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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 8.

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ANNEX 8

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} -
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SHORT COUNTRY REPORTS 2025

Denmark

Executive summary

Denmark benefits from a robust digital infrastructure, which provides the conditions for developing its high-quality public services and innovation. However, the country struggles with a shortage of skilled workers and widening gaps between small and large enterprises' adoption of key digital technologies. Denmark is emerging as a leader in digital inclusivity, trust and security.

The country shows a high level of ambition in its contribution to the Digital Decade, with 10 national targets, 90% of which are aligned with the EU 2030 targets. It is following its trajectories moderately well, with 67% of them being on track (based on 2024 trajectories established for 3 KPIs out of 8 analysed). Overall, Denmark addressed 70% of the 10 recommendations issued by the Commission in 2024, either by implementing significant policy changes (10%) or making some changes (60%) through new measures.

In 2024, Denmark maintained strong broadband and 5G coverage, advanced in quantum technology and saw growth in its semiconductor sector. However, challenges remain, including a digitalisation gap between small and large companies, especially in Artificial Intelligence (AI) adoption, and an ICT talent shortage. Digital public services improved further, with initiatives like the Social Media, Tech and Democracy Centre enhancing online safety, especially for children. The creation of a Ministry of Digitalisation marked a key step in unifying efforts across telecom, AI and emerging technologies, positioning Denmark to lead in the digital transformation.

Digital Decade KPI ⁽¹⁾	Denmark				EU		Digital Decade target by 2030	
	DESI 2024 (year 2023)	DESI 2025 (year 2024)	Annual progress	National trajectory 2024 (3)	DESI 2025	Annual progress	DK	EU
Fixed Very High-Capacity Network (VHCN) coverage	97.2%	96.8%	-0.4%	-	82.5%	4.9%	-	100%
Fibre-to-the-Premises (FTTP) coverage	84.0%	87.2%	3.7%	-	69.2%	8.4%	-	-
Overall 5G coverage	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%	94.3%	5.9%	100.0%	100%
Edge Nodes (estimate)	24	46	91.7%	-	2 257	90.5%	-	10000
SMEs with at least a basic level of digital intensity (2)	-	90.5%	0.9%	-	72.9%	2.8%	95.0%	90%
Cloud	66.2%	-	-	-	-	-	77.2%	75%
Artificial Intelligence	15.2%	27.6%	81.8%	24.6%	13.5%	67.2%	76.6%	75%
Data analytics	49.5%	-	-	-	-	-	75.0%	75%
AI or Cloud or Data analytics	77.4%	-	-	-	-	-	-	75%
Unicorns	9	9	0.0%	-	286	4.4%	-	500
At least basic digital skills	69.6%	-	-	-	-	-	80.0%	80%
ICT specialists	5.9%	5.8%	-1.7%	6.4%	5.0%	4.2%	7.7%	~10%
eID scheme notification		Yes						
Digital public services for citizens	84.2	79.5	-5.6%	-	82.3	3.6%	100.0	100
Digital public services for businesses	88.7	87.5	-1.3%	-	86.2	0.9%	100.0	100
Access to e-health records	97.9	97.9	0.0%	-	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, 81% of Danish citizens consider that the digitalisation of daily public and private services is making their lives easier. Moreover, 94% consider it important that public authorities counter and mitigate the issue of fake news and disinformation online. Finally, regarding competitiveness, 88% deem it significant that European companies can grow and become 'European Champions' able to compete globally.

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

Denmark's infrastructure indicators are all above the EU average, although the extension of coverage to smaller towns and remote areas could still be improved. The country also excels in research and innovation, with some noteworthy initiatives aimed at advancing its semiconductor and quantum technology ecosystems. However, despite a strong R&D community, technological innovations and ideas tend to be concentrated within a limited number of universities and innovation hubs. Similarly, R&D activities and investments are predominantly focused on large companies, which risks restricting the widespread adoption of key technologies across the broader business landscape. This divide is particularly evident in the digitalisation gap between large companies and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), with many SMEs facing challenges in adopting cutting-edge digital technologies. The revised roadmap attempts to address this challenge with a new strategic initiative on AI. With regard to cybersecurity, the Danish government is applying new security measures to protect online public services. It also continues to raise awareness of online dangers and to provide tools to help businesses improve their cybersecurity practices.

Protecting and empowering EU people and society

There are generally high levels of digital skills across different categories of Denmark's population, enabling individuals to use and take advantage of the country's highly digitalised public services. The revised roadmap also includes measures to further improve the understanding of digital solutions and technology in primary and secondary education. With regard to digital public services, the government's 'digital-by-default' approach has been instrumental in delivering user-centric and efficient public services both to citizens and businesses. The focus now is on further strengthening inclusivity and public trust, ensuring that no one is left behind in the digital transformation.

