Council of the European Union

Brussels, 24 June 2026
(OR. en)

10476/26
ADD 46

TELECOM 314
DIGIT 173
CYBER 287
COMPET 802
RECH 291
PI 74
MI 673
EDUC 279
JAI 851
ENFOPOL 232
COSI 103

COVER NOTE

From:	Secretary-General of the European Commission, signed by Ms Martine DEPREZ, Director
date of receipt:	17 June 2026
To:	Ms Thérèse BLANCHET, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union
No. Cion doc.:	SWD(2026) 155 annex
Subject:	PART 17/27 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

Delegations will find attached document SWD(2026) 155 annex.

Encl.: SWD(2026) 155 annex

EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 17.6.2026
SWD(2026) 155 final

PART 17/27

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

Lithuania

Lithuania

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Executive summary

Overall, Lithuania has strong assets in digitalisation: near-universal 5G coverage, rapidly growing SME digital intensity that now exceeds the EU average, a world-class cybersecurity framework and a globally recognised laser and photonics industry that provides a natural entry point into quantum technologies. However, Lithuania is not yet fully reaping the benefits of this transformation. Basic digital skills remain significantly below the EU average, with especially wide gaps among older adults and rural populations. In rural areas, rollout of very high capacity networks (VHCN) is falling behind the national trajectory due to a lack of public financing for last-mile connections. Female participation in ICT fell sharply in 2024, dropping below the EU average, but recovered strongly in 2025, returning above the EU average; this progress has not yet been underpinned by dedicated policy measures. On the green-digital dimension, no integrated strategy or monitoring framework has been established, despite the twin transition being a core EU strategic priority.

The weaknesses identified have direct implications for Lithuania's **digital competitiveness.** As a small, open economy, Lithuania's future productivity growth will depend on how widely digital technologies spread beyond the ICT-intensive core. Weak digital skills – particularly among older and rural populations – are constraining labour market participation and limiting returns on Lithuania's digital infrastructure investment.

Lithuania can also count on several **digital leadership** assets. Its laser and photonics industry remains a globally recognised strength and offers a natural entry point into quantum photonics, with the country already embedded in European quantum communication networks. The start-up ecosystem is the fastest-growing in Central and Eastern Europe, supported by the newly launched Baltic Innovation Fund 3 and a planned EUR 250 million Scale-Up Fund. Looking ahead, the LitAI AI Factory is set to provide sovereign AI infrastructure from 2027, with full sectoral services expected by late 2027 to early 2028. Lithuania's leadership of the EU Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) Cyber Rapid Response Teams – coordinating multinational teams that respond to cyber incidents, assess vulnerabilities and support affected states – makes it a key contributor to European digital security. Lithuania significantly scaled up its cyber awareness efforts in 2025, including targeted training for seniors and small and medium-sized enterprises, but sustaining and extending this outreach to vulnerable groups and smaller enterprises remains crucial.

Lithuania in the Digital Decade

Lithuania shows a high level of ambition in its contribution to the Digital Decade, having set 12 national targets (out of 14 possible), 92% of which are aligned with the EU 2030 targets. In its national roadmap, Lithuania provided 12 trajectory points for 2025 (out of 13 analysed). The country is following them well, with 75% considered on track. Lithuania addressed 83% of the 6 recommendations issued by the Commission in 2025, by implementing significant policy changes (50%) or making some changes (33%) through new measures. According to the national roadmap, by the end of 2026, 42% of the measures will come to an end. The total public budget for these measures is EUR 468 million, representing 32% of the total public budget outlined in the roadmap.

According to the special Eurobarometer on the Digital Decade 2026, 80% of Lithuanian people consider that digital policy should be a very high/high priority for the EU in shaping Europe's future. They also think that, in the next 10 years, the EU should cooperate with EU countries to protect privacy and security online (94%), make digital tools more accessible for everyone, especially vulnerable groups,

older ones, and people with disabilities (91%), and use digital tools and technologies to make life simpler for people and businesses (89%).

In addition, 74% of Lithuanian respondents think that the EU should reduce its dependencies on digital from non-EU countries, while 80% think that the EU should prioritise investments in digital infrastructure and services developed and controlled in Europe. Meanwhile, 53% 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

Lithuania allocates 23% of its total recovery and resilience plan to digital (EUR 0.7 billion). Under cohesion policy, EUR 0.3 billion, representing 5% of the country's total cohesion policy funding, is also dedicated to advancing Lithuania's digital transformation.

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

Digital Decade KPI (1)	Lithuania				EU		Digital Decade target by 2030	
	Last available	DESI 2026 (year 2025)	Annual progress	National trajectory	DESI 2026	Annual progress	LT	EU
Fixed Very High Capacity Network coverage	78.3%	79.0%	0.9%	86.0%	85.5%	3.7%	98.0%	100%
Fibre to the Premises (FTTP)	78.3%	79.0%	0.9%	-	74.1%	7.1%	-	-
Basic 5G coverage	99.7%	99.7%	0.0%	95.0%	96.8%	2.6%	100.0%	100%
Edge Nodes (estimate, new methodology)	-	75	-	-	7451	-	-	10000
SMEs with at least a basic level of digital intensity *	60.0%	73.5%	10.7%	71.0%	71.4%	11.0%	90.0%	90%
Cloud *	33.6%	54.9%	27.8%	46.0%	46.7%	9.5%	75.0%	75%
Artificial Intelligence	8.8%	21.3%	143.2%	19.0%	20.0%	48.0%	75.0%	75%
Data analytics *	40.5%	54.1%	15.5%	24.0%	39.9%	9.5%	75.0%	75%
AI or Cloud or Data analytics *	53.5%	71.4%	15.5%	-	63.2%	7.5%	-	75%
Unicorns	3	3	0.0%	4	324	10.2%	6	500
At least basic digital skills *	52.9%	53.8%	0.8%	67.0%	60.4%	4.3%	80.0%	80%
ICT specialists	5.3%	5.7%	7.5%	5.7%	5.0%	2.0%	6.9%	~10%
e-ID scheme notification		Yes						
Digital public services for citizens	87.9	86.0	-2.1%	88.0	84.6	2.8%	100.0	100
Digital public services for businesses	92.5	96.7	4.6%	96.0	88.6	2.7%	100.0	100
Access to electronic health records	95.4	97.9	2.6%	100.0	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

A competitive, sovereign and resilient EU based on technological leadership

Lithuania performs above the EU average in 5G coverage but below it on VHCN, and lags behind its national trajectory on VHCN coverage, with rural areas particularly underserved. VHCN and FTTP coverage figures are virtually identical in Lithuania, reflecting a network that is almost entirely fibre-based, meaning the rural coverage gap is the same for both indicators and arises out of the same structural cause. The absence of broad-scale public support for last-mile fibre deployment to ordinary households leaves commercially unattractive areas at risk of being permanently excluded from gigabit coverage. The remaining 5G gaps concern mid-band deployment in rural areas and the transition to standalone networks, needed to enable advanced industrial use cases. Lithuania's semiconductor ecosystem remains at an early stage, but the country's world-leading laser and photonics industry provides a natural entry point into semiconductor-adjacent technologies, particularly for back-end applications and quantum photonics. Building on this strength to develop back-end production capacities and specialised skills would enable Lithuania to carve out a strategic niche in the EU semiconductor value chain. The country does not participate in the EU Chips Act's front-end pilot lines, and its semiconductor ecosystem remains concentrated in niche and back-end activities, with a need to develop both production capacities and specialised skills in these segments. On the business side, SMEs have largely caught up with the EU **basic digital intensity** average, supported by a well-structured portfolio of co-funded instruments further expanded and simplified in 2025. The adoption of advanced digital technologies is above the EU average across all three indicators, but this masks significant sectoral concentration: adoption remains low outside the ICT-intensive core, and large enterprises lag behind the EU average on AI adoption. Lithuania has invested a lot in AI infrastructure through the LitAI AI Factory, expected to be operational by early 2027, and has established GovAI, an AI Competence Centre for the Public Sector that has been providing services to public institutions since February 2026. The **start-up ecosystem** is the fastest-growing in Central and Eastern Europe, with record levels of venture capital raised in 2025, though structural gaps in late-stage financing and exit pathways limit unicorn emergence.

Protecting and empowering EU people and society

Basic digital skills remain significantly below the EU average and are increasing well below the EU trend, with Lithuania lagging far behind its national 2030 trajectory. The gap is widest among older adults – whose proficiency rate is nearly 20 percentage points below the EU average for the same age group – and among rural and suburban populations. The *Prisijungusi Lietuva* (Connected Lithuania) proximity-based training model has demonstrated measurable effectiveness at reaching these excluded groups, but operates at a scale that remains insufficient relative to the gap and relies on Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) funding whose continuation beyond 2026 is not guaranteed. The share of ICT specialists is among the highest in Europe, but the sector contracted in 2024 due to economic stagnation, with a particularly sharp decline in ICT specialists who are women, putting Lithuania below the EU average. The share of ICT specialists who are women recovered strongly in 2025, putting the country back above the EU average, but this progress has not yet been underpinned by dedicated policy measures. **Digital public services** perform well, with Lithuania among the best performing EU countries when it comes to open data maturity and delivering significant e-health infrastructure improvements in 2025, including new subsystems for maternal health, laboratory data, as well as a new mental health data set. The EU Digital Identity (EUDI) Wallet is in active preparation. On the link between the green and digital transitions, no integrated strategy or monitoring framework has been adopted, and the dual transition remains largely unrealised in policy terms. The LitAI AI Factory, which will operate on green energy and include smart industry among its priority sectors from 2026 onwards, is an emerging but not yet operational contribution to this agenda.

