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PART 10/27

**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**

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European  
Commission

# DIGITAL DECADE COUNTRY REPORT 2026

France

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## Executive summary

Overall, France has strong assets in digitalisation such as a good fibre coverage, a digitally skilled population and a vibrant AI ecosystem. However, while the country has made strong progress in expanding digital adoption across businesses, it is still not fully reaping the fruits of digital transition when it comes to the general population of businesses, which lags behind in basic digitalisation and adoption of key technologies. The number of ICT specialists is also sub-par and experiencing sluggish growth, while the digitalisation of public services seems to have stagnated in recent years.

The weaknesses identified in the digitalisation of businesses are having an impact on France's **competitiveness** as low digitalised businesses cannot take advantage of productivity gains brought by digital tools (basic and advanced), nor can they access new online markets. More ICT specialists in the job market could relieve skills shortages in all sectors and help businesses access the expertise required to digitalise. More widespread digital public services could also foster the digitalisation of businesses while alleviating their administrative burden.

France can, however, count on several **digital leadership** assets. It is home to one of the most attractive AI ecosystems for start-ups thanks to a pool of engineering and research talent and considerable public support programmes. Public policies recently shifted heavily toward AI for the digitalisation of all businesses, and for research and infrastructure with large-scale projects such as the AI Factory France (AI2F). Massive investments in research and the production of semiconductors were committed through the Digital Decade roadmap. In quantum technology, France is a frontrunner in the EU and at the forefront of computing research with the inauguration of the Ruby quantum processor in 2025 as part of the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking.

### France in the Digital Decade

France shows a high level of ambition in its contribution to the Digital Decade having set 9 national targets (out of 14 possible), 100% of which aligned with the EU 2030 targets. France also set a target of 65% for the combined adoption of technologies by businesses, shy of the 75% EU level target. In its national roadmap, France provided 10 trajectory points for 2025 (out of 14 analysed). The country is following them moderately well with 50% considered on track. France addressed 67% of the 6 recommendations issued by the Commission in 2025, either by implementing significant policy changes (33%) or making some changes (33%) through new measures. According to the national roadmap, by the end of 2026, 27% of the measures will come to an end. The total public budget associated to these measures is EUR 3.15 billion, representing 28% of the total public budget outlined in the roadmap.

According to the special Eurobarometer on the Digital Decade 2026, 72% of French people consider that digital policy should have a very high/high priority for the EU in shaping our future in Europe. They also think that, in the next 10 years, the EU should cooperate with Member States to reinforce cybersecurity and protection from online threats (95%), promote digital education and skills programs (88%), and strengthen the regulation of online platforms (88%). In addition, 83% of French respondents think that the EU should reduce its dependencies on digital from third countries, and 83% that the EU should prioritise investments in digital infrastructure and services that are developed and controlled in Europe. Meanwhile, 49% 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

France allocates 22% of its total recovery and resilience plan to the digital transition (EUR 8.1 billion). In addition, under the cohesion policy, EUR 2.0 billion, representing 12% of the country's total cohesion policy funding, is dedicated to advancing France's digital transformation.

France is the host Member State for the Alliance for Language Technologies European Digital Infrastructure Consortium (ALT-EDIC) and for the Digital Commons EDIC. France is also a member of the Local Digital Twins towards CitiVERSE EDIC. France participates directly in the IPCEI on Microelectronics and Communication Technologies (IPCEI-ME/CT), in the IPCEI on Next Generation Cloud Infrastructure and Services (IPCEI-CIS), and in the IPCEI Tech4Cure. France is also a participating state of the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking (JU) and of the Chips JU.

Digital Decade KPI <sup>(1)</sup>	France				EU		Digital Decade target by 2030	
	Last available data (2)	DESI 2026 (year 2025)	Annual progress	National trajectory 2025 (3)	DESI 2026	Annual progress	FR	EU
Fixed Very High Capacity Network (VHCN) coverage	87.5%	91.7%	4.9%	100.0%	85.5%	3.7%	100.0%	100%
Fibre to the Premises (FTTP)	87.5%	91.7%	4.9%	-	74.1%	7.1%	-	-
Basic 5G coverage	94.3%	96.4%	2.2%	100.0%	96.8%	2.6%	100.0%	100%
Edge Nodes (estimate, new methodology)	-	854	-	-	7451	-	-	10000
SMEs with at least a basic level of digital intensity *	52.0%	69.4%	15.6%	62.9%	71.4%	11.0%	90.0%	90%
Cloud *	23.0%	36.5%	26.0%	-	46.7%	9.5%	-	75%
Artificial Intelligence	9.9%	18.2%	83.2%	-	20.0%	48.0%	-	75%
Data analytics *	33.9%	39.3%	7.6%	-	39.9%	9.5%	-	75%
AI or Cloud or Data analytics *	44.9%	57.9%	13.6%	50.6%	63.2%	7.5%	65.0%	75%
Unicorns	47	50	6.4%	57	324	10.2%	100	500
At least basic digital skills *	59.7%	65.7%	5.0%	65.5%	60.4%	4.3%	80.0%	80%
ICT specialists	4.8%	4.9%	2.1%	6.2%	5.0%	2.0%	10.0%	~10%
e-ID scheme notification		Yes						
Digital public services for citizens	71.2	72.0	1.1%	80.1	84.6	2.8%	100.0	100
Digital public services for businesses	76.9	74.6	-3.0%	85.2	88.6	2.7%	100.0	100
Access to electronic health records	84.2	88.4	4.9%	85.2	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

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

France is performing well in **connectivity**, being above the EU average in fibre coverage and slightly below for 5G. Coverage of fibre to the last non-covered premises, especially in very dense areas and outermost regions, will be key to achieving full coverage by 2030. There is a high take-up of fibre in France as it is leading in the EU in terms of the share of fixed broadband subscriptions  $\geq 1$ Gbps, but it is in the group of the worst performing countries for 5G take-up although a recent acceleration has been observed. The French **quantum** strategy is one of the most advanced in the EU but needs

updating with a view to consolidating the scale-up and industrial stages. **Semiconductor** research facilities and production capacities are well developed, though smaller than global players.

On the business side, **SMEs** are still lagging in basic digitalisation, though catching up with the EU average. Training and diagnostics under the France Num scheme proved to be efficient and popular in terms of engaging smaller businesses in digitalising, despite bottlenecks related to skills availability and concerns about cybersecurity risks. Businesses' **uptake of advanced technologies** such as cloud or AI is also sub-par. France decidedly embraced AI as the leading technology to digitalise its economy and in 2025 launched the plan 'Osez l'IA' to foster AI adoption by businesses of all sizes. The **start-up and frontier AI ecosystem** is very well developed and attracted record investments for AI infrastructure in 2025, further supported by a national plan to facilitate the implementation of data centres. However, as in other EU countries, French start-ups face issues in scaling up due to limited access to venture capital and could benefit from increased international visibility.

## Protecting and empowering EU people and society

The level of basic **digital skills** of the population is satisfactory, above the EU average. Conversely, the share of ICT specialists remains below average and has been stagnating for several years, leading to constraints in the ICT job market. While the ICT training offer seems to be sufficient, its take-up is weak. Tackling this issue – linked to weak performance in STEM education – could boost the spread of innovation and digitalisation across all business sectors.

France has engaged in many initiatives for digitalising **public services**, with strong priority given to sovereignty. While many services are available online, indicators point to weak progress in digitalisation efforts, including in justice. Cross-border availability in particular is low and many users report difficulties with online administrative procedures. The digitalisation of healthcare continues to improve, including by using AI technologies and strengthening data storage sovereignty.

## Recommendations

- **Digitalisation of SMEs:** Improve SMEs' basic digitalisation by designing dedicated public support measures, including training, diagnostics and targeted financial support, to accompany businesses in cybersecurity, digital business management, and digital business development.
- **ICT specialists:** Expand the supply of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) specialists, in particular by improving the job market relevance of existing training pathways (higher education, vocational training, and reskilling) and aligning them with industry needs, paying particular attention to AI and cybersecurity specialists. Strengthen the ongoing national effort in mathematics in secondary education, thereby addressing the weakness in math foundations which hinders entry into the field of ICT studies. Deploy earlier-stage awareness-raising measures and career guidance in the education system to raise take-up of existing training pathways. Intensify efforts to increase women's participation in ICT studies and careers.
- **Uptake of AI:** Accelerate the uptake of AI in businesses, especially SMEs, by ensuring that the recently launched national plan on AI adoption delivers on its stated training and take-up targets, with regular reporting on take-up broken down by business size. Invest in AI computing infrastructure and accelerate permitting procedures, including for data centres. Ensure effective access to the national AI factory infrastructure for SMEs and deploy sector-specific applications through the sectoral flagships of the EU Apply AI Strategy. Intensify support for European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs) which are a key support tool helping businesses to adopt advanced digital technologies, especially AI, and are embedded in the wider EU AI ecosystem.
- **Digital Public Services:** Accelerate the digitalisation of public services for citizens and businesses, in particular by implementing cross-border public services capabilities and prioritising high-volume cross-border procedures. Step up efforts to digitalise the justice system to allow citizens to initiate and follow proceedings online. Continue the implementation of digital public services with a focus on Family, Health, and Career life events for citizens, and Regular Business Operations life events for businesses, and on regional-level services. Implement the once-only technical system (OOTS) systematically.
- **Semiconductor:** Sustain and deepen domestic production capacities in the semiconductor sector, in particular in back-end capacities and manufacturing of advanced chips for AI usage.
- **Quantum:** Consolidate France's leadership in quantum technologies and translate it into industrial deployment, in particular by building on the achievements of the National Quantum Plan (2021-2025) and adopting a post-2025 roadmap with a clear multiannual budgetary trajectory, in order to avoid a funding gap for emerging industrial players. Deepen integration with the European supply chain and support cross-border cooperation.

