been gathered from both private and public stakeholders, and the strategy is currently under preparation, with adoption expected by the end of 2025. An accompanying Action Plan detailing specific measures and timelines is planned following the adoption of the Strategy.

In addition, Czechia continues the implementation of the EU 5G Cybersecurity Toolbox, identified in the 2024 report as an essential step for safeguarding digital infrastructure. This effort contributes significantly to securing resilient communication networks and mitigating risks associated with emerging technologies and threats.

The adjusted roadmap recognises the growing cybersecurity challenges Czechia faces, particularly in healthcare and critical public infrastructure sectors. Increased budget allocations signify responsiveness to the heightened risk landscape. Nonetheless, more transparent and clearly defined funding mechanisms, explicitly tied to identified priorities and threats, are necessary to ensure robust cybersecurity defences.

Czechia exhibits a strong overall cybersecurity awareness among its population and enterprises, coupled with proactive policy measures and strategic foresight. However, timely transposition of the NIS2 Directive and increased clarity regarding cybersecurity budget allocations remain critical. Continued vigilance, comprehensive stakeholder engagement in the ongoing strategy development, and alignment with EU cybersecurity initiatives will be pivotal in reinforcing Czechia's digital resilience by 2030.

The 2025 Eurobarometer shows that 71% of Czech respondents believe that improved cybersecurity and better protection of online data would significantly facilitate their daily use of digital technologies, below the EU average of 81.

2024 recommendation on cybersecurity: Continue the implementation of the 5G Cybersecurity Toolbox to ensure secure and resilient 5G networks.

In 2024, Czechia continued the implementation of existing measures but did not take any new measures.

Protecting and empowering EU people and society

Empowering people and bringing the digital transformation closer to their needs

Czechia's digital transition strategy places strong emphasis on inclusiveness, with notable progress in digital skills across most population groups and limited gender, geographic, and educational divides. While younger and formally educated individuals show high levels of digital proficiency, older populations remain underserved, prompting targeted outreach through libraries and community-based training. The adjusted roadmap continues to prioritise digital education reforms and ICT workforce development, with expanded programmes for upskilling and initiatives to boost women's participation in tech.

Digital public services are becoming increasingly user-friendly and accessible, and the eID and e-Health ecosystems are advancing, albeit from a lower base. At the same time, Czechia's digital democracy indicators remain below the EU average, with low civic participation online and limited

fact-checking of disinformation. These challenges point to the need for further efforts to foster trust, resilience, and critical thinking in the digital environment.

According to the 2025 Eurobarometer, 79% of respondents in Czechia believe that digital technologies will be important for accessing public services online by 2030 (EU average of 84%). The 2025 Eurobarometer also shows that 69% of people in Czechia believe that human support to help access and use digital technologies and services would significantly facilitate their daily digital use - compared to 77% at EU level. In line with this, **81% of respondents in Czechia consider it important that public authorities ensure proper human support to accompany the digital transformation in people's lives**.
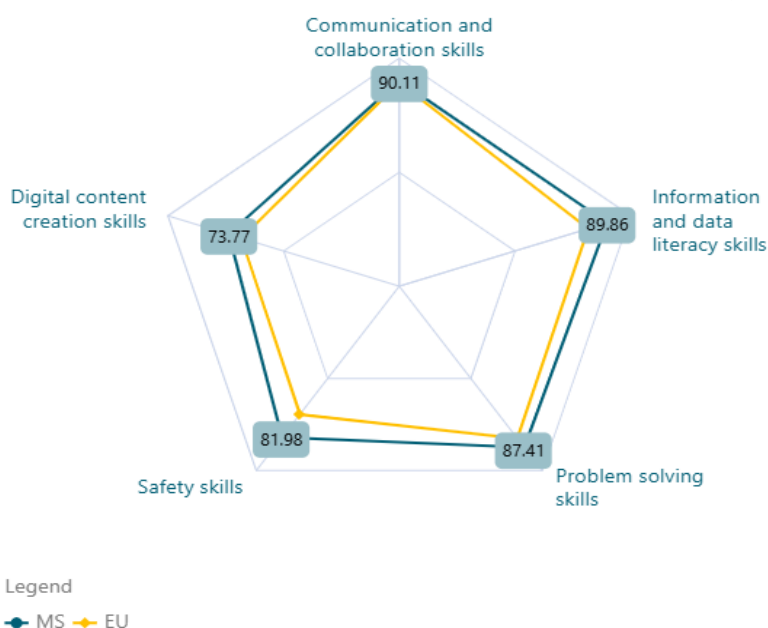
Equipping people with digital skills

Basic Digital Skills

In 2023, Czechia stood out with a robust 69.11% of its population possessing at least basic digital skills, comfortably ahead of the EU average of 55.56%. There will be no new data collection in 2024 but a closer look at the data reveals:

- **Gender Gap**: The gender gap in digital skills is remarkably narrow in Czechia, with 69.48% of males and 68.77% of females equipped with at least basic digital skills, creating a minor gap of only 0.71 percentage points. This is significantly lower than the EU average gap of 2.23pp.

