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PART 25/27

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

Slovenia

Slovenia

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Executive summary

Slovenia is very strong in some digital areas, including connectivity progress, active positioning in strategic technologies and relatively good uptake of artificial intelligence among businesses. Fibre coverage is relatively strong and 5G has progressed rapidly. However, Slovenia does not fully reap the benefits of digitalisation throughout the business world, as SMEs still lag behind in basic digitalisation and in the uptake of cloud and data analytics. Basic digital skills also remain persistently weak, the proportion of ICT specialists is below the EU average, and the start-up and scale-up ecosystem remains underdeveloped, with no unicorns.

The weaknesses identified in business digitalisation and skills hinder Slovenia's competitiveness. Uneven digital uptake among SMEs limits productivity gains in a small, open and industrialised economy, while ICT specialist shortages constrain business transformation and the diffusion of advanced technologies. Unfavourable scale-up conditions, including continued bottlenecks in risk capital, regulatory complexity and talent attraction, further limit the growth of high-value-added firms. Broader digital skills and stronger SME digitalisation would help Slovenia translate its strong performance in certain technologies into broader economic gains.

Slovenia is taking a strong lead in a number of areas of digital technology. It is active in strategic European initiatives on semiconductors, cloud, AI and quantum technologies. Public policy has also given growing prominence to AI through the Slovenian AI Factory (SLAIF), the AI Competence Centre and related support measures as well as to quantum technologies with recently adopted National strategy for the development of quantum technologies in Slovenia up to 2035. Slovenia is also strengthening capacities in cybersecurity and advanced digital infrastructure, which provide a basis for further progress if benefits are spread more widely across the economy and across the wider business environment.

Slovenia in the Digital Decade

Slovenia is highly ambitious in its contribution to the Digital Decade, having set 14 national targets, all aligned with the EU 2030 targets. In its national roadmap, Slovenia provided 13 trajectory points for 2025, of which 46% are considered to be on track. Slovenia addressed all seven recommendations issued by the Commission in 2025 by taking new measures. According to the national roadmap, by the end of 2026, 44% of the measures will come to an end. The total public budget associated with these measures is EUR 184 million, which accounts for 33% of the total public budget outlined in the roadmap.

According to the special Eurobarometer on the Digital Decade 2026, 74% of Slovenian people consider that digital policy should be a very high/high priority for the EU in shaping our future in Europe. They also think that, in the next ten years, the EU should cooperate with Member States to reinforce cybersecurity and protection from online threats (94%), promote digital education and skills programmes (89%) and build an independent European digital infrastructure (87%). In addition, 78% of Slovenian respondents think that the EU should reduce its dependencies on digital technology from outside the EU, and 84% think that the EU should prioritise investment in digital infrastructure and services developed and controlled in Europe. Meanwhile, 51% would be willing to switch to an EU-based digital service provider even if this means slightly higher costs.

Funding for digital and multi-country projects

Slovenia allocates 24% of its total recovery and resilience plan (RRP) to digital (EUR 0.5 billion). Under cohesion policy, EUR 0.3 billion, 8% of the country's total cohesion policy funding, is dedicated to Slovenia's digital transformation.

Slovenia is a member of the Alliance for Language Technologies EDIC, the Local Digital Twins towards the CitiVERSE EDIC and of the EUROPEUM EDIC. Slovenia is directly participating in the Tech4Cure IPCEI. Slovenian entities are indirect and/or associated partners in the IPCEI on Microelectronics and Communication Technologies (IPCEI-ME/CT) and in the IPCEI on Next Generation Cloud Infrastructure and Services (IPCEI-CIS). Slovenia is also a participating state of the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking (JU) and of the Chips JU.

Digital Decade KPI (1)	Slovenia				EU		Digital Decade target by 2030	
	Last available data (2)	DESI 2026 (year 2025)	Annual progress	National trajectory 2025 (3)	DESI 2026	Annual progress	SI	EU
Fixed Very High Capacity Network (VHCN) coverage	79.6%	83.9%	5.3%	82.5%	85.5%	3.7%	100.0%	100%
Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) coverage	79.6%	83.9%	5.3%	85.0%	74.1%	7.1%	100.0%	-
Basic 5G coverage	97.7%	99.4%	1.7%	78.0%	96.8%	2.6%	100.0%	100%
Edge Nodes (estimate, new methodology)	-	48	-	-	7451	-	200	10000
SMEs with at least a basic level of digital intensity *	50.4%	65.7%	14.2%	61.0%	71.4%	11.0%	90.0%	90%
Cloud *	36.0%	43.0%	9.2%	52.0%	46.7%	9.5%	75.0%	75%
Artificial Intelligence	20.9%	21.6%	3.4%	40.0%	20.0%	48.0%	75.0%	75%
Data analytics *	19.1%	30.9%	27.3%	40.0%	39.9%	9.5%	75.0%	75%
AI or Cloud or Data analytics *	44.7%	55.3%	11.2%	-	63.2%	7.5%	-	75%
Unicorns	0	0		3	324	10.2%	7	500
At least basic digital skills *	46.7%	46.5%	-0.2%	63.0%	60.4%	4.3%	80.0%	80%
ICT specialists	4.3%	4.5%	4.7%	6.5%	5.0%	2.0%	10.0%	~10%
e-ID scheme notification		Yes						
Digital public services for citizens	78.6	84.2	7.2%	80.0	84.6	2.8%	100.0	100
Digital public services for businesses	85.0	86.3	1.5%	92.0	88.6	2.7%	100.0	100
Access to electronic health records	87.5	92.6	5.8%	85.0	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

Slovenia performs relatively well in connectivity, with high fibre coverage and rapidly improving 5G coverage. However, challenges remain in rural and hard-to-reach areas. Completing coverage in the most costly and dispersed areas, accelerating copper-to-fibre migration and translating strong coverage into more productive 5G use will help achieve the 2030 targets.