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

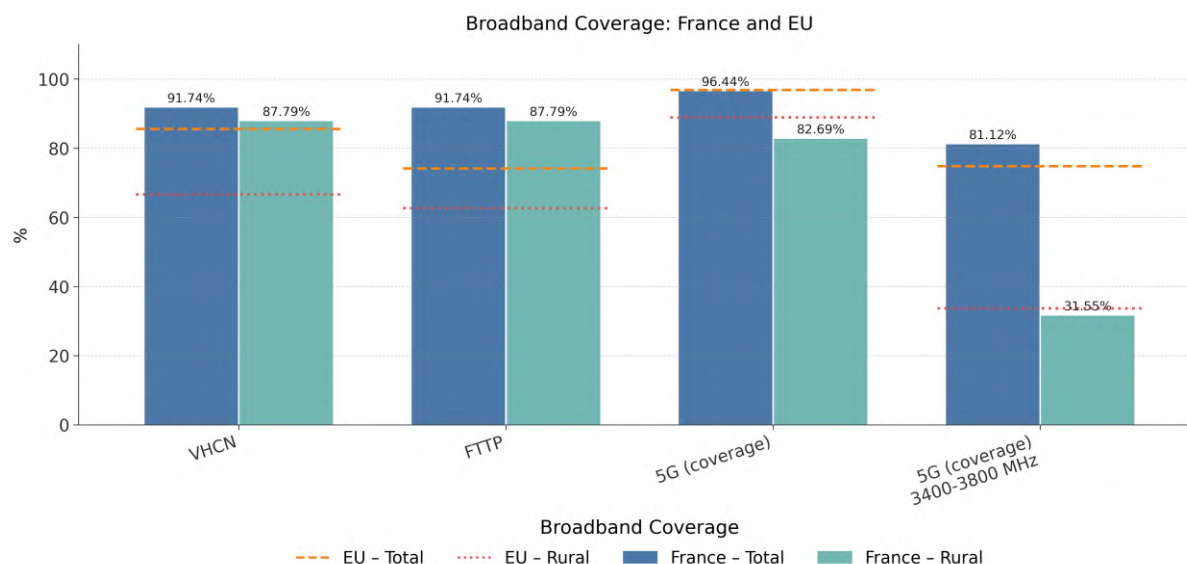
## Building technological leadership: digital infrastructure and technologies

### Connectivity infrastructure

#### Performance assessment

In 2025, France achieved a coverage rate of 91.74% by very high capacity networks (VHCN), surpassing the EU's 85.54%, after a progression of 4.9%. In terms of annual growth, France also outperformed the EU (3.7%). France's VHCN coverage in sparsely populated areas increased to 87.79%, while the EU's coverage reached 66.66%. France's annual growth rate of 12.4% in these areas was significantly higher than the EU's 7.7%. The country is lagging behind compared to its trajectory presented in the Digital Decade national roadmap.

France's coverage in fibre-to-the-premises (FTTP) increased to 91.74% (+4.9% since 2024), significantly higher than the EU's 74.13%. However, France's annual growth rate was lower than the EU's 7.1%. In sparsely populated areas, France's coverage increased to 87.79%, again above the EU's coverage of 62.61%. France's annual growth rate of 12.4% in these areas was significantly higher than the EU's 6.5%. The country did not provide a national trajectory point for 2025 in the Digital Decade national roadmap.



In 2025, France's 5G coverage increased to 96.44% (+2.2% since 2024), while the EU's coverage reached 96.79%. France's annual growth rate of 2.2% was comparable to the EU's 2.6%. The country is on track according to its trajectory presented in the Digital Decade national roadmap. In sparsely populated areas, France's 5G coverage increased to 82.69%, while the EU's coverage reached 88.88%. The annual growth rate of 6.2% in these areas was lower than the EU's 11.7%. France's 5G coverage in the 3.4-3.8 GHz band was 81.12%, above the EU's coverage of 74.75%. The annual growth rate of 9.7% was comparable to the EU's 10.6%. In sparsely populated areas, France's

# France

coverage in the 3.4-3.8 GHz band increased to 31.55%, while the EU's coverage reached 33.71%. France's annual growth rate of 31.5% in these areas was comparable to the EU's 32.9%.

France has demonstrated a strong performance in VHCN and FTTP coverage, both in overall terms and in sparsely populated areas, consistently surpassing the EU average. However, in terms of basic 5G coverage and 5G coverage in the 3.4-3.8 GHz band, France has lagged slightly behind the EU, particularly in sparsely populated areas. France plans to expand its 5G infrastructure until 2030 in sparsely populated areas and focuses for now on the increase of 4G quality of service in these rural areas.

The table below provides an overview of VHCN, FTTP and 5G coverage across NUTS-2 regions in France. It reveals that outermost regions face connectivity coverage challenges. To a lesser extent, Auvergne and Bretagne are also below the national average.

	VHCN coverage		FTTP Coverage		5G Coverage	
	Overall	Rural	Overall	Rural	Overall	Rural
National coverage	91.74%	87.79%	91.74%	87.79%	96.44%	82.69%
Alsace	92.01%	93.09%	92.01%	93.09%	98.17%	78.65%
Aquitaine	93.48%	91.28%	93.48%	91.28%	95.49%	82.76%
Auvergne	81.41%	64.41%	81.41%	64.41%	90.77%	70.42%
Basse-Normandie	87.43%	81.73%	87.43%	81.73%	97.69%	92.81%
Bourgogne	95.37%	95.47%	95.37%	95.47%	92.39%	75.23%
Bretagne	76.89%	64.66%	76.89%	64.66%	96.90%	88.76%
Centre — Val de Loire	95.53%	95.23%	95.53%	95.23%	95.79%	84.10%
Champagne-Ardenne	94.81%	94.12%	94.81%	94.12%	90.55%	64.82%
Corse	88.00%	81.83%	88.00%	81.83%	96.91%	88.07%
Franche-Comté	93.13%	94.78%	93.13%	94.78%	91.61%	67.07%
Guadeloupe	82.76%	47.70%	82.76%	47.70%	60.90%	100.00%
Guyane	73.66%	25.67%	73.66%	25.67%	69.08%	12.10%
Haute-Normandie	95.06%	95.79%	95.06%	95.79%	97.87%	88.18%
Ile-de-France	95.75%	93.66%	95.75%	93.66%	99.81%	100.00%
La Réunion	94.30%	95.40%	94.30%	95.40%	98.94%	86.12%
Languedoc-Roussillon	91.41%	90.80%	91.41%	90.80%	97.83%	87.48%
Limousin	94.69%	94.74%	94.69%	94.74%	90.51%	74.94%
Lorraine	89.28%	93.42%	89.28%	93.42%	94.04%	63.48%
Martinique	65.96%	5.22%	65.96%	5.22%	52.88%	23.97%
Mayotte	0.00%		0.00%		100.00%	
Midi-Pyrénées	93.17%	90.77%	93.17%	90.77%	92.85%	77.11%
Nord-Pas de Calais	96.22%	97.95%	96.22%	97.95%	99.43%	94.47%
Pays de la Loire	95.56%	95.68%	95.56%	95.68%	98.45%	94.14%
Picardie	96.46%	95.97%	96.46%	95.97%	93.40%	71.16%
Poitou-Charentes	91.33%	87.82%	91.33%	87.82%	94.39%	84.88%
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur	91.37%	91.70%	91.37%	91.70%	99.33%	93.66%
Rhône-Alpes	89.80%	80.87%	89.80%	80.87%	98.00%	84.92%

**In term of take-up, France was still leading in the EU in 2025 with 66.58% of fixed broadband subscriptions >= 1 Gbps compared with the EU average of 26.97%.** In 2024, the figure for France was 58.92%, which was also higher than the EU's 22.25%. The annual growth rate for France in 2025 was 13.0%, lower than the EU's growth rate of 21.2%.

**However, France is at 41.23% of 5G SIM cards as share of population after an increase of 52.5% in 2025, and standing below the EU average of 55.55%.** The annual growth rate for France is also lower than the EU's growth rate of 56.2%. This indicates that while France is making progress in 5G adoption, it is lagging behind the overall EU performance.

### *Policy context and assessment of recommendations*

**Despite the country's large and varied territory, fibre coverage in France remains above the EU average.** Several factors and past policy choices could explain this good performance. First, the 'Plan France Très Haut Débit' that was launched in 2013 set a long-term vision (objectives, funding mechanisms, institutional roles), which reduced investor uncertainty and enabled coordinated investment across multiple levels (State, regions, *départements*, municipalities). It was funded by public investments of EUR 3.3 billion, including EUR 240 million from the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), for a grand total of around EUR 20 billion if we include private and local authorities' investments. Second, the regulatory model of the national regulatory authority ARCEP (*Autorité de régulation des communications électroniques et des postes*) created a transparent wholesale environment that allowed multiple retail players to compete on common FTTP infrastructure, spurring subscriptions and operator investment. Under this symmetric regulation, all operators are required to open their networks to competitors. For mobile, ARCEP deployment obligations and monitoring pushed operators to expand 5G sites and use new bands. And third, market conditions created competitive pressure between operators. The civil works sector and experience in nation-scale deployments (ducting, road works, joint trenching rules) reduced per-premises costs and accelerated roll-out compared with peers who lack the same scale or institutional model. In April 2026, the fourth telecom operator [SFR is to be sold](#) to the other three operators, reducing the number of market players.

France's widespread broadband coverage provides a critical enabling condition for businesses to digitalise. Nonetheless, French businesses continue to show a low level of digitalisation, which requires increased attention (see section on the digitalisation of SMEs).

