

Fact sheet

IMCO - Committee on the Digital Age

Distinguished delegates,

*We are proud to welcome you to the **Committee on IMCO** and at the same time to the MEP Family. We look forward to meeting you all in the following days working together on tackling the issue of the digital single market.*

In order for both the committee and you individually to make the most of this session, it is very important that you do your research and familiarize yourself with the topic at hand. Try to gain an understanding of this multifaceted issue and do your best to consider it from different perspectives. In order to prepare you for the committee work, you'll find some information as well as some useful links on the next pages.

As this is a crucial topic these days, we would kindly ask you to prepare for our sessions by using the links on the next pages. Of course, feel free to research on your own. If there are any questions, don't hesitate to contact us!

Your CP's,

Marte Van Ootegem, Tristan Verheylewegen

Committee question:

The question of how to meet the challenges of the digital age:

With constantly more complex technological advancements, the digital age brings up more and more challenges and risks in any possible way. It's the duty of the EU to face those challenges in order to catch up with the highly advanced economies of the US, Japan and China. An open, democratic and sustainable society should be promoted and aimed at all times.

How can the European Union assure that every citizen has access to the digital world and possesses basic digital competencies, especially after the Covid pandemic?

In what way can the EU improve digital security for every individual as well as for companies and simultaneously benefit from future technologies?

Fact file about:

- Digital strategy created by the EU
- How to become a more attractive digital market
- DESI: The Digital Economy and Society Index
- Recent developments or other background information

Digital strategy created by the EU

- Based on 3 pillars:

Technology that works for the people

The EU's digital strategy will

- invest in digital skills
- protect people from cyber threats (hacking, ransomware, identity theft)
- ensure Artificial Intelligence respecting people's rights/earning their trust
- expand Europe's super-computing capacity to develop innovative solutions for medicine, transport and the environment

A fair and competitive digital economy

The EU's digital strategy will

- strengthen the responsibility of online platforms by proposing a Digital Services Act
- support fast growing start-ups and small businesses financially to help them expand
- ensure fair competition of all companies in Europe
- increase access to high-quality data while ensuring that personal and sensitive data is safeguarded






An open, democratic and sustainable society

The EU's digital strategy will

- use technology to help Europe become climate-neutral by 2050
- reduce the digital sector's carbon emissions
- give citizens more control and protection of their data
- create a "[European health data space](#)" to foster targeted research, diagnosis and treatment
- fight disinformation online and foster diverse and reliable media content

Source: https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/europe-fit-digital-age/shaping-europe-digital-future_en

Examples of industrial and commercial data use

-  Jet engines filled with **thousands of sensors** collect and transmit data back to ensure **efficient operation**.
-  Wind farms use industrial data to **reduce visual impact and optimise wind power**.
-  Real-time traffic avoidance navigation can save up to **730 million hours**. This represents up to **€20 billion** in labour costs.
-  Real-time notification of delayed trains can save **27 million working hours**. This amounts to **€740 million** in labour costs.
-  Better allocation of resources to fight malaria could save up to **€5 billion in healthcare costs globally**.

How to become a more attractive digital market:

By...

Setting clear and fair rules on access and re-use of data;

Investing in next generation standards, tools and infrastructures to store and process data;

Joining forces in European cloud capacity; Pooling European data in key sectors, with EU-wide common and interoperable data spaces;

