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PART 7/27

COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT

Digital Decade 2026 country report

Accompanying the document

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 2026: Closing structural gaps and mobilising investments for 2030 and beyond

{COM(2026) 288 final} - {SWD(2026) 154 final} - {SWD(2026) 156 final} - {SWD(2026) 157 final}

European Commission

DIGITAL DECADE COUNTRY REPORT 2026

Denmark

Denmark

Contents

Executive summary

Denmark has built a very advanced digital ecosystem, supported by a robust infrastructure, an excellent research base, a population with strong digital skills and a long-standing use of digital solutions in both the private and public sectors. However, the next stage of digitalisation is proving to be more challenging, particularly for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs). Although companies are increasingly investing in advanced technologies – such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), cloud-based solutions and data analytics – to transform their internal processes and leverage data, adoption at the deeper level remains uneven because of skills and financial constraints. At the same time, the increasing demand for ICT specialists is putting pressure on the labour market, with smaller companies in particular facing difficulties in attracting and retaining the necessary expertise. These challenges can affect Denmark's ability to sustain its high levels of productivity and **competitiveness**, as companies that do not integrate more advanced digital use risk lagging behind on innovation.

Denmark can rely on solid foundations supporting its **digital leadership**, including advanced digital infrastructure and a strong innovation system. Strengthening the link between research and market deployment will be essential to ensure that Denmark's innovation base translates into real applications, supporting the scaling up of digital solutions and their diffusion across the economy. This approach is already visible in some strategic sectors, such as quantum technologies, where strong connections are being created between research – including in life sciences and advanced sensing – and industrial capabilities. Recent policy initiatives are also seeking to reinforce this link, including in the recent multi-annual investment plan for Research and Innovation 2026-2029 and the political agreement on knowledge and technology transfer. Moreover, the country now finds itself at a pivotal moment, as recent national elections coincide with the upcoming end of its current digitalisation strategy in 2027, prompting a reassessment of priorities and funding needs. While AI, SMEs, digital skills and ICT development are expected to remain central pillars, policy discussions increasingly reflect the need to balance competitiveness and digital leadership with resilience and **technological sovereignty**. This is demonstrated by a growing focus on critical digital infrastructures – such as cloud, quantum technologies and connectivity – not only as drivers of innovation, but also as key enablers of strategic autonomy.

Denmark in the Digital Decade

Denmark shows a high level of ambition in its contribution to the Digital Decade, with 10 national targets (out of 14), 90% of which are aligned with the EU 2030 targets. In its national roadmap, it provided 8 trajectory points for 2025 (out of 13 analysed). The country is following these trajectories well, with 88% of them being on track. Denmark has addressed 60% of the 5 recommendations issued by the Commission in 2025 by making some changes through new measures. According to the national roadmap, **51% of the measures are set to expire** by the end of 2026. The total public budget associated to these measures is EUR 200 million, representing 24% of the total public budget set out in the roadmap.

According to the special **Eurobarometer on the Digital Decade 2026**, **88% of Danish people consider that digital policy should have a very high or high priority for the EU**. They also think that, over the next 10 years, the EU should cooperate with Member States to reinforce cybersecurity and protection

from online threats (98%), build an independent European digital infrastructure (broadband, 5G cloud, semiconductors) (87%) and promote digital education and skills programmes (86%). In addition, **87% of Danes think that the EU should reduce its dependencies on digital from third countries**, and 92% think that the EU should prioritise investments in digital infrastructure and services that are developed and controlled in Europe. Meanwhile, 76% would be willing to switch to an EU-based digital service provider even if it means slightly higher costs.

Funding for digital and multi-country projects

Denmark allocates 28% of its total recovery and resilience plan to digital (EUR 0.4 billion). In addition, under cohesion policy, EUR 0.06 billion, representing 14% of the country's total cohesion policy funding, is dedicated to advancing Denmark's digital transformation.

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

Digital Decade KPI (1)	Denmark				EU		Digital Decade target by 2030	
	Last available data (2)	DESI 2026 (year 2025)	Annual progress	National trajectory 2025 (3)	DESI 2026	Annual progress	DK	EU
Fixed Very High-Capacity Network (VHCN) coverage	96.8%	97.7%	1.0%	98.0%	85.5%	3.7%	-	100%
Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) coverage	87.2%	90.3%	3.5%	-	74.1%	7.1%	-	-
Basic 5G coverage	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%	96.8%	2.6%	100.0%	100%
Edge Nodes (estimate, new methodology)	-	132	-	-	7451	-	-	10000
SMEs with at least a basic level of digital intensity *	75.3%	92.5%	10.8%	82.9%	71.4%	11.0%	95.0%	90%
Cloud *	66.2%	67.6%	1.1%	71.0%	46.7%	9.5%	77.2%	75%
Artificial Intelligence	27.6%	42.0%	52.4%	36.8%	20.0%	48.0%	76.6%	75%
Data analytics *	49.5%	60.0%	10.1%	59.4%	39.9%	9.5%	75.0%	75%
AI or Cloud or Data analytics *	77.4%	82.3%	3.1%	-	63.2%	7.5%	-	75%
Unicorns	10	11	10.0%	-	324	10.2%	-	500
At least basic digital skills *	69.6%	81.5%	8.2%	73.6%	60.4%	4.3%	80.0%	80%
ICT specialists	5.8%	5.7%	-1.7%	6.6%	5.0%	2.0%	7.7%	~10%
e-ID scheme notification		Yes						
Digital public services for citizens	79.5	82.2	3.4%	-	84.6	2.8%	100.0	100
Digital public services for businesses	87.5	89.1	1.8%	-	88.6	2.7%	100.0	100
Access to electronic health records	97.9	97.9	0.0%	-	86.5	4.6%	100.0	100

(1) Indicators full description, metadata and sources in the DESI 2026 methodological note
(2) Last available data is DESI2025 (reference year 2024) except for indicators marked with a star * for which it is DESI2024 (reference year 2023)
(3) National trajectory value for 2025, if set by the country in its Digital Decade national roadmap

Denmark

A competitive, sovereign and resilient EU based on technological leadership

Denmark enjoys strong **connectivity**, with very high broadband coverage, though uptake of fibre and 5G on the demand side remains a work in progress. Overall, **most SMEs display a basic level of digital intensity,** with widespread use of digital tools supported by initiatives like SME:Digital, which has helped drive early adoption and awareness. However, the programme has received little attention in recent budget planning, limiting its potential to support deeper digitalisation in the future. While companies are showing higher investment and innovation activity, skill shortages continue to weigh on productivity gains. **Adoption of advanced technologies**, including AI, cloud and data analytics, has increased – especially for AI – but remains uneven, with smaller companies struggling to keep pace with larger competitors because of financial, skills and time constraints. The AI-Boost hub and the broader European Digital Innovation Hub (EDIH) network play a key role in bridging these gaps by providing access to expertise, testing and implementation support. Denmark has a strong pipeline of **start-ups and scale-ups,** but weaker growth-stage funding makes scaling more difficult. Late-stage financing is heavily dependent on foreign investors, while regulatory and administrative burdens continue to hinder growth. As a result, a strong early-stage **innovation ecosystem** is not translating into sufficient commercialisation or conversion of research into ready-made businesses. **Cybersecurity** awareness is high, but maintaining resilience remains an ongoing challenge, given the continuously evolving nature of threats and technologies. A new political agreement was reached to strengthen cyber and information security support to citizens and SMEs, enhance cyber coordination and improve cyber education until 2029. Building on this framework, the key challenge now is to turn increased awareness and institutional support into consistent, widespread implementation of basic cybersecurity practices across SMEs.

Protecting and empowering EU people and society

Denmark remains one of the EU's strongest countries when it comes to **digital skills**, thanks to a long-standing model that links mandatory use of digital tools with public service delivery and skills formation. Some gaps linked to education levels remain and the country is now starting to integrate 'Technology Comprehension' as an approach across core subjects in primary education and as an elective subject in lower secondary education starting from 2027-2028. Implementation across the country remains to be seen, particularly in lower secondary education, where the subject will remain optional for students. Young people are particularly vulnerable to misleading content online, which has led Denmark to prioritising online safety and protecting children, particularly during its EU Presidency of the Council. At the same time, shortages of **ICT specialists** and STEM graduates persist, with smaller companies struggling to find the talent they need to be truly competitive. As part of the higher education reform, Denmark is seeking to raise the number of international students to address labour market needs. For example, by expanding English-taught master's programmes and creating new places in STEM and IT fields. However, its effectiveness will depend on the ability to retain STEM graduates. **Digital public services** continue to be widely used and trusted, with **healthcare** representing a key application area. As systems face pressures from an ageing populations and workforce shortages, AI is increasingly being explored and adopted for its potential to improve efficiency, accessibility and service delivery.