- **Education Level:** Impressive strides have been made in education, as those with high formal education have a digital proficiency rate of 92.39%, which is well above the EU average of 79.83%. For those with no or low formal education, the rate stands at 58.58%, and the gap between this group and the national average is a modest 10.53pp, smaller than the EU average gap of 21.95pp.

- **Living Areas:** In rural areas, 65.52% of residents have at least basic digital skills, surpassing the EU average for rural areas of 47.50%. The difference between rural and other areas in Czechia is 3.59pp, indicating a less pronounced digital divide compared to the EU average gap of 8.06pp.

- **Age Groups**: Youth digital proficiency is exceptionally high, with 92.71% of 16 to 24-year-olds having at least basic digital skills, way over the EU average of 69.98%. However,

Digital Skills Index components
% of individuals

Communication and collaboration skills 90.11

Information and data literacy skills 89.86

Problem solving skills 87.41

Safety skills 81.98

Digital content creation skills 73.77

Legend
MS   EU

the older age group of 65 to 74 years has a lower proficiency at 25.63%, which is below the EU average of 28.19%.

- **Digital Skills Index Components:** Czechia's performance in the Digital Skills Index is very good, scoring above the EU average in all five skills. Communication and collaboration skills are at 90.11%, nearly on par with the EU average of 89.33%, and even the lowest score in digital content creation at 73.77% beats the EU average of 68.28%.

In summary, Czechia's digital literacy is strong across various demographics, with minimal gaps in gender and rural-urban distribution, and high levels of digital skills among those with formal education. While the older population's digital proficiency lags, Czechia's overall performance in the Digital Skills Index suggests a solid foundation on which to build even more inclusive digital competency initiatives for all age groups.

Czechia continues to demonstrate strong progress toward the Digital Decade target for basic digital skills. While the adjusted roadmap did not introduce new measures, the government has opted to continue implementing existing initiatives - particularly within the education sector - while exploring targeted solutions for digitally excluded groups.

Efforts in the formal education system remain central to Czechia's approach. A relevant overhaul of the national curricula is underway. The aim is to embed digital skills, including AI literacy, cybersecurity, and digital well-being into primary education. Czech authorities plan a compulsory introduction of the changes as of the 2027-2028 academic year.

Alongside this, teachers are being supported through methodological guidance, training opportunities, and consultations, all with the goal of fostering long-term, system-wide digital capacity in schools.

In terms of inclusion, Czechia has acknowledged the persistent digital divide affecting older age groups. To address this, new initiatives have emerged beyond the formal education system. In 2024, a memorandum of cooperation was signed between libraries, universities, and public institutions, aiming to deliver digital skills training through accessible community spaces such as public libraries. These actors are well positioned to reach older and digitally excluded populations, which are estimated to number around one million.

While these measures do not yet constitute a comprehensive new strategy, they mark a growing recognition of the need for targeted inclusion policies. This is especially the case for older people and other underserved groups. Czechia's strong baseline performance provides a solid foundation, but sustained outreach will be needed to ensure that digital proficiency becomes universal and future-proof across all layers of society.

ICT specialists

Czechia's performance in ICT training and ICT specialists shows a mixed picture when compared to the EU average.

Regarding ICT specialists, Czechia's total percentage of ICT specialists as a share of total employment was 4.3% in 2023 and 4.5% in 2024, both standing lower than the EU's 4.8% and 5.0%, respectively. However, Czechia's growth rate of 4.7% outpaced the EU's 4.2%. The percentage of women ICT specialists in Czechia was 12.4% in 2023 and 13.0% in 2024, below the EU's 19.4% and 19.5%, respectively. That said, Czechia's growth rate of 4.8% for women ICT specialists was notably higher than the EU's 0.5%.

In 2022, 23.08% of enterprises with 10 or more employees in Czechia provided ICT training, surpassing the EU's 22.37%. This trend continued in 2024, with 26.74% of Czech enterprises offering ICT training, compared to the EU's 22.29%. The annual growth rate for enterprises providing ICT training in Czechia was 7.6%, significantly higher than the EU's -0.2%.