On the business side, SMEs still lag behind the EU average in basic digitalisation, despite recent progress. Uptake of advanced technologies also remains uneven: Slovenia performs comparatively well in AI adoption, but trails the EU average in cloud, data analytics and combined uptake, especially

among SMEs. Policy support has become more visible through the AI Factory, the AI Competence Centre, SMASH and the European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs). However, adoption remains concentrated in better-prepared firms, while SMEs still face bottlenecks relating to skills, managerial capability, access to finance and fragmented support. Scale-up conditions are unfavourable, with continued challenges in venture capital, business regulation and talent attraction.

The cybersecurity framework has become more structured, but uptake of more advanced cybersecurity measures among businesses is below the EU average. Slovenia is also building a stronger framework for using digital technologies in the green transition, although current efforts remain fragmented and not yet sufficiently systematic. The start-up and scale-up ecosystem remains underdeveloped, with no unicorns and continued challenges in venture capital, regulatory barriers and talent attraction.

Protecting and empowering EU people and society

Basic digital skills remain below the EU average, with particularly pronounced gaps among older people and low-qualified adults. The proportion of ICT specialists is also below the EU average, despite some improvement, and continues to constrain business digitalisation and innovation. In the context of labour shortages and skills mismatches, these weaknesses remain a key obstacle to wider digital transformation.

Slovenia has continued to develop digital public services from a relatively solid base, with e-Health among the stronger parts of its digital profile. However, progress is more incremental than transformative, especially in service availability, cross-border access and complex services such as judicial proceedings and the further development of access to e-Health records. At the same time, digital-safety skills remain weak and information-verification behaviour remains limited, which suggests vulnerabilities in media literacy, digital resilience and the safe use of emerging technologies.

Slovenia

Recommendations

- **Basic digital skills**: Strengthen basic digital skills across the population by embedding them in compulsory education and teacher support, expanding accessible adult training for all population, in particular for older people (+55) and low-qualified adults, improving local outreach and guidance, and reinforcing digital safety, media literacy and critical use of digital tools.
- **SMEs and scale-ups**: Strengthen SME digitalisation and scale-up conditions by ensuring continued support for less digitally mature SMEs, linking basic digitalisation support with cloud, data, AI, skills and finance, simplifying business-support instruments, and improving access to risk capital, administrative simplification and talent attraction, and participation in EU-level initiatives and high-tech ecosystems.
- **ICT specialists**: Strengthen the ICT-specialist pipeline by using labour-market intelligence to update training in AI, data, cybersecurity and semiconductor-related fields, reinforcing digital and ICT content in VET, accelerating labour-market-relevant higher-education reform and modular provision, and widening participation, especially among women and young people.
- **Cybersecurity**: Strengthen cybersecurity across the economy by increasing business uptake of advanced practices, especially among SMEs and critical-infrastructure entities, embedding cybersecurity in AI, data and cloud deployment, reinforcing resilience in public services, education and healthcare, and addressing cybersecurity skills shortages.
- **Connectivity**: Complete Slovenia's connectivity transition by ensuring cost efficient solutions for remaining hard-to-reach areas, and fostering productive 5G use, including standalone deployment and industrial applications and making effective use of upcoming spectrum awards to develop investment and advanced 5G use cases.
- **Green and digital**: Strengthen the use of digital technologies for the green transition by developing interoperable environmental, climate and environmental, social and governance (ESG) data infrastructures, scaling digital solutions in energy, mobility, circular economy and spatial planning, supporting municipalities and smart communities, and monitoring both the footprint and emissions-reduction effects of digital technologies.
- **Digital public services:** Strengthen the usability and completeness of digital public services by improving cross-border access through better support for foreign digital identities, translation, interoperability and practical use of OOTS; further digitalising judicial proceedings so citizens and businesses can initiate and follow civil/commercial, administrative and criminal cases digitally and improving access to e-health records.