Recommendations

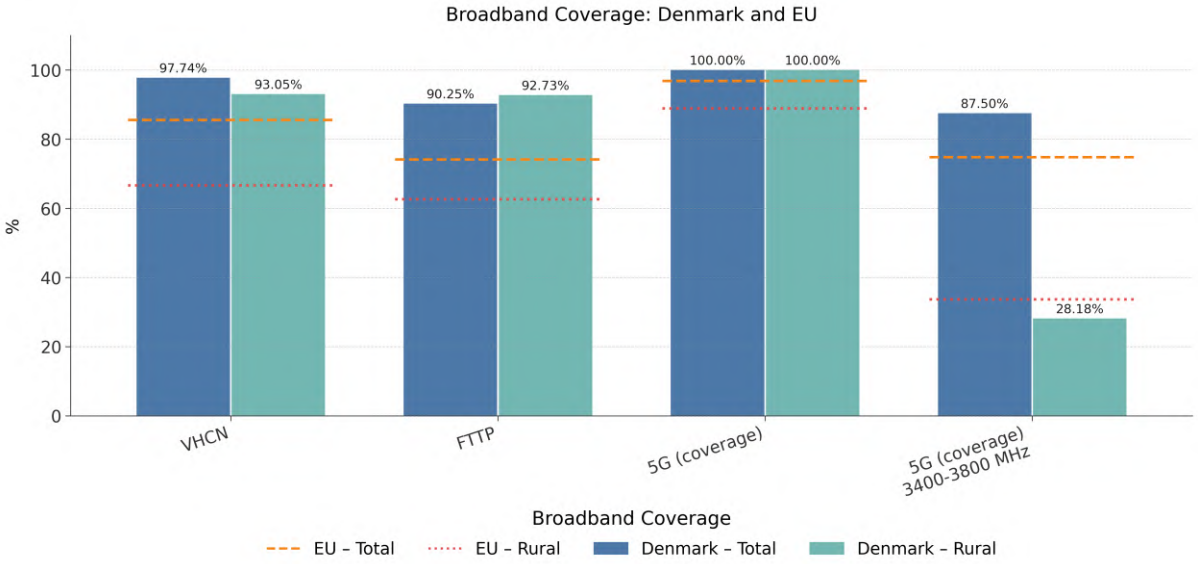
- **Digitalisation of SMEs and adoption of advanced digital technologies:** Accelerate SME digitalisation beyond basic adoption towards the productive use of advanced digital and AI-based solutions. This includes: (i) maintaining and expanding existing SME digitalisation support schemes, while also reducing fragmentation among programmes; (ii) strengthening coordination with innovation infrastructures such as the AI-Boost hub, European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs) and the EU Testing and Experimentation Facilities (TEFs); (iii) fostering stronger collaboration between SMEs, research institutions and innovation intermediaries to improve knowledge diffusion and facilitate the uptake of cutting-edge technologies; and (iv) promoting AI uptake in strategic sectors, supporting the EU's Apply AI strategy.
- **ICT specialists:** Address shortages of ICT specialists and strengthen digital skills across the workforce by: (i) increasing the supply of ICT and STEM graduates, including through the effective implementation of higher education reforms and the expansion of relevant study places; (ii) attracting and retaining ICT talent by strengthening pathways from study to employment and facilitating graduates' integration into the Danish labour market; and (iii) scaling advanced digital skills, upskilling and reskilling programmes for both ICT specialists and workers in sectors undergoing digital transformation, ensuring alignment with labour market needs.
- **Innovation ecosystems:** Strengthen the country's capacity to turn digital and deep-tech research into scalable commercial innovation, including by effectively implementing and monitoring the recent agreements on technology transfer and on funding for research and innovation. Improve access to scale-up funding for innovative digital companies by addressing the late-stage funding gap and enabling businesses to scale domestically.
- **Quantum technologies:** Consolidate the country's quantum leadership by: (i) leveraging existing strengths in life sciences and quantum sensing to develop market-ready applications and grow industrial adoption; (ii) expanding commercialisation support to speed up research-to-market transitions; and (iii) deepening cross-border collaboration to contribute to the building of a European quantum supply chain.
- **Cybersecurity:** Ensure the effective implementation of the new national cyber and information security strategy and the strengthening of coordination mechanisms across public and private stakeholders. Moreover, further encourage the uptake of cybersecurity measures by SMEs through targeted awareness, training and funding initiatives.

A competitive, sovereign and resilient EU based on technological leadership

Building technological leadership: digital infrastructure and technologies

Connectivity infrastructure

Performance assessment



In 2025, 97.74% of households in Denmark had access to Fixed Very High-Capacity Network (VHCN) coverage, much above the EU's 85.54%. For households in sparsely populated areas, VHCN coverage has had a growth rate of 1.2% since 2024, covering 93.05% of households in 2025. The country is on track according to its trajectory presented in the Digital Decade national roadmap.

In the same year, 90.25% of Danish households had access to Fibre-to-the-Premises (FTTP) coverage, above the EU average of 74.13%. For households in rural areas, the FTTP coverage improved from 91.52% in 2024 to 92.73% in 2025, after a growth of 1.3% and exceeding the EU's 62.61%. The country did not provide a national trajectory point for 2025 in the Digital Decade national roadmap.

Basic 5G coverage remains at 100%, including in sparsely populated areas, **while 5G in the 3.4 – 3.8 GHz band was estimated to cover 87.50% of households in 2025, above the EU's 74.75%, but showing no improvement since 2024.** For households in sparsely populated areas, Denmark's 5G coverage in that band increased slightly from 27.84% in 2024 to 28.18% in 2025, while the EU's coverage increased significantly from 25.36% to 33.71% in the same period. The country is on track according to its trajectory presented in the Digital Decade national roadmap.

Overall, Denmark has consistently outperformed the EU average in terms of broadband coverage, both in total and in sparsely populated areas, and across all key performance indicators. The country's growth rates have generally been lower than the EU average, likely indicating that it is approaching a saturation point.

Denmark

The table below provides an overview of VHCN, FTTP and basic 5G coverage across NUTS-2 regions in Denmark. It shows that **connectivity coverage is strong across all Danish regions** across all three KPIs, with only a few minor differences observed in Hovedstaden.

	VHCN coverage		FTTP Coverage		5G Coverage	
	Overall	Rural	Overall	Rural	Overall	Rural
National coverage	97.74%	93.05%	90.25%	92.73%	100.00%	100.00%
Hovedstaden	96.55%	69.16%	82.99%	66.67%	100.00%	99.99%
Midtjylland	98.35%	93.60%	93.07%	93.45%	100.00%	100.00%
Nordjylland	98.72%	95.17%	96.58%	95.09%	100.00%	100.00%
Sjælland	97.91%	94.82%	95.07%	94.65%	100.00%	100.00%
Syddanmark	98.21%	94.90%	91.42%	94.60%	100.00%	100.00%

In terms of take-up, 36.42% of fixed broadband subscriptions were at speeds of 1 Gbps or higher, standing above the EU average of 26.97%. However, the annual growth rate for Denmark in 2025 was 8.1%, which is lower than the EU's growth rate of 21.2%.

In 2025, Denmark continues to lead with 108.08% of 5G SIM cards[1], standing far above the EU average of 55.55%. The annual growth rate for Denmark (4.0%) was lower than the EU's growth rate of 56.2%, reflecting it has reached a saturation point.

Policy context and assessment of recommendations

Denmark's connectivity landscape is characterised by very high levels of broadband coverage and strong high-capacity networks, driven primarily by private investments and consumer demand for higher speeds and reliability. Over the past decade, the country has transitioned from legacy infrastructure towards fibre and 5G networks, resulting in widespread broadband availability. The Danish government reinforced this trajectory by adopting a new Telecommunications Policy Agreement in June 2025. As anticipated in last year's Digital Decade country report, the agreement sets updated national targets and honours the idea of having a more comprehensive broadband mapping that includes both households and businesses. By 2027, Denmark aims for:

- all households and businesses having access to at least 100Mbps download speeds and 30 Mbps upload speeds;
- 99% of all households and businesses having access to infrastructure capable of delivering 1Gbps download speeds.

The rollout of fibre has been a key driver of Denmark's connectivity progress. Over the past decades, telecom operators and energy companies have made substantial and sustained investments, resulting in a high level of nationwide fibre coverage. As fibre has been deployed to addresses already served by coax networks, the degree of parallel infrastructure coverage has increased. In its last market analysis, the Danish Business Authority reports that 39% of households in Denmark had access to both coax and fibre in 2024, while around 96.7% of households had access to at least one of the two infrastructures in the same year.

[1] Note that the percentage of the population with 5G SIM cards can exceed 100% because people can have more than one SIM card.

Meanwhile, fibre adoption continues to develop steadily in a context of high broadband coverage and increasing demand for speed and reliability. Fibre penetration is estimated at around 50% of households (up from 42% in 2021), while a significant share of demand is still met through coaxial cable or LAN-based connections. This may be explained by the fact that coaxial networks are still capable of delivering good speeds and users do not always see a strong reason to switch to fibre, especially if it involves additional connection costs. Telecom operators are therefore focusing on improving the attractiveness of fibre, for example by simplifying installation processes and improving customer offers. As fibre adoption gradually increases, demand for coax is slowly declining. Meanwhile, copper networks now represent only a small share of the market and are expected to be phased out completely by 2029. This phasing out could potentially create a de-regulated fixed broadband market, with the incumbent having more pricing power for network access.