Czechia demonstrates a strong commitment to ICT training, with a higher percentage of enterprises offering such training compared to the EU average and a robust annual growth rate. However, the country lags behind the EU in the overall percentage of ICT specialists and the representation of women ICT specialists. Despite this, Czechia's growth rates in these areas are encouraging, indicating a positive trajectory. Czechia's efforts in promoting ICT training are commendable, with a higher percentage of enterprises engaged in this activity and a strong annual growth rate.

To date, the country falls short of its national trajectory. To further enhance its ICT landscape, Czechia should focus on increasing the overall percentage of ICT specialists and, more importantly, the representation of women ICT specialists. The country's higher growth rates in these areas suggest that targeted initiatives could yield significant improvements, aligning Czechia more closely with the EU average.

Labour market demand for ICT professionals in Czechia is overall in line with the EU average across nearly all occupational profiles with some exceptions. For instance, 11% of online job postings in Czechia targeted ICT service managers, compared to just 3.8% EU-wide, indicating a high demand for leadership and strategic ICT roles. Similarly, software and applications developers and analysts accounted for 64.5% of job postings, slightly above the EU average of 58%. While demand for database and network professionals and ICT support technicians is slightly below EU averages (7.9% and 10.3%, respectively), the difference is marginal. However, Czechia has low demand for telecommunications and broadcasting technicians (0.2%) and electronics and telecom installers and repairers (0.7%).

Czechia's target for ICT specialists remains set at 7% of the employed population by 2030, below the EU-level target of 10%. While this reflects a cautious approach in the light of a relatively low starting point (4.3% in 2023), it also illustrates a missed opportunity to align with rising demand trends.

The adjusted roadmap strengthens the focus on ICT workforce development, especially in higher education. Measures aim to reduce dropout rates in ICT tertiary programmes and encourage closer collaboration between secondary schools and higher education institutions.

Furthermore, reskilling and upskilling measures have been expanded through national employment support programmes. An important initiative is the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs' (MPSV) 'e-shop for digital skills', offering individuals direct access to certified training opportunities, from basic to specialised ICT skills. Another tool, 'NPO – Digi for a firm', supports company-level digital skills development. These programmes aim to reach at least 130 000 individuals by 2025, with a total allocation of approximately €261 million (CZK 6.5 billion). While these are promising developments, long-term success depends on systemic integration and sustained funding.

The 2024 report highlighted the need for a more ambitious approach to meet EU targets. While Czechia continues to lag in terms of target setting, it has acted on recommendations by enhancing flexibility in continuing education, deploying new training programmes, and preparing curriculum updates in regional and secondary education. These reforms are expected to show more clearly their impact closer to 2030.

T**he adjusted roadmap updates Measure on 'Taking into account ICT/Cybersecurity', introducing awareness campaigns and school outreach to increase women's participation in ICT and**

cybersecurity. Initiatives such as summer camps led by non-profits, coordination with organisations like 'Czechitas', and events like 'Digital Czech Week' are designed to boost visibility and interest among girls and young women. Additional actions include the 'IT is for Girls' programme, where ICT professionals visit schools to inspire the next generation.

Several measures in the adjusted roadmap and ongoing programmes also target high-level digital professionals. The expansion of professionally oriented higher education programmes, including in cybersecurity and AI, and in synergy with the upcoming National Cybersecurity Strategy, which is expected to prioritise cybersecurity skills and capacity building.

Beyond the formal roadmap, Czechia is seeing a broader mobilisation of actors around ICT talent development. The establishment of regional training centres under the Czech Labour Office marks a decentralised approach to boosting digital capabilities.

2024 recommendation on ICT Specialists: increase the attractiveness of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) studies and ICT careers especially among women.

The country addressed fully the recommendation by putting significant policy actions into place in 2024. Czechia has put in place multiple initiatives specifically aimed at increasing the attractiveness of STEM disciplines, placing particular effort in targeting women.

Key digital public services and solutions – trusted, user-friendly, and accessible to all

Czechia's digital public services and access to e-Health records have shown a mixed performance compared to the EU average, with notable improvements in growth rates across various categories. In 2023, Czechia's total score for digital public services for its population was 76.33, lagging behind the EU's 79.44. However, by 2024, Czechia's score improved to 81.46, still below the EU's 82.32. The growth rate for this category in Czechia was 6.7%, significantly higher than the EU's 3.6%. For cross-border digital public services for its population, Czechia's score was 63.78 in 2023 and 72.9 in 2024, surpassing the EU's 71.28 in 2024. Czechia's growth rate of 14.3% in this area outpaced the EU's 4.3%.