**Very densely populated areas and the outermost regions will be focused on achieving the Digital Decade targets of 100% coverage.** In metropolitan France, Bretagne and Auvergne are lagging in FTTP coverage but public projects are being rolled out. In cities, very densely populated areas may encounter technical issues such as connections only reaching the base of large buildings and not individual homes. Cases of very isolated premises where civil works costs are high or cases of refusal by landowners exist but are marginal. In the outermost regions, Mayotte and Martinique are lagging in FTTP deployment. It will be critical to maintain the good framework conditions and address potential bottlenecks (including permitting) to achieve universal coverage in the territory. Concerning 5G, standalone networks are only just starting to be rolled out.

**The decommissioning of older networks (copper cable and 2G/3G) is progressing well.** The incumbent operator Orange is progressively switching off its copper network, first with a commercial switch-off of the service, then a technical closure. Two bundles of municipalities, representing about half of the 42.1 million premises connected in France have already been closed since the beginning of

2026. The last bundle is expected to be closed at the end of 2030. This switch-off is only possible thanks to several prerequisites: widespread fibre coverage as an alternative for clients, long notice periods (up to three years), good communication between stakeholders, and mandatory sharing of data between operators. For the old mobile networks (2G and 3G), the switch-off might prove to be complex with the operators not being able to identify the foreign SIM cards still using those networks and not responsible for migrating these clients (e.g. alarm systems, lift operators, remote monitoring, sometimes using foreign SIM cards). Orange has already shut off 2G in La Réunion.

In 2025, France did not receive any recommendation under the Digital Decade on connectivity matters (VHCN, FTTP, 5G).

## Semiconductors

**France has technological assets in the semiconductor sector but they occupy specific niches of the global value chain and are vulnerable to global economic cycles and foreign dependencies.** The French semiconductor industry is estimated at [EUR 5 billion of domestic production](#) in 2022, represented by 115 firms (two thirds of them SMEs) employing about 35 000 people. France can be considered strong in [R&D and design](#), but it lacks global players such as those that emerged in the US and Asia. France is most competitive in engineered substrates (specialty nodes, automotive/industrial, substrates) and less at the leading edge (<7nm). Consequently, it is exposed to the economic cycle of the automotive and industrial markets. Moreover, the lack of production of leading edge nodes makes it dependent on US and Asian suppliers for the [chips underpinning generative AI and cloud](#) infrastructure, but France has assets and emerging companies in key technologies for the future of computing (incl. AI chips, interconnects, silicon photonics and power management).

**Nevertheless, France made sizeable investments in the sector (France 2030 investment plan, Digital Decade roadmap), although still shy of the levels observed in other key players like the US, China or South Korea.** Notably, France committed EUR 2.9 billion in State aid, [approved by the European Commission](#) in 2023 as a first-of-a-kind project under the EU Chips Act. This partnership notably invests in the development of the next generation of FD-SOI (Fully Depleted Silicon On Insulator), a technology that is crucial for the EU. In January 2026, the [FAMES pilot line](#) was inaugurated to advance ultra-low-power semiconductors in the EU, representing a total of EUR 830 million in investment. These promising initiatives should strengthen the EU's technological sovereignty and offer complementary solutions to cutting-edge logic manufacturing hubs dominated by other regions, focusing on high value-added markets such as Internet of Things and 5G/6G.

## Edge nodes

### *Performance assessment*

**According to the Edge Node Observatory, France is estimated to have deployed a total of 854 edge nodes by 2025.** Due to a change in methodology, this number cannot be compared to previous estimates.

### *Policy context and assessment of recommendations*

**In 2025, France intensified its focus on edge computing, with sovereignty being the primary objective.** The wave of investment in AI infrastructure following the AI summit in Paris (see section on artificial intelligence) includes massive expansions in sovereign cloud infrastructure as part of a concerted effort to build domestic capacity for AI, edge, and cloud workloads. It will reinforce technological autonomy within the EU as a whole. One French R&D-focused edge project worth

mentioning is [CEOS2030](#), supported by the France 2030 investment plan and the public investment bank Bpifrance. It embeds AI processing in earth-observation satellites to perform data analytics close to the source rather than relying on distant processing. France has also joined Germany in a [joint digital sovereignty agenda](#) emphasising cloud and advanced tech collaboration, highlighting coordination with key EU partners on sovereign infrastructure policy. Meanwhile the French edge ecosystem is increasing its private and public synergies, reflecting both domestic start-up activity and EU-wide projects aimed at developing edge-cloud continuum services.

## Quantum technologies

**In 2025, France continued to reinforce its leadership on quantum computing, including in infrastructure and research.** One major event is the inauguration of the [Ruby quantum processor](#) at CEA (*Commissariat à l'Énergie Atomique*) within the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking, as part of the High-Performance Computing and Quantum Simulator hybrid (HPCQS) project. Furthermore, the French cloud provider OVHcloud announced it would [host Quandela's photonic quantum computers](#) starting mid-2026, with three quantum processing units (QPUs) expected to be operational by the end of 2025. On the research side, France and Singapore signed three new partnership agreements to advance quantum computing and photonics. Also, researchers at the National Institute for Research in Computer Science and Automation demonstrated [unprecedented photon interactions](#), a breakthrough for creating complex photonic quantum logic gates.

**The main development priority for the French quantum ecosystem will be industrialisation.** While France benefits from [world-leading research capabilities](#) and substantial public investment, mirroring the strengths of its broader start-up ecosystem, it currently lags behind competitors such as the US in innovation scale-up and commercial deployment. The [France 2030 Quantum Strategy](#) addresses this gap by leveraging intermediate technological advancements and driving adoption across key industrial sectors, thereby bridging the transition from research to market-ready applications. A critical dimension of the strategy is its sovereignty focus, which seeks to safeguard national strategic assets through a framework of economic security measures. These include protections for scientific and technical potential, foreign investment screening, and export controls, ensuring that France retains control over critical quantum capabilities while fostering a secure and competitive industrial base.

## Supporting EU-wide digital ecosystems and scaling up innovative enterprises

### SMEs with at least basic digital intensity

#### *Performance assessment*

**France is at 69.44% of SMEs with at least a basic level of digital intensity after a progression of +15.6% annually between 2023 and 2025, approaching but still standing below the EU average of 71.39%.** In 2023, the performance of France was 51.97%, which was further below the EU average of 57.90%. Despite France's annual growth rate surpassing the EU's growth rate of 11.0%, French SMEs still lag behind their EU counterparts. The country is on track according to its trajectory presented in the Digital Decade national roadmap.

Regarding SMEs with a very high digital intensity index, France is at 6.88% after a progression of +58.5% annually between 2023 and 2025 and is below the EU average of 9.07%. In 2023, the figure for France was 2.74%, also lower than the EU average of 4.38%. The conclusion is the same as for the basic digital

intensity: although France's annual growth rate outpaces the EU's growth rate of 43.9%, French SMEs continue to trail their EU peers in achieving a very high level of digital intensity.

## *Policy context and assessment of recommendations*

**Less digitalised SMEs prevent France from harvesting the global productivity gains from the digital transition.** The National Productivity Board (NPB) identifies digital adoption gaps across firm sizes (lower adoption in SMEs, higher in large businesses) as one of the factors hindering productivity growth and competitiveness. The NPB's [recent reports](#) explicitly link uneven adoption to limited aggregate gains. Because take-up is uneven and complementarities (skills, organisational change) are required, the aggregate country-level boost to productivity is smaller than the potential maximum. With France's moderate GDP growth and subdued productivity growth, faster diffusion and more uniform digital adoption is a plausible lever to raise medium-term potential growth.

**French exports and competitiveness are also impacted by the digitalisation of SMEs.** Digital adopters, particularly in trade sectors, tend to be more competitive internationally (better market access, lower transaction costs). A digitally lagging cohort of SMEs therefore reduces the average export readiness and resilience of supply chains, weighing on France's ability to compete internationally.

**The main barriers for French SMEs to digitalise could be linked to skills, mistrust of digital solutions, and financing constraints:**

- **Skills and managerial capacity** have been identified as possible factors limiting SMEs digitalisation. The lack of in-house digital skills and limited managerial focus on redesigning processes reduce effective returns. However, the [2025 France Num barometer](#) shows that in-house digital skills are on the rise (+9 pps to 55% since 2024) but the number of very small enterprises (VSEs) and SMEs that express difficulties in finding a suitable digital service provider (37%) is increasing sharply (+15 pps since 2024). To resolve this situation, the France Num initiative lists on its website more than [4 000 digital professionals](#) able to support VSEs and SMEs and has launched a call for projects to support a quality label aimed at guaranteeing the quality of digital service providers, in order to increase the confidence of very small businesses (VSEs) and SMEs seeking such providers. Moreover, the France Num training scheme (operated by Bpifrance) allowed VSEs and SMEs to receive free training to get started with digital tools or to use them more efficiently to maintain or expand their business. In general, SMEs are looking for support and guidance, specifically to develop AI strategies and adapt to the incoming e-invoicing obligations (due in September 2026).
- **Concerns** about digital technologies among some SMEs' management might also explain the limited digitalisation. One of the main identified risks deterring deeper adoption is **cybersecurity**. The 2025 France Num barometer highlights that 52% of VSEs and SMEs fear data hacking or data losses (+3 pps since 2024). Also, compliance costs and the **regulatory burden** might add to the global attitude of defiance around digital solutions in smaller firms. Finally, the **return on investment** is not always well valued.
- **Financing** is a basic limitation for SMEs that prevents them from introducing more digital technology in their processes. Many SMEs face liquidity constraints and perceive the upfront cost and payback horizon as prohibitive. 25% of VSEs/SMEs have no budget allocated to digital projects, a rise of 4 pps since 2024.

**2025 recommendation on digitalisation of SMEs:** Improve digitalisation of SMEs, including by directing existing support schemes to SMEs that lag in digitalisation, independently of their size.