On the mobile side, 5G coverage is extensive, but demand is still relatively low. The Danish Business Authority reports that only 15.1% of retail customers with unchanged technology options switched technology during the period from 2023 to 2024. Among the retail customers who switched technology, only 11.8% switched from fibre to 5G. Future growth in mobile broadband will depend on consumer adoption and service differentiation.

Moving forward, Denmark's connectivity strategy will focus on addressing the remaining coverage gaps and completing the transition to modern networks. A few remote addresses – like small islands or sparsely populated areas – remain without access to fast broadband**.** To fix this, Denmark extended its national Broadband Pool until 2027. A notable example is the grant given for the construction of a submarine cable to Strynø in the South Fyn Archipelago. Beyond traditional infrastructure, Denmark is preparing the ground for next-generation technologies, including a national 6G action plan, satellite solutions as potential back-ups for rural areas if terrestrial networks fail and additional spectrum to meet the growing demand from smart homes, gaming and streaming.

Semiconductors

While Denmark has historically been strong in semiconductor research and innovation, it is now slowly starting to establish a presence in the production chain. After years of research in nanofabrication, in 2025 the Niels Bohr Institute signed a major strategic partnership with the French company RIBER to establish the POEM Technology Centre. This will be Denmark's first photonic chip facility, capable of producing light-based chips that are crucial for both semiconductors and quantum technology. In addition, DTU Nanolab, the National Centre for Nano Fabrication and Characterisation, will expand its facilities with approximately 700m^2 of cleanroom designed to house the latest generation of nanofabrication equipment. This will give collaboration partners and new initiatives access to essential equipment and unique facilities. At DTU Nanolab, 2026 will mark the start of two small-scale production and testing lines focusing on quantum-related chips and other kinds of advanced microchips.

On the research side, Denmark continues to advance its semiconductor efforts. The University of Southern Denmark has established SDU Microelectronics, a research unit dedicated to integrated circuit design and semiconductor innovation. Among other things, research will focus on lowering energy consumption in the chip design process. Meanwhile, the Danish Chips Competence Centre continues to serve as national hub for coordination between academia and industry, with an eye on how research can translate into practical, real-world applications that benefit companies. On the

European side, Denmark allocated an additional DKK 140 million in 2025 and has set aside DKK 40 million for 2026 through Innovation Fund Denmark, to support companies get involved in the Chips Joint Undertaking.

Edge nodes

Performance assessment

According to the Edge Node Observatory, Denmark is estimated to have deployed a total of 132 edge nodes by 2025. The total number of edge nodes across all Member States is estimated at 7 451. Due to a change in methodology, this number cannot be compared to previous estimations.

Policy context and assessment of recommendations

Driven by the private sector, Denmark is building large, well-connected urban data centres that serve the same role as edge nodes, allowing data to be processed closer to users. With new data demands coming from AI and real-time digital services, infrastructure providers are expanding and upgrading facilities around the major urban centres, like Copenhagen, while operators are strengthening network interconnections to reduce latency and improve performance. This concentrated 'metro-edge' approach is significant in the Danish context, especially given the limited deployment of traditional micro-edge nodes.

Quantum technologies

Recent developments in Denmark's quantum landscape point to a shift from primarily research-driven activities toward the expansion of its infrastructure and commercialisation capacity. This reflects the country's two-part National Strategy for Quantum Technologies launched in 2023. Backed by over DKK 1.2 billion in combined funding, the strategy couples strong support for research and innovation with a growing emphasis on commercialisation, security and international cooperation, including initiatives such as the commercialisation hub Quantum Denmark. By providing access to infrastructure, expertise and industry networks, the hub supports the translation of research into use cases and real-world applications across sectors such as life sciences and advanced sensing. Another key example is the quantum computer *Magne*, which is expected to be ready for use at the turn of 2026/2027. As a so-called 'level two' quantum computer, *Magne* will use logical qubits to support more reliable and complex calculations than current quantum systems. The operation will be managed by QuNorth, a new Nordic quantum initiative established in July 2025 by Denmark's Export and Investment Fund (EIFO) and the Novo Nordisk Foundation, in partnership with quantum technology providers. **These efforts reflect Denmark's specific profile, characterised by strong links between research** – including life sciences and advanced sensing – and **industrial capabilities**, as well as a strong coordination across universities, infrastructure providers and companies.

Another notable trend is the growth in the demand for quantum funding, which has led to a scaling up of public and private investment. The calls under the National Quantum Programme – which is part of Denmark's National Quantum Strategy and administered by Innovation Fund Denmark – have attracted a large pool of applicants, with 15 projects selected to proceed to phase 2 in 2025. These projects focus on several aspects of the quantum value chain, from developing quantum computing applications for chemistry simulations to developing quantum-based encryption systems for secure communication and training the future quantum workforce. According to a political agreement between the Danish government and the parliament, quantum is among the strategic priorities for national R&I. An additional DKK 316 million will be invested in 2026 and DKK 860 million will be prioritised between 2027 and 2029. In parallel, and in line with the National Quantum Strategy, EIFO

established the 55 North fund in October 2025 together with private investor Novo Holdings. With a target size of EUR 300 million, the fund aims to support the entire quantum value chain, with a focus on start-ups and scale-ups working on computing, sensing and communication. **This growth in both public and private funding reflects the increasing scale and activity of Denmark's quantum sector, as well as rising confidence in the long-term potential of quantum technologies.**

Supporting EU-wide digital ecosystems and scaling up innovative enterprises

SMEs with at least basic digital intensity

Performance assessment

In 2025, 92.45% of SMEs had at least a basic level of digital intensity, compared with the EU average of 71.39%. The indicator shows an average annual progression of +10.8% between 2023 and 2025, which is almost in line with the EU's 11%. The country is on track according to its trajectory presented in the Digital Decade national roadmap. When zooming in on SMEs with a very high digital intensity index, Denmark stands at 25.79% (vs. EU 9.07%), after a notable progression of +109.8% annually.

Policy context and assessment of recommendations

Denmark's SME digitalisation sits within a national ecosystem that has prioritised digitalisation for over a decade and is now gradually shifting towards deepening the level and quality of digital maturity. Flagship initiatives such as SME:Digital have proven to be useful in supporting SMEs to adopt digital technologies through grants and advisory support. An evaluation report published in May 2025, analysing outcomes for SMEs supported in 2019, 2020 and 2021, highlights the programme's scale and continued relevance:

- more than **7 000 digitalisation projects** were supported since the start of the programme (2018), with more planned in the pipeline;
- participation spans **different sectors**, particularly manufacturing, ICT and wholesale and retail, with the largest share of applicants coming from **smaller companies** (2-50 employees);
- the technologies adopted reflect an interest from SMEs to **improve operational efficiency**, with enterprise resource planning and warehouse management systems being among the most common areas of interest. Interest in AI tools is also becoming more widespread;
- in terms of outcomes, participating SMEs reported a **high satisfaction**, with most companies either proceeding with or planning **additional digital investments** following the completion of the funding period. SMEs have also seen **tangible business improvements**, including on productivity.

Taken together with the digital-by-default approach in e-Government, initiatives like SME:Digital have been effective in driving initial adoption and stimulating digital investment and capacity building.

Recent Danish initiatives have also put increasing emphasis on how digital technologies can be integrated and used across firms to improve structural processes and reduce administrative burden. One of the key challenges faced by Danish SMEs is the time spent for invoicing and reporting to authorities, which often arises not from the reporting itself but from fragmented data formats and a lack of interoperability between systems. In response to this, the Danish Business Authority is advancing its work on the Automatic Business Reporting initiative, with a mandatory digital bookkeeping requirement which officially came into force in 2025. Through workshops, guidance and

pilots, the initiative helps SMEs to use certified bookkeeping and accounting systems that automatically capture transactions, standardise data in machine-readable formats and allow direct digital reporting to authorities (read more *on the Automatic Sustainability Reporting in the Section on 'Leveraging digital transformation for a smart greening'*). This work also contributes to the broader *MinVirksomhed* agenda, which aims to simplify companies' interactions with the public sector through a more integrated digital environment enabling data reuse across authorities. Building on earlier measures such as the Bookkeeping Act (which came into force in 2022), it signals a gradual shift from technology uptake towards a more structural use of digital systems to generate, share and reuse data.

This shift beyond basic digital adoption is also increasingly visible in companies' investment decisions and behaviours. According to the European Investment Bank Investment Survey 2025, 98% of Danish firms invested in 2025, with a large proportion of these investments being directed towards developing new products, processes or services. In addition, half of Danish companies (50%) introduced innovations (i.e. new products), which may also include digital innovations. At the same time, **important constraints remain, like the shortage of skills**, with around two thirds of companies (67%) indicating that a lack of skilled staff limits their ability to commit to further investments. This combination of high investment and persistent capability constraints suggests that, while companies are adopting more advanced digital technologies, their ability to fully integrate these into business models and realise their full productivity potential may still be uneven.