In the realm of digital public services for businesses, Czechia's total score was 83.75 in 2023 and 86.25 in 2024, slightly below the EU's 85.42 in 2023 but higher than the EU's 86.23 in 2024. Czechia's growth rate of 3.0% exceeded the EU's 0.9%. For cross-border digital public services for businesses, Czechia's score was 67.5 in 2023 and 72.5 in 2024, both standing lower than the EU's 73.13 and 73.76, respectively. However, Czechia's growth rate of 7.4% was substantially higher than the EU's 0.9%.

Regarding access to e-Health records, Czechia's total score was 51.06 in 2023 and 77.38 in 2024, both significantly lower than the EU's 79.12 and 82.70, respectively. Nevertheless, Czechia's growth rate of 51.6% was remarkably higher than the EU's 4.5%.

Czechia's digital public services and access to e-Health records have shown a path of improvement, with growth rates consistently outpacing the EU average. While Czechia's scores in these areas are generally lower than the EU average, the country's rapid growth rates indicate a promising direction. The most significant improvements are seen in cross-border digital public services for its population and access to e-Health records, where Czechia's growth rates are substantially higher than the EU's.

To further enhance digital public services and access to e-Health records, Czechia should focus on leveraging its strong growth rates to close the gap with the EU average. Policies aimed at sustaining

and accelerating this growth could lead to significant improvements in these areas. In addition, targeted investments in cross-border digital public services for businesses could help Czechia achieve higher scores in this category. Overall, Czechia's digital public services and access to e-Health records are on a positive path, with growth rates indicating a promising future.

e-ID

There have been no significant changes regarding the overall implementation approach for the EU Digital Identity Wallet (EUDIW) since the previous roadmap. However, the adjusted roadmap introduces a new measure aimed at creating a platform to support the deployment of the EUDIW across Czechia. The platform is expected to facilitate the adaptation of government systems and ensure interoperability with the EUDIW framework, with deployment planned between 2025 and 2026.

Parallel to this, Czechia continues to pilot its own national wallet solution, which currently has around 600 active users. While this application is still limited in scope - supporting only specific types of verifications - it forms the foundation for future integration with the European wallet ecosystem.

Overall, Czechia registered a negative trend in the share of e-Government users within the population, which fell from 86.02% in 2022, to 78.52% in 2024.

Digitalisation of public services for citizens and businesses

The adjusted roadmap introduces several new measures aimed at enhancing digital public services and addressing administrative complexity. The newly established Competence Centres under the Digital Information Agency (DIA) play a central role in supporting public sector bodies in their digital transformation efforts. These centres provide expert guidance, promote reusable solutions, and offer methodological and project management assistance - primarily at the central level - but open to all levels of public administration. This systemic approach is expected to improve the quality and efficiency of digital service provision.

Complementing this, the ROPIM reform (Reform for optimisation, implementation and methodological management of digitalised services including their capacity planning and communication of information to client public administration) aims to streamline service design and delivery through better capacity planning and enhanced communication with end users. Other notable initiatives include the creation of a Dataset Management System (DSMS) for improved data governance, and the Election Management Information System (ISSV), which aims to digitalise election-related administrative procedures, laying the groundwork for a common digital electoral process.

Overall, Czechia remains committed to the modernisation of its digital public services. Digitalisation is also seen as a key enabler of administrative simplification. The 'Only Once' principle and interoperable system development are actively promoted through the national legal framework and supported by the architectural planning team within the Digital and Information Agency (DIA). A growing network of 'Czech Points' provides in-person assistance across the country to promote uptake, particularly among digitally less engaged populations. In addition, efforts are underway to federate local and sectoral portals, and although not all activities are formalised in the roadmap, they contribute significantly to service accessibility and coherence.

While progress is uneven across different ministries and user groups, the strategic direction is increasingly aligned with Digital Decade goals. Continued support for local governments, broader public engagement, and further mobile access expansion - particularly via the Citizen's Portal - will be critical to maintaining momentum and fostering inclusive access to digital public services.

Czechia

2024 recommendation on Digitalisation of public services: Accelerate efforts for the digitalisation of public services, also ensuring sufficient administrative resources to support these.

Czechia made some efforts to address the recommendation through new policy actions in 2024. Czechia continued its steady advancement in the digitalisation of public services in 2024, with measurable improvements in services for both businesses and citizens. Several new policy actions were introduced in the adjusted roadmap. Most notably, the establishment of Competence Centres under the Digital Information Agency (DIA) and the launch of the ROPIM reform signal a stronger institutional focus on service quality, administrative capacity, and user-centric design.

e-Health

Czechia continues to show notable progress in the digitalisation of healthcare services, albeit from a relatively low baseline. While the overall level of development in this area remains below the EU average, recent improvements - particularly in access to electronic health records - demonstrate a clear upward trajectory.