Another key priority for Denmark is to protect and enhance online wellbeing, particularly for vulnerable groups like children. Despite being on a strong digital footing, Danish companies – especially smaller enterprises – continue to face significant challenges in finding and retaining qualified ICT specialists, while also struggling to keep pace with upskilling and reskilling practices. Moreover, there is still a gender disparity in employed ICT specialists. The revised roadmap focuses on improving ICT-related courses in higher education, improving teachers' competencies in the field, continuing training activities for people in IT jobs and retaining international students in the ICT labour market. Nonetheless, at present, the country is lagging behind its national trajectory point for 2024.

Leveraging digital transformation for a smart greening

Danish public and private sector organisations are increasingly leveraging digital solutions to monitor energy consumption, which drives greater efficiency and sustainability. The revised roadmap sets out several measures that demonstrate this. Awareness of the importance of sustainable digital technologies is also growing, but it remains a developing area that requires further attention.

National digital decade strategic roadmap

Denmark submitted a revised national Digital Decade roadmap on 7 January 2025, containing 12 additional measures and four revised targets and trajectories. The revised roadmap addresses a substantial number of roadmap recommendations issued in 2024. The country has not presented any formal targets for FTTP coverage, edge nodes and unicorns, while the Very High-Capacity Networks (VHCN) trajectory and target ends at 2025 (98% coverage). Apart from ICT specialists, which remains slightly below the EU target (at 7.7% as the proportion of the total employed population working as ICT specialists instead of 10%), all the other national targets are aligned with the EU targets. Some targets (i.e. 95% of SMEs having a basic level of digitalisation, 77.2% of SMEs adopting cloud services and 76.6% adopting AI) are more ambitious than the EU's.

The revised roadmap continues to focus on AI and the digitalisation of SMEs, while also boosting basic digital skills in education and supporting ICT specialists. These efforts are clearly aligned with the new Commission's priorities for AI and digital skills. The revised roadmap has **67 measures with a budget of EUR 1.07 billion, of which EUR 832 million come from public budgets (equivalent to 0.21% of GDP)**. The roadmap covers a diverse range of Digital Decade objectives, with strengthened digital and green commitments, as well as a renewed focus on promoting a human-centred digital space and protecting society online.

Funding & projects for digital

Denmark allocates 27% of its total Recovery and Resilience Plan to digital (EUR 382 million)¹. In addition, under cohesion policy, EUR 63 million, representing 14% of the country's total cohesion policy funding, is dedicated to advancing Denmark's digital transformation².

Denmark is a member of the 'Alliance for Language Technologies' European Digital Infrastructure Consortium. It is also a participating state of the European High-Performance Computing Joint Undertaking (JU) and of the Chips JU.

The country contributed to the Digital Decade Best Practice Accelerator³ by sharing one best practice in the 'Business Uptake' cluster (i.e. the 'SME:Digital' initiative).

Digital rights and principles

According to a support study, Denmark has been relatively active in implementing the [European Declaration on Digital Rights and Principles](#), with 52 initiatives overall and two new initiatives launched in 2024. The country is mostly active in ensuring people remain at the centre of the digital transformation, while less activity was identified with regards to digital solidarity and inclusion. Nonetheless, measures in the latter area appear to have most impact on the ground, in contrast to efforts addressing freedom of choice.

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.

Recommendations

- **SMEs' take-up of advanced digital technologies:** continue to raise SMEs' awareness of digital solutions to improve productivity and competitiveness. Help them to use and integrate key digital technologies into their business models.
- **ICT specialists and advanced skills:** monitor the new measures for improving advanced digital skills in higher education and for upskilling and reskilling ICT specialists already in the workforce. Find new ways of increasing young people's interest in ICT and STEM, including among women. Continue attracting foreign talent in ICT companies, while also retaining international students in ICT-related degree programmes.
- **Innovation ecosystems:** enhance collaboration between universities and businesses to improve the commercialisation of research. Consider targeted knowledge and financial support for SMEs, start-ups and scale-ups in key strategic sectors, so that more companies can contribute to the country's digital innovation.
- **Cybersecurity:** support cybersecurity measures in view of evolving threats, building capacity in both enterprises and public administrations.
- **Green transition:** continue to use digital tools to monitor the green transition and focus more on actions to make digital solutions more energy efficient through public-private collaborations.