Council of the European Union

COVER NOTE

From:	Secretary-General of the European Commission, signed by Ms Martine DEPREZ, Director
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To:	Ms Thérèse BLANCHET, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union
No. Cion doc.:	COM(2025) 290 annex
Subject:	ANNEX 25 ANNEX to the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, 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

Delegations will find attached document COM(2025) 290 annex 25.

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ANNEX 25

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to the

Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council and the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions

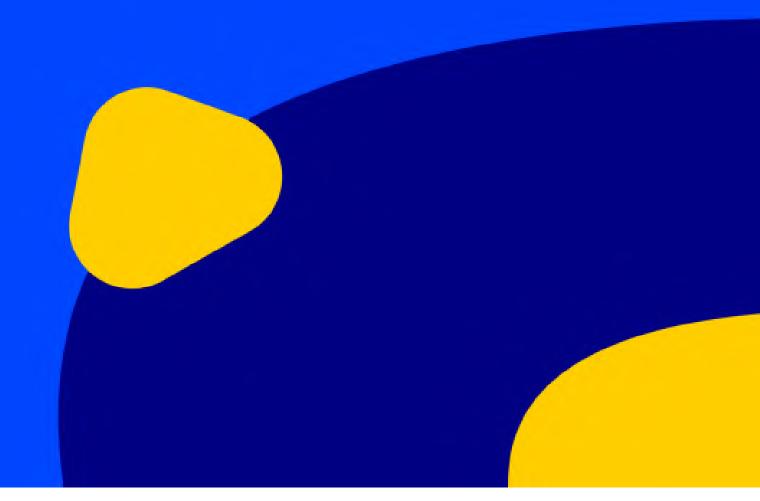**State of the Digital Decade 2025: Keep building the EU's sovereignty and digital future**

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SHORT COUNTRY REPORTS 2025

Slovakia

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Executive summary

Slovakia made some improvement in digital infrastructure deployment and take-up of broadband connectivity and 5G network services, but it still lags behind in overall rollout of digital infrastructure and in business digitalisation. Good progress was achieved in the share of ICT specialists and a promising trend emerges among the youth, with digital skills levels in line with the EU average.

Slovakia shows a substantial level of ambition in its contribution to the Digital Decade, having set 12 national targets, 83% of which aligned with the EU 2030 targets. The country is following its trajectories well with 86% of them being on track (considering 2024 trajectories defined for 7 KPIs out of 8 analysed). Slovakia addressed 27% of the 15 recommendations issued by the Commission in 2024 by making some changes through new measures.

Slovakia falls short of EU standards in most of the Digital Decade key performance indicators. Efforts are underway to bridge these gaps, but their results will require time and additional resources to fully materialise. The country is taking steps to create an environment that supports the digitalisation of SMEs and the development of digital skills, with new measures introduced in 2024. At the same time, public sector investments aim to further enhance connectivity infrastructure, with a particular focus on FTTP, and comprehensive initiatives are supporting the development of a high-performance computing ecosystem. While digital public services are below EU average levels, a comprehensive investment plan was adopted to strengthen their digitalisation. Increasing attention is being dedicated to ensuring cybersecurity.

Digital Decade KPI (1)	Slovakia				EU		Digital Decade target by 2030	
	DESI 2024 (year 2023)	DESI 2025 (year 2024)	Annual progress	National trajectory 2024 (3)	DESI 2025	Annual progress	SK	EU
Fixed Very High Capacity Network (VHCN) coverage	69.1%	73.0%	5.6%	49.0%	82.5%	4.9%	100.0%	100%
Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) coverage	64.2%	67.8%	5.6%	-	69.2%	8.4%	-	-
Overall 5G coverage	79.0%	87.9%	11.3%	80.0%	94.3%	5.9%	98.5%	100%
Edge Nodes (estimate)	5	10	100.0%	-	2257	90.5%	-	10000
SMEs with at least a basic level of digital intensity (2)	-	62.9%	2.2%	-	72.9%	2.8%	90.0%	90%
Cloud	30.2%	-	-	-	-	-	75.0%	75%
Artificial Intelligence	7.0%	10.8%	53.1%	9.0%	13.5%	67.2%	75.0%	75%
Data analytics	30.2%	-	-	-	-	-	75.0%	75%
AI or Cloud or Data analytics	45.8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	75%
Unicorns	0	0		0	286	4.4%	3	500
At least basic digital skills	51.3%	-	-	-	-	-	70.0%	80%
ICT specialists	4.2%	4.6%	9.5%	4.0%	5.0%	4.2%	6.0%	~10%
eID scheme notification		Yes						
Digital public services for citizens	72.1	72.6	0.7%	70.0	82.3	3.6%	100.0	100
Digital public services for businesses	79.2	73.4	-7.3%	84.0	86.2	0.9%	100.0	100
Access to e-Health records	66.3	72.0	8.6%	50.0	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 Eurobarometer on 'the Digital Decade' 2025, 82% of Slovak citizens consider that the digitalisation of daily public and private services is making their lives easier. Concerning the action of the public authorities, 93% consider it important to counter and mitigate the issue of fake news and disinformation online, and regarding competitiveness, 88% consider it important to ensure that European companies can grow and become 'European Champions' able to compete globally.