Despite this encouraging trend, challenges remain. Czechia's decentralised healthcare system, where hospitals retain responsibility for their own digital infrastructure, poses limitations in terms of interoperability and consistent data quality.

To address these remaining challenges - particularly the limitations posed by a decentralised healthcare system and fragmented data infrastructure - Czechia plans to channel part of the EU Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) funds to the National Health Information Portal, managed by the Ministry of Health. These funds will support both central digitalisation projects (NPO) and regional initiatives (NPO/IROP), including those led by hospitals and emergency medical services. A key focus is on strengthening interoperability and improving access to medical records for both patients and healthcare providers.

The adjusted roadmap does not introduce any new e-Health-specific measures. However, the implementation of measures focused on developing Czechia's central e-Health infrastructure is nearing completion and considered a critical enabler for broader digital transformation in healthcare. The infrastructure is expected to provide the computing power and secure data storage needed for key health data use cases. In 2025-2026, it is expected to support further digitalisation efforts across the healthcare system. Success will be assessed through operational indicators such as system responsiveness and integration capacity.

Looking ahead, Czechia's rapid growth in e-Health metrics - particularly in cross-border services and e-Health Records access - signals a positive direction. To sustain this momentum, continued investment, stronger system interoperability, and user-friendly access for citizens will be essential.

2024 recommendation on e-Health: Expand the coverage of the online access service to ensure that all citizens can access their electronic health data online. Expand the data types made available to citizens through the online access service. Increase the supply of health data by onboarding more categories of healthcare providers.

In 2024, Czechia continued the implementation of existing measures but did not take any new measure. Czechia has demonstrated notable progress in expanding access to electronic health data. While no new e-Health-specific measures were introduced in the adjusted roadmap, key implementation steps are underway to enhance system-wide access to e-Health records.

Building a safe and human centric digital environment and preserving our democracy

In terms of digital participation, Czechia shows relatively limited engagement compared to the EU average. In 2024, 8.64% of Czechs took part in online consultations or voted to define civic or political issues - such as urban planning or signing petitions - compared to 10.05% across the EU. This marks a slight increase from 8.10% in 2023 but remains well below the EU average. When it comes to expressing opinions on civic or political matters via websites or social media platforms like Facebook or X, only 8.02% of Czechs engaged in such activities in 2024, significantly below the EU average of 16.48%. This continues a downward trend from 9.00% in 2022 and 7.88% in 2023.

As a result, overall online civic or political participation in Czechia - defined as the combination of these two forms of engagement - stood at just 12.43% in 2024, substantially lower than the EU average of 20.45%. While participation has remained relatively stable in Czechia over the past three years (12.16% in 2022 and 11.87% in 2023), the widening gap with the EU average points to the need for stronger national efforts to foster digital civic engagement, particularly among underrepresented groups.

According to the 2025 Eurobarometer, a strong majority of Czech respondents believe that protecting children online is a matter of high urgency. Specifically, 89% consider urgent action necessary to address the negative impact of social media on children's mental health, and 87% say the same regarding cyberbullying and online harassment. Furthermore, 86% support urgent action to implement age assurance mechanisms to restrict access to age-inappropriate content.

At the same time, 75% of Czech respondents consider it important for public authorities to shape the development of artificial intelligence and new digital technologies in a way that respects fundamental rights and values (EU average of 83%).

In 2023, 61.44% of individuals in Czechia reported having encountered untrue or doubtful content online, a figure well above the EU average of 49.25%. However, only 23.75% of these individuals fact-checked the information. Therefore, according to the survey, although quite a significant share of Czechs came across dubious content, their efforts to verify it were relatively low. Young people (16-24) (67%) and adults (25-64) (66.42%) had the same likelihood of identifying untrue or doubtful content, though their verification rates varied, at 35.98% for young people and 25.28% for adults.

In conclusion, the 2023 data on online interactions in Czechia reveals a high prevalence of potentially misleading information, with a significant proportion of individuals encountering perceived untrue or doubtful content online. However, despite this, most individuals did not verify the accuracy of the information, highlighting a gap in critical thinking and digital literacy skills.

Leveraging digital transformation for a smart greening

Czechia has increasingly recognised the need to link the green and digital transitions. While the topic is gradually gaining visibility, it has yet to become a clearly prioritised dimension across national digital policy. A dedicated section has been added under the general objectives of the Digital Decade

roadmap, but the adjusted roadmap does not introduce fully-fledged measures in this area. Efforts remain fragmented, and no structured or coherent strategy specifically addresses the environmental impact of digitalisation, as already recommended in the 2024 Digital Decade report.