2025 recommendation on digitalisation of SMEs: 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

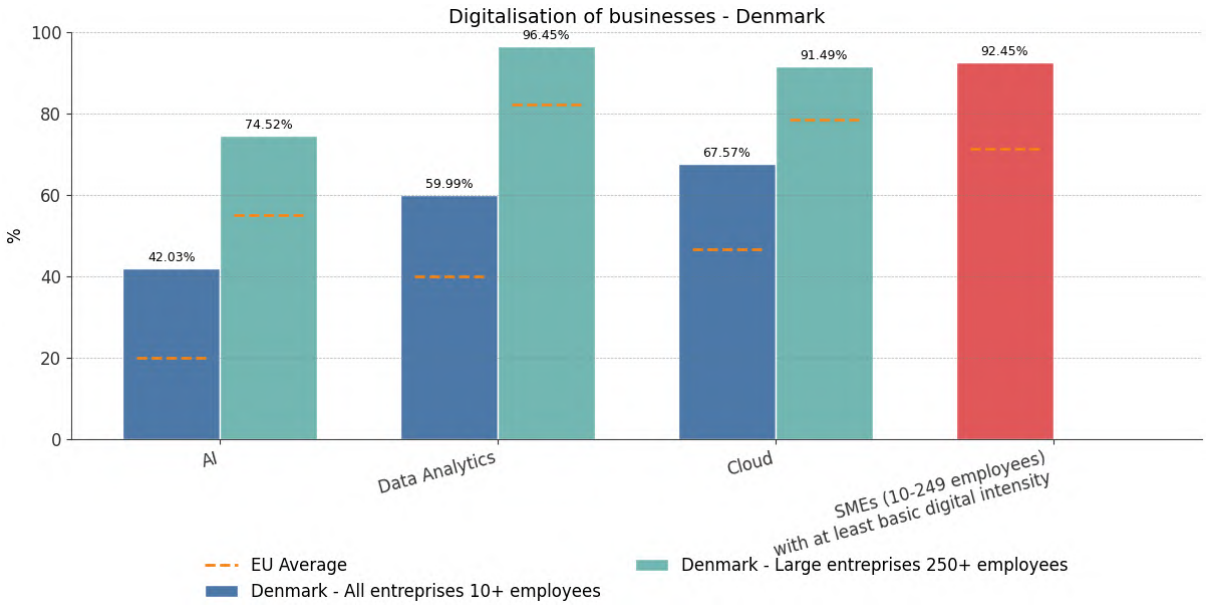
In 2025, Denmark continued the implementation of existing measures to support the digitalisation of SMEs **but did not take any new measures.**

- The SME:Digital programme remains operational. However, it did not receive any funding from the annual Danish Finance Act and, with the Recovery and Resilience Facility funding coming to an end in 2026, this will mean that the initiative will be significantly reduced.
- In January 2026, the SME:Robot initiative launched its third and final funding pool (DKK 5 million).
- Funding for the five Danish European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs) was renewed in 2025. Focus will be given to the AI-Boost hub, which is set to receive increased national co-financing. The hub offers SMEs and public organisations tailored support to use and adopt AI based on their business goals and data situation. Going forward, the intention is to create a more coherent AI ecosystem in Denmark. To do this, the government is currently working on strengthening the link between the AI-Boost hub, the Testing and Experimentation Facilities for AI (the TEFs) and the AI Factories.

To date, Denmark has been very effective in achieving widespread basic digitalisation across SMEs through the initiatives outlined above. However, because of limited digital skills and organisational capacity, many firms often remain at a relatively functional rather than fully transformative level of digital use. **Overall, SME digitalisation in Denmark can be characterised as mature but still evolving. It is strong in terms of uptake and access, yet with scope for deeper technological integration to fully realise potential productivity gains.**

Take up of advanced technologies

Performance assessment



Denmark continues to lead when it comes to enterprises' adoption of key digital technologies such as AI, cloud computing and data analytics. In 2025:

- **42.03% of Danish enterprises adopted AI, above the EU average of 19.95%;**
- **59.99% of Danish enterprises adopted data analytics, above the EU average of 39.85%;**
- **67.57% of Danish enterprises adopted cloud technologies, above the EU average of 46.69%;**
- **and 82.31% of Danish enterprises adopted AI or cloud or data analytics, above the EU average of 63.20%.**

The most striking trend is AI adoption, which has seen an exceptional annual growth of 52.4%. While data analytics adoption also grew by 10.1% annually (slightly above the EU's 9.5%), **cloud adoption lagged behind, expanding by just 1.1%** compared with the EU's 9.5% annual growth. For all three KPIs, Denmark is on track according to the trajectories presented in the Digital Decade national roadmap. It did not provide a national trajectory point for 2025 for AI, cloud and data analytics together.

However, adoption remains uneven with persisting gaps between SMEs (10-249 employees) and large (250+ employees) enterprises. This is a trend that can be observed across the EU, but that appears to be slightly less pronounced in Denmark. While 74.52% of large companies adopted AI (55.03% in the EU), this was the case for 40.99% of SMEs (18.90% in the EU). Similarly, a notable 96.45% of large companies adopted data analytics (82.03% in the EU), compared to 58.82% of SMEs (38.59% in the EU) and 91.49% of large companies adopted cloud (78.32% in the EU) compared to 66.80% of SMEs (45.74% in the EU).

Policy context and assessment of recommendations

The uptake of advanced digital technologies is relatively widespread, but its use remains concentrated in specific applications and varies by company size. According to the European Investment Bank Investment Survey 2025, more than half of Danish companies (58%) report using generative AI tools primarily to enhance internal processes, such as text analysis and content generation (87%). Other uses include marketing and sales (44%), customer service (39%) and product

development (31%). However, a clear gap remains in more advanced applications: while around 57% of large companies use AI to automate workflows, this share drops to only 35% of SMEs, highlighting differences in the depth of adoption.

This gap reflects a set of structural barriers, such as the lack of time, financial resources and expertise. While awareness and initial uptake are relatively high, smaller companies are often uncertain about the return on investing in advanced digital technologies, particularly when adoption requires deeper organisational changes and long-term commitments. Moreover, SMEs have limited data capabilities and a shortage of specialised workers.

While Denmark's digitalisation strategy has traditionally focused on the adoption of digital technologies to improve productivity and efficiency, there is a growing policy focus on how such high adoption relates to digital dependencies and resilience. The latest Danish report on the State of Digital sheds light on several areas where there is strong reliance on foreign providers, reflecting trends that are not only relevant to Denmark but also to the broader European context. These include cloud markets, the expansion of hyperscale data centres in Denmark and companies' use of essential services such as email and software. For this reason, digital sovereignty has moved higher on the Danish policy agenda, with dedicated funding for 2026-2029 (DKK 80 million), becoming a key priority in the Joint Digitalisation Strategy 2026-2029.

Unicorns, scale-ups and start-ups

Performance assessment

At the beginning of 2026, Denmark had 11 unicorns, which is 1 more than in 2025 (10, figure revised). The country did not provide a national trajectory point for 2025 in the Digital Decade national roadmap.

Policy context and assessment of recommendations

Despite a strong pipeline of new start-ups and scale-ups, companies in Denmark face difficulties to transform into larger companies and unicorns. The 2024 Entrepreneurship Package has largely been implemented, with initiatives expected to have a positive impact to improve access to venture capital and private equity over the coming years. However, its impact remains too early to assess**.** A report from the Danish Export and Investment Fund (EIFO) shows that, with EUR 1 107 million in invested capital, Danish venture capital activity has remained broadly flat over the past three years (2023-2025). Meanwhile, early-stage invested capital declined for the first time in three years, falling from EUR 269 million in 2024 to EUR 187 million in 2025, with a reduced number of deals (from 46 to 34). Additionally, only about 30% of seed-stage companies are able to jump to an early-stage round or above within three years, suggesting a slowing private investment cycle. This trend is in line with global market trends. The report also highlights a declining share in domestic investors, down 5 percentage points from 2024 to 2025.

Another important barrier for start-ups and scale-ups is the regulatory and administrative burden. While the Danish government has long been committed to reducing unnecessary bureaucracy, it recognises that reporting requirements and overlapping regulation continue to challenge its companies. For this reason, simplification has become a key focus, with measures including streamlining company registration procedures and aligning all reporting into a single digital portal (Virk.dk) (*see Section on the digitalisation of SMEs*).

It is also worth highlighting a structural challenge related to the commercialisation of research. Despite increasing public and private investment in research and innovation, Denmark has not seen a

corresponding increase in the commercial uptake of research results. Data from the Danish Agency for Higher Education and Research shows that key commercialisation indicators, including annual inventions, patent applications, licensing agreements and the creation of spin-offs, have largely stagnated since 2013. This suggests persistent barriers in translating strong research into marketable innovations and high-growth companies.

2025 recommendation on 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.

Denmark made some efforts to address the recommendation through new policy actions in 2025.