Recommendations

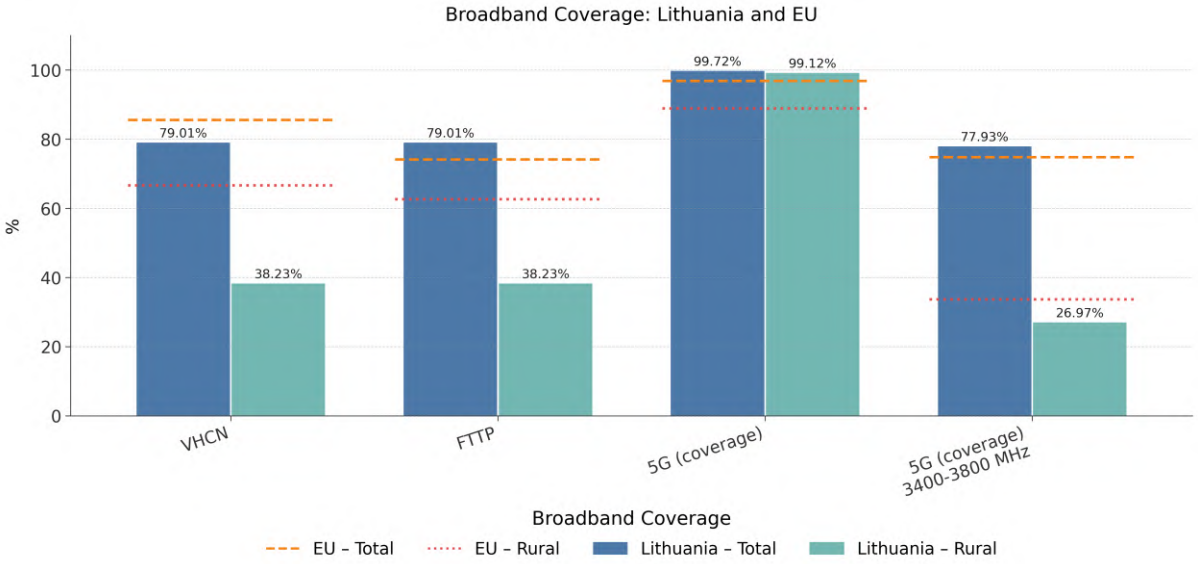
- **Basic Digital Skills:** Strengthen Lithuania's digital skills base, in particular by: (i) scaling up proximity-based delivery by extending the Prisijungusi Lietuva model beyond its current scope to establish a sustainable national network of trained digital mediators systematically integrated into social and employment services, (ii) introducing demand-side incentives, such as targeted training vouchers for low-skilled adults and older citizens; (iii) developing tailored awareness campaigns to reach the most excluded groups.
- **AI:** Accelerate the adoption of AI across the business sector, in particular by: (i) promoting AI uptake in sectors outside the ICT-intensive core, such as manufacturing, construction and traditional services, through targeted awareness-raising and advisory support; (ii) participating in the sectoral Apply AI flagships to develop sector-specific AI applications; (iii) ensuring the timely operationalisation of the LitAI AI Factory to provide broad-based access to AI infrastructure for businesses of all sizes.
- **Connectivity:** Accelerate the deployment of high-capacity digital infrastructure, in particular by: (i) introducing targeted public support for last-mile fibre deployment in commercially unattractive rural areas to close the FTTP coverage gap; (ii) sustaining 5G rollout in the 3.4-3.8 GHz mid-band in rural areas and promoting the deployment of 5G Standalone networks to enable advanced use cases; (iii) taking advantage of upcoming spectrum licence renewals to put in place pro-investment conditions.
- **Cybersecurity:** Build on the country's strong cyber resilience by further enhancing public cyber awareness and institutional coordination. In particular: (i) continue scaling cyber awareness efforts across all population groups and sectors, with particular attention to vulnerable groups such as seniors and SMEs; (ii) consolidate the organisational framework for cybersecurity by strengthening measurable implementation targets and structured cross-sector cooperation mechanisms.
- **ICT specialists:** Strengthen the ICT talent pipeline and improve gender balance in the sector. In particular, (i) scale up retraining programmes to support career transitions into ICT; (ii) introduce targeted measures to increase and structurally embed female participation in ICT specialist roles, including dedicated programme design, clear targets and funding beyond the general instruments currently available.
- **Green:** Adopt an integrated green-digital strategy with measurable sector-specific targets and establish a national monitoring framework to track ICT-enabled emission reductions across the economy. Build on the LitAI AI Factory's green energy and smart industry pipeline to scale up digital solutions supporting climate goals among businesses and public sector entities.
- **Semiconductors:** Invest in the development of semiconductor back-end technologies, and support the development of specialised semiconductor skills in advanced semiconductor technologies.

A competitive, sovereign and resilient EU based on technological leadership

Building technological leadership: digital infrastructure and technologies

Connectivity infrastructure

Performance assessment



In 2025, Lithuania achieved VHCN coverage of 79.01%, surpassing its 2024 figure of 78.29% but remaining below the EU average of 85.54%. Lithuania's annual growth rate of 0.9% also lags behind the EU's 3.7%. In sparsely populated areas, Lithuania's VHCN coverage was 38.23%, well below the EU average of 66.66%, with a growth rate of 0.8% compared to the EU's 7.7%. The country is lagging behind compared to the trajectory presented in the Digital Decade national roadmap.

Lithuania's FTTP coverage reached 79.01% in 2025, a 0.9% increase from 2024, placing it above the EU average of 74.13%. However, its growth rate falls short of the EU's 7.1%. In sparsely populated areas, FTTP coverage reached 38.23%, below the EU average of 62.61%, and Lithuania's growth rate of 0.8% is below the EU's 6.5%. The country did not provide a national trajectory point for 2025 in its Digital Decade national roadmap.

In 2025, Lithuania's basic 5G coverage reached 99.72%, above the EU average of 96.79%, though virtually unchanged from 99.71% in 2024, while the EU's coverage increased by 2.6%. In sparsely populated areas, 5G coverage was 99.12%, significantly above the EU average of 88.88%, also with near-zero growth compared to the EU's 11.7%. The country is on track according to the trajectory presented in the Digital Decade national roadmap.

Lithuania's 5G coverage in the 3.4-3.8 GHz band was 77.93% in 2025, above the EU average of 74.75%, with a growth rate of 3.7%, below the EU's 10.6%. This 3.4-3.8 GHz mid-band is crucial because it strikes a good balance between providing high-capacity coverage, making it indispensable for advanced 5G use cases that can be replicated as reference models across sectors,

and taking socio-economic drivers into account. These include applications in manufacturing, such as the industrial Internet of Things, or healthcare, such as telemedicine. In sparsely populated areas, coverage in this band reached 26.97% in 2025, a strong increase of 82.3% from 14.79% in 2024, but still below the EU average of 33.71%. However, Lithuania's growth rate in these areas is significantly above the EU's 32.9%. The upcoming spectrum licence expiry in 2030 is an opportunity for Lithuania to establish pro-investment conditions[1].

The table below gives an overview of VHCN, FTTP and 5G coverage across NUTS-2 regions in Lithuania. It shows that the capital region surpasses the national average on overall connectivity indicators but lags behind on rural coverage, while central and western Lithuania performs broadly in line with or above the national average on rural VHCN and FTTP coverage.

	VHCN coverage (FTTP + DOCSIS 3.1)		FTTP Coverage		5G Coverage	
	Overall	Rural	Overall	Rural	Overall	Rural
National coverage	79.01%	38.23%	79.01%	38.23%	99.72%	99.12%
Sostinės regionas	85.44%	35.80%	85.44%	35.80%	99.81%	99.00%
Vidurio ir vakarų Lietuvos regionas	76.28%	38.72%	76.28%	38.72%	99.68%	99.14%

In terms of adoption, Lithuania is at 4.81% of fixed broadband subscriptions at or above 1 Gbps after a significant increase of 70.3% in 2025, but still well below the EU average of 26.97%. Despite this strong growth rate, above the EU's 21.2%, the gap with the EU average remains wide. Lithuania's 5G SIM cards represent 15.37% of its population, an 81.1% increase in 2025. Yet this remains well below the EU average of 55.55%, indicating that 5G adoption, while on the rise, still requires significant work to bring it into line with broader European trends.

Policy context and assessment of recommendations

Lithuania's connectivity performance has to be seen against a structural backdrop of low population density and a fragmented settlement pattern that makes last-mile fibre deployment commercially unattractive in many parts of Lithuania. Lithuania has historically achieved high FTTP coverage through market-driven deployment thanks to a combination of the incumbent operator Telia – which has focused on FTTH (fibre to the home) – and a large number of alternative operators, roughly 50, which have built primarily fibre to the building (FTTB) networks. This market structure, while producing high overall coverage, creates a specific challenge: the areas that remain unserved are precisely those where the business case for private investment is limited, and where public intervention is the only realistic driver of further rollout. As a key structural gap, Lithuania lacks State aid programmes for last-mile fibre rollout on a mass market scale, with public support limited to socio-economic entities, towers and specific public interest locations.