One key development is the adoption of new energy efficiency obligations for data centres, which entered into force in 2024. These obligations, outlined in Act No 469/2023 Coll. (Energy Act), introduce differentiated requirements for data centres based on their power input. Facilities over 500 kW must report data on energy and water consumption and the reuse of waste heat, while those exceeding 1 MW are required to ensure the recovery of waste heat for district heating or other energy purposes. These provisions represent an important step towards aligning digital infrastructure with sustainability goals. Their implementation will help generate the first consistent datasets on the environmental footprint of digital infrastructures in Czechia. However, there are no dedicated studies or observatories tracking the digital sector's full environmental footprint, leaving room for more systematic assessments.

At the level of households, Czechia ranks significantly above the EU average in recycling ICT equipment. According to the 2024 data, 23.27% of individuals reported recycling old desktop computers (compared to the EU average of 14.66%), while 17.81% recycled mobile phones or smartphones (EU: 10.93%), and 15.07% recycled laptops or tablets (EU: 11.31%). These figures suggest a relatively strong culture of device recycling among Czechs, an important trend given that most the digital sector's carbon footprint stems from the production and disposal of devices.

Despite these positive signals, the adjusted roadmap does not include any new policy measures or targets related to digital sustainability. Czechia has yet to adopt a structured policy to monitor emissions, energy use, or life cycle impacts of digital technologies beyond the newly introduced obligations for data centres.

That said, **several initiatives highlight the potential of digital technologies in supporting the green transition**. These include the 2025-2030 National Action Plan for Smart Grids, which promotes the integration of ICT into energy systems to enhance efficiency and integrate renewables, as well as AI mapping tools to identify optimal locations for renewable infrastructure. Digital tools are also being used to improve environmental monitoring. For instance, the SoilPAss knowledge portal simulates expert surveys to assess soil hygiene, and a new interactive database developed by the Czech University of Life Sciences will support climate adaptation planning based on geospatial data and risk assessments.

Although promising, these examples remain scattered. To fully leverage the twin transitions, Czechia will need to put into practice these initiatives through a comprehensive digital sustainability strategy and ensure that digitalisation is systematically integrated into the green transition, as recommended in the 2024 Digital Decade report.

According to the 2025 Eurobarometer, **62% of Czech respondents believe that digital technologies will play an important role in helping to fight climate change** - such as through apps tracking personal emissions or supporting online meetings compared to the EU average of 74%. At the same time, 70% of Czech respondents believe that ensuring digital technologies support the green transition should be an important priority for public authorities, as compared to 80% of the EU average.

2024 recommendation on Leveraging digital transformation for a smart greening: Develop a coherent approach to twinning the digital and green transitions. First, promote improvements in energy and material efficiency of digital infrastructures, in particular data centres; Second, support the development and deployment of digital solutions that reduce the carbon footprint in other sectors, such as energy, transport, buildings, and agriculture, including the uptake of such solutions by SMEs. Monitor and quantify the emission reductions of the deployed digital solutions in line with the relevant EU guidance and the methodology developed by the European Green Digital Coalition, in view of future policy development, as well as of attracting relevant financing.

Czechia made some efforts to address the recommendation through new policy actions in 2024. Czechia adopted binding energy efficiency obligations for data centres in 2024, marking a first step towards aligning digital infrastructure with sustainability goals. However, the adjusted roadmap does not introduce a coherent set of measures to operationalise the twin transition. Efforts remain fragmented, with no systematic monitoring of the environmental footprint of digital technologies or support measures to scale green digital solutions across sectors, as recommended.

Annex I – National roadmap analysis

Czechia's national Digital Decade strategic roadmap

Czechia's 2025 roadmap adjustment presents a more mature and strategically grounded approach compared to the 2023 version. It introduces new and revised targets, strengthens measures across key areas such as enterprise digitalisation and emerging technologies, and shows improved alignment with EU strategic priorities including the Digital Decade and broader sovereignty objectives. While not all gaps are closed, the update marks clear progress in terms of policy depth, sectoral coverage, and political commitment.

The adjusted Czech roadmap demonstrates tangible progress in addressing several key recommendations outlined in the 2024 State of the Digital Decade Report, particularly in the areas of target setting, SME digitalisation, and support for advanced technologies. **Czechia has now formalised important missing targets such as for FTTP and edge nodes, directly responding to the recommendation to clarify trajectories and better align ambitions with EU goals.**

The roadmap also strengthens its support for the digitalisation of enterprises - especially SMEs - through the introduction of substantial and well-targeted funding measures.