A competitive, sovereign and resilient EU based on technological leadership

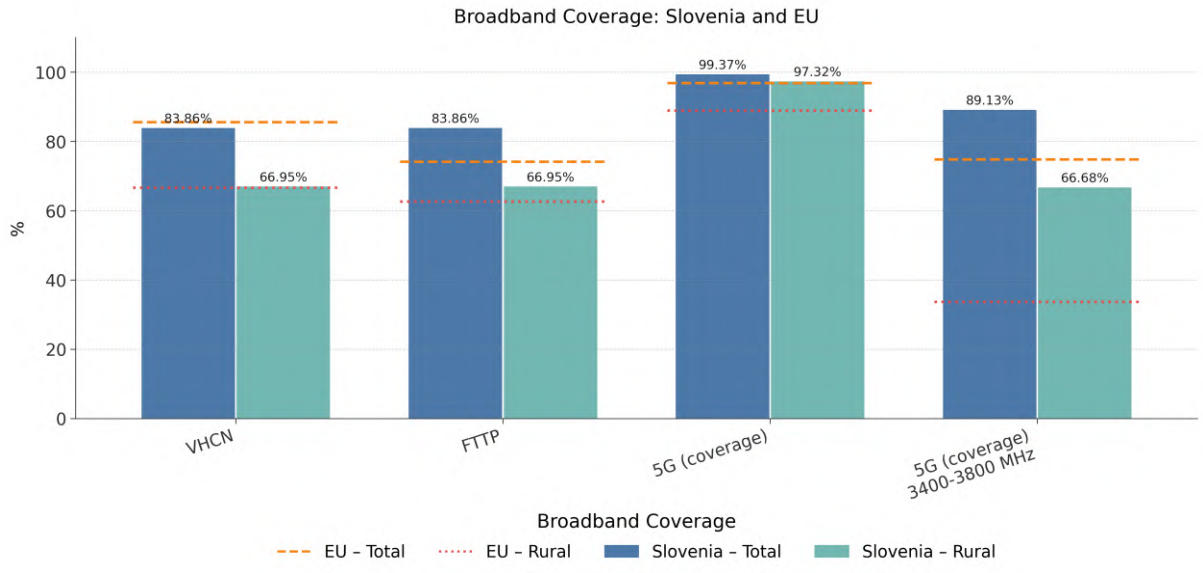
Building technological leadership: digital infrastructure and technologies

Connectivity infrastructure

Performance assessment

In 2025, Slovenia achieved a rate of coverage by very high-capacity networks (VHCN) of 83.86% (+5.3% since 2024), below the EU average of 85.54%. However, its annual growth rate exceeds the EU average (3.7%). Coverage in sparsely populated areas reached 66.95% (slightly above the EU average of 66.66%) with particularly strong growth (14.3%) compared to the EU (7.7%). The country is on track according to its trajectory presented in the Digital Decade national roadmap.

Slovenia's fibre-to-the-premises (FTTP) coverage reached 83.86% (+5.3% since 2024), well above the EU average of 74.13%. In rural areas, coverage reached 66.95% (exceeding the EU average of 62.61%) with strong growth (14.3%) above the rate in the rest of the EU (6.5%). Overall growth remains below the EU average (7.1%), indicating a more moderate pace of expansion as rollout advances. The country is on track according to its trajectory presented in the Digital Decade national roadmap.



Slovenia's overall 5G coverage reached 99.37% (+1.7% since 2024), above the EU average of 96.79%. Growth is more limited, remaining below the EU average (2.6%), indicating a slower expansion phase. In sparsely populated areas, coverage reached 97.32%, well above the EU average of 88.88% although growth (6.8%) is also lower than in rest of the EU (11.7%). Slovenia's 5G coverage in the 3.4–3.8 GHz band reached 89.13% (+0.3% since 2024), above the EU average of 74.75%, but with significantly weaker growth than the rest of the EU (10.6%). The country is on track according to its trajectory presented in the Digital Decade national roadmap.

The table below provides an overview of VHCN, FTTP and 5G coverage across Slovenia's two cohesion regions.

	VHCN coverage (FTTP + DOCSIS 3.1)		FTTP Coverage		5G Coverage	
	Overall	Rural	Overall	Rural	Overall	Rural
National coverage	83.86%	66.95%	83.86%	66.95%	99.37%	97.32%
Vzhodna Slovenija	77.84%	65.90%	77.84%	65.90%	99.15%	97.00%
Zahodna Slovenija	90.57%	69.23%	90.57%	69.23%	99.62%	98.01%

In terms of uptake, Slovenia reached 48.62% of fixed broadband subscriptions ≥ 1 Gbps (+346.6% since 2024), well above the EU average of 26.97%, reflecting very rapid growth. However, Slovenia's rate of 5G SIM cards as a proportion of population is 42.26% (+37.1% since 2024), below the EU average of 55.55%, with significantly lower growth than in the rest of the EU (+56.2%).

These patterns suggest that Slovenia's strong infrastructure performance is not yet fully matched across all connectivity segments.

Overall internet and mobile broadband uptake remain slightly below the EU average, indicating that the main challenge increasingly lies in the effective use of high-capacity networks rather than basic availability. In the context of Slovenia's industrial structure and regional disparities, connectivity remains a key enabler for business digitalisation, innovation and regional cohesion.

Policy context and assessment

Slovenia has developed a broad policy framework for connectivity, supported by the Action Plan for Digital Slovenia 2030 (2025–2026) which continues to prioritise gigabit infrastructure and 5G rollout. The authorities are adapting the policy mix to the constraints of the final deployment phase. However, stakeholders have highlighted shortcomings in implementation and follow-up, with limited evidence of a structured ongoing feedback mechanism once the roadmap was adopted.

