

2030 Digital Compass: The European way for the Digital Decade

Digital technologies are now imperative for working, learning, entertaining, socialising, shopping, and accessing everything from health services to culture. The Covid-19 pandemic changed our way of life and forced us to adapt to a more digitised way of life. In view of this, the European Commission has adopted a communication outlining the digital transformation in Europe until 2030 and how we can undertake this program. The EU aims to secure digital sovereignty by 2030, based on a common vision, clear goals, and principles.

Four cardinal points for mapping the EU's trajectory:

The Commission has proposed to translate the EU's digital ambitions for 2030 into concrete targets. The first two are focused on digital capacities in infrastructures and education and skills, and the two others are focused on digital transformation of business and public services.

1. A digitally skilled population and highly skilled digital professionals

The European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan projects the target for adults with at least basic digital skills to 80% in 2030. The acquisition of basic digital skills should be a right for all EU citizens and lifelong learning should become a reality. This would also empower citizens and create an even more digitally skilled workforce

This challenge requires massive investment to train future generations of workers and to up-skill and re-skill the workforce but at the end it will be a society with reliable services and products.

2. Secure and performant sustainable digital infrastructures

To become a digital leader on the global sphere, the EU needs to increase connectivity, focus on microelectronics, and increase its ability to process vast amounts of data, while also ensuring businesses and citizens are secure in a digital environment.

In light of this, the Commission is proposing the following targets:

- All European households will be covered by a Gigabit network, with all populated areas covered by 5G.
- To double the EU's production production of cutting-edge and sustainable semiconductors
- Data - Edge / Cloud: 10,000 climate neutral, highly secure, edge nodes will be deployed in the EU, distributed in a way that will guarantee access to data services with low latency (few milliseconds) wherever businesses are located.
- Quantum computing: By 2025, Europe will have its first computer with quantum acceleration paving the way for Europe to be at the cutting edge of quantum capabilities by 2030.

3. Digital transformation of businesses

The transformation of businesses will depend on the ability to adopt new digital technologies rapidly and across the board. Businesses should be encouraged to adopt digital technologies and products with lower environmental footprint and higher energy and material efficiency.

The potential of digitalisation transformation is based on five keys ecosystem: manufacturing, health, construction, agriculture, and mobility.

In 2030, it is expected that:

- 75% of European companies have taken up cloud computing services, big data and Artificial Intelligence.
- More than 90% of European SMEs reach at least a basic level of digital intensity.
- Europe will grow the pipeline of its innovative scale ups and improve their access to finance, leading to doubling the number of unicorns in Europe.

4. Digitalisation of public services

By 2030, the EU's objective is to ensure that public services online will be fully accessible for all citizens and businesses. New efficient services like e-voting, a government platform, AI and virtual reality will contribute to stimulate productivity gains by European business.

By 2030 it is expected that:

- 100% of key public services available for European citizens and businesses will be provided online.
- 100% of European citizens have access to medical records.
- 80% of citizens will use a digital ID solution.

The full text of the European Commission Communication can be found in the link below:

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:12e835e2-81af-11eb-9ac9-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC_1&format=PDF

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