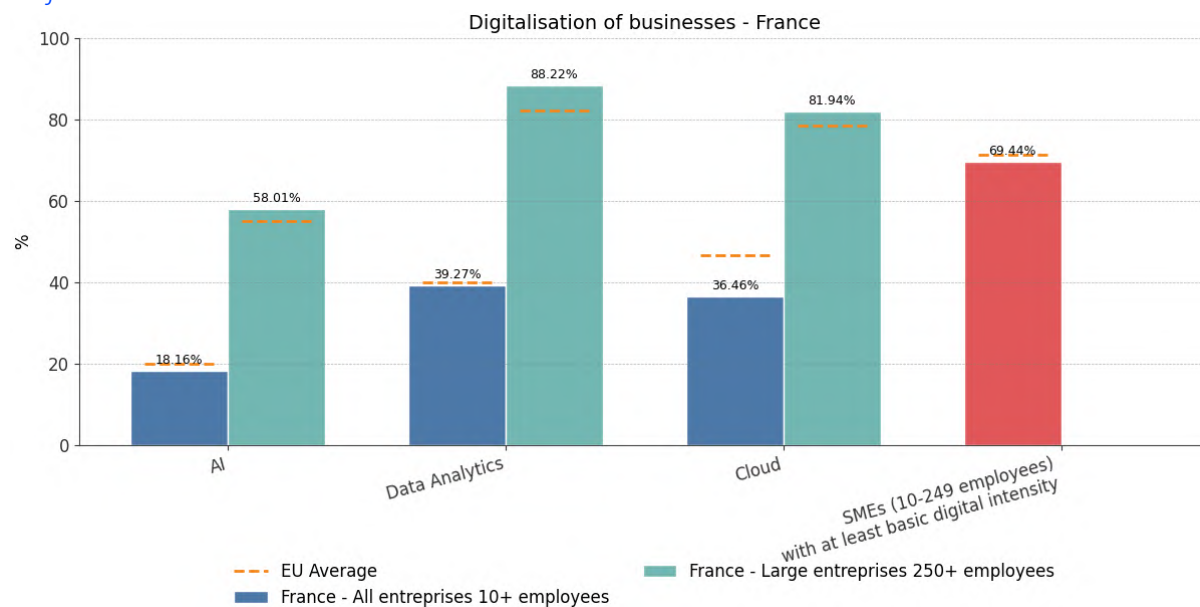
**In 2025, France made some efforts to address the recommendation through new policy actions in 2025.** The country's performance figures are improving slightly, and France is bridging the gap with the EU average which could be the result of past support policies. However, the approaching end of the RRF (August 2026) means that funding will be discontinued for some measures. The general France Num scheme remains operational, mainly through the networking of stakeholders involved in the digital transformation of VSEs/SMEs: institutional actors, public advisers, service providers, and solution providers. The new plan 'Osez l'IA' targets enterprises of all sizes (not just SMEs) and aims to roll out AI technologies in 80% of SMEs by 2030 (see section on artificial intelligence). Notably, a network of 600 AI ambassadors has been set up across France, involving all sectors, to raise awareness among companies about the potential benefits of AI, through the sharing of concrete feedback. This network comes as a complement to the France Num network dedicated to the general digitalisation of VSEs / SMEs. 'Osez l'IA' should, however, have an impact on the basic digitalisation of SMEs since adopting AI solutions also requires the implementation of a basic set of digital technologies.

Given the weight of the French economy in the EU, increasing the pace of digitalisation of French SMEs will be crucial for the EU to meet the 2030 target of 90% of SMEs having basic digitalisation.

This 2025 Digital Decade recommendations echoes the one issued under the European Semester 2025.

## Take up of advanced technologies

### Performance assessment



**France is at 39.27% of enterprises adopting data analytics after a progression of +7.6% annually between 2023 and 2025, slightly below the EU average of 39.85%.** In 2023, the figure for France was 33.9%, marginally above the EU average of 33.25%. Despite France's growth rate lagging behind the EU's growth rate of 9.5%, French enterprises are nearly on par with their EU counterparts in adopting data analytics. Focusing on SMEs, France is at 37.86% after a progression of +7.5% annually, which is below the EU average of 38.59%. France's growth rate for SMEs is lower than the EU's growth rate of

9.7%. For large enterprises, France is at 88.22% after a progression of +10.7% annually, surpassing the EU average of 82.03%. For large enterprises, France's growth rate exceeds the EU's growth rate of 6.9%. The country did not provide a national trajectory point for 2025 in the Digital Decade national roadmap.

**France is at 36.46% of enterprises adopting cloud technologies after a progression of +26.0% annually between 2023 and 2025, which is below the EU average of 46.69%.** In 2023, the figure for France was 22.95%, considerably lower than the EU average of 38.97%. Although France's growth rate surpasses the EU's growth rate of 9.5%, French enterprises still lag behind their EU counterparts in cloud adoption. For SMEs, France is at 35.15% after a progression of +27.0% annually, also below the EU average of 45.74%. However, France's growth rate exceeds the EU's growth rate of 9.7%. For large enterprises, France is at 81.94% after a progression of +14.9% annually, above the EU average of 78.32%. France's growth rate also surpasses the EU's growth rate of 6.0%. The country did not provide a national trajectory point for 2025 in the Digital Decade national roadmap.

**France is at 18.16% of enterprises adopting artificial intelligence after a progression of +83.2% annually between 2024 and 2025, which is below the EU average of 19.95%.** In 2024, the figure for France was 9.91%, lower than the EU average of 13.48%. Despite France's growth rate outpacing the EU's growth rate of 48.0%, French enterprises still lag behind their EU counterparts in AI adoption. For SMEs, France is at 17.01% after a progression of +83.9% annually, below the EU average of 18.9%. However, France's growth rate exceeds the EU's growth rate of 49.5%. For large enterprises, France is at 58.01% after a progression of +77.2% annually, above the EU average of 55.03%. In 2024, the figure for France was 32.74%, lower than the EU average of 41.17%. France's growth rate also surpasses the EU's growth rate of 33.7%. The country did not provide a national trajectory point for 2025 in the Digital Decade national roadmap.

**France is at 57.89% of enterprises adopting AI, cloud, or data analytics technologies after a progression of +13.6% annually between 2023 and 2025, which is below the EU average of 63.20%.** In 2023, the figure for France was 44.86%, lower than the EU average of 54.7%. Although France's growth rate surpasses the EU's growth rate of 7.5%, French enterprises still lag behind their EU counterparts in the adoption of these technologies. For SMEs, France is at 56.85% after a progression of +14.0% annually, below the EU average of 62.32%. However, France's growth rate exceeds the EU's growth rate of 7.7%. For large enterprises, France is at 94.24% after a progression of +6.4% annually, slightly above the EU average of 92.78%. In 2023, the figure for France was 83.21%, below the EU average of 86.71%. France's growth rate also surpasses the EU's growth rate of 3.4%. The country is on track according to its trajectory presented in the Digital Decade national roadmap.

France has shown notable progress in the digitalisation of businesses, with growth rates often surpassing those of the EU average. **Despite these advancements, French enterprises, particularly SMEs, continue to lag behind their EU counterparts** in most areas of technology adoption. This is especially evident in the adoption of cloud technologies and artificial intelligence, where gaps persist.

### *Policy context and assessment of recommendations*

**The uptake of advanced digital technologies (cloud computing, AI and data analytics) is a critical factor for productivity growth, innovation capacity and competitiveness in France's economy.** Despite recent progress, the country still records below-EU-average adoption, particularly among SMEs, which limits the digital transformation across sectors. Given the weight of the French economy

– home to nearly 12% of all EU enterprises – its performance will strongly influence the EU’s collective achievement of the 2030 Digital Decade targets.

**The adoption of advanced technologies in France is characterised by a concentration of uses.** Advanced digital capabilities (cloud-native operations, data analytics, AI, but also industrial automation) are concentrated in [large firms and in particular sectors](#) (e.g. ICT, real estate). Many SMEs remain at an introductory level rather than adopting the frontier tools that generate larger productivity multipliers. Uptake in the wider business sector will be key to reaping the fruits of such technologies. The [5<sup>th</sup> report](#) of the National Productivity Board from 2025 mentions that if generative AI is more widely disseminated across the different sectors and if companies and workers gain greater mastery of these technologies, a stronger impact on productivity can be expected.

**As is the case for the basic digitalisation of SMEs, the adoption of advanced technologies is limited by skills shortages, a management gap, and financial constraints.** The shortage of in-firm [digital skills and managerial capacity](#) to redesign processes around new technologies could reduce the effective adoption of technology even when equipment or software is purchased. Moreover, investment costs, uncertainty about the returns on investment, and tight cash-flow conditions (longer payment delays reported for many firms) deter smaller firms from [deeper digital investment](#).

**The new measure ‘Osez l’IA’ aims at bolstering AI adoption in all businesses.** The plan is based on three pillars: (1) informing businesses of the benefits of AI, via a network of AI ambassadors; (2) training 15 million professionals; and (3) helping companies to identify suitable AI solutions and funding instruments for their AI projects. This measure is perfectly aligned with, and even more ambitious than, the 2030 Digital Decade target with take-up objectives of 100% for large enterprises, 80% for SMEs, and 50% for VSEs. Overall, France’s continued investment and ecosystem-building around AI are set to enhance labour productivity, innovation performance and business competitiveness, particularly if the gap in SME adoption is effectively narrowed. Sustained progress in these areas would strengthen the capacity of France and the EU to compete globally in data-driven and AI-enabled industries.

**Unprecedented levels of private investment are targeted at data centre infrastructure.** Over EUR 100 billion were pledged by major international investors in 2025 following the AI summit in Paris for new data centre capacities in France, reinforcing the digital backbone essential for AI and data-driven innovation. Consequently, a data centres plan is being rolled out by the French authorities, taking advantage of France’s land availability, cheap decarbonated electricity, and central location at the heart of the FLAP market (Frankfurt-London-Amsterdam-Paris), Europe’s core data centre market. The plan will facilitate the installation of infrastructures by bringing together the necessary stakeholders and accelerating procedures. Access to world-class infrastructure might stimulate the adoption of AI by businesses of all sizes.