The political agreement Research and Innovation (2026-2029), reached in November 2025, allocates multi-annual funding of approximately DKK 19 billion for research and innovation until 2019 in a number of strategic priority areas, including innovation and knowledge-based entrepreneurship. Key measures include:

- establishing a multi-annual funding stream to support long-term innovation initiatives of universities and the entrepreneurial ambitions among researchers (DKK 300 million in 2026 and DKK 500 million annually between 2027 and 2029);
- expanding the 'Innoexplorer' programme (DKK 10 million in 2026) under Innovation Fund Denmark with a view to maturing early-stage invention;
- earmarking DKK 35 million in 2026 for expanding strategic investments in research infrastructures (equipment, databases and laboratory facilities);
- strengthening the knowledge base of programmes at university colleges, business academies etc. (DKK 100 million in 2026 and DKK 20 million annually until 2029), including with a view to building capacity within research and innovation, including with SMEs.

Additionally, the political agreement on strengthening knowledge and technology transfer, reached in January 2026, lays out some concrete commitments to deepen the collaboration between research and industry, make it easier for start-ups and entrepreneurs to commercialise research and strengthen the capital flow towards start-ups and spinouts. Moreover, the 2024 Entrepreneurship Package (*see 2025 Digital Decade country report*) has continued to roll out, with the EIFO expanding its financing instruments and introducing targeted support for high-potential start-ups, and with new rules entering into force, including lower capital requirements to set up a company.

All these initiatives support the development of a deeper integrated ecosystem supporting SMEs, start-ups and scale-ups in critical sectors, including digital. While the political agreement on multi-annual funding for research and innovation and the agreement on knowledge and technology transfer both set out ambitious priorities, their long-term trajectory and potential scaling will depend on sustained political commitment beyond the current funding period.

Strengthening Cybersecurity & Resilience

Both Danes and Danish companies show an overall good cyber awareness and preparedness. In 2025, more than half (73.34%) of surveyed individuals demonstrated above basic safety skills *(see more on skills in the next Section)*, outperforming the EU average of 51.34%. Similarly, in 2024, 77.09% of companies implemented at least 5 of the 11 cybersecurity measures tracked by Eurostat, well above the EU average of 56.85%. Danish companies excel in several security measures, showing particularly

strong performance in access management, incident preparedness and proactive security monitoring. However, Danish companies perform comparatively less well in the use of strong password authentication, where the adoption rate in 2024 was 65.4%. Moreover, according to the Danish digital development report 2026, the number of companies that use many IT security measures increases with company size, with around 83% of large companies implementing a wide range of measures compared to only 41% of SMEs.

Despite strong awareness and skills, resilience remains a moving target, as greater use of digital technologies also increases exposure to cybersecurity risks and requires continuous adaptation. After a major disruptive cyberattack on a Danish water utility company in 2024, which left around 50 households without access to water supply for several hours, Denmark also experienced several denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks on Danish websites in November 2025 in the period leading up to the municipal and regional council elections. Data shows that more than half (57%) of all public agencies and roughly one in three companies (32%) were affected by a cyber incident in 2025, with SMEs being particularly exposed. Moreover, 52% of Danish companies and organisations were more worried about cyber threats in 2025 compared to the previous year and 86% link this concern to geopolitical tensions. Despite this, around 38% of companies report difficulties in strengthening their cybersecurity, mainly due to limited awareness of the benefits and management of IT security measures, as well as skills shortages and financial constraints. This paints a clear picture of cyber threats affecting all levels of society, indicating they extend beyond purely technical concerns.

2025 recommendation on cybersecurity: Support cybersecurity measures in view of evolving threats, building capacity in both enterprises and public administrations.

Denmark made efforts to address the recommendation through new policy actions. In January 2026, a new political agreement was reached to strengthen the country's cyber and information security for 2026-2029. With an allocated budget of DKK 211 million, the agreement focuses on:

- reinforcing support to Danes through awareness campaigns and improvements of the existing cyber hotline for digital security advice;
- supporting SMEs, in particular with the establishment of a public-private partnership (SME CERT) that will develop services to raise awareness, train and mobilise SMEs;
- enhancing coordination around cyber operations and clarifying roles and responsibilities across public and private actors;
- improving cyber education through the introduction of a civilian cyber programme, namely an upskilling and training programme.

In parallel, Denmark is financially supporting innovative cybersecurity projects and introducing practical tools for businesses, in particular SMEs. Between 2024 and 2025, the Danish National Coordination Centre for Cybersecurity (NCC-DK) funded 31 projects focused on developing and adopting cybersecurity solutions, strengthening companies' cybersecurity capabilities and helping SMEs strengthen their capacity to respond to cyberthreats. A fourth call was launched in February 2026. On the regulatory side, the EU's Network and Information Security (NIS2) Directive entered into force in Denmark in July 2025 and the Danish Resilience Agency put in place an online tool website to help companies assess whether they are governed by the rules. In November 2025, the agency also published a cyberattack contingency plan for SMEs.

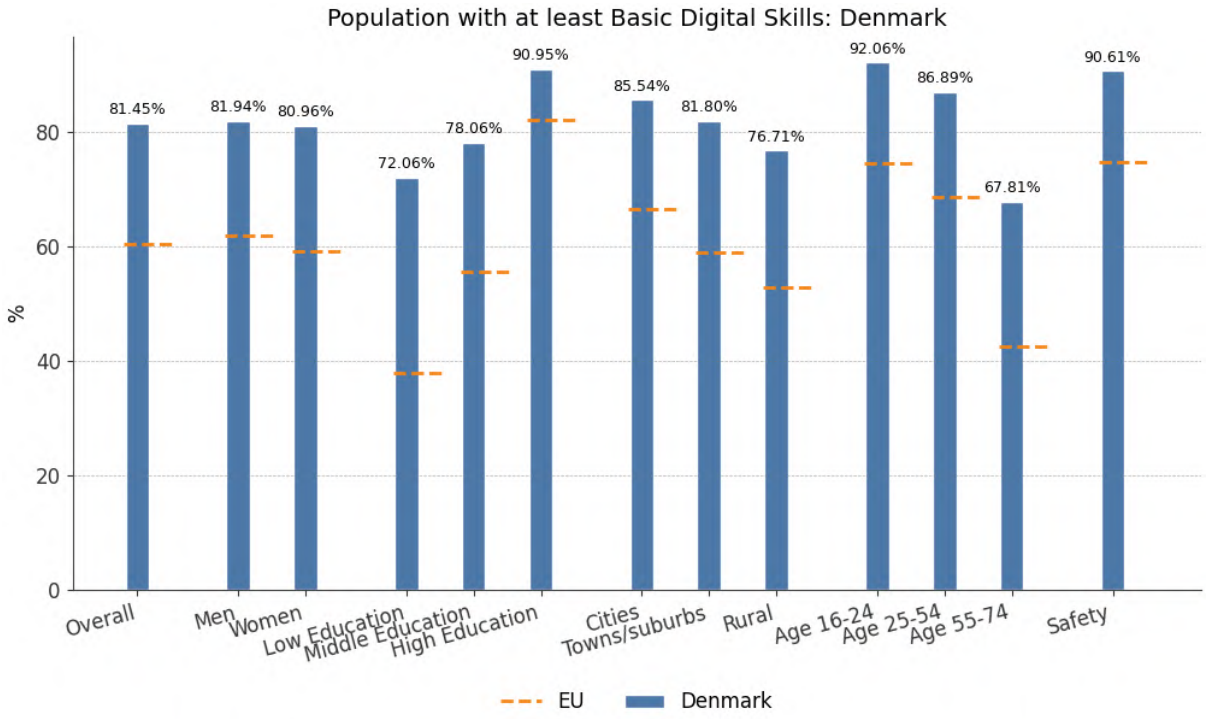
Protecting and empowering EU people and society

Empowering people and bringing the digital transformation closer to their needs

Equipping people with digital skills

Basic digital skills

Performance assessment

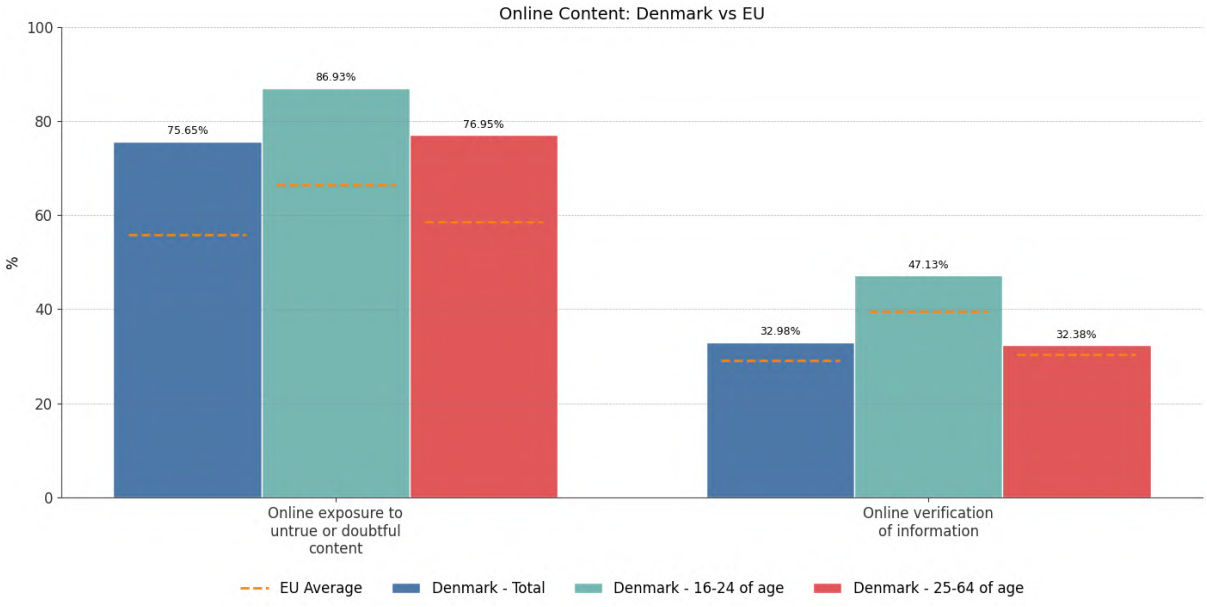


Denmark has one of the strongest digital skills profiles in the EU, with broad and inclusive progress across demographic groups. However, disparities linked to education levels exist and younger users remain particularly exposed to misleading content online.