Policy efforts on fixed connectivity are increasingly focused on the most challenging white areas (hard-to-reach areas where the market has not delivered coverage). Public tenders have taken place for co-financing high-performance broadband networks, including measures financed under the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) and the upcoming multiannual financial framework phase. Their design has been progressively adjusted, with smaller territorial units and higher co-financing rates, up to 75% for more challenging areas. Some resources were reallocated due to limited market interest. Slovenia has also introduced a EUR 4.2 million scheme to co-finance open base stations in flood-affected areas, illustrating how connectivity policy is also used to strengthen network resilience.

Despite these adjustments, structural constraints remain significant. The remaining white areas are geographically dispersed and entail high civil-works costs per household. According to the authorities, even with increased public support, deployment may not be commercially viable in some locations. Preliminary estimates suggest that around EUR 250 million may be required to achieve universal gigabit coverage. The challenge is therefore no longer broad rollout, but the economic feasibility of "the last mile".

At the same time, permitting, coordination and implementation quality continue to hinder deployment. The rollout in dispersed areas requires complex coordination with municipalities, landowners and utility managers. Previous tenders revealed shortcomings in monitoring, reporting and compliance; this has led to stricter oversight templates and more harmonised procedures. The planned transposition of the **Gigabit Infrastructure Act** is expected to improve framework conditions, but administrative and institutional constraints remain a major obstacle.

Progress has also been made on fibre migration. In March 2025, the Agency for Communication Networks and Services (AKOS) adopted a **strategy to accelerate the phase-out of the copper network**, providing a clearer framework for the transition to fibre networks. The strategy includes cooperation with operators, regulatory adjustments, end-user information measures and fallback solutions where no alternative network is available. However, no comprehensive national timeline has been established, and the pace of migration largely depends on operators' commercial strategies.

Beyond deployment, policy challenges increasingly relate to the effective use of infrastructure. AKOS suggests that fibre uptake is below the level implied by network availability. This stems from a combination of market factors, including pricing, switching costs and consumer behaviour. Barriers to migration persist, such as a lack of availability for some users, technical and administrative constraints and reluctance to undertake installation works. At the same time, switching potential remains high where conditions are favourable, indicating that the issue is not purely demand-related but also linked to market and regulatory conditions.

On mobile connectivity, the policy framework is robust and has supported strong coverage outcomes. **Spectrum assignment is advanced, the pioneer bands are in use, and AKOS has enabled local spectrum access, chiefly in the 2.3 GHz and 3.6 GHz bands**, supporting emerging industrial applications. Initial use cases are observed in port, airport and water-management contexts. However, the broader ecosystem remains at an early stage. Now that basic 5G coverage has been established, the challenges now include the transition towards wider standalone deployment, stronger industrial uptake and more systematic development of use cases.

AKOS highlights the following potential barriers to achieving universal gigabit coverage by 2030:

i) insufficient uptake across technologies;

ii) in the case of fibre, deployment is hindered by high construction costs, limited efficiency gains from infrastructure sharing and weak operator interest;

iii) the business case for additional infrastructure in difficult areas;

iv) the more limited scope for using further sub-1 GHz spectrum to improve coverage in the final remote locations; and

v) in the case of satellite, current deployment remains limited, and capacity constraints restrict its capacity to cover the most remote areas.

Achieving full coverage is therefore likely to require a mixed-technology approach, combining fibre, mobile and satellite solutions. More broadly, progress will depend on the pace of fibre migration, demand-side developments and the more comprehensive digitalisation of the economy. Universal high-quality connectivity is thus no longer dependent on fibre rollout alone, but also on combining technologies and policy instruments in a realistic and resilient way.

Semiconductors

Slovenia's semiconductor profile is based on research capacity, specialised engineering and participation in EU-level initiatives, rather than large-scale manufacturing. Its position in the value chain is focused on design, R&D and niche applications, reflecting structural constraints related to financing capacity, private investment and the availability of specialised skills.

At EU level, Slovenia plans to participate in the Important Project of Common European Interest on Advanced Semiconductor Technologies (IPCEI AST) and is involved in other microelectronics-related

IPCEI initiatives. At national level, the policy framework was strengthened in March 2026 with the adoption of the Programme for the development of chips and semiconductors until 2030, which establishes a strategic direction for the sector and by 2030, which establishes a strategic direction for the sector and provides for the adoption of an implementation plan within one year.

The programme places particular emphasis on skills development and ecosystem support. The Slovenian Chips Competence Centre (CC-Chip.si), launched in 2025 and coordinated by the University of Ljubljana, acts as a central instrument, providing training, consultancy, networking and access to design infrastructure and pilot lines.

Despite these developments, the ecosystem remains at an early stage. Activity is concentrated among a limited number of actors, and progress towards broader industrial participation in semiconductor-related R&D and production remains contingent on the effective implementation of planned measures.

Edge nodes

Performance assessment

According to the Edge Node Observatory, Slovenia is estimated to have deployed **48 edge nodes by 2025**. Due to the updated methodology of the Edge Node Observatory, this figure cannot be compared directly with previous estimates. Yet Slovenia nevertheless remains a small contributor in absolute terms, and there is still a big gap between the roadmap ambition of **200 companies deploying edge nodes by 2030** and the currently reported base of around **20 companies**, mainly telecommunications operators.