A competitive, sovereign, and resilient EU based on technological leadership

Despite some progress in deploying fixed and mobile networks, with Slovakia's VHCN and 5G deployment rate outpacing the EU average, the country still lags behind EU average levels in overall broadband coverage and uptake. This is particularly notable in rural areas, where access to these networks remains limited. Support instruments are being prepared to fund connectivity infrastructure – notably for gigabit infrastructure deployment in underserved areas and in schools, as well as social vouchers to promote digital inclusion for pupils – but an investment gap remains. Recent and ongoing changes in the regulatory landscape are also expected to impact the deployment of digital infrastructure (use of aerial infrastructure for fibre deployment, new construction law, Gigabit Infrastructure Act). Slovakia's 5G spectrum allocation currently spans the 700 MHz and 3.6 GHz frequency bands, and all telecom operators have increased their coverage over the past year, with 5G stand-alone networks expected to become available soon.

Slovak businesses show a low level of adoption of advanced technologies, with many SMEs having low digital intensity. Efforts to promote the digitalisation of businesses are ongoing, including support for SMEs through initiatives such as European Digital Innovation Hubs, the Digitrans project, digital and innovation vouchers. However, room for improvement exists in the pace of implementation, ensuring streamlined administrative procedures and expanding the pool of beneficiaries, especially among SMEs. Targeted efforts to promote AI adoption are underway, although challenges associated with informational and managerial barriers exist. Slovakia's ecosystem of innovative start-ups is small. The government has introduced a number of measures to support the growth of scale-ups and start-ups, including the establishment of a European Institute of Innovation & Technology Digital Regional Office, but limited funding remains a barrier.

Cybersecurity is a political priority, backed by various measures, such as training, monitoring and vulnerability assessment. The country is working to improve its cybersecurity with a new strategy being adopted for the 2026-2030 period.

Protecting and empowering EU people and society

While Slovakia's overall digital skills levels are lower than the EU average, a positive trend emerges among younger generations, who have digital skills comparable to their EU counterparts. To promote digital competencies, Slovakia is implementing a comprehensive and inclusive national digital skills strategy. New measures have been introduced to ensure the appropriate pre-conditions for students and teachers to develop their digital skills, with the provision of digital equipment to students from disadvantaged backgrounds and the integration of AI into teaching. Progress, however, will take time to materialise and will require structural barriers to be addressed, including the shortage of mathematics and informatics teachers, social and financial vulnerabilities and a fragmented management of digital skills policies. A promising uptrend was observed in the share of ICT specialists within the workforce. At the same time, action is being taken to increase the number of ICT specialists

and provide appropriate education and training offers, with a specific focus on women's participation in ICT, though it remains at a relatively low scale.

Improvements are needed in the digitalisation of public services, especially in terms of availability for cross-border users. Relevant measures are being implemented, including the recently adopted roadmap for digitalising administrative procedures for 16 priority life situations. These initiatives are expected to improve the availability of digital services for citizens and businesses and reduce administrative burden. At the same time, the share of e-Government users and the uptake of eID continue to be low compared to the availability of these services, and weaknesses associated with the transparency of service processes and design remain.

Slovakia has made good progress in increasing access to electronic health records and is on track to achieve 100% accessibility by 2030. However, the country still faces challenges in fully utilising its e-Health system, due to issues such as low use of e-ID and technical difficulties faced by healthcare professionals, as well as gaps in the availability of medical images to citizens and access opportunities for legal guardians, authorised individuals, and disadvantaged groups.