- **At least basic digital skills: in 2025, 81.45% of Danes aged 16-74 had at least basic digital skills, far exceeding the EU average of 60.40%.** The annual growth rate since 2023 (+8.2%) also outpaces the EU's 4.3%, showing rapid progress. The country is on track according to its national trajectory presented in the Digital Decade roadmap.
- **Digital safety skills:** a remarkable 90.61% of individuals have at least basic digital safety skills (EU: 74.63%), reflecting a 3.9% annual growth (slightly above the EU's 3.6%). Denmark's strong performance in this area is a positive indicator of its commitment to online security and resilience.
- **Gender gap:** the gender gap in basic digital skills is minimal, with 81.94% of proficient men and 80.96% proficient women – a difference of just 0.98 percentage points (EU: 2.75).

- **Education level:** while education remains a critical determinant of digital proficiency, Denmark mitigates this divide more effectively than most EU countries. Among those no or low formal education, 72.06% have basic digital skills (EU: 37.56%). The gap between this group and the national average (9.39 percentage points) is less than half the size of that observed on average in the EU (22.84 percentage points).
- **Age groups:** digital skills decline with age but remain strong relative to the EU.
    - 16-24 years old: 92.06% have basic digital skills (EU: 74.55%);
    - 25-54 years old: 86.89% have basic digital skills (EU: 68.57%);
    - 55-74 years old: 67.81% have basic digital skills (EU: 42.6%).

  Nonetheless, the 24.25-point generational gap is narrower than the EU average (31.95).
- **Living areas:** urban areas (85.54%) outperform rural regions (76.71%) in basic digital skills. However, the 8.83-percentage point gap remains smaller than the EU's 13.67-point divide. This indicates a more balanced distribution of digital skills across geographical areas in Denmark.
- **Use of Generative AI:** 48.44% of Danes used generative AI in 2025, higher than the EU average of 32.66%. Of these, 27.17% used it for professional purposes (EU: 15.36%). According to results from the Digital Decade Eurobarometer 2026, 51% of Danish respondents are concerned about accuracy or incorrect information produced by generative AI tools.



- **Fact-checking:** In 2025, 32.98% of Danes checked the accuracy of online content, slightly above the EU average of 29.16% and showing a positive annual growth of 7%. Younger Danes (16-24) were more likely to fact-check, with 47.13% doing so (EU: 39.49%), compared to 32.38% of those aged 25-64 (EU 30.40%).
- **Exposure to misleading online content:** 75.65% of Danes were exposed to misleading or doubtful online content – an 8.2% annual increase since 2023, well above the EU average of 55.90% (which rose by 6.5% annually). Younger people (aged 16-24) were the most affected, with 86.93% exposed in 2025, significantly higher than the EU average (66.34%). Results from the Digital Decade Eurobarometer 2026 show that most Danes (95%) agree that online

manipulation (i.e. disinformation, foreign interference, AI-generated content, deepfakes) poses a threat to our democratic processes.

- **Exposure to hostile content online:** *data for Denmark are not available for this KPI.*

Policy context and assessment of the recommendations

Denmark's consistently strong performance in basic digital skills can be attributed to a long-standing policy model built on mandatory usage and close alignment between public services and skills development. The country's digital-by-default public sector set the scene for widespread use of digital tools, incentivising Danes to develop and maintain good digital skills. In this sense, digital skills in Denmark are not only the outcome of education policies but are also structurally embedded in everyday life.

Denmark is now entering a new phase in its digital skills policy, reflecting the limits of a purely usage-driven model and shifting towards institutionalising digital skills within the education system. While basic skills are widespread, challenges like skills gaps linked to education and the exposure of younger users to online risks persist. This requires a broader understanding of skills from knowing how to use digital tools to critically assessing and engaging with them, understanding their broader societal impacts. This transition is evident in Denmark's plan to introduce 'Technology Comprehension' in primary and lower secondary education starting from the 2027-2028 school year. The idea is also to integrate it as an approach across core subjects like Danish, mathematics, nature and technology in primary education and as an elective in the lower secondary education with a more practical focus. In parallel, a national project involving higher education institutions is developing the competencies of teachers through learning labs. The primary focus of the project is to develop technology comprehension in primary and secondary education with a strong focus on pedagogy and technology in education. The challenge ahead will be to turn the concept of technology comprehension, which is now mostly in a pilot and experimentation phase, into nation-wide implementation. However, some stakeholders remain critical about its real uptake and impact, given that the subject will be optional for students.

Denmark's emphasis on critical digital skills is closely tied to a broader policy focus on online safety, particularly for children and young users. As shown in the Digital Decade Eurobarometer 2026, 93% of Danes think that further strengthening the protection of children and young people online should be an EU priority. This was highlighted during Denmark's EU Presidency of the Council, during which it steered the signing of the 'Jutland Declaration', which sets out a clear political direction for stronger EU intervention through common rules on age verification and stricter obligations for platforms. At the national level, Denmark complemented this agenda with a comprehensive political agreement on digital child protection, covering a wide range of measures – from introducing an age limit for certain social media, to promoting safer-by-design digital products, strengthening enforcement tools and supporting alternative platforms. This policy response is grounded in growing empirical evidence of high levels of social media use among young people, widespread exposure to harmful content, increasing signs of addictive behaviours and extensive data collection practices by large platforms.

ICT specialists

Performance assessment

Denmark's total percentage of ICT specialists as a share of total employment was 5.7% in 2025, higher than the EU's 5.0%. However, the country is lagging behind the projected national trajectory set out in its national Digital Decade roadmap, with a growth rate of -1.7% since the 2024 value (5.8%).

The share of Danish women as ICT specialists has remained fairly stable, but ICT training show a worrying trend. In terms of women ICT specialists, Denmark had a slightly higher share (21.10% in 2025; 21.20% in 2024) compared with the EU average (19.50%). However, in 2024, 5.80% of all graduates in Denmark were ICT graduates. This is close to the EU average (4.70%) but leaning towards the lower-performing countries and showing a decrease since 2023 (when ICT graduates represented 6.10% of all graduates). This trend is concerning as a low share of ICT graduates reduce the prospect of bridging the gap in the training of more ICT specialists for the future workforce.

Policy context and assessment of the recommendations

With a highly innovative and digitalised economy, Denmark faces a growing need for ICT specialists and STEM graduates. Participation in STEM fields at the tertiary level has increased gradually, with enrolments rising from about 19.6% in 2015 to 24.4% in 2023. However, this remains below the EU average of 26.9%. At the graduate level, STEM graduates represented 21% of all bachelor's graduates in Denmark in 2025, compared with 23% across OECD countries. The recent reform of the master's degree programmes has reduced the number of study places at bachelor's degree level (*see 2025 Danish country report*), leading to fewer opportunities for students to pursue ICT-related programmes despite the high demand. In 2025, approximately 1 800 applicants to STEM and IT courses were turned down, with STEM intake falling by 1% and IT intake falling by 4%. Gender gaps remain, but are less significant than in other EU countries, with women representing around 34% of enrolled STEM students in 2024, compared with an EU average of 32.2%.

There is a high demand for ICT specialists in Denmark, with smaller companies in particular struggling to access qualified talent. In 2024, 15.98% of Danish enterprises recruited or tried to recruit ICT specialists, compared to an EU average of 9.55%. Moreover, 7.97% of enterprises reported hard-to-fill vacancies for ICT specialist roles, compared to 5.49% with the EU. Eurostat data also shows that larger companies tend to dominate access to ICT talent. In 2024, 89.05% of large companies (250+ employees) employed ICT specialists against only 23.19% of smaller companies (10-49 employees).

2025 recommendation on ICT specialists: 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.

In 2025, Denmark continued the implementation of existing measures, although there is little available data on their effects. **The country did not take any new measure.**

- **On improving advanced digital skills in higher education and upskilling/reskilling ICT specialists in the workforce:** as reported in 2025, Denmark continued to implement the 'Initiative on Digital Advancement in Higher Education' under the new Digitalisation Strategy 2024-2027. As part of the initiative, eight projects, launched across universities, university colleges and business academies, have been approved and will run until 2027. The projects focus on strengthening digital capacities in higher education institutions, including through competence development for educators and development of curricula.