A further structural specificity is the technology mix underpinning Lithuania's fibre statistics. FTTB – where the last drop to individual premises uses copper wiring – accounts for approximately 40% of fibre-based connections, virtually all of which are provided by alternative operators. This creates regulatory and definitional complexity around the copper switch-off agenda: a mandatory FTTH-only transition as proposed under the Digital Networks Act would impose significant additional costs on areas already served by competitive FTTB networks, and risks diverting resources from expanding

[1] Pro-investment conditions include longer licence durations to provide greater investment certainty, coverage obligations to accelerate deployment and reasonable spectrum prices that preserve capital for network rollout.

coverage to upgrading already-capable infrastructure. Lithuania's position is that promoting fibre rollout through positive incentives is more effective than mandating switch-off.

On the regulatory side, the long-awaited market review decisions were adopted in February 2026 by RRT (the Communications Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Lithuania). While identifying for the first time a separate market for physical infrastructure access in which Telia holds significant market power (SMP), RRT has fully deregulated the market for wholesale dedicated capacity and the market for wholesale central access. On the wholesale local access market, RRT only imposed remedies on Telia in non-competitive, mostly rural, areas. RRT has also proposed 'regulatory holidays' for the SMP operator Telia on newly built fibre networks only, meaning that new investments in economically unattractive white zones would not be subject to regulation for five years. This 'regulatory holiday' measure only concerns a small portion of Lithuania's regulated wholesale local access market, but it is a new incentive directly targeting rural deployment. In December 2025, RRT also issued the broadband mobile network development plan for 2025-2030, setting binding coverage obligations linked to the upcoming spectrum auction in the 700 MHz, 1500 MHz and 2100 MHz bands, including requirements for 30 Mbps coverage of all households in built-up areas by the end of 2027, 100 Mbps in white areas by the end of 2028, and full 5G territory coverage by the end of 2030.

On investment, one flagship programme has been completed while the other is progressing. The RRF project connecting 5 000 socio-economic entities using approximately 1 400 km of fibre was completed on 30 April 2026. The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) programme to build 60 telecommunications towers has moved to the construction phase, with all 60 contracts signed and the first towers expected to be operational in 2026, targeting 14 909 households and 1 348 businesses. Two new Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)-funded quantum communication projects – PIONIER-Q-SAT and Lat-LitQN – were launched in early 2026, building cross-border quantum-secure links with Poland and Latvia respectively and contributing to the resilience of Lithuania's eastern connectivity infrastructure.

On 5G, Lithuania has near-universal coverage but has made no progress on harmonised spectrum assignment. The upcoming spectrum auction – for which RRT issued conditions in February 2026 – is expected to address this gap, with standalone 5G deployment required by the end of 2030 as a licence obligation. The Port of Klaipėda has deployed Lithuania's first private 5G standalone network, providing an early industrial use case.

2025 recommendation on VHCN: Expand public support for VHCN deployment, notably in rural areas.
Lithuania made some efforts to address the recommendation through new policy actions in 2025. The introduction of 'regulatory holidays' for SMP investment in white zones, the acceleration of the RRF flagship project, and the new spectrum plan with binding rural coverage obligations are meaningful steps. However, the absence of State aid for last-mile mass market fibre rollout remains unaddressed. Rural VHCN coverage is significantly below the EU average and is increasing at a pace well below the EU trend. The recommendation therefore remains only partially addressed, and the underlying investment gap acknowledged by the authorities themselves in the context of Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) discussions is likely to persist without a more direct public financing instrument for last-mile deployment.

Semiconductors

Lithuania's semiconductor ecosystem is at an early stage of development. The country decided in 2025 not to proceed with a dedicated semiconductor strategy, instead opting to integrate the sector into a broader **engineering industry roadmap** currently being prepared, which will set out decade-long development objectives and an action plan for coordinated engagement with key engineering sectors including semiconductors.

Two policy options are under discussion. First, policy support is being considered for an **outsourced semiconductor assembly and test (OSAT) project** – aimed at establishing advanced semiconductor packaging, assembly and testing capacities in Lithuania – which would put the country in the back-end segment of the semiconductor value chain[2] where entry costs are lower than in front-end manufacturing. Second, a **bilateral R&D funding instrument with Taiwan** is planned to be launched in 2026/2027, focusing on joint research between Lithuanian and Taiwanese companies, with a specific emphasis on laser-based technologies for semiconductor applications. This latter initiative leverages Lithuania's existing strength in laser and photonics industries as a natural entry point into semiconductor-adjacent technologies.

While Lithuania does not feature in the Chips JU pilot lines and does not directly participate in the first pillar of the European Chips Act, its engagement through the ChipsC²-LT Competence Centre reflects an emerging, if still limited, integration into the European semiconductor ecosystem. Its contribution is therefore likely to remain concentrated in niche, research-oriented and back-end activities in the medium term.

Edge nodes

According to the Edge Node Observatory, Lithuania is estimated to have deployed a total of 75 edge nodes by 2025. A change in methodology means that this number cannot be compared to previous estimations.

Policy context and assessment of recommendations

Lithuania has not identified triggering factors – be they industrial demand, latency-sensitive use cases, security considerations or cross-border corridor logic – that would prompt dedicated policy action in this area. Edge node deployment therefore remains an area where policy development has not yet begun.

Quantum technologies

Lithuania's approach to quantum technologies is grounded in a distinctive structural asset: one of the most internationally recognised laser and photonics industries in Europe, built over more than 60 years of close science-industry collaboration. The sector comprises more than 60 companies employing over 2 000 highly skilled specialists (2024), with approximately 90-95% of production exported worldwide. Lithuania is considered the most photonics-productive nation in the world per capita, with three Lithuanian researchers featured in the Photonics100 2026 list of the most influential people shaping the future of photonics, including researchers working specifically on ultrashort-pulse laser technologies for semiconductor applications and advanced optical coatings. This industrial base is a natural and strategically relevant entry point into quantum photonics – an area where Lithuania's authorities have explicitly identified the need to 'transform photonics expertise into quantum-

[2] The post-fabrication stages of assembly, packaging and testing, which require significantly lower entry costs than the front-end chip manufacturing stages.

photonics products and export niches' through science-industry demonstrators and participation in the European Quantum Industry Consortium (QuIC).

On quantum communications, Lithuania plays a strategic role in building Europe's sovereign quantum communication infrastructure as a key participant in the European Quantum Communication Infrastructure (EuroQCI) initiative, serving as a critical hub connecting the Baltic region to the wider European quantum network through terrestrial fibre-optic and space-based links. Two new CEF-funded projects – PIONIER-Q-SAT and Lat-LitQN, both launched in early 2026 – take this further, connecting Lithuania through quantum-secure links to Poland and Latvia and making digital infrastructure more secure along the EU's eastern border. However, Lithuania's not participating in the first phase of EuroQCI has left a gap: Lithuania does not have a domestic quantum key distribution (QKD) network at city level. Nor does it have an overarching national plan or pilot projects. Involving commercial telecom operators and key end-users in deployment – outside of academic and research circles – has been identified as a priority challenge.

On the research and governance side, the Research Council of Lithuania (LMT) plays a coordinating role through the QuantERA transnational network, the Eureka Network and broader Horizon Europe instruments. The LMT also implements the state-commissioned programme 'Information Technologies for the Development of Science and the Knowledge Society' (2024-2028), one objective of which is directly linked to advancing research and practical applications of quantum computing across scientific domains. Lithuania's membership in the Extreme Light Infrastructure (ELI ERIC) provides access to advanced laser and photonics infrastructure directly relevant to quantum technology development. The priorities emerging from the national assessment for 2025–2026 centre on: investment in quantum technology laboratories and photonic integrated circuit prototyping; establishment of a national quantum competence centre with transparent, multi-institutional participation; development of dedicated Quantum Technology study programmes; and systematic leverage of the laser industry for quantum-photonics commercialisation. Lithuania does not yet pursue a dedicated national quantum computing infrastructure programme; instead, its quantum computing capability is expected to develop primarily through integration into European HPC–quantum ecosystems and EuroHPC Joint Undertaking (JU) initiatives. EuroHPC engagement should secure access to quantum computing resources for Lithuanian researchers and industry and support hybrid HPC–quantum capability development (e.g., through QEC4QEA). The planned LitAI Factory will further complement these capabilities by supporting quantum simulations and quantum-classical workloads through AI-optimised high-performance computing infrastructure. A bilateral Lithuania–Taiwan R&D funding instrument, focusing on joint research in laser-based technologies for semiconductor and quantum applications, is expected to be launched in 2026/2027.

Lithuania is moving towards a dedicated national quantum strategy and governance model: a national Quantum Agenda was prepared in 2025 and governance arrangements are being put in place (e.g. through a draft government resolution on quantum technologies). In the medium term, Lithuania's contribution to the EU quantum ecosystem is expected to be strongest in communications, sensing, and photonics-enabled technologies - areas where its industrial and research base provides clear competitive advantages - complemented by quantum-safe security measures.

In response to emerging quantum threats, Lithuania has recently adopted (in March 2026) a national, phased transition plan towards post-quantum cryptography as a strategic priority to ensure long-term cyber resilience. Preparatory work on the Plan began in 2025, led by the Ministry of National Defence (MoD) together with the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), representatives of other ministries and relevant institutions, as well as experts from key sectors. The process also included the

development of accompanying guidance documents. Under the plan, post-quantum or hybrid cryptography must be implemented in identified high-risk systems of essential cybersecurity entities by 1 January 2031, with all information systems of cybersecurity entities required to use exclusively post-quantum cryptography from 2036 onwards.