In terms of ambition, some new or adjusted targets remain relatively cautious when compared to EU-level objectives. For instance, the FTTP coverage target is now set at 60% by 2030 - well below the EU ambition of full gigabit coverage - but appears realistic given Czechia's relatively low starting point and recent acceleration in roll-out. Similarly, the ICT specialists target remains modest at 7% of the workforce (versus the EU's 10%), reflecting a pragmatic view of national constraints but also signalling limited ambition in this area. By contrast, the targets related to 5G (100% coverage by 2030), shows stronger alignment with the EU benchmark.

Overall, Czechia can count on 58 measures introduced by 2023 and adjusted version of its national strategic roadmap, representing a total financial commitment of EUR 2.26 billion (0.71% of Czechia's GDP in 2024).

Measures and budget in the national roadmap[6]
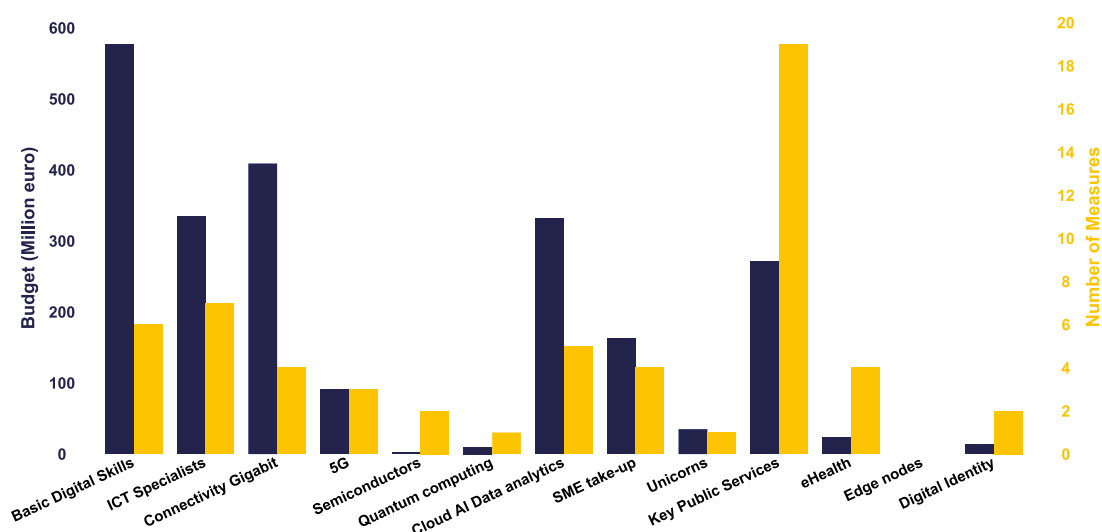
In terms of adequacy, the roadmap shows important strengths, notably the strong alignment with EU objectives in emerging technologies (AI, quantum), and a reinforced support structure for SME digitalisation. However, several weaknesses persist. There is insufficient coverage of lagging areas such as FTTP in rural zones, the ambition remains low in key targets like ICT specialists and additional efforts could be made in supporting the twin digital-green transition. While most measures are well designed, their successful implementation will hinge on sustained funding, inter-ministerial coordination, and strong local engagement.

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[6] When referring to national roadmaps, data used in this report are those declared by the Member States in their national roadmaps, on the basis of the Commission's guidance (C(2023) 4025 final). Data might reflect possible variations in reporting practices and methodological choices across Member States. No systematic assessment of the extent to which Member States followed the guidance was carried out.

Annex II – Factsheet on multi-country projects (MCPs) and funding

Multi-country projects and best practices

Czechia is a member of the Alliance for Language Technologies EDIC and of the Local Digital Twins towards the CitiVERSE EDIC. Czechia is also working towards setting up an EDIC in the area of genomics. Czechia is directly participating in the IPCEI on Microelectronics and Communication Technologies (IPCEI-ME/CT). Czechia is a participating state of the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking (JU) and of the Chips JU.

Czechia also contributes to the Digital Decade's Best Practices Accelerator through its flagship initiative Czech Digital Week 2023, presented within the Digital Skills Cluster. The nationwide event mobilised over 120 public activities across all 13 regions, including lectures, workshops, and seminars tailored to different audiences - ranging from youth to seniors. Focusing on topics such as AI, internet safety, and women in ICT, the initiative demonstrated a strong commitment to digital inclusion, empowerment, and civic participation.