Giving users rights, tools and skills to stay in full control of their data

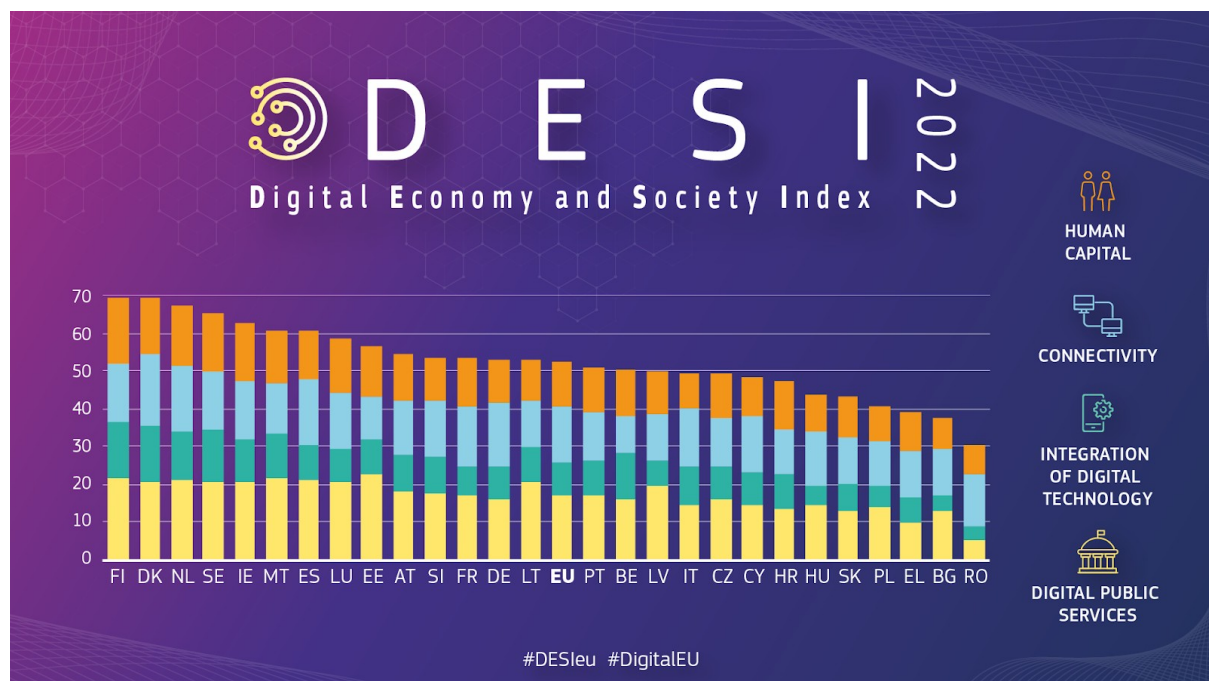
What is the Digital Single Market?

It has similar functions as the single market, with the main goal to take full advantage of the technological revolution. While EU citizens had to face barriers when using online tools, the Digital Single Market opens new opportunities removing obstacles to cross-border activities.

DESI: The Digital Economy and Society Index

What is it and what does it indicate?

It tracks the progress of EU countries and summarizes 4 indicators of Europe's digital performances: human capital, connectivity, integration of digital technology and digital public services.



Source:

https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/repository/document/2022-30/DESI_2022_MAIN_graph_FzeqwgLLMjkKwzc4fy7hFVLxiYw_89012.png

Background information

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Since 2014, the Commission has taken a number of steps to facilitate the development of a data-agile economy, such as

- the Regulation on the free flow of non-personal data
- the Cybersecurity Act
- the Open Data Directive
- the General Data Protection Regulation

Ai Strategy presented by the Commission in 2018

The High-Level Expert Group on Artificial Intelligence presented their [Ethics Guidelines on trustworthy AI](#) 2019

In her [Political Guidelines](#), Commission President Ursula von der Leyen stressed the need to lead the transition a new digital world. In that context, she kick-started the debate on ethical Artificial Intelligence and the use of big data to create wealth for societies and businesses

Some useful links:

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en>

https://health.ec.europa.eu/ehealth-digital-health-and-care/european-health-data-space_en

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies>

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/europes-digital-decade>

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/activities/digital-programme>

https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/factsheets-europe-fit-digital-age_en

https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/europe-fit-digital-age/europes-digital-decade-digital-targets-2030_en

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_22_4313

https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/europe-fit-digital-age_en#:~:text=Related%20links-,Introduction,this%20Europe's%20%E2%80%9CDigital%20Decade%E2%80%9D

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<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/desi>

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_4560

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/QANDA_22_4561

https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/europe-fit-digital-age_de

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/de/headlines/priorities/digitaler-wandel/20210414STO02010/digitaler-wandel-bedeutung-nutzen-und-eu-politik>

<https://www.helpsystems.com/resources/articles/moving-digital-age-challenges-facing-it-today>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital_Single_Market

<https://eufordigital.eu/discover-eu/eu-digital-single-market/>