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COVER NOTE

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To:	Ms Thérèse BLANCHET, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union
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Delegations will find attached document COM(2025) 290 - annex 7.

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Brussels, 16.6.2025
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ANNEX 7

ANNEX

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

{SWD(2025) 290 final} - {SWD(2025) 291 final} - {SWD(2025) 292 final} -
{SWD(2025) 293 final} - {SWD(2025) 294 final} - {SWD(2025) 295 final}

SHORT COUNTRY REPORTS 2025

Czechia

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 transformation². 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 Accelerator³ 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.

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.