Supporting EU-wide digital ecosystems and scaling up innovative enterprises

SMEs with at least basic digital intensity

Performance assessment

Lithuania is at 73.51% of SMEs with at least a basic level of digital intensity after an increase of +10.7% annually between 2023 and 2025, putting it above the EU average of 71.39%. In 2023, the figure for Lithuania was 59.99%, above the EU average of 57.90%. Despite its annual growth rate of 10.7%'s being slightly below the EU's 11.0%, Lithuanian SMEs surpassed the EU average in 2025. The country is on track according to the trajectory presented in the Digital Decade national roadmap.

Regarding SMEs with very high digital intensity, Lithuania is at 12.94% after an increase of +86.0% annually, significantly above the EU average of 9.07%. In 2023, its figure was 3.74%, below the EU average of 4.38%. Its annual growth rate of 86.0% far exceeds the EU's 43.9%.

Policy context and assessment of recommendations

Lithuania's strong and fast-improving SME digital performance reflects its small, open economy and a business sector that is relatively young, dynamic and tech-focused. After joining the EU, Lithuania quickly restructured and built a large share of ICT and knowledge-intensive SMEs. This is visible in funding data, where computer programming activities dominate, and it helps explain why overall digital intensity indicators are growing rapidly. This structural composition is both a strength and a weakness: headline indicators perform well, while the challenge of reaching genuinely low-intensity sectors such as manufacturing, construction and traditional services remains structurally harder to address.

The main barriers to SME digitalisation are access to and the complexity of public funding mechanisms, as well as difficulties mobilising private co-financing. The Digital Checks for SMEs call received 183 applications for a total envelope of EUR 1 million, demonstrating strong demand, but only 55 applications for EUR 325 200 were ultimately approved, with cancellations driven by companies' inability to secure private co-financing contributions and changes in business priorities. This suggests that, while awareness of available support is not a primary barrier, financial absorption capacity and implementation readiness among smaller **companies** remain structural constraints. To better target sectors with low digital intensity, Lithuania has maintained the obligation for beneficiaries to achieve a high digital intensity result indicator, thereby ensuring that funding reaches companies taking significant digitalisation steps across multiple dimensions, rather than isolated technology adoptions.

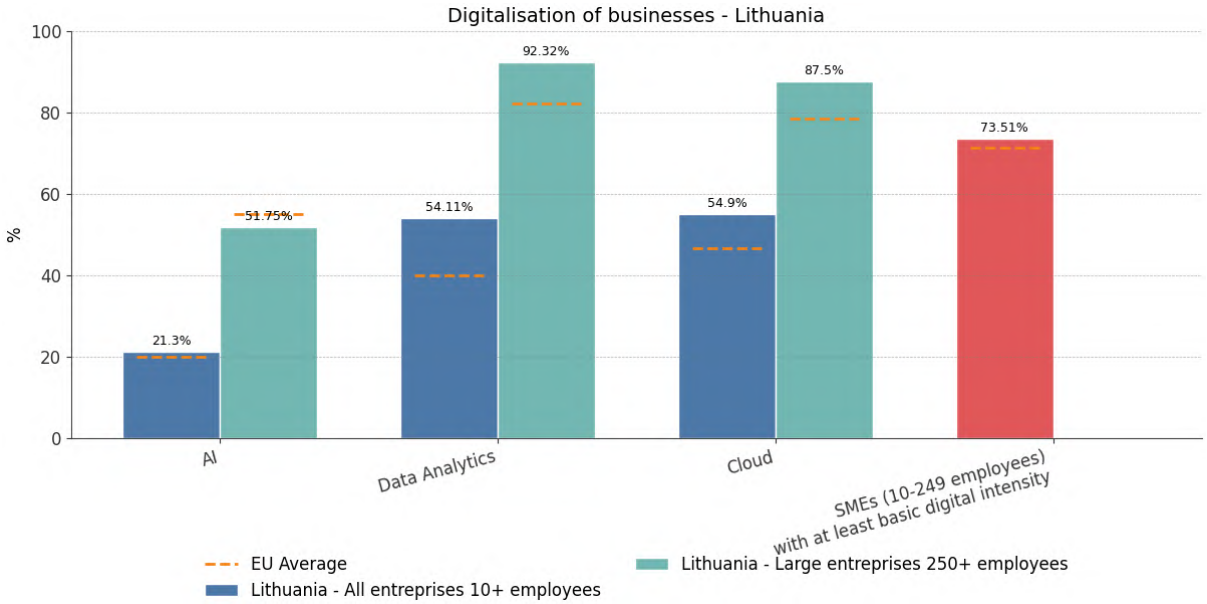
2025 recommendation on SMEs: Simplify access to SME digitalisation funding by reducing bureaucratic complexity, improving guidance, and targeting support to low-digital-intensity sectors.

Lithuania fully addressed the recommendation by putting significant policy actions into place in 2025. The requirement to verify whether applicants qualified as an 'undertaking in difficulty' under EU State aid rules was discontinued under the *de minimis* aid framework (Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/2831), reducing the administrative burden for applicants and implementing bodies. The Digital SME Voucher scheme has been converted from a competitive call to a continuous first-come first-served selection procedure, eliminating competition between applicants, reducing documentation requirements and accelerating evaluation. An amendment to the 2021-2027 EU Funds Investment Programme has also been set in motion to simplify direct loans for industrial enterprise digitalisation, especially by removing the high-added-value requirement for companies in the capital region and adding business process automation as an eligible activity.

The three measures taken collectively constitute major simplification of access conditions targeting the specific barriers identified in the 2025 report. The main remaining challenge is structural: financial absorption capacity and implementation readiness among smaller companies, which simplification measures alone cannot fully address.

Take up of advanced technologies

Performance assessment



Lithuania is at 54.11% of enterprises adopting data analytics after an increase of +15.5% annually between 2023 and 2025, putting it above the EU average of 39.85%. In 2023, the figure for Lithuania was 40.53%, above the EU average of 33.25%. Lithuania's annual growth rate of 15.5% is significantly above the EU's 9.5%. Focusing on SMEs, Lithuania is at 52.77% after an increase of +15.8% annually, putting it above the EU average of 38.59%. For large enterprises, it is at 92.32% after an increase of +6.4% annually, putting it above the EU average of 82.03%, with a growth rate slightly below the EU's 6.9%. The country is on track according to the trajectory presented in the Digital Decade national roadmap.

Lithuania is at 54.9% of enterprises adopting cloud technologies after an increase of +27.8% annually between 2023 and 2025, putting it above the EU average of 46.69%. In 2023, the figure for Lithuania

was 33.6%, below the EU average of 38.97%. Lithuania's annual growth rate of 27.8% is way above the EU's 9.5%. In the case of SMEs, Lithuania is at 53.76% after an increase of +28.4% annually, putting it above the EU average of 45.74%. In the case of large enterprises, Lithuania is at 87.5% after an increase of +13.7% annually, putting it above the EU average of 78.32%. The country is on track according to the trajectory presented in the Digital Decade national roadmap.

Lithuania is at 21.3% of enterprises adopting AI after an increase of +143.2% annually between 2024 and 2025, putting it above the EU average of 19.95%. In 2024, the figure for Lithuania was 8.76%, below the EU average of 13.48%. Lithuania's annual growth rate of 143.2% is significantly above the EU's 48.0%. In the case of SMEs, Lithuania is at 20.25% after an increase of +152.8% annually, putting it above the EU average of 18.9%. In the case of large enterprises, Lithuania is at 51.75% after an increase of +65.8% annually, putting it below the EU average of 55.03%. The country is on track according to the trajectory presented in the Digital Decade national roadmap.

Taking the adoption of AI, cloud or data analytics technologies together, Lithuania is at 71.37% of enterprises after an increase of +15.5% annually between 2023 and 2025, putting it above the EU average of 63.2%. In 2023, the figure for Lithuania was 53.54%, below the EU average of 54.7%. In the case of SMEs, Lithuania is at 70.43% after an increase of +15.8% annually, putting it above the EU average of 62.32%. In the case of large enterprises, Lithuania is at 98.46% after an increase of +4.5% annually, putting it above the EU average of 92.78%. The country did not provide a national trajectory point for 2025 in the Digital Decade national roadmap.

Policy context and assessment of recommendations

Lithuania's strong and accelerating performance on cloud, data analytics and AI adoption reflects a young, dynamic business ecosystem with a high share of technology-oriented firms. As a small, open economy that has significantly reoriented its trade and supply chains away from Russia and Belarus since 2022, its future productivity and competitiveness depend on scaling these technologies across the economy. This makes wider adoption beyond leading companies a macroeconomic priority. The country moved from below the EU average on cloud and AI in 2023 to above it in 2025, driven by growth rates significantly exceeding the EU trend across all three technologies. This rapid catch-up reflects both the low starting base and an ecosystem that is genuinely responsive to new technology signals. However, overall figures are boosted by the high share of ICT and knowledge-intensive firms. In sectors such as manufacturing, construction and traditional services, adoption of advanced technologies remains significantly lower — and it is in these sectors that the productivity multiplier effects of cloud, AI and data analytics are most needed and least realised. Lithuania's structural challenge is therefore one of diffusion beyond the digitally advanced core — a challenge compounded by limited in-house technical capacity in smaller, less digitally mature firms and uncertainty about returns on investment.