**France plays a central role in the EU’s AI Factory ecosystem.** [Selected in March 2025](#), AI Factory France (AI2F) is being developed under EuroHPC to leverage high-performance computing (HPC) and exascale systems like the forthcoming Alice Recoque supercomputer (deployment from 2026) alongside existing national HPC resources (Jean Zay, Adastra, Joliot-Curie) to provide computation power, data, and expertise for AI research, innovation, and public services across sectors such as defence, energy, health, mobility and agriculture. The initiative involves a broad consortium led by GENCI with partners including CEA, Inria, CNRS, universities, Station F and HubFranceIA, and is intended as a one-stop hub to federate start-ups, industry, academia and public actors. As part of a network of interconnected AI Factories across the EU, AI2F collaborates with counterparts [like Germany’s JAIF](#) and connects with

European data and innovation initiatives (e.g. Gaia-X, EDIHs), reinforcing cross-border cooperation in AI development and positioning France as a key node in Europe's bid for technological sovereignty and competitiveness in AI.

**2025 recommendation on the adoption of advanced technologies:** Support the adoption of advanced digital technologies by businesses (with a particular attention to AI and cloud) via the creation of local ecosystems to spread technologies and best practices across all economic sectors. Encourage the adoption of sovereign European solutions.

**France addressed fully the recommendation by putting significant policy actions into place in 2025.** The new measure 'Osez l'IA' answers the recommendation by supporting the adoption of AI in all businesses (see above). Notably, a network of 600 'AI Ambassadors' has been set up across France, involving all sectors, to raise awareness among companies about the potential benefits of AI, through the sharing of concrete feedback. Many policies in France also foster the adoption of sovereign solutions. The *Direction interministérielle du numérique* (DINUM) is actively promoting and providing open-source, sovereign digital tools for public administration. The SecNumCloud certification steers public digital projects toward sovereign cloud services and local data storage. Funding mechanisms also support the emergence of sovereign EU solutions such as the cloud strategy of the France 2030 investment plan.

## Unicorns, scale-ups and start-ups

### *Performance assessment*

**At the beginning of 2026, France had 50 unicorns (2030 national target of 100), which is 3 more than in 2025 (47, figure revised).** In its Digital Decade national roadmap, however, France was aiming for 57 unicorns by end 2025. The country is thus lagging behind compared to its planned trajectory.

### *Policy context and assessment of recommendations*

**France has become one of Europe's most dynamic start-up ecosystems thanks to its talent pool and sustained public investment.** The rapidly growing cohort of unicorns led by some European AI champions such as Mistral AI might be explained by the large pool of engineering and research talent and considerable public support and targeted programmes. Paris ranks highly in global start-up ecosystem [reports](#) thanks to world-class universities and engineering schools supplying STEM talent and deep-tech research spin-out companies. In parallel, long-standing public programmes have supported venture capital (VC) markets and scale-ups via direct investments, funds of funds, grants and accelerator programmes, materially mobilising private investors and seeding later rounds. Two thirds of French VC funds that have institutional limited partners [report backing from Bpifrance](#), making the French public bank instrumental in growing the ecosystem. France's dedicated national programmes (Mission French Tech, Next40/120, French Tech 2030) have created predictable support and signalling that reduces early-stage risk and helps attract capital.

**For global champions to emerge, late-stage funding for scaling up and large-scale compute capacity for AI will be critical.** Although early-stage financing and public support are strong, France (like the rest of Europe) faces a falloff in late-stage funding compared with US levels. Funding totals have been volatile since 2022 and fundraising slowed in 2024-2025 relative to the 2021 peak. This restricts the ability of start-ups to scale globally without seeking foreign capital or exits. Many French start-ups scale [domestically or within the EU](#) but struggle to reach the same global market share as their US

counterparts. Advanced AI scale requires plentiful, competitively priced compute and data centre capacity and chip supply chains. The EU still lags behind the US and China in some of these inputs. EU strategic partnerships announced recently (e.g. [ASML and Mistral](#)) will mitigate this shortcoming but broader capacity remains a bottleneck.

**Continuity in current public support tools will be key for investors to engage.** Public investment and support measures such as the France 2030 investment plan have proven efficient in developing a robust and innovative start-up ecosystem in cutting-edge domains (AI, quantum, cloud, cybersecurity, etc.). However, the political instability in France in recent years coupled with budgetary issues (high deficit and debt) jeopardised some of these measures or led to changes in well-established schemes used by businesses (e.g. adjustments to the research tax credit). Stability and a long-term vision in the support provided to boost innovation will be key to attracting investors to high-risk digital projects.

**Procurement is a lever for public authorities to stimulate demand in innovative solutions.** The programme [Je choisais la French Tech](#) aims to bolster the use of innovative solutions developed by the French ecosystem, both by private and public sectors. Hence, in 2025, 10 major French groups took a significant step by collectively committing to dedicate EUR 1 billion to the purchase of solutions developed by French start-ups and scale-ups over the 2024-2026 period. While the 'Team France Export' programme already exists, dedicated solutions centred on connecting businesses with innovation ecosystems and investors abroad could expand the financing solutions and client portfolio of French start-ups.

**2025 recommendation on unicorns and AI:** Continue supporting innovation in AI to strengthen France's leadership in the sector and create future global leader companies.

**France addressed fully the recommendation by putting significant policy actions into place in 2025.** In recent years, France structured its digital innovation ecosystem around AI. It provided public funding and attracted colossal foreign investments (around EUR 109 billion) for the sector following the AI summit. The long-term investment plan France 2030 was revised in 2025 to channel more support toward innovative [AI projects](#). Moreover, recent policies were set up to roll out AI in all business sectors (see section on artificial intelligence).

## Strengthening Cybersecurity & Resilience

**As for general digitalisation, French enterprises lag behind their EU peers in terms of the implementation of cybersecurity measures.** In 2024, 50.12% of enterprises applied at least 5 cybersecurity measures (out of 11 [as measured by Eurostat](#)), lower than the EU average of 56.85%. The gap with the EU is particularly pronounced in the use of authentication via biometric methods (10.46% in France, 18.27% in the EU), encryption techniques (21.76 vs 39.72%), and ICT security tests (26.52% vs 34.64%).

**In 2025, the French cyber threat environment was characterised by increasing sophistication, blurred actor boundaries, faster attack cycles, and rising risks to critical infrastructure and national security.** According to the [2025 Cyber Threat Overview](#) by the national cybersecurity authority ANSSI (*Agence nationale de la sécurité des systèmes d'information*), cybercrime activity remains structurally high and increasingly hybrid, with a growing overlap between state-sponsored and cybercriminal actors, making attacks more complex and the perpetrators harder to identify. Attackers continue to rely heavily on the mass exploitation of vulnerabilities (especially internet-facing edge devices) with very short exploitation timelines, while also combining opportunistic and targeted operations. A key shift in 2025

was how cybercrime models evolved, with a relative decline in ransomware deployment but a notable rise in pure data exfiltration attacks, reflecting changing monetisation strategies. At the strategic level, geopolitical tensions are directly fuelling cyber operations, with persistent espionage campaigns linked to Russian and Chinese interests targeting diplomatic and strategic sectors. The report also warns of a future surge in large-scale, potentially destructive cyber operations against critical infrastructure (e.g. energy systems) by 2030, highlighting a shift toward more impactful and destabilising attacks.

**The 2025 study on the [cyber maturity of SMEs](#) shows a gradual improvement in awareness and protection practices but vulnerabilities remain.** Around 44% of companies believe they are highly exposed to cyber risks (38% in 2024), indicating a growing recognition of cybersecurity threats. At the same time, 58% of businesses consider that they have a good or very good level of protection, reflecting wider adoption of security tools such as antivirus software, backups, firewalls, and password management policies. However, vulnerabilities remain significant, as 16% of the firms surveyed reported experiencing at least one cyber incident during the past year. Among the main obstacles to a satisfactory level of IT security, VSEs and SMEs cite a lack of knowledge and expertise (63%) and budgetary constraints (61%), which interestingly are both also cited as bottlenecks for the general digitalisation of SMEs. Nearly 3 out of 10 companies consider cybersecurity issues a low priority, a figure that increased by 11 pps between 2024 and 2025.

**France's [National Cybersecurity Strategy for 2026–2030](#) sets out an ambitious roadmap to make the country a leading cyber power.** The strategy aims at strengthening national resilience, protecting critical infrastructure, and ensuring digital sovereignty in the face of growing cyber threats. Built around 5 main pillars and 14 objectives, it prioritises developing a large pool of cybersecurity talent, raising the overall security level of public and private actors, improving threat detection and response, and securing key digital technologies. The strategy also emphasises coordinated action across government, industry, and citizens, alongside increased use of legal, diplomatic, and military tools to deter cyber threats and enhance international cooperation.

**However, France is well equipped in term of cybersecurity policies and structures.** ANSSI is responsible for protecting national digital systems by securing government networks, providing expertise, responding to cyber threats, certifying security products, and setting cybersecurity regulations for public bodies and operators of vital importance. In terms of cybersecurity in businesses, most of the general digitalisation tools (such as France Num for SMEs) also support cybersecurity. The France 2030 investment plan also supports measures such as CyberPME, financing parts of diagnostics and security plans.

**2025 recommendation on cybersecurity:** Continue efforts in cybersecurity to address evolving threats, particularly for enterprises and administration.

**In 2025, France made some efforts to address the recommendation through new policy actions in 2025.** France unveiled its new national strategy for cybersecurity for 2026-2030. On top of that, the cybersecurity measures described in the previous Digital Decade reports and included in the national strategic roadmap continued to be implemented (CyberPME, CaRE programme, etc.). Given the continuous rise in cyber attacks, especially large-scale operations against national services (e.g. recent cyberattacks against the [postal services](#) and the [national education](#)), the efforts to deploy and reinforce cybersecurity measures should be sustained.