The projects focus on competence building, AI literacy and development and integration of digital tools and learning elements. The projects cover different study fields (i.e. humanities, social sciences and healthcare). In total, DKK 35 million have been allocated to the projects. Denmark also continued to implement the 'Initiative on Continuing Education and Retention of IT specialists', with five additional projects launched in 2025. The projects are being launched across universities, university colleges and business academies and will run until 2028. The five projects focus on developing and testing of new continuing higher education modules for ICT specialists on IT, digitalisation and cybersecurity. DKK 10 million were allocated to the projects in 2025. The projects are run locally at the higher education institutions.

- **On increasing young people's interest in ICT and STEM:** at the primary and lower secondary education level, the planned effort to embed 'Technology Comprehension' into core subjects (*see Section on Basic Digital Skills*) has the potential to strengthen early exposure to and interest in STEM and technology-related concepts. However, some stakeholders are critical about real uptake and impact, given the voluntary nature of the measure.
- **On attracting foreign talent and retaining international students:** as part of the higher education reforms (i.e. the reform of the master's degree programmes and the reform of the professional bachelor's programmes and the academy profession programmes), Denmark is combining targeted talent attraction with new education formats to address ICT labour shortages. More specifically, universities are allowed to introduce 1 100 additional English-taught master's study places in 2024-2028 and 2 500 annually from 2029. Moreover, 800 new English-taught study places can be offered within STEM and IT in academy profession and professional bachelor's degree programmes outside major cities from 2027. In parallel, the reform introduces flexible master's programmes for working professionals, with up to half the places intended for international students. **Together, these measures reflect a higher education system that takes labour market needs into consideration and encouraged the potential of international students to address labour shortages.** However, the effectiveness of these measures will depend on the ability to retain international talent after the period of study.

Key digital public services and solutions – trusted, user-friendly, and accessible to all

Performance assessment

In 2025, Denmark scored 82.2 out of 100 on digital public services for citizens, representing a 3.4% increase compared with 2024 but remaining below the EU average of 84.64. On digital public services for businesses, Denmark scored 89.06 out of 100, slightly above the EU average of 88.59 and representing a 1.8% increase since 2024. The country did not provide national trajectory points for digital public services for businesses and citizens for 2025 in the Digital Decade national roadmap.

Digital public services for national users in Denmark performed better than for cross-border users. Cross-border services for citizens scored 64.4 out of 100 (vs an EU average of 75.28; for national users the score was 100), while cross-border services for businesses scored 78.13 out of 100 (vs an EU average of 78.37; for national users the score was 100).

In 2025, Denmark scored 97.92 out of 100 for access to e-Health records showing no real progression since 2024 but remaining significantly above the EU average of 86.51. The country did not provide a national trajectory point for 2025 in the Digital Decade national roadmap.

Denmark

Policy context and assessment of the recommendations

Denmark's near-universal adoption of digital tools continues to be accompanied by progress in both usage, satisfaction and public trust in digital solutions. Overall, 83% of Danes responding to the Digital Decade Eurobarometer 2026 consider that the digitalisation of daily public and private services is making their lives easier. Further data show that 82% of the population aged 15-89 used digital public services at least once a week, rising to 89% among those aged 15-24. Trust has reached a record high, with 84% of the population expressing confidence in digital public solutions – an increase from 82% reported in 2024. This growing trust is reflected in high levels of confidence towards Digital Post (i.e. the country's secure digital mail system used for official communication from public authorities), where perceived security has increased from 77% in 2017 to 89% in 2025. User satisfaction is also consistently high. In 2024, 86% of users were satisfied with MitID, 81% with Digital Post and 90% with the driving licence app. **Nevertheless, not all Danes benefit equally from the current system of digital public service delivery.** The Danish Agency for Digital Government estimates that 16.5% of the population still faces difficulties in using digital public services, including 6.5% not using them at all, many of whom are older individuals. At the same time, data from the e-Government benchmark shows that Denmark performs strongly in providing online user support – including FAQs, discussion forums, help functions and complaint procedures – with a score of 91.5 out of 100 (above the EU average of 90) in 2025.

To further improve accessibility, public delivery and productivity, the Danish government launched a number of targeted initiatives through e.g. the Joint Digitalisation Strategy 2026-2029 and the Digital AI Taskforce. Measures such as the 'Digital Power of Attorney' and simplified consent processes enable Danes to grant and manage digital authorisations on behalf of their relatives. In parallel, the government, municipalities and regions launched three large-scale AI projects in the public sector, which aim to strengthen task resolution, improve interactions with the public sector, increase efficiency and free up time.

Denmark is also strengthening its digital identity infrastructure and progressing in the development of the EU Identity Wallet. The country is preparing to launch the AltID digital identity wallet in June 2026, which will be available to Danes aged 13 and above and will enable the storage and sharing of credentials such as identity and age verification. AltID will be implemented in phases, with functionalities gradually expanded to maximise user value and support broader adoption across the EU. In addition, the country is engaged in EU-level cooperation, including participation in large-scale pilots and collaboration with Nordic and Baltic countries.

In the healthcare sector, Denmark is strengthening digital infrastructure, cross-sector coordination and patient-centred care within an already highly advanced system. Following the 2024 healthcare reform, the new organisation 'Digital Health Denmark' is being set up to lead initiatives such as the establishment of a national ecosystem for secure data sharing across the healthcare sector. The main portal for Danes' access to health records remains *sundhed.dk*, which had approximately 3 million monthly visits in 2025. In addition, the Shared Medication Record, as a backend system, ensures that medical information is shared across the whole healthcare system and updated in real-time. **Despite this high level of digitalisation, the healthcare system is facing increasing pressures linked to ageing,**

workforce constraints and rising demand for services, which create a strong need for efficiency and better use of data. In this context, AI has significant potential, as reflected in the 'Strategic Approach for AI' and in the Digital Decade Eurobarometer. 79% of Danish respondents agree that AI should be developed as a priority to improve public services, including healthcare, and 65% of Danes believe that digital health technologies (at par with green digital technologies) will have the most positive impact in the next 10 years. Denmark is also strengthening its health innovation ecosystem through initiatives such as the National Centre for Health Innovation, which aims to support the development and implementation of innovative, data-drive healthcare solutions. However, adoption and integration remain limited. To date, only one Danish organisation has joined the Network of AI-powered Advanced Medical Centres, which aims to speed up the introduction of innovative solutions for prevention, early detection and diagnosis in cancer and cardiovascular disease. Moreover, some issues remain also in the availability of some data types, like medical images, which are not yet fully accessible to Danes due to technical constraints related to computing capacity. Also, while uptake of digital health services is overall high, gaps persist, with people with lower levels of education (57%) being less likely to use e-health records than people with higher levels of education (67%).

Leveraging digital transformation for a smart greening

Denmark ICT sector's emissions align with the EU average. Nevertheless, very little attention is given to the recycling of electronic equipment. Recently published sectoral data on air emissions show that the Danish ICT sector emitted 14.8 kg CO_2 equivalent per capita in 2022, below the EU average of 21.3 kg CO_2 eq. As in many EU Member States, a great majority of these emissions (97.8%) stem from ICT services activities. However, the sector accounted for just 0.11% of the total economy's air emissions, below the EU average of 0.33%. On recycling, only 15.37% of ICT-related waste collected (corresponding to two categories of waste electrical and electronic equipment) was recycled or prepared for reuse in 2023. It is one of the lowest performances in the EU (EU average: 80.23%).

2025 recommendation on the 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

In 2025, Denmark made some efforts to address the recommendation through new policy actions. It also continued the implementation of existing measures.

On Digitalisation for Sustainability

- The Supply Digitalisation Programme, which is part of Denmark's Digitalisation Strategy (2024), aims to create frameworks and regulations for how data across the electricity, heating and water sectors is collected, structured and made accessible through a public-private partnership involving data users, authorities and utilities. The programme is informed by the experience and knowledge gained from earlier initiatives from the utility sectors, such as EnergyDataDK and Centre Denmark, which have been involved in providing platforms for developing and testing data-driven energy solutions using real datasets. In 2025 the programme continued to prepare recommendations, which will subsequently be submitted for political consideration.
- The Danish Business Authority (DBA) also continues to work on the Automating Sustainability Reporting initiative launched in 2024, with approximately DKK 27 million in funding. Similarly to the Automatic Business Reporting initiative (*see Section on digitalisation of SMEs*), it helps SMEs and companies generate and reuse structured sustainability data, including on emissions, resource use and sustainability metrics. The DBA pilots the use of standardised electronic invoices and a standardised chart of accounts on climate to be implemented by providers of digital bookkeeping systems. This allows companies of all sizes to document and report on their annual green house has emissions at company level in an automated manner, thereby reducing administrative burdens for reporting.

On Sustainable Digitalisation

- The University of Southern Denmark (SDU), in collaboration with Danfoss and Hewlett Packard Enterprise, has launched a new sustainable data centre for AI and supercomputing in May 2026, including the supercomputer *Bitten* – named after Bitten Clausen, who was among the first female chairpersons in European industry. The facility will host hardware for the Danish e-Infrastructure Consortium (DeiC). It will integrate advanced cooling

technologies to reduce the energy consumption of servers and re-use excess heat to power local energy systems. Interestingly, 87% of Danish respondents of the Digital Decade Eurobarometer agree that AI should be developed as a priority in an environmentally sustainable way (i.e. using renewable and clean energy) and 65% believe that green digital technologies (on par with e-health technologies) will have the most positive impact in the next 10 years.