On AI specifically, the starting point was very low — well below the EU average in 2024 — and the spectacular growth rate partly reflects base effects. Large enterprises still trail the EU average on AI adoption, suggesting that even among sophisticated users, the transition from pilot to systematic deployment remains incomplete and warrants stronger advisory and scaling support.

Looking ahead, the LitAI AI Factory — a national AI infrastructure coordinated by Vilnius University with EuroHPC JU co-funding — **will be the central hub for AI infrastructure and competences for businesses, researchers and public institutions** from 2026 onwards. However, the bulk of LitAI services across priority sectors including cybersecurity, green energy, smart industry and digital health will be operational by late 2027– early 2028, meaning that the gap between current demand and available

infrastructure access remains a near-term constraint. In the context of the public sector, the Government Cloud is being developed with strengthened GPU infrastructure already in use for AI applications, providing an interim capacity while LitAI reaches full operationalisation.

2025 recommendation on AI: Step up targeted support for the adoption of artificial intelligence, especially among SMEs, by raising awareness of business-relevant use cases, improving access to advisory services, and simplifying funding procedures.
Lithuania fully addressed the recommendation by putting significant policy actions into place in 2025. Two targeted financial schemes totalling **EUR 22.5 million** were developed – one for AI technology development and one for AI adoption in business processes. The **National Strategic Guidelines for AI 2026-2035** were adopted in April 2026, with a core productivity target of a 66% increase for Lithuanian companies and proposals to improve financial support architecture, including incentives for companies with higher own-contribution rates. Innovation Agency Lithuania organised four targeted events for manufacturing sector companies on AI use cases. On cloud, a national hybrid cloud model has been developed in 2025, with a formally approved reference architectural model for the public sector, a structured service catalogue of cloud-ready services and a Cloud Management Platform which is under development. A **State Data Lake** infrastructure receiving data from more than 800 administrative sources provides the analytical backbone for public sector institutions and researchers. For the public sector, the **GovAI AI Competence Centre** was launched in early 2026, providing advisory services, AI literacy training and sandbox access to government institutions. This builds on the approximately 6 000 public sector employees already trained in AI skills in 2025 prior to the centre's launch. These actions collectively represent a strong and direct response to all three dimensions of the recommendation – awareness, advisory access and funding. The main remaining challenge is the time lag before LitAI becomes fully operational and the need to reach sectors and types of companies besides those in the digitally advanced core.

Unicorns, scale-ups and start-ups

Performance assessment

Lithuania's number of unicorns remained stable at 3 in early 2026, showing no change compared to the previous year. In its roadmap, Lithuania had aimed at 4 unicorns by the end of 2025.

Policy context and assessment of recommendations

Despite having three unicorns at the start of 2026 – one short of its target – Lithuania's start-up ecosystem is still one of the most dynamic in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). As a small, open economy, its domestic market is too limited to support the scale needed for unicorn-level valuations: companies that reach this threshold do so by scaling up internationally, often relocating headquarters to larger markets or attracting foreign lead investors for growth-stage rounds. This structural feature, common to small EU countries, means that the unicorn count is a particularly volatile and imperfect indicator of the health of Lithuania's ecosystem.

Beneath the headline figure, the data tells a positive story of a strong and fast-growing start-up ecosystem. Lithuania's start-up ecosystem reached EUR 16.4 billion in value in 2025 – growing 5.9 times since 2020 and making it the fastest-growing start-up ecosystem in CEE. Lithuanian start-ups raised EUR 220 million in venture capital in 2025, up from EUR 131 million in 2024, marking a return to investment growth after a challenging global period. Enterprise Software led investment at EUR 160

million, followed by HealthTech and Fintech. Lithuania is also in the lead in CEE in terms of women-led start-up value creation, with start-ups co-founded by women accounting for 33% of total enterprise value.

Despite this, key structural funding gaps remain. Domestic capital for later stages is limited, with Series B+ rounds dependent on foreign lead investors and a thin transition between Series A and B financing. Exit pathways are primarily driven by mergers and acquisitions, with limited initial public offerings (IPO) and still-developing secondary liquidity options. These gaps affect the emergence of unicorns the most: the early-stage pipeline is healthy, but scaling companies up beyond it remains the central challenge, one that existing public instruments have been least effective at addressing.

In 2025 and early 2026, Lithuania took meaningful steps to address some of the gaps in public funding. The Co-Investment Fund had invested EUR 37.9 million in 76 SMEs by September 2025, comprising EUR 25 million in public funds and EUR 13.9 million in private co-financing. Accelerator 2 had invested EUR 16.6 million in 135 SMEs by September 2025. The Plug and Play international accelerator programme completed its two-year run, accelerating over 60 start-ups and attracting EUR 19 million in total investments. Specialised sector accelerators in EdTech, GameTech and ICT collectively supported 85 start-ups. Most significantly, in February 2026, the Baltic Innovation Fund 3 (BIF 3) – a EUR 225 million fund anchored by the European Investment Fund and Baltic promotional institutions including Lithuania's ILTE (the Lithuanian state development finance institution) – was launched, aiming to mobilise up to EUR 700 million for Baltic high-growth companies with an explicit focus on growth and later-stage financing. A EUR 250 million Scale-up Fund anchored by ILTE is also being developed to provide larger Series A+ and growth-stage tickets while crowding in private and international investors. The Early Stage and Development Fund III and Accelerator 3 are in the early stages of deployment. The Research Council of Lithuania (LMT) also launched a Pre-accelerator and Mentoring Programme (EUR 4.9 million, 2025-2028), aimed at supporting the commercialisation of research results and developing entrepreneurial skills among spin-offs, SMEs and researchers. **The main challenge going forward is less about instrument architecture** – which is becoming comprehensive – **and more about time to deployment and international visibility**. BIF 3 and the Scale-up Fund are the right responses to the structural late-stage gap, but their impact on the unicorn pipeline will take several years to materialise. Increasing Lithuania's visibility among international growth-stage investors, and developing exit pathways besides mergers and acquisitions, remain the medium-term priorities for ecosystem maturation.

Strengthening Cybersecurity & Resilience

Lithuania's cybersecurity position has to be understood in the context of a country that has faced sustained hybrid cybersecurity threats over many years because of its geopolitical position on the EU's eastern border. This has resulted in having a proactive and well-resourced national cybersecurity policy, with the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) playing a central coordinating role across government, critical infrastructure and civil society. Lithuania's leadership of the EU Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) Cyber Rapid Response Teams (CRRT) project – now involving 12 EU countries and deployed to Ukraine, Mozambique and Moldova – reflects a level of operational cyber defence capability that significantly exceeds what would be expected of a country the size of Lithuania.

To raise awareness of cybersecurity, Lithuania has implemented a broad and structured set of actions. The NCSC training platform has delivered training completed by 52 000 participants from state and municipal institutions, NGOs and SMEs, with new modules specifically developed for 'Cyber Hygiene for Seniors', 'Cybersecurity for SME Managers' and 'Cyber Hygiene for SME Employees'. Four

phishing simulation exercises were conducted, with more than 448 000 simulated emails sent and employees' ability to recognise social engineering tested 610 times. The Ministry of National Defence implemented a dedicated communication campaign targeting two demographic segments – young people and women aged 45 and over – directly addressing groups most at risk. The VASARIS domain blocking system had prevented an average of 49 000 residents a day from accessing malicious content by the end of 2025, having blocked approximately 76 000 malicious domains. Lithuania's Safer Internet initiative continued its broad-based outreach, and the media and information literacy programme MIRKT – delivered through libraries – was updated in 2025 and expanded in 2026 to include modules on disinformation and propaganda. Finally, an interinstitutional working group was established in February 2026 to develop a plan for countering disinformation and manipulation.

2025 recommendation on cybersecurity: Continue work on cybersecurity to address evolving threats, particularly regarding citizens awareness.
In 2025, Lithuania fully addressed the recommendation by putting significant policy actions into place in 2025. The actions outlined above collectively represent a strong, tangible response to all aspects of the recommendation, going beyond generic awareness campaigns to target specific vulnerable groups, test real behavioural outcomes through simulation exercises, and address the disinformation aspect of digital resilience.