Leveraging digital transformation for a smart greening

Digitalisation is being explored as a means to support Slovakia's green transition, but current efforts remain limited. The `Digital Skills for the Green Future of Slovakia' project is a flagship initiative, aiming to address the skills needs associated with the green and digital transitions, raising awareness among key stakeholders and developing reference frameworks that identify necessary green and digital skills across professions.

National Digital Decade strategic roadmap

Slovakia submitted an addendum to its national Digital Decade roadmap on 27 November 2024, containing 11 additional measures and 2 revised trajectories. While not all the new measures directly address the SDD24 recommendations, they are relevant to the reality and needs of Slovakia's digital landscape, focusing in particular on the digitalisation of businesses and development of digital skills. However, no additional public funding could be allocated to their implementation, which might negatively affect their implementation and sustainability.

The adjusted roadmap addresses a limited number of roadmap recommendations issued in 2024. All targets align with the EU level goals for 2030, except for the development of digital skills, where the country has a 70% target (instead of 80% for the EU) and ICT specialists, where the country has a goal of 6% of the workforce (instead of 10%). The revised roadmap continues to prioritise the digitalisation of businesses and development of digital skills. It is composed of 127 measures with a budget of EUR 2.26 billion, equivalent to 1.74% of GDP. It still covers all objectives of the Digital Decade, such as a human-centred digital space and bridging the digital divide, but certain aspects would require more attention, such as promoting leadership and sovereignty, and contributing to the green transformation.

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Funding & projects for digital

Slovakia allocates 21% of its total recovery and resilience plan to digital (EUR 1.2 billion)[1]. In addition, under cohesion policy, EUR 886 million, representing 7% of the country's total cohesion policy funding, is dedicated to advancing Slovakia's digital transformation[2].

Slovakia is a member of the Local Digital Twins towards the CitiVERSE EDIC. Slovakia is directly participating in the IPCEI on Microelectronics and Communication Technologies (IPCEI-ME/CT). Slovakia is also a participating state in the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking (JU) and in the Chips JU.

Slovakia has not yet presented any project in the framework of Digital Decade's Best Practice Accelerator[3].

Digital Rights and Principles

According to a support study, Slovakia has shown rather limited activity in implementing the **European Declaration on Digital Rights and Principles**, with 27 initiatives overall but no new initiatives launched in 2024. Slovakia is most active in the area of putting people at the centre of the digital transformation. Less activity has been identified with regards to a protected, safe and secure digital environment. Measures in the area of solidarity and inclusion and freedom of choice appear to have most impact on the ground, in contrast to those addressing safety, security and empowerment and sustainability.

> **Recommendations**
> - **VHCN/FTTP**: Facilitate infrastructure deployment by lifting administrative barriers and supporting collaboration between stakeholders, especially for the deployment of fibre optic networks.
> - **SMEs**: Continue building on existing measures targeted at SMEs (e.g. EDIHs, Digitrans), expanding their scope and pool of beneficiaries, while ensuring continued support in the medium-long term.
> - **AI, Cloud and Data analytics**: Accelerate the implementation of planned measures, prioritising solutions that limit administrative burden and ensure transparency. In particular, continue supporting the uptake of AI across businesses and in the public administration, addressing existing informational and managerial barriers.
> - **Basic digital skills**: Continue implementing existing measures to enhance the level of digital skills across all population groups, while ensuring that all educators possess adequate training, especially IT and mathematics teachers.
> - **Cybersecurity**: Continue ongoing efforts to strengthen cybersecurity, while also allowing the appropriate authorities to enforce prompt and necessary actions to mitigate identified threats or weaknesses.

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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.

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- **Digital public services**: Increase the transparency and availability of digital public services, particularly for cross-border users, including by enhancing the user-friendliness, functionalities and uptake of the e-ID mobile app and *Slovensko v Mobile app*.
- **Unicorns**: Expand existing measures aimed at supporting the growth of scale-ups and start-ups that drive innovation and invest in emerging technologies.
- **ICT specialists**: Ensure ICT studies are sufficiently offered and promoted, in line with labour market needs, as well as provide opportunities for workers to access lifelong learning and reskilling/upskilling programmes in this area.
- **Green ICT**: Develop a coherent approach to twinning the digital and green transitions.