Annex I: National roadmap analysis

Denmark's national Digital Decade strategic roadmap

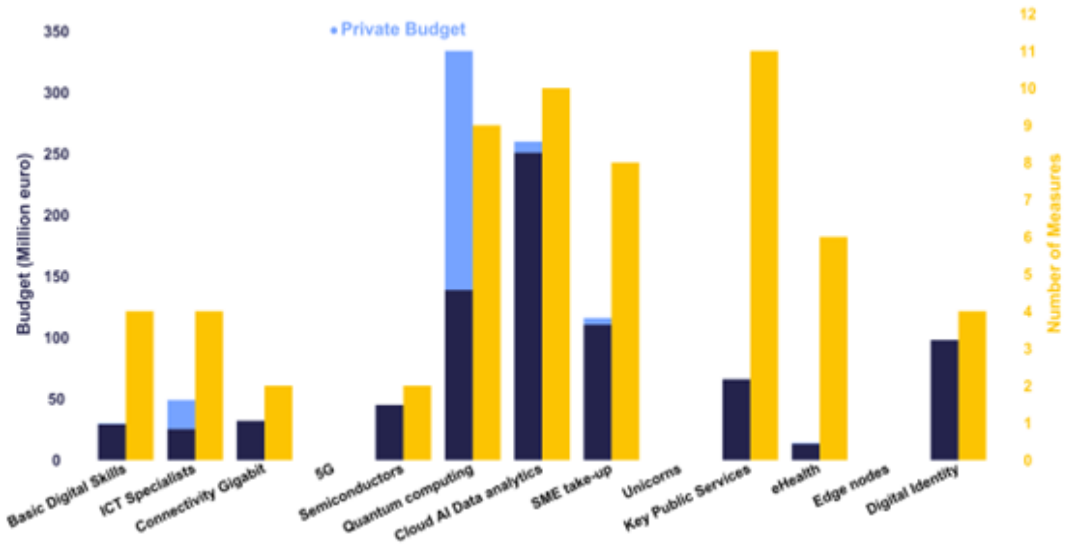
Denmark submitted an adjustment of its national Digital Decade roadmap on 7 January 2025. As part of the adjustment, Denmark introduced 12 new measures and revised four targets and trajectories, clearly aligning with the new Commission's priorities on AI and digital skills. None of the existing measures from the 2023 roadmap saw a budget change or additional qualification.

On targets, Denmark raised the ambition of its national target for the take-up of data analytics by enterprises (75%) and slightly revised downward its national target on the take-up of cloud by enterprises (77.2%), arguing it is a more realistic target. It nonetheless remains above the EU ambition of 75% adoption. It did not provide a target and trajectory for FTTP and edge nodes, mentioning potential plans to evaluate them in Spring 2025. The country also refrains from including a target for unicorns, despite underlining its broad agreement with the EU-level target. The VHCN trajectory was not revised to provide a path until 2030. Denmark's national target for ICT specialists remains the same as the one proposed in the 2023 roadmap (7.7% of the employed population versus a 10% at EU level), with the country emphasising high demands for labour in many other sectors. Denmark notes that they plan to keep the target as it is until more is known on the effects of current measures under implementation.

On the additional measures introduced, two new measures were added to support basic digital skills and ICT specialists respectively, totalling four measures for digital skills. On basic digital skills, the focus is to integrate technology comprehension into primary and lower secondary school curricula. On ICT specialists, the focus is to offer continuous education and training in ICT and attract more international students in the field. One measure was added to support the digitalisation of SMEs, and four new measures focus on different aspects of AI and data analytics (i.e. adoption of AI solutions by the public sector, developing advice and knowledge on responsible AI, developing transparent and secure Danish language models and making Danish text data freely available to support AI solutions).

Measures included in the roadmap were linked to the relevant parts of the declaration on **digital rights and principles** and the **Digital Decade general objectives**. The adjustment also includes some more details on the **consultation with stakeholders** regarding the original roadmap**.**

Measures and budget in the national roadmap[2]



In total, the national roadmap includes **67 measures with a budget of EUR 1.07 billion, with EUR 832 million coming from public budgets** (equivalent to 0.21% of Denmark's GDP). Digital public services and the adoption of key digital technologies like cloud, AI and data analytics are the targets with the highest number of measures. In terms of budget, the highest share is allocated to the uptake of key digital technologies like AI and quantum technologies.

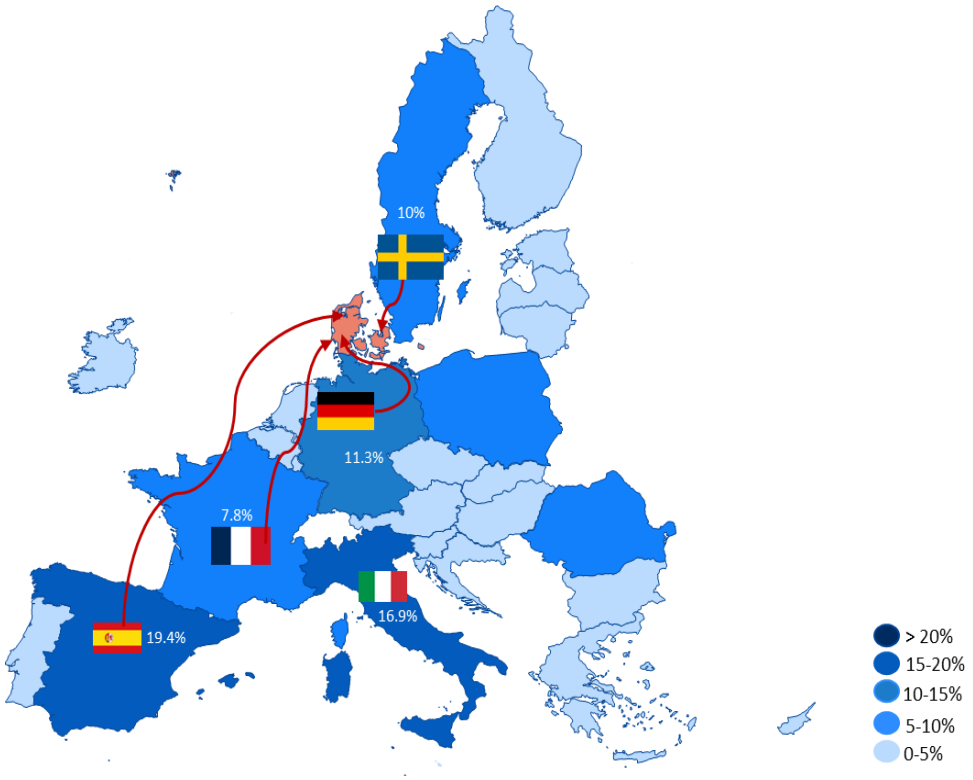
[2] When referring to national roadmaps, data used in this report are those declared by the Member States in their national roadmaps, on the basis of the Commission's guidance (C(2023) 4025 final). Data might reflect possible variations in reporting practices and methodological choices across Member States. No systematic assessment of the extent to which Member States followed the guidance was carried out.

Annex II: Funding, economic impacts & multi-country projects

Country results from the study 'Assessing the Economic Impact of Digital Investments under the Recovery and Resilience Facility'

A modelling study conducted by the European Commission services, with the FIDELIO model, assesses the economic impact of the digital component of the RRF. As of November 2025, the digital part of the Recovery and Resilience Plan of Denmark is evaluated to EUR 382 million with EUR 13 million for digital infrastructures, EUR 300 million for the digitalisation of businesses, and EUR 69 million for the digitalisation of public services.

The total economic impact of RRF digital measures is estimated to EUR 2.35 billion for the national economy. Of this, EUR 1.51 billion stems from the direct effects of Denmark's own RRP and EUR 836 million corresponds to spillover effects from the implementation of other EU Member States' plans. Denmark benefited the most from spillover effects from RRPs of Spain (EUR 162 million), Italy (EUR 141 million), Germany (EUR 94 million). The most impacted sectors are Manufacturing (EUR 512 million), Trade (EUR 395 million), and Professional Services (EUR 330 million).



RRF spillover effects to Denmark

Funding from the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) & Cohesion Policy

Denmark allocates 28% of its total recovery and resilience plan to digital (EUR 0.4 billion)[3]. In addition, under cohesion policy, EUR 0.06 billion, representing 14% of the country's total cohesion policy funding, is dedicated to advancing Denmark's digital transformation[4].

Multi-Country Projects

Denmark is a member of the 'Alliance for Language Technologies' European Digital Infrastructure Consortium (EDIC) and is an observer of the 'Digital Commons' EDIC. Denmark is a participating state of the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking (JU) and of the Chips JU.

[3] 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: 23 April 2026.

[4] 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 (including Interreg), the Cohesion Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, and the Just Transition Fund.