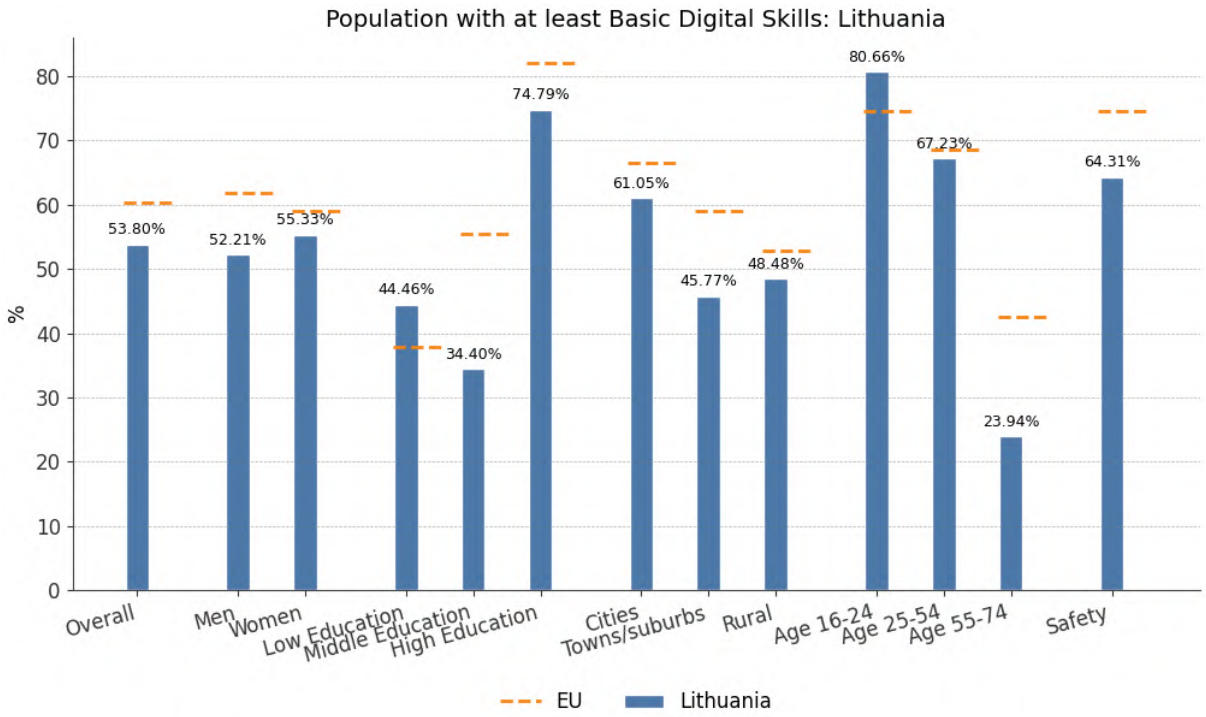
Protecting and empowering EU people and society

Empowering people and bringing the digital transformation closer to their needs

Equipping people with digital skills

Basic digital skills

Performance assessment



Lithuania is at 53.80% of people aged 16-74 with at least basic digital skills after an increase of 0.8% annually since 2023, putting it below the EU average of 60.40%. In 2023, its figure was 52.91%, also below the EU average of 55.56%. Its annual growth rate significantly lags behind the EU's 4.3%. The country is also lagging behind compared to the trajectory presented in the Digital Decade national roadmap.

Regarding the **gender gap**, Lithuania has a difference of 3.12 percentage points in favour of women, contrasting with the EU where the gap favours men by 2.75 percentage points. However, overall digital skills proficiency remains below EU levels for both genders, with women at 55.33% compared to the EU's 59.04% and men at 52.21% compared to the EU's 61.79%.

Education level influences digital proficiency in Lithuania, though less markedly than at EU level. People with no or low formal education have a proficiency rate of 44.46%, above the EU average of 37.56%. The gap between the national average and this group is 9.34 percentage points, significantly narrower than the EU average gap of 22.84 percentage points.

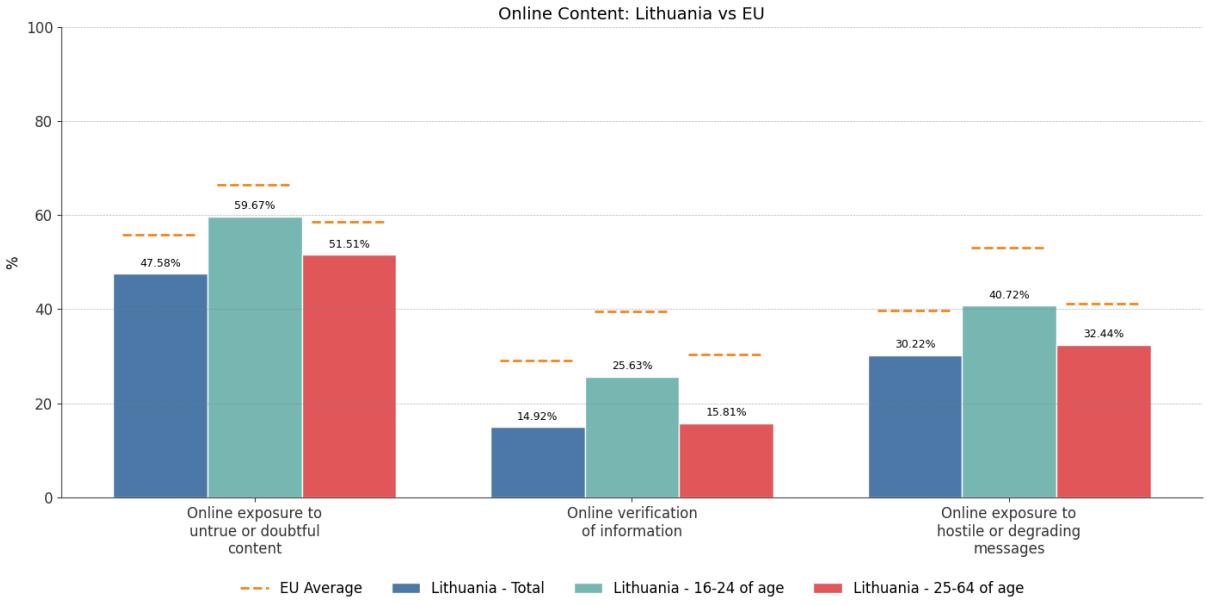
In **urban areas**, 61.05% of people have at least basic digital skills, below the EU average of 66.50%. In towns and suburbs, the proficiency rate drops to 45.77%, significantly below the EU average of 59.02%, with a gap of 15.28 percentage points between urban and suburban areas, wider than the EU's urban-rural gap of 13.67 percentage points.

Young adults aged 16 to 24 demonstrate strong digital skills at 80.66%, above the EU average of 74.55%. By contrast, the older age group of 55 to 74 has a proficiency rate of 23.94%, well below the EU average of 42.60%. The gap between the youngest and oldest age groups in Lithuania is 56.72 percentage points, significantly wider than the average EU gap of 31.95 percentage points.

In terms of **digital safety skills**, 64.31% of people in Lithuania have at least basic safety skills, below the EU average of 74.63%.

Regarding **the use of generative AI**, 36.89% of people in Lithuania used it in 2025, above the EU average of 32.66%. For professional purposes, 18.84% of people used generative AI, also above the EU average of 15.36%. According to the results of the Digital Decade Eurobarometer 2026, the biggest obstacles in the way of people in Lithuania's using more generative AI tools are concerns about accuracy or incorrect information (28%), concerns about privacy or data protection (25%) and the fact that they do not see a need to use generative AI tools (27%).

In summary, Lithuania's digital skills profile is characterised by an age gap much wider than the EU average, an urban-suburban divide greater than the EU's, and an overall proficiency level below the EU average growing at a pace well below the EU trend.



Lithuania is at 47.58% of **people exposed to untrue or doubtful content online** in 2025, an increase of 5.0% annually since 2023, but still below the EU average of 55.90%. In the 16-24 age group, 59.67% were exposed to such content in 2025, below the EU average of 66.34%, representing a decrease of 0.7% annually from 60.54% in 2023. In the 25-64 age group, 51.51% were exposed to such content, also below the EU's 58.57%, with Lithuania's annual growth rate of 6.9% above the EU's 6.4%. The gap between the 16-24 and 25-64 age groups is 8.16 percentage points, slightly above the EU's 7.77 percentage points.

Lithuania

Lithuania is at 14.92% of **people who verified the truthfulness of online content** in 2025, an annual increase of 7.5% from 12.92% in 2023, putting it well below the EU average of 29.16%, a gap that warrants attention. In the 16-24 age group, 25.63% verified online content in 2025, below the EU's 39.49%, with a growth rate of 8.8%, above the EU's 6.7%. In the 25-64 age group, 15.81% verified online content, below the EU's 30.40%.

Lithuania is at 30.22% of **people exposed to hostile or degrading messages online** in 2025, a minimal increase of 0.3% from 30.04% in 2023, putting it significantly below the EU average of 39.72%. In the 16-24 age group, 40.72% were exposed to such messages, below the EU's 52.99%, a decrease of 6.6% annually from 46.71% in 2023. In the 25-64 age group, the figure was 32.44%, below the EU's 41.14%.

According to the Digital Decade Eurobarometer 2026, 87% of Lithuanian people agree that online manipulation, such as disinformation, foreign interference, AI-generated content and deepfakes, undermines democratic processes. When asked about the online issues with the biggest personal impact on them, they said they were fake news and disinformation (59%), insufficient protection of minors (34%) and the misuse of personal data (33%).

Overall, Lithuania's online environment is mixed but broadly positive. Lower-than-EU exposure to untrue content and hostile messages puts it in a strong position, suggesting a relatively healthier online environment for Lithuanian users. The verification gap, however, is a structural concern: at less than half the EU rate, Lithuania's low rate of active content verification makes people more prone to fall prey to disinformation, particularly relevant given the Lithuania's geopolitical exposure. The age gap in exposure to problematic content is broadly in line with EU trends.