EU funding for digital policies in Czechia

Czechia allocates 23% of its total recovery and resilience plan to digital (EUR 1.9 billion)[7]. In addition, under cohesion policy, EUR 1.9 billion (representing 9% of the country's total cohesion policy funding), is dedicated to advancing Czechia's digital transformation[8]. According to JRC estimates, EUR 3.2 billion directly contribute to achieving Digital Decade targets (of which EUR 1.9 billion comes from the RRF and EUR 1.3 billion from cohesion policy funding)[9].**This funding is relatively well distributed across key priority areas.** Notably, the largest investments support digital public services (EUR 758 million), followed by measures supporting digital late adopters and the development of unicorns and scale-ups (each receiving EUR 411 million). Significant contributions also target basic digital skills (EUR 276 million), ICT specialists (EUR 184 million), and gigabit network coverage (EUR 409 million), supporting both infrastructure and human capital development. Meanwhile, smaller but strategic allocations support cloud computing, AI, and data analytics, as well as e-Health records.

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[7] 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.

[8] 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.

[9] Joint Research Centre, Nepelski, D. and Torrecillas, J. Mapping EU level funding instruments 2021-2027 to Digital Decade targets – 2025 update, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2025, JRC141966. Last data update: 10 March 2025.

Annex III – Digital Rights and Principles[10]
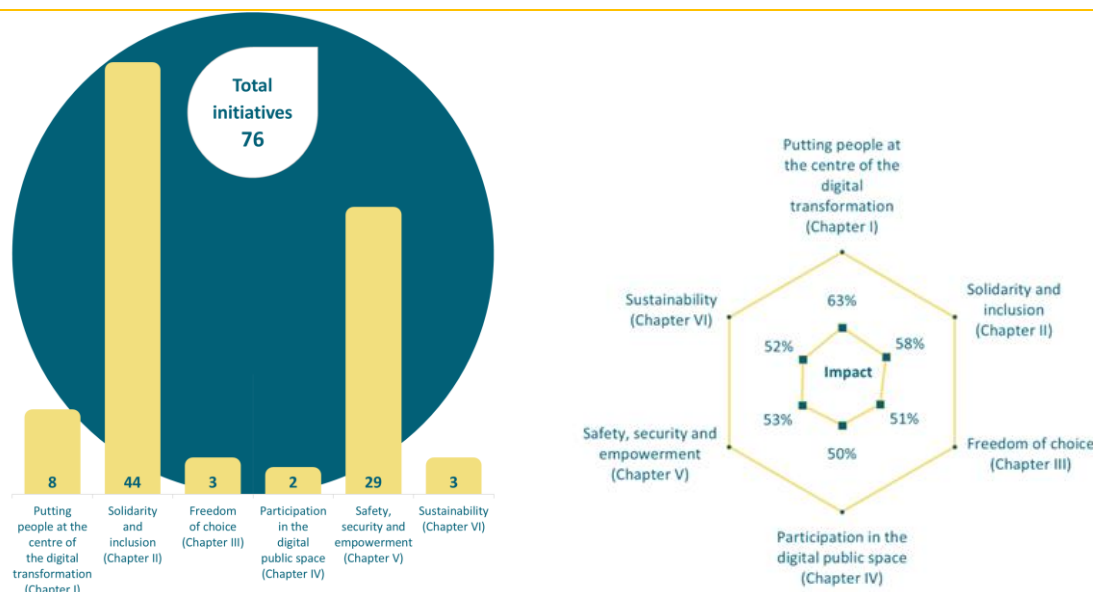
Activity on Digital Rights and Principles (figure 1)

Czechia has been relatively active in implementing digital rights and principles, with 76 initiatives overall and 9 new initiatives launched in 2024, showing notable progress towards its commitments. Czechia is most active in the area of Digital education, training and skills (II). There is room for improvement, especially with regards to Fair and just working conditions (II) and A fair digital environment (III) where less activity has been identified.

Impact of Digital Rights Initiatives (figure 2)

Quantitative impact indicators, developed by the support study, illustrate the level of implementation of digital rights initiatives on the ground. Based on available data, they estimate the impact of measures implemented by key stakeholders in Czechia (mainly national government) and how these are perceived by citizens.

The indicators suggest that Czechia is most successful in implementing commitments related to Putting people at the centre of the digital transformation (I). Czechia should strengthen efforts in areas where the impact of digital rights initiatives appears to be limited, notably on Participation in the digital public space (IV).

According to the Special Eurobarometer 'Digital Decade 2025', 44% of citizens in Czechia think that the EU protects their digital rights well (no evolution since 2024). This corresponds to the EU average of 44%. Citizens are particularly confident about getting basic and advanced digital education, training and skills and getting more freedom of expression and information online (55%, below the EU average of 60% for both). They are most worried that their right to a safe digital environment and content for children and young people is not well protected (52%, above the EU average of 48%).

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[10] Based on a study to support the Monitoring of the Implementation of the Declaration on Digital Rights and Principles, available here. For a more detailed country factsheet accompanying the study, click here.