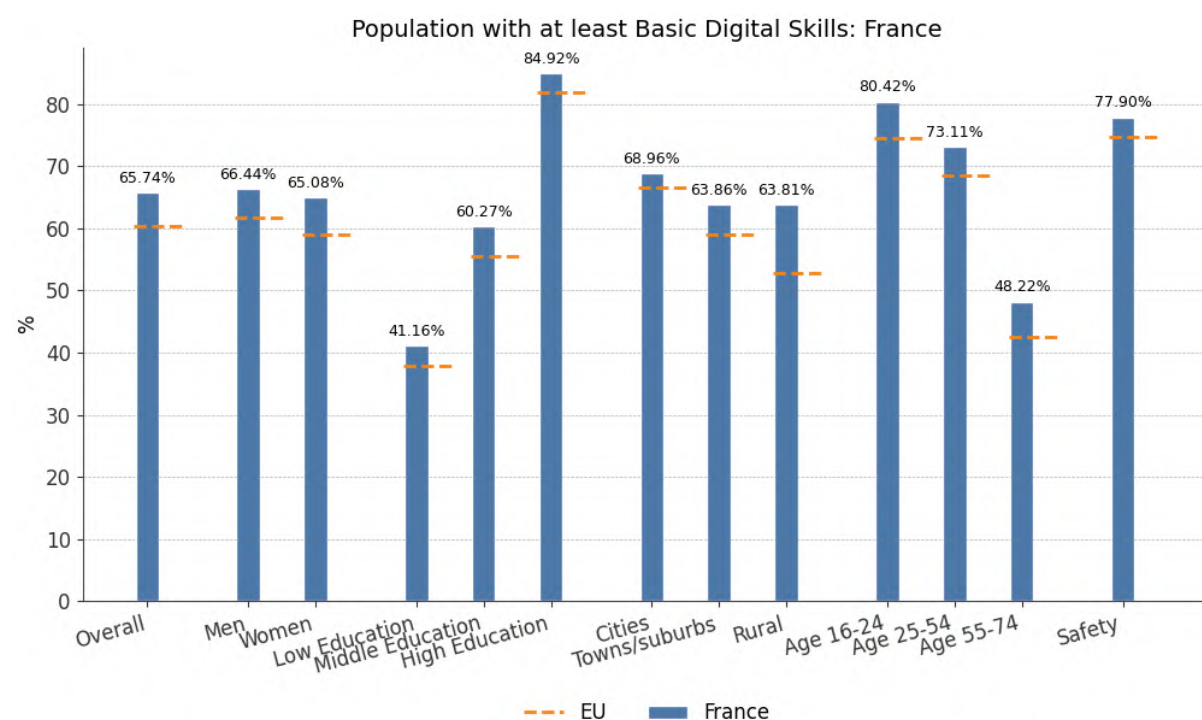
# Protecting and empowering EU people and society

Empowering people and bringing the digital transformation closer to their needs

Equipping people with digital skills

Basic digital skills

Performance assessment



France is at 65.74% of individuals aged 16-74 with at least basic digital skills after an increase of 5.0% annually since 2023, standing above the EU average of 60.40%. In 2023, France’s figure was 59.67%, compared to the EU’s 55.56%. This growth outpaces the EU’s annual growth rate of 4.3%, indicating a robust improvement in France’s digital skills landscape. The country is on track according to the national trajectory as defined in its Digital Decade national roadmap.

Regarding the **gender gap**, France exhibits a difference of 1.36 pps in favour of men, with 66.44% of men and 65.08% of women having at least basic digital skills. This gap is smaller than the EU average of 2.75 pps in favour of men.

**Education level** significantly influences digital proficiency in France. Individuals with no or low formal education have a digital skills rate of 41.16%, which is higher than the EU average of 37.56% but represents a 24.58 pp gap relative to the national average, larger than the EU’s 22.84 pp gap.

# France

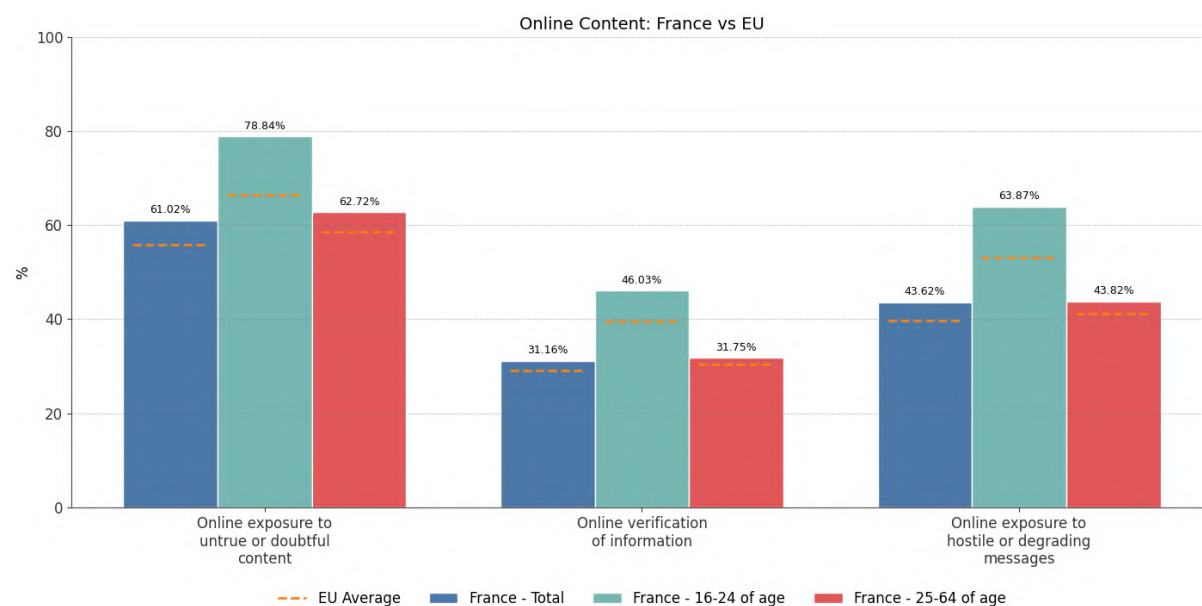
**In rural areas**, 63.81% of individuals in France have at least basic digital skills, significantly higher than the EU average of 52.83%. The gap between rural and urban areas in France is 5.15 pps, smaller than the EU's 13.67 pps.

**Young adults** aged 16 to 24 in France demonstrate strong digital skills, with a proficiency rate of 80.42%, surpassing the EU average of 74.55%. Similarly, the older age group of 55 to 74 has a digital skills rate of 48.22%, higher than the EU average of 42.6%.

In terms of **digital safety skills**, 77.9% of individuals in France have at least basic safety skills, higher than the EU average of 74.63%.

Regarding the **use of generative AI**, 37.46% of people in France used it in 2025, above the EU average of 32.66%. For professional purposes, 18.44% of individuals in France used generative AI, higher than the EU average of 15.36%. According to the Digital Decade Eurobarometer 2026, 38% of French citizens declare that concerns about privacy or data protection are an obstacle in the use of generative AI tools.

In summary, France's digital skills profile reflects inclusive growth across genders and a relatively small urban-rural skills gap. While educational disparities remain significant, France's overall performance in digital skills is commendable, with targeted improvements needed to support individuals with lower education levels and older adults. The adoption of generative AI is also notable, indicating an appetite among the population for the digital transformation.



In France, 61.02% of individuals were exposed to untrue or doubtful content online in 2025, marking an annual increase of 7.3% since 2023, when the figure was 53.00%. This places France above the EU average, which stood at 55.90% in 2025 and 49.25% in 2023. The annual growth rate for France (7.3%) is slightly higher than that of the EU (6.5%). When examining the different age groups, it is evident that younger individuals (16-24) are more exposed to such content, at 78.84% in 2025 compared to 62.72% for those aged 25-64. This age-group gap of 16.12 pps in France is significantly wider than the EU average of 7.77 pps.

However, 31.16% of individuals verified the truthfulness of online content in 2025, following an annual increase of 10.7% from 25.42% in 2023. This figure is slightly above the EU average of 29.16% in 2025 and 24.29% in 2023. The annual growth rate for France (10.7%) exceeds that of the EU (9.6%).

Younger individuals (16-24) are more likely to verify online content, with 46.03% doing so in 2025 compared to 31.75% of those aged 25-64. The gap between both age categories is 14.28 pps, which is larger than the EU average gap of 9.09 pps.

Concerning **individuals exposed to hostile or degrading messages online**, France reached 43.62% in 2025, reflecting an annual increase of 3.2% from 40.96% in 2023. This figure is above the EU average of 39.72% in 2025 and 33.50% in 2023. However, France's annual growth rate (3.2%) is lower than that of the EU (8.9%). Younger individuals (16-24) are more exposed to such content, with 63.87% in 2025 compared to 43.82% for those aged 25-64. The gap between these age categories in France is 20.05 pps, which is nearly double the EU average gap of 11.85 pps.

Overall, on the positive side, France is performing well in terms of the verification of online content and a slower increase in exposure to hostile or degrading messages compared to the EU average. One trend that stands out is the significant age disparity in France. While younger individuals (16-24) are more likely to verify information, they are also more exposed to untrue or doubtful content and hostile messages. This age-group gap is consistently wider in France than in the EU overall, suggesting a need for targeted measures to address the vulnerabilities and behaviours of younger individuals online. The findings underscore the importance of continuing to promote digital literacy and critical thinking skills, particularly among the younger population.

Based on the results of the Digital Decade Eurobarometer 2026, 94% of French people consider that further strengthening the protection of children and young people online should be a high priority for the EU. Moreover, 87% consider that online manipulation (such as disinformation, foreign interference, AI-generated content, deepfakes) poses a threat to democratic processes.