Policy context and assessment of the recommendations

Lithuania's basic digital skills performance that is below the EU average reflects structural reasons for both the gap and the policy response. Its rapid digitalisation since the late 1990s has created a divided skills landscape: younger, urban populations are highly digitally skilled, while older and rural groups are less so. This divide is more pronounced than in most EU countries, with a wider gap between the youngest and oldest age groups. A similar pattern exists geographically, with a wider-than-average gap between urban and suburban areas, as digital activity is concentrated in Vilnius and a few other cities.

Lithuania's digital skills profile differs from the EU average in two important ways. First, the gap by education level is narrower than elsewhere in the EU, meaning that Lithuanians with lower levels of education perform relatively better than their EU counterparts. Second, the gender pattern is reversed: women have a slightly higher level of digital skills than men, unlike the EU average. However, these relative strengths coexist with vulnerabilities. Digital exclusion is more concentrated among older and rural men, making them a group at risk that standard gender-focused policies may overlook. In addition, very low levels of online content verification – less than half the EU average – are also a significant concern for resilience against disinformation, particularly given Lithuania's exposure to cyber threats.

Against this backdrop, 2025 saw a consolidation of the main delivery instruments rather than a step-change in ambition. The Prisijungusi Lietuva programme reached 14 000 citizens – primarily older people – through proximity-based training in libraries and community centres across all municipalities, with measurable improvements in confidence and skill retention. This model is the most effective way Lithuania has of reaching the most excluded groups, but its scale remains insufficient relative to the gap and its financing is RRF-dependent, raising sustainability concerns about what will happen after

the current funding cycle. The KURSUOK individual learning accounts system suffered a significant drop in training volumes in 2025 due to technical issues, with recovery underway in early 2026 after the system was updated in November 2025. The system has reached nearly 17 000 participants since its launch, of whom 9 000 specifically received digital skills training. Of the 2 254 individuals who completed digital skills training programmes during 2025, 83% were women, a very positive signal on gender inclusion at entry level. Overall, the picture that emerges is one of well-designed instruments operating below the scale required. The main gaps – reaching older people at scale, ensuring programme sustainability outside of the RRF, introducing demand-side incentives for the most excluded people, and addressing the specific situation of women not in employment – were not systematically addressed through new policy actions in 2025. In 2025, the project „Nė vienas nėra pamirštas“ (“No One Is Left Behind”), initiated by RRT expanded its activities by delivering 100 digital literacy training sessions across Lithuania and training 22 759 senior citizens and 2 431 students. Pilot training sessions for library ambassadors engaged 200 libraries, and the ambassadors were trained in 30 topics based on the European Commission’s digital competence framework. The ambassadors share the knowledge they have acquired with their local communities.

ICT specialists

Performance assessment

Lithuania is at 5.7% of ICT specialists in total employment in 2025, above the EU average of 5.0% and on track, according to its national roadmap trajectory (5.7% in 2025), to reach the 2030 target of 10%. Growth momentum remains strong, with Lithuania’s annual increase of +7.5% significantly above the EU’s +2.0%.

The picture is also encouraging in terms of gender and talent supply. The share of ICT specialists who are women recovered to 22.50% in 2025, reversing the sharp decline in 2024 (18.2%, below the EU average of 19.5%) and returning to a level clearly above the EU average (19.50%). The share of ICT graduates has also increased, reaching 5.20% of all graduates in 2025, up from 5.00% in 2024 and above the EU average of 4.7% (2024). Demand for ICT talent seems to be low however, with 7.12% of Lithuanian enterprises having recruited or tried to recruit ICT specialists in 2024, below the EU average of 9.55%.

Policy context and assessment of the recommendations

Lithuania has a technology-oriented business ecosystem that generates sustained demand for ICT profiles, combined with a strong tradition of science, technology, education and maths (STEM) education and close university-industry links. However, the volatility in the share of ICT specialists who are women, which fell sharply in 2024 before recovering in 2025, and the absence of dedicated policy measures suggest that progress remains fragile.

On talent supply, Measure ST-5 'To support employment of vulnerable groups' has seen 13 141 people acquire digital qualifications and competencies since its launch in 2022 as of 30 April 2026. However, this measure targets the broad population of jobseekers and employed people, not just ICT specialist profiles or career transitions into ICT.

In terms of talent attraction, Lithuania took several steps in 2025-2026. A financial incentive scheme provided one-time arrival allowances for 111 specialists and 19 employers, totalling over EUR 571 000, specifically targeting computer systems analysts, software engineers, programmers and technical managers. The Talent Reach initiative, implemented by Invest in Lithuania, moved into its second phase in 2025, running a Digital Nomad Campaign and Talent Partnership Pilots using local partners in target

markets. An International Recruitment Study conducted in 2025 by Invest in Lithuania identifies the main structural bottlenecks as complex migration procedures, the lack of Lithuanian companies' proactive company strategies, and Lithuania's limited value proposition relative to larger talent hubs. On the legislative side, the Ministry of the Economy and Innovation is preparing a National Law on Human Resources and Competence Development and has initiated amendments to the Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners, introducing quota flexibility for high-value specialists and simplifying reporting obligations for employers.

In terms of female participation in ICT, there were no policy developments in 2025-2026 besides the continued implementation of Measure ST-5. While women are eligible for Measure ST-5, a broad EU-funded retraining programme targeting unemployed and employed people seeking high value-added qualifications, it includes no dedicated components, targets or funding streams specifically designed to increase female participation in ICT.

2025 recommendation on ICT specialists: Scale efforts in relation to retraining programmes, and female participation in ICT.
Lithuania made some efforts to address the recommendation through new policy actions in 2025. In terms of talent attraction, new measures were introduced, including arrival allowances for ICT specialists, the launch of Talent Reach 2, and legislative reforms to simplify migration procedures for high-value specialists. In terms of retraining, Measure ST-5 was successfully completed with targets met, representing continued rather than scaled up ICT-specific effort. The share of ICT specialists who are women recovered strongly in 2025, putting Lithuania back above the EU average, a positive development that dedicated policy measures should now aim to consolidate and sustain.

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

Performance assessment

In 2025, Lithuania's total digital public services score for citizens was 86.01/100 points, a decrease of 2.1% compared to 2024. Lithuania is above the EU average of 84.64/100 points. It is on track according to the trajectory presented in the Digital Decade national roadmap. Citizen-related life events scoring particularly well include studying (91.25), health (88.50) and family (86.67), whereas moving (82.79), Starting a small claims procedure (83.33) and transport (83.75) show the most room for improvement. Cross-border digital public services for citizens (77.13) remain an area requiring attention, performing below national service levels (94.90).

Lithuania's total digital public services score for businesses was 96.74/100 points in 2025, putting it above the EU average of 88.59/100 points, representing a 4.6% increase from 2024. The country is on track according to the trajectory presented in the Digital Decade national roadmap. The business-related life event scoring particularly well is business start-up (97.50), whereas regular business operations (96.0) show the most room for improvement. Lithuania's cross-border digital public services score for businesses reached 94.72/100 points in 2025, reflecting an 11.4% increase from 2024 and putting it well above the EU average of 78.37/100 points.

Lithuania's access to e-health records scores 97.92/100, after an increase of 2.6%, putting it above the EU average of 86.51. The country is on track according to the trajectory presented in the Digital Decade national roadmap.

Overall, Lithuania performs above EU averages across all three Digital Decade KPIs for digital public services. Progress is strongest in cross-border business services and e-health, while citizen services recorded a slight decline in 2025. Local government digitalisation and services related to the moving life event are the main areas for improvement.

Policy context and assessment of the recommendations

Lithuania has consistently invested in e-government infrastructure and data governance as strategic pillars of its public sector modernisation. The national portal *epaslaugos.lt* processed 45 million services in 2025, with 80.6% of Lithuanian residents visiting the portal in the last year, up from 76.5% in 2024. Trust levels are high, with 84% of users reporting no security issues and 59% expressing confidence in digital interactions with public institutions. Growth is driven by high-demand services including tax declarations, healthcare, vehicle registration and identity documents. Interestingly, according to the Digital Decade Eurobarometer 2026, 76% of Lithuanian people think that the digitalisation of daily public and private services is making their life easier, in line with the EU average of 73%.

The most significant policy development in 2025 was the implementation of the Data Governance Model Development project, which established the technical prerequisites for systematic application of the once-only principle across public sector institutions. A centralised application programming interface (API) and metadata repository were developed and deployed, with a data agent tool implemented in core registers enabling automated metadata generation and API-based data exchange. The impact has been recognised at European level: Lithuania ranked second in Europe in the Open Data Maturity Report 2025, with the report highlighting its use of DCAT-AP (Data Catalogue Vocabulary – Application Profile) specifications and automated metadata generation tools. The once-only reform is still being rolled out, but the technical foundations are already delivering measurable reductions in manual data exchange and duplication.

In 2025, Lithuania advanced its e-health system by modernising infrastructure, launching new subsystems and expanding digital health services. The country completed a large-scale ESPBI IS (Information System of Electronic Health Services and Collaboration Infrastructure) development project in 2025, modernising existing modules and creating new functional components. A subsystem for pregnant women and newborns was launched in November 2025, enabling national management of all maternal and newborn health data. A dedicated laboratory testing subsystem was completed in October 2025, establishing a unified standard for laboratory data exchange aligned with European Health Data Space requirements. Additional mental health data management capabilities were introduced, and the *esveikata* (e-health) mobile app was launched to complement the web patient portal. Ongoing projects cover medical imaging, preventive programmes and telemedicine services.