Policy context

Slovenia's edge-node policy remains closely linked to the wider European cloud-edge environment rather than to a large domestic deployment push. Its main anchor is participation in the **IPCEI on Next Generation Cloud Infrastructure and Services (IPCEI CIS)**, under which through which Slovenian entities are involved in projects such as decentralised edge-based data storage. The updated roadmap keeps edge nodes under the broader infrastructure and smart-society agenda, but implementation levels are low in relation to ambition. As for future deployment the focus is on linking edge infrastructure more clearly to **AI, industrial digitalisation and cloud-edge services**, including through the wider infrastructure build-up around the Slovenian AI Factory and related advanced-digital initiatives. Overall, Slovenia has kept the topic on the agenda, but the framework is still stronger on participation and signalling than on broad domestic rollout.

Quantum technologies

Slovenia's position on quantum technologies remains centred on research capability, secure communication infrastructure, high-performance computing (HPC) capacity and participation in EU-level initiatives, rather than on broad industrial deployment or domestic hardware manufacturing. Slovenia also has a strong theoretical and experimental scientific base in quantum technologies, supported by a long-standing tradition in quantum physics across several fields, including superconducting technologies, quantum devices, cold atoms, quantum optics, many-body quantum physics and quantum materials, as evidenced by 8 out of 28 awarded ERC projects.

Slovenia is a signatory to the European Quantum Technologies Declaration and participates actively in major European initiatives such as the Quantum Flagship, EuroQCI, the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking and QuantERA. In the field of quantum basic and applied sciences, which also supports skills and talent development as a pathway towards future industrial deployment, Slovenia's participation in QuantERA

since 2017 is particularly relevant. QuantERA is the leading European network for funding excellent transnational research in quantum technologies. To date, the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation (MVZI) has supported five research projects with Slovenian participation through this network. For the 2025 call, MVZI allocated additional funding to support new transnational quantum projects, with results expected in mid-2026.

Talent and skills development is also being strengthened. Slovenia was successful in the 2023 MSCA COFUND call with the project **Slovenian Centre for Quantum Science (SQUASH)**, valued at EUR 11.5 million. The international consortium of 43 partners is coordinated by the Jožef Stefan Institute. The project runs from 2025 to 2030 and is co-funded by the European Commission and MVZI. It will involve 40 postdoctoral researchers from abroad, who will receive fellowships to carry out research in quantum science.

At present, the most concrete pathway towards quantum-related deployment lies in quantum-secure communications. Under the **Slovenian Quantum Communication Infrastructure Demonstration (SiQUID) project**, financed through the Slovenian RRP, several government bodies are being connected across six locations through a key-quantum distribution network. With the support of RRP, Slovenia also strengthened the surrounding advanced-computing ecosystem through the successful **AI Factory** bid and the planned new supercomputer, which reinforce the public research and infrastructure base on which future hybrid HPC-quantum development is likely to build.

In October 2025, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the **Strategy for the Development of Quantum Technologies in Slovenia up to 2035**, with the objective of positioning Slovenia among the leading countries in selected quantum niche areas by 2035. Among its 18 direct measures, the strategy includes key actions in research, development, innovation and knowledge transfer, notably the establishment of a competence centre for quantum technologies. In the area of infrastructure, an important measure is the acquisition of a first domestic quantum computer, either through procurement or through domestic development. The strategy also includes measures aimed at talent development and awareness-raising among key target groups.

The strategic framework has become clearer. The updated roadmap includes a quantum section setting out planned activities such as the drafting and adoption of a national strategy, developed with broad consensus across the Slovenian quantum ecosystem, participating in EuroHPC-related initiatives, skills development and research support. However, these elements remain framed mainly as strategic directions and planned activities rather than as a detailed package of operational measures with clearly specified milestones and implementation pathways.[1]

Supporting EU-wide digital ecosystems and scaling up innovative enterprises

SMEs with at least basic digital intensity

Performance assessment

In Slovenia 65.67% of SMEs had at least a basic level of digital intensity in 2025, below the EU average of 71.39%. In 2023, the figure was 50.36%, also below the EU average. Slovenia has therefore improved strongly over the period and has grown faster than the EU average, but it still lags behind its EU peers

1 European Commission, European Semester 2026 – Country Report Slovenia, Annex 4: Innovation to business, Annex 13: Education and skills

in the proportion of SMEs with at least a basic level of digital intensity. The country is on track according to its trajectory presented in the Digital Decade national roadmap.

The proportion of SMEs in Slovenia with a very high digital intensity index was 6.99% in 2025, below the EU average of 9.07%. In 2023, the figure was 3.85%. Progress is therefore also visible at the upper end of the distribution, but the gap with the EU remains. The conclusion is similar to that for basic digital intensity: although Slovenia is improving, SME digitalisation remains below the EU average, especially as regards more advanced digital maturity.

Policy context and assessment of recommendations

Less digitalised SMEs hinder Slovenia's ability to generate broader productivity gains from digital transformation. The broader evidence would suggest there is uneven digital adoption among businesses as a whole, with stronger capabilities among larger businesses and more limited readiness among SMEs. This matters in a context where Slovenia's competitiveness challenge is increasingly linked to low private investment, weak next season's adoption of advanced technologies and limited investment in intangible assets.