## [Policy context and assessment of the recommendations](#)

**The country's above-average performances in basic digital skills could be explained by access to good infrastructure and inclusion policies.** Widespread fibre coverage ensures that most of the population has access to a fast broadband connection, facilitating access to online activities. Moreover, several inclusion policies might have contributed to the spread of digital technologies among households, for example: the [pass numérique](#) (vouchers offering 10-20 hours of basic digital training for vulnerable groups), the *France Services* digital mediators (providing free workshops and one-to-one support), and the creation of territorial hubs for an inclusive digital transition.

**Tackling persistent divides and fostering the digitalisation of businesses could further improve basic digital skills.** The main divides in terms of digital skills are mainly economic and age based. Many tailored support programmes for disadvantaged groups already exist. The workplace is also a key channel through which adults acquire and refresh basic digital skills in firms that create a culture of continuous digital upskilling. Improving the digitalisation of businesses (currently a weakness in France) might also raise the basic digital skills of workers. Having more tech savvy workers might also contribute to spreading a digital culture in a less digitalised workplace.

**France is very active in fighting disinformation and protecting minors online.** A new national strategy against health disinformation online was launched in January 2026. It aims to fight the widespread circulation of false medical information by creating a structured, long-term response focused on citizens and science-based communication. At the beginning of 2026, the French parliament adopted a text limiting access to social media networks for minors under 15. In April, it was [redrafted by the Senate](#).

**Social media consumption and young women's mental health are closely linked.** A [study from the French national statistical institute INSEE](#) revealed that 26% of women aged 18 to 24 who check social media several times per hour exhibit depressive symptoms while this percentage drops to 12% for young women connecting to social media less than once per hour. This percentage remains at 10% for men, regardless of social media usage.

## *ICT specialists*

### Performance assessment

**France was at 4.9% of ICT specialists in total employment after a progression of 2.1% in 2025 and stood just below the EU average of 5.0%.** The level and progress are broadly in line with the EU. However, the country is lagging behind compared to its trajectory presented in the Digital Decade national roadmap.

**The share of ICT specialists that are women is stable, but a concerning trend is emerging in ICT training.** In terms of women ICT specialists, France had a similar share to the EU in 2025 at 19.60%, compared to the EU's 19.50%. However, in 2024, France was one of the Member States with the lowest share of ICT graduates at just 4.00% of all graduates. This low performance is concerning as a low share of ICT graduates worsens the perspective of bridging the gap in the training of more ICT specialists for the future workforce. Still in relation to 2024, 7.68% of French enterprises recruited or tried to recruit personnel with ICT specialist skills (EU average: 9.55%).

### Policy context and assessment of the recommendations

**The long-standing stagnation of ICT specialists in the French workforce might be due to weak STEM foundations (especially mathematics) in earlier education.** Math skills are essential to shaping technological change but remain a particular concern. While France is home to many high-level schools and math specialists, French fourth and eighth graders obtained some of the [lowest results in maths and science](#) in the EU. According to OECD estimates, bringing France's Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) results in reading, science and maths close to those of top-performing countries could [increase productivity](#) by 2.7%. France engaged in improving the math skills of pupils with a [national strategy](#) that introduced new support modules in secondary education and mandatory additional maths hours for students who do not choose maths as a specialisation, thereby solidifying core skills for all students. Ultimately, it might prove beneficial for businesses and competitiveness in the very long term. As highlighted by the [2025 European Semester report](#), taking measures to boost the digital skills of the population and strengthen STEM and ICT teaching could boost innovation and digitalisation across all sectors and firms and strengthen competitiveness.

**There is a shortage of cybersecurity specialists in France.** The [ISC2 cybersecurity workforce study](#) estimates that France has few cybersecurity specialists (230 000 in 2024, compared to 440 000 in Germany, for example), though the figure has increased substantially (+6.1% since 2023), unlike other countries that have seen decreases (Germany, UK, US). France is boosting its cybersecurity workforce by diversifying education (especially for women and vocational tracks), creating specialised campuses like Campus Cyber, strengthening public-private partnerships, and implementing national strategies focused on training, raising awareness of cybersecurity careers, and fostering a strong domestic cyber ecosystem to meet the growing demand resulting from regulations like NIS2.

**2025 recommendation on ICT specialists:** Increase the job market relevance, improve the visibility, and clarify the offer of digital training and reskilling options.

**In 2025, France continued the implementation of existing measures but did not take any new measure.** The offer for ICT training is still broad with many options through different pathways: higher education (universities, engineering schools), vocational training (apprenticeships), and reskilling and life-long learning (personal training account). The France 2030 plan continues to support the training of specialists in AI and cybersecurity. However, with a very low share of ICT graduates, the issue seems to derive from the low take-up of existing training offers.

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

### *Performance assessment*

**In 2025, France's total digital public services score for citizens (which covers both national and cross-border users) reached 71.99/100 points. This represents a 1.1% increase compared to 2024. As such, France is below the EU average of 84.64/100 points.** The country is lagging behind compared to its trajectory presented in the Digital Decade national roadmap. When looking specifically at digital public services for national citizens, France reached 92.92/100 points in 2025. This is slightly below the EU average of 94.01/100 points, and it marks a 1.6% increase from 2024. However, the performance of cross-border digital public services for citizens is far worse with a score of 51.05/100 points, which is substantially below the EU average of 75.28/100 points. Compared to 2024, this reflects a 0.3% increase.

Citizen-related life events that score particularly well include Starting a small claims procedure (95.83), Moving (87.50), and Transport (84.72). Conversely, Family (50.69), Health (51.15), and Career (56.25) show the most room for improvement. Across levels of government for national citizens' digital public services, central government services scored 87.18/100 points, regional government services scored 68.33/100 points, and local government services scored 71.61/100 points.

**France's total digital public services score for businesses (covering both national and cross-border businesses) was 74.60/100 points in 2025, standing below the EU average of 88.59/100 points. This represents a 3.0% decrease from 2024.** The country is lagging behind compared to its trajectory presented in the Digital Decade national roadmap. The Business-related life event scoring particularly well is Business Start-Up (78.75), whereas Regular Business Operations (70.50) show the most room for improvement. Notably, France's cross-border digital public services score for businesses reached 56.25/100 points in 2025, reflecting a 0.3% increase compared with 2024. These results are again way below the EU average of 78.37/100 points.

**Overall, both Digital Decade KPIs and their underlying components lag behind EU levels, with cross-border digital public services representing the most persistent area of underperformance.** A similar pattern appears across government tiers, where regional administrations showing the greatest need for improvement. Also, France often scores below the EU average in the e-government auxiliary indicators. The gap is particularly pronounced in 'transparency of service delivery, design and personal data' (54.44 for France, 69.59 for the EU) and 'user support' (76.72 for France, 90.01 for the EU). For justice, the [2026 EU Justice Scoreboard](#) shows that there is considerable room for improvement to increase citizen access to initiate and follow proceedings digitally. Indeed, while France performs well in the availability of online information about the judicial system, it is one of the worst performing in the EU concerning the procedural rules allowing digital technology in courts in civil/commercial, administrative and criminal cases.

France's access to e-Health records reaches a score of 88.39 after a growth of 4.9%, above the EU average of 86.51. The country is lagging behind compared to its trajectory presented in the Digital Decade national roadmap.

## *Policy context and assessment of the recommendations*

**On electronic identification, France has set up an efficient ecosystem largely used by the population.** FranceConnect allows users to log in to more than 1 500 public and private online services using existing credentials (tax account, health insurance, postal services, etc.). The France Identité app enables holders of the electronic national ID card to authenticate via smartphone and access services integrated in FranceConnect. It also supports eID credentials (e.g. ID card, driving licence). Moreover, those services show a high take-up among internet users, with 91.60% of [users using eID to access online services](#) in 2025, largely above the EU average (55.28%).

**Many public services are accessible online, but users report difficulties.** Most high-volume services (income tax, social security, health insurance, family benefits, vehicle registration, education procedures) are now accessible via national portals such as service-public.fr, sector portals and local government sites. However, a 2025 [Senate information mission](#) found that 44% of users report difficulties with online administrative procedures, despite the fact that around 82% of the 2 billion procedures carried out each year are now done online. This trend is also reflected in the results of the Digital Decade Eurobarometer 2026 where 63% of French people consider that the digitalisation of daily public and private services is making their life easier (below the EU average of 73%). The Senate report also highlights that the digital divide might add to the perceived 'sense of abandonment' felt in rural areas where State services are progressively shut down. The 'France services' network was designed to help citizen in their day-to-day administrative tasks and is generally considered successful. There has been progress in digitalising the French justice system, but implementation is slow and citizens cannot initiate and follow proceedings in all cases. Improvements are also needed to reduce daily technical issues for users.

**Digitalisation of public services for businesses, including the implementation of cross-border capabilities and the once-only principle, might boost the digitalisation of SMEs.** Access to efficient digital public services with a concrete return (e.g. reduced administrative burden, time savings) could encourage smaller businesses to digitalise and make up the gap observed in the basic digitalisation of French SMEs. However, France is not making progress in enabling the cross-border exchange of data and documents between authorities through the EU once-only technical system (OOTS). It implies that French businesses cannot retrieve data and documents issued by the French authorities across e-Government portals in different Member States. It would be beneficial for France to actively engage in the OOTS community and prioritise the development of interoperable digital infrastructure

**Ensuring the French State's digital sovereignty and reducing its digital dependencies has become a strategic priority amid growing cyber threats.** As highlighted in the State of the Digital Decade report 2025, the French State's digital strategy prioritises control of its information systems with targeted choices in terms of infrastructure and software. A 2025 [report](#) by the French Court of Auditors finds that, while progress has been made, significant gaps remain in understanding and mapping sensitive data held by the State. The cost of achieving greater sovereignty is not judged to be high but requires stricter data-hosting standards and better use of secure infrastructure. The report also notes vulnerabilities in current arrangements, such as education and health data being stored on foreign-owned cloud platforms. To address these issues, France has promoted a 'cloud de confiance' (trusted

cloud) framework and some sovereign cloud solutions, though their uptake is limited to sensitive uses. In April 2026, several State services announced a plan [to reduce their reliance on non-EU providers](#) by, among other measures, migrating to Linux operating systems.