In parallel, the country strengthened its digital identity ecosystem through pilot participation, national coordination efforts and active international engagement. It participated in the POTENTIAL large-scale pilot, focusing on the mobile driving licence use case, successfully completing more than 1 000 testing transactions. A cross-institutional working group was established in April 2025 to coordinate national EU Digital Identity (EUDI) Wallet implementation, map the ecosystem and assess financing needs. Lithuania also led consortium-wide communication across 18 countries and organised three significant events in Vilnius, including an international interoperability testing event with over 100 partners.

Finally, the country also actively continued to advance efforts to ensure digital inclusion, with targeted measures supporting vulnerable groups' access to digital public services. Social workers are

able to submit applications on behalf of vulnerable people using their electronic devices. The *Prisijungusi Lietuva* (Connected Lithuania) programme provides practical e-services training for older people and rural residents through libraries and community centres, with automatic speech recognition speech-to-text tools and other assistive technologies provided for older people and people with disabilities through the Technical Aid Centre (TPPC) project.

Leveraging digital transformation for a smart greening

In Lithuania, air emissions of the ICT sector are low, and the recycling of electronic equipment is below the EU average. Recently published sectoral data on air emissions show that the ICT sector in Lithuania emitted 13.3 kg of CO_2-equivalent emissions per capita, below the EU average of 22.8 kg CO_2 eq (data from 2022). Like in many other EU countries, most of these emissions come from the activities of ICT services (93.5%). However, the ICT sector represented only 0.18% of air emissions in the total economy, below the EU average of 0.35%. Only 73.39% of ICT-related waste collected (corresponding to two categories of waste electrical and electronic equipment) is recycled or prepared for reuse, below the EU average of 80.23%. Interestingly, according to the Digital Decade Eurobarometer 2026, 42% of Lithuanian people think that green digital technologies, such as energy-saving technologies, will have the most positive impact in the next 10 years.

Lithuania's green-digital policy framework remains at an early stage of development. The dual transition is referred to in broader national planning documents but has not been operationalised through specific instruments, measurable targets or sector-specific digital solutions at the scale envisaged in the 2025 recommendation.

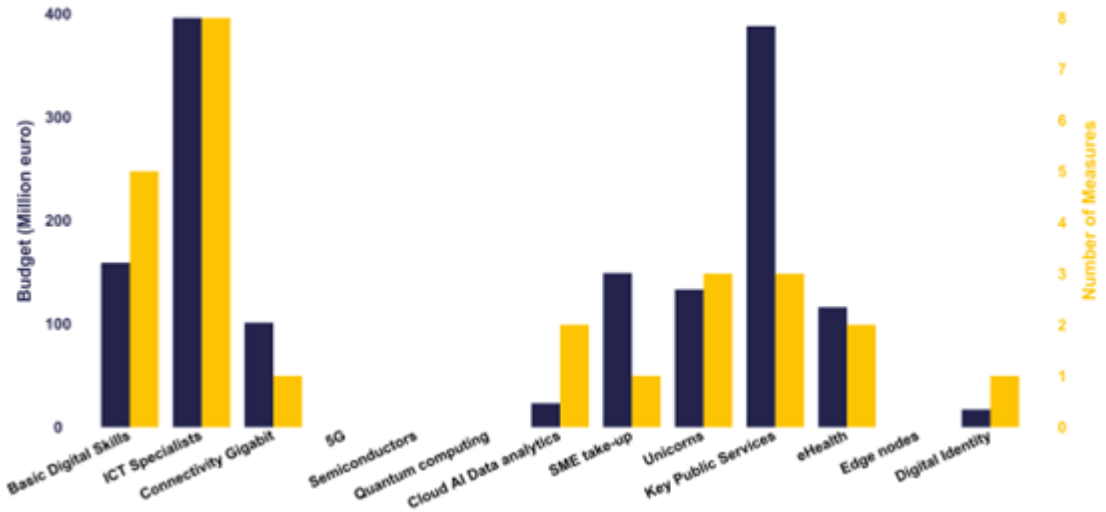
2025 recommendation on Green: Adopt an integrated green-digital strategy with measurable targets, establish mechanisms to monitor environmental impacts, and scale up digital solutions that support climate goals.
No information is available on measures taken to address the recommendation. Lithuania has not adopted a dedicated green-digital strategy and there is no national monitoring framework to quantify ICT-enabled emission reductions across sectors. The only tangible green-digital element emerging from Lithuania's 2025 policy landscape is the inclusion of green energy and smart industry in the priority sectors of the LitAI AI Factory, which is expected to provide AI-enabled services in these areas from 2026 onwards. This is an emerging but not yet operational contribution to the digital-green transition. Overall, Lithuania did not report on any dedicated instrument for scaling up digital solutions that support climate goals among businesses or the public sector in 2025.

Annex I: National roadmap analysis

Lithuania's national Digital Decade strategic roadmap

Lithuania submitted its initial national Digital Decade roadmap on 13 March 2024. At the time, digital policy lacked centralised coordination, with each ministry responsible for its own domain. In response to challenges identified during roadmap preparation and the 2024 country report, the government adopted a resolution in July 2024 to establish a National Digital Agenda for 2026-2040. This new horizontal strategy aims to centralise governance, align funding, and address gaps in areas such as semiconductors and edge nodes. By the end of 2025, a Coordination Commission and working group had been established, comprising representatives from all ministries, the government and Seimas Chancelleries, social partners, and science and business stakeholders. External experts were engaged to analyse digital development trends, with findings presented at the first joint meeting of the two bodies. The Agenda is included in the government's programme implementation action plan. **National authorities intend to adjust the roadmap at a later stage.**

Measures and budget in national roadmap[3]



A total of 26 measures make up of Lithuania's national strategic roadmap with a budget of EUR 1.5 billion (1.9% of Lithuania's GDP in 2024).

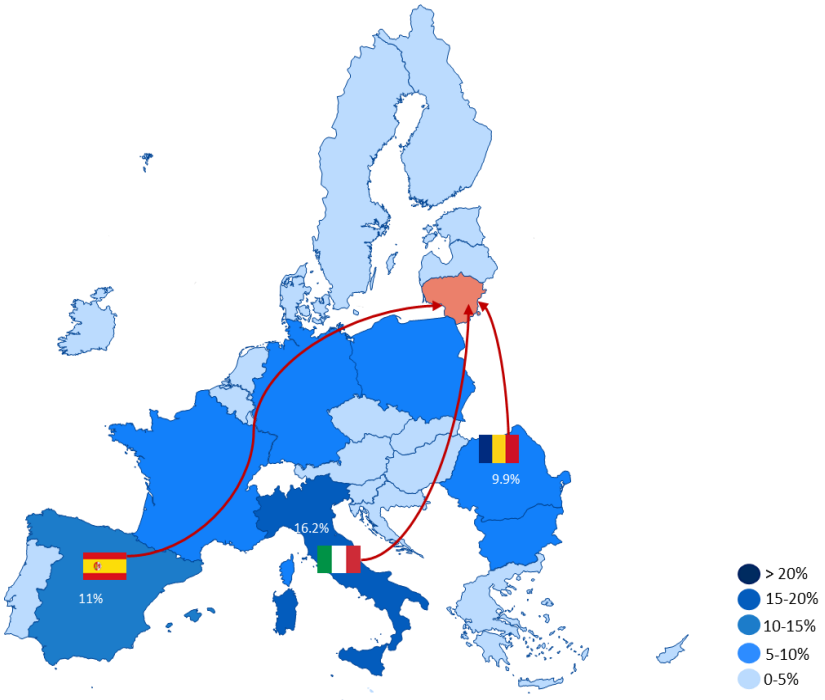
[3] When referring to national roadmaps, the data used in this report are those declared by EU countries in their national roadmaps, on the basis of the Commission's guidance (C(2023) 4025 final). Data might reflect possible variations in reporting practices and methodological choices across EU countries. No systematic assessment of the extent to which EU countries 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 (RRP) of Lithuania was evaluated to EUR 688 million with EUR 74 million for digital infrastructures, EUR 142 million for digital skills, EUR 118 million for the digitalisation of businesses, EUR 314 million for the digitalisation of public services, and EUR 40 million for other digital priorities.

The total economic impact of RRF digital measures is estimated to EUR 767 million for the national economy. Of this, EUR 622 million stems from the direct effects of Lithuania's own RRP and EUR 145 million corresponds to spillover effects from the implementation of other EU Member States' plans. Lithuania benefited the most from spillover effects from RRPs of Italy (EUR 23 million), Spain (EUR 16 million), Romania (EUR 14 million). The sectors most affected are ICT services (EUR 244 million), construction (EUR 110 million), and manufacturing (EUR 86 million).



RRF spillover effects to Lithuania

Lithuania

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

Lithuania allocates 23% of its total RRP to digital (EUR 0.7 billion)[4]. Under cohesion policy, EUR 0.3 billion, representing 5% of its total cohesion policy funding, is also dedicated to advancing its digital transformation[5].

Multi-Country Projects

Lithuania is a member of the Alliance for Language Technologies European Digital Infrastructure Consortium (EDIC). It is also a participating state of the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking (JU) and of the Chips JU.

[4] The share of financial allocations that contribute to the achievement of digital objectives has been calculated using Annex VII to the Recovery and Resilience Facility Regulation. Last data update: 23 April 2026.

[5] This amount includes all investments 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.