Slovenia's exports and industrial competitiveness are also affected by the digitalisation gap among SMEs. As a highly export-oriented and industrial economy, Slovenia depends on the ability of businesses, across supply chains, to upgrade processes, integrate digital tools and respond to changing technology requirements. A digitally lagging SME cohort therefore reduces the resilience and modernisation potential of domestic value chains and weakens the broader application of digital technologies beyond a smaller group of stronger businesses.

For Slovenian SMEs the main barriers to digitalisation appear to be skills and managerial capacity, fragmented support structures, and financing constraints. Skills and managerial capability are repeatedly identified as major limiting factors. Stakeholders report insufficient support for SME digital skills and to the continuing shortage of ICT and advanced digital profiles. Many companies still lack the internal capacity to redesign business models and workflows around more digital and data-driven processes. Business representatives also say that the support ecosystem is difficult to navigate, which makes it harder for smaller companies to identify the right entry points, technologies and advisory services.

Another major barrier is the fragmented nature of support structures and implementation. Slovenia has a relatively broad policy architecture – including the industrial/business digital transformation programme, EDIHs, enterprise vouchers, support for digital and circular business models, and more recent AI-related instruments – but evidence suggests that this architecture is not yet fully integrated from the perspective of lagging SMEs.

The most effective measure to help SMEs appears to have been the RRP-linked industrial/business digital transformation programme, implemented through a public tender for business digital transformation. Stakeholders describe this measure as successful and explicitly suggest repeating the tender depending on the availability of resources. This reinforces the view that Slovenia did have a dedicated support instrument for SME digitalisation but also raises questions about continuity once time-limited RRP-backed support expires.

Financing and risk-bearing capacity also remain serious constraints. Stakeholders underline that many companies, especially smaller ones, face difficulties in financing digital transformation and AI-related experimentation. Business organisations also state that regulatory fragmentation, administrative

burdens and uncertainty deter ambitious digital investment. This is particularly true of SMEs, which often need external advisory support, internal skills upgrades and complementary organisational change before digital investment can yield returns.

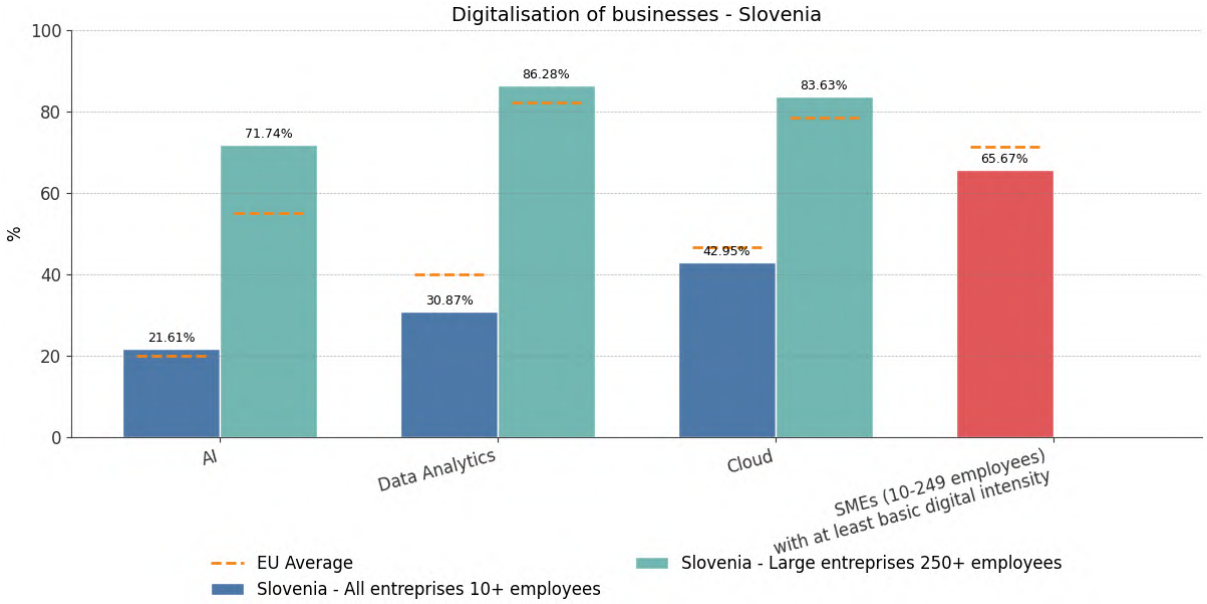
The National Strategy on Artificial Intelligence 2030 was adopted in March 2026. Recent policy developments indicate a shift towards advanced and AI-related support than rather than digitalisation in a broader sense in the case of SMEs. The more advanced end of business support is boosted by the establishment of the AI Competence Centre call, support for interdisciplinary AI innovation projects, continued EDIH activity and work on the national AI programme. However, these factors do not fully resolve the more fundamental challenge of bringing a much wider group of SMEs up to a solid digital baseline. In that sense, AI-related measures may support SME digitalisation, but they are no substitute for more comprehensive, continuous support to SMEs as a whole.

2025 recommendation on SME digitalisation: Provide continuous support to SMEs and create enabling framework conditions for the uptake of digital technologies.

Slovenia made some efforts to address the recommendation through new policy actions in 2025. Along with new measures, there was continued implementation of the industrial/business digital transformation programme, EDIH support, the relaunch of voucher-based support and newer AI-related instruments show that support for business digitalisation. However, progress has been uneven. Slovenia is still below the EU average on SME digital intensity, while the support landscape appears somewhat fragmented and the strongest existing measure was linked to a time-limited RRP intervention with no clear successor of comparable scale.

Take up of advanced technologies

Performance assessment



In 2025, 30.87% of businesses adopted data analytics, which is below the EU average of 39.85%. In 2023, the figure for Slovenia was 19.06%, significantly lower than the EU average of 33.25%. Slovenia has therefore made strong progress from a low base and has grown faster than the EU average, but it remains weaker than the EU overall on data analytics. Among SMEs, adoption reached 29.31% in 2025, still below the EU average of 38.59%, while large companies reached 86.28%, above the EU average of

82.03%. The contrast between SMEs and large companies therefore remains substantial. The country is lagging behind its trajectory presented in the Digital Decade national roadmap.

In 2025 42.95% of companies adopted cloud technologies, which is below the EU average of 46.69%. In 2023, the figure for Slovenia was 36.0%, also below the EU average of 38.97%. Slovenia has improved over the period, but growth has been slightly slower than the EU average and the country still lags behind in cloud adoption**.** Among SMEs, cloud uptake reached 41.81%, still below the EU average of 45.74%, whereas large companies reached 83.63%, above the EU average of 78.32%. Cloud adoption is therefore more advanced than data analytics in Slovenia, but the gap between SMEs and large companies is still wide. The country is lagging behind compared to its trajectory presented in the Digital Decade national roadmap.

In 2025 21.61% of companies adopted artificial intelligence in 2025, which is above the EU average of 19.95%. In 2024, the proportion was 20.89%, above the EU average of 13.48%. However, growth between 2024 and 2025 was weak and much slower than the EU average**.** Among SMEs, AI uptake reached 20.21%, above the current EU average of 18.9%, while large companies stood at 71.74%, far above the EU average of 55.03%. Slovenia therefore performs relatively strongly on AI adoption in level terms, but recent growth is weak, suggesting that its lead may not be widening and that AI adoption may be slowing after an earlier jump.

In 2025, 55.33% of companies in Slovenia adopt at least one of AI, cloud or data analytics, which is below the EU average of 63.20%. In 2023, the figure for Slovenia was 44.71%, lower than the EU average of 54.7%. Slovenia has therefore made solid progress and grown faster than the EU average, but in real terms the country is still catching up. Among SMEs, the combined adoption rate was 54.21%, below the EU average of 62.32%, while large companies stood at 95.48%, above the EU average of 92.78%.

Taken together, Slovenia's profile is mixed. The country remains below the EU average in data analytics, cloud and combined uptake, but has improved strongly from a low base, especially in data analytics and in the combined indicator. AI stands out as the one area where Slovenia is above the EU average in level terms. However, **indicators show that the business digitalisation model is uneven, with much stronger uptake among large companies than among SMEs.**

Policy context and assessment of recommendations

The uptake of advanced digital technologies is increasingly central to Slovenia's competitiveness, but adoption is uneven and below ambition in most areas. Slovenia has set a national target of 75% for the adoption of each of the three technologies by 2030, but adoption levels and interim target progress has so far fallen well short for cloud and data analytics and are only favourable for AI.

Similar to SME digitalisation, skills shortages, managerial capability and financing constraints appear to limit the uptake of advanced technologies. Shortages of ICT and advanced digital skills are compounded by luck of internal business capacity to experiment with and integrate AI and data solutions, and fragmentation in support structures. This is consistent with the broader labour-market evidence showing severe shortages of ICT professionals, growing demand for AI-related profiles, and poor digital skills among the workforce as a whole.[2]

Policy support is shifting increasingly towards AI. These include the AI Factory, the SMASH, a postdoctoral program on machine learning for science and humanities, cofounded by Marie

2 ibid, Annex 11: Labour market; Annex 13: Education and skills.

Skłodowska-Curie, the AI Competence Centre, and new planned initiatives supporting the introduction of AI into business, including larger demonstration-pilot projects and smaller-scale applied AI projects. The AI Competence Centre will support AI skills, facilitate business adoption, provide consultancy and practical guidance, and help companies develop AI-based solutions from testing to commercial deployment. This is complemented by EDIH support and AI-related measures in the adjusted roadmap. Slovenia also participates indirectly in the IPCEI on Next Generation Cloud Infrastructure and Services, which may contribute to cloud-related development, but there is much less evidence of that level of commitment to data-analytics measures.

The current policy mix therefore appears stronger on AI ecosystem-building than on balanced uptake across all advanced technologies. This may be justified strategically, given Slovenia's ambition to play a central role in AI-related European initiatives. But it also creates a risk that support becomes skewed towards frontier projects and better-prepared companies, while a wider group of businesses, especially SMEs, are less able to adopt cloud and data-driven tools in ways that raise productivity and competitiveness.

Recommendation 2025 on Advanced Technologies: Quickly implement measures to increase the uptake of advanced technologies by businesses, with a focus on SMEs.
Slovenia made some efforts to address the recommendation through new policy actions in 2025. New and reinforced action focused mainly on AI, including through the AI Factory, the AI Competence Centre, SMASH and related EDIH and applied-AI support. However, only sporadic progress has been made. Slovenia is still below the EU average in cloud, data analytics and combined uptake, and the wide gap between SMEs and large enterprises persists. The policy response therefore appears stronger on AI than on balanced uptake of advanced technologies among businesses as a whole.

Unicorns, scale-ups and start-ups

At the beginning of 2026, Slovenia had 0 unicorns (2030 national target: 7), unchanged from 2025. In its Digital Decade roadmap, Slovenia however aimed at 3 unicorns by end-2025. The country is thus lagging behind compared to its trajectory.

Policy context and assessment

Slovenia's start-up and scale-up ecosystem remains constrained by low and unstable financing, regulatory frictions and a relatively weak risk-capital market. Business dynamism remains slightly below the EU average, entry and exit rates tend to be low, and the number of high-growth enterprises and gazelles declined in 2024. In a small, open and industrialised economy, this limits the commercialisation of innovation, the growth of high-value-added firms and the wider diffusion of new technologies into the economy.[3]

Authorities identify start-ups and scale-ups as an explicit policy focus, and a more structured support ladder has been developed in recent years. Existing measures include grants for innovative start-ups of up to EUR 75 000 over three years, seed capital and convertible loans for the next development stage, venture capital for scale-ups, and non-financial support such as mentoring, coaching, training and information. A new Start-up Strategy is in preparation, with pillars including venture-capital development, employee stock options, a start-up visa and a new "lean company" legal form tailored to start-ups.

[3] ibid, Annex 4: Innovation to business

However, structural bottlenecks remain substantial. Access to finance remains a barrier, private investment is low, underinvestment is reported by a relatively high share of firms, and business representatives continue to point to administrative and regulatory burdens. Slovenia's weak capacity to attract and retain highly skilled foreign talent in areas such as ICT and STEM adds to the broader challenge. Regional disparities reinforce this picture, as higher-value-added activities, innovation capacity and patenting are concentrated in western Slovenia and especially the capital region, while several eastern and northern regions show weaker R&D intensity and productivity outcomes.

Recommendation 2025 on Unicorns/startups: Quickly implement measures to improve framework conditions and access to funding for start-ups.
Slovenia made some efforts to address the recommendation through new policy actions in 2025. It continued support for start-ups and scale-ups through grants, seed capital, convertible loans, venture capital and non-financial support, and advanced a new Start-up Strategy covering venture capital, employee stock options, a start-up visa and a new lean-company legal form. However, progress remains partial with the high-growth pipeline remaining weak.

Cybersecurity

Performance Assessment

Slovenian enterprises lag behind the EU average in the implementation of cybersecurity measures. In 2024, 44.20% of enterprises used at least five ICT security measures, compared with the EU average of 56.85%. The gap with the EU average is particularly pronounced for encryption techniques for data, documents or e-mails (27.84% in Slovenia, 39.72% in the EU), ICT risk assessment (21.59%, EU: 34.10%), monitoring systems used to detect suspicious activity (24.04%, EU: 45.08%) and ICT security tests (26.65%, EU: 34.64%).

Policy context and assessment

Cybersecurity is increasingly treated in Slovenia as a horizontal enabling condition for digital transformation rather than as a stand-alone compliance issue. The current framework is centred on the **Information Security Act**, adopted by the Government in April 2025, which strengthens the national cybersecurity system through new reporting, coordination and information-sharing arrangements and provides a firmer basis for implementing the **NIS2 framework**. Slovenia's approach in ecosystem terms, emphasises cooperation across government, business, research and other stakeholders, with URSIV positioned as the central national entity for the development of an effective cybersecurity system.

Cybersecurity is increasingly treated as an enabler of trust and resilience in digital public services. Authorities reported that URSIV acts as the national competent authority and single point of contact under **NIS2**, while operational incident response is carried out by national and governmental **CSIRT** teams and security operations centres. They identified the cybersecurity skills gap, supply-chain vulnerabilities and AI-enabled threats as key structural risks. In that context, cybersecurity is increasingly framed as something that should be embedded from the design phase of major digital investments and linked systematically to wider priorities such as AI uptake, data use, digital public services and SME digitalisation. The response includes an RRF-financed cybersecurity curriculum for primary and secondary schools and a network of cybersecurity schools linking education institutions, universities and employers.

Support for public services and the wider ecosystem is becoming more structured. In healthcare, the Government determined the text of the **Healthcare Digitalisation Act**, adopted in December 2025,

giving the cybersecurity dimension of digital health a firmer legislative basis. For businesses, the SECIS project, designed to strengthen the National Coordination Centre for Cybersecurity in Slovenia (NCC-SI) and establish it as a central hub for knowledge, capacity-building and cooperation. This suggests a broader support model focused on ecosystem development and institutional strengthening rather than a single stand-alone support tool.

Recommendation 2025 on Cybersecurity: Sustain and enhance activities to increase cybersecurity in the sectors of public services and education and introduce these with activities to support businesses.
Slovenia made some efforts to address the recommendation through new policy actions in 2025. Key steps included the Information Security Act, stronger institutional coordination and continued ecosystem-building. However, progress remains partial. More advanced cybersecurity practices remain less widespread in businesses than in the EU on average, especially as regards risk assessment, testing and monitoring.