**The digitalisation of healthcare continues to improve, including by using AI technologies and strengthening sovereignty of data storage.** As part of the digital *Ségur* programme, the second wave of updates to the personal health platform, *Mon espace santé*, was [rolled out in 2025](#) to make it easier for doctors, especially in general practice and medical imaging, to access and add patients' health data securely. The RRF funded EUR 2 billion worth of measures to digitalise the French healthcare system. In July 2025 the French government launched a [national strategy](#) on AI and healthcare data, aiming to structure and govern AI use in health, improve care quality and support secure, ethical use of health records for innovation. At the beginning of 2026, the Health Data Hub, centralising copies of all the health data of French citizens held by the national health insurance, will [migrate to a sovereign cloud solution](#) certified by SecNumCloud, meaning the cloud service should not be subject to non-EU legislation.

**2025 recommendation on Digital Public Services:** Speed up the digitalisation of public services for both citizen and businesses, in particular by expanding cross-border capabilities.

**In 2025, the France continued the implementation of existing measures but did not take any new measure.** A major improvement was implemented in 2025 concerning the [fully digital proxy voting system](#) for all elections, using the France Identité app. It was operational for the municipal election of March 2026. On the business side, a major milestone will be mandatory e-invoicing as of September 2026 that should encourage the adoption of digital public services for businesses and improve the current service offering. However, to date, these events have not translated into improved e-Government scores under the Digital Decade, which remain largely sub-par. According to the e-Government Benchmark 2026, cross-border availability of services for both citizens and businesses remains more than 20 points below the EU average.

## Leveraging digital transformation for a smart greening

**In France, ICT air emissions are low, but the recycling of electronic equipment could be improved.** Eurostat's recently published sectoral data on air emissions show that the ICT sector in France emitted 17.9 kg CO<sub>2</sub> eq per capita, which is below the EU average of 22.8 kg CO<sub>2</sub> eq (data from 2022). Most of these emissions come from ICT services activities (89.6%). The ICT sector, however, represented only 0.37% of air emissions in the total economy, comparable to the EU average (0.35%). In 2023, 72.94% of ICT-related waste collected (corresponding to two categories of waste electrical and electronic equipment) are recycled or prepared for reuse. This is one of the lowest rates in the EU (EU average: 80.23%). According to the Digital Decade Eurobarometer 2026, 48% of French people consider that green digital technologies (e.g. energy-saving tech) will have the most positive impact in the next 10 years. It is the second most-cited digital technology after digital health.

**France continues to be a pioneer in green ICT policies.** As analysed in previous State of the Digital Decade reports, France has put innovative policies in place to measure the impact of ICT technologies on the environment and to encourage the implementation of good practices across sectors. France developed key legislative foundations such as the climate and resilience law (*Loi portant sur la lutte contre le dérèglement climatique et renforcement de la résilience face à ses effets*, 2021), strategic initiatives like an eco-responsible digital acceleration strategy, and monitoring and measurement methodologies. France is a pioneer country with a dedicated legislation specifically targeting the reduction of the environmental footprint of digital technologies: the REEN law (*Loi visant à Réduire l'Empreinte Environnementale du Numérique*, 2021), which addresses the full lifecycle impact of ICT and sets requirements notably to improve the energy and water efficiency of data centres, and to extend the equipment's lifespan. France has taken leading roles in EU and global arenas on green digital issues, including co-leading EU best-practice clusters under the Digital Decade and launching initiatives to promote sustainable AI internationally. Notably, France advocates for a comprehensive, multicriteria approach to measuring the environmental footprint of ICT, going beyond carbon emissions alone to include water consumption, resource use, and biodiversity impacts through life cycle assessment (LCA) methodologies. In the future, France aims to set emission reduction targets and trajectories in ICT-specific sectors and continue the roll-out of sustainable practices across businesses.

## Annex I: National roadmap analysis

### [France’s national Digital Decade strategic roadmap](#)

France submitted a fully revised national Digital Decade roadmap on 3 February 2025, containing six additional measures and revised trajectories. The updates clearly align with the new Commission’s priorities on AI, cybersecurity and green ICT. It includes reporting on the stakeholder consultation. However, while the AI measures presented could partly contribute to the digitalisation of SMEs, it lacks additional targeted measures to support them.

**The new roadmap addresses a substantial number of the 2024 roadmap recommendations.**

The 2025 roadmap includes a trajectory for unicorns and while not presented in the roadmap, the VHCN trajectory is still considered identical to the FTTP one. France does not present any national trajectories for edge nodes.

France has revised downward the target on adoption by enterprises of either AI, cloud or data analytics (combined indicator) to 65%, arguing it is a more realistic target. While it could be justified by a modest starting point, it has a heavy impact on reaching the target of 75% at the EU level by 2030. Individual trajectories for the three technologies are not presented.

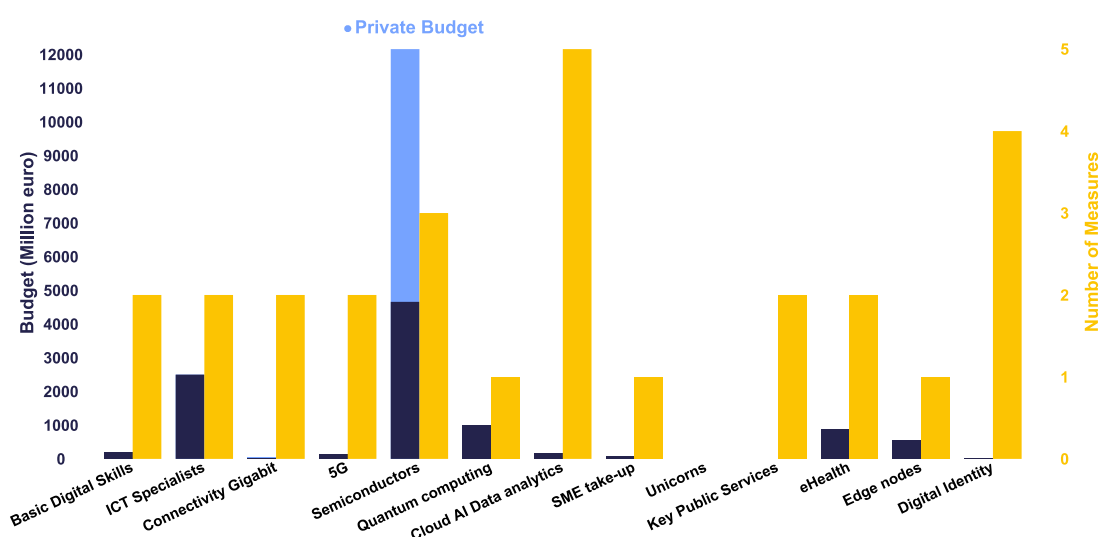
Two new measures on AI were added for adoption by enterprises.

The measure ‘Digital Health Acceleration Strategy Programme’ saw its budget revised upward from EUR 718 million to 750 million. It is not clear if the EU funding is reported for each measure since RRF contributes to funding France 2030 strategies or the plan ‘France très haut débit’ and it does not appear as such in the roadmap.

While a systematic contribution to the digital rights and principles was not carried out, the roadmap clearly reinforces the contribution of France to the Digital Decade objectives of green ICT and cybersecurity.

The 2025 roadmap now includes reporting on the stakeholder consultation.

**Measures and budget in the national roadmap<sup>1</sup>**



<sup>1</sup> 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

## France

The 2025 roadmap continues to prioritise semiconductors, connectivity, and e-Health. It is composed of 33 measures with a budget of EUR 18.6 billion, comprising EUR 11.1 billion from public budgets (equivalent to 0.38% of GDP). It covers all the Digital Decade's objectives such as a human-centred digital space, resilience and security, sovereignty, green, and protection of society.

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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 France was evaluated to EUR 8.10 billion with EUR 890 million for digital infrastructures, EUR 1.61 billion for digital skills, EUR 2.21 billion for the digitalisation of businesses, EUR 3.03 billion for the digitalisation of public services, and EUR 366 million for other digital priorities.

The total economic impact of RRF digital measures is estimated to EUR 24.92 billion for the national economy. Of this, EUR 18.24 billion stems from the direct effects of France's own RRP and EUR 6.68 billion corresponds to spillover effects from the implementation of other EU Member States' plans. France benefited the most from spillover effects from RRFs of Spain (EUR 1.86 billion), Italy (EUR 1.82 billion), Germany (EUR 0.83 billion). The most impacted sectors are ICT Services (EUR 5.30 billion), Professional Services (EUR 4.15 billion) and Manufacturing (EUR 3.54 billion).



*RRF spillover effects to France*

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

France allocates 22% of its total recovery and resilience plan to digital (EUR 8.1 billion)<sup>2</sup>. In addition, under cohesion policy, EUR 2.0 billion, representing 12% of the country's total cohesion policy funding, is dedicated to advancing France's digital transformation<sup>3</sup>.

## *Multi-Country Projects*

France is hosting the Alliance for Language Technologies EDIC (ALT-EDIC), the Digital Commons EDIC, and is candidate to host an EDIC in the area of agri-food. France is also a member of the Local Digital Twins towards the CitiVERSE EDIC. France is directly participating in the IPCEI on Microelectronics and Communication Technologies (IPCEI-ME/CT), in the IPCEI on Next Generation Cloud Infrastructure and Services (IPCEI-CIS) and in the IPCEI Tech4Cure. France is also a participating state of the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking (JU) and of the Chips JU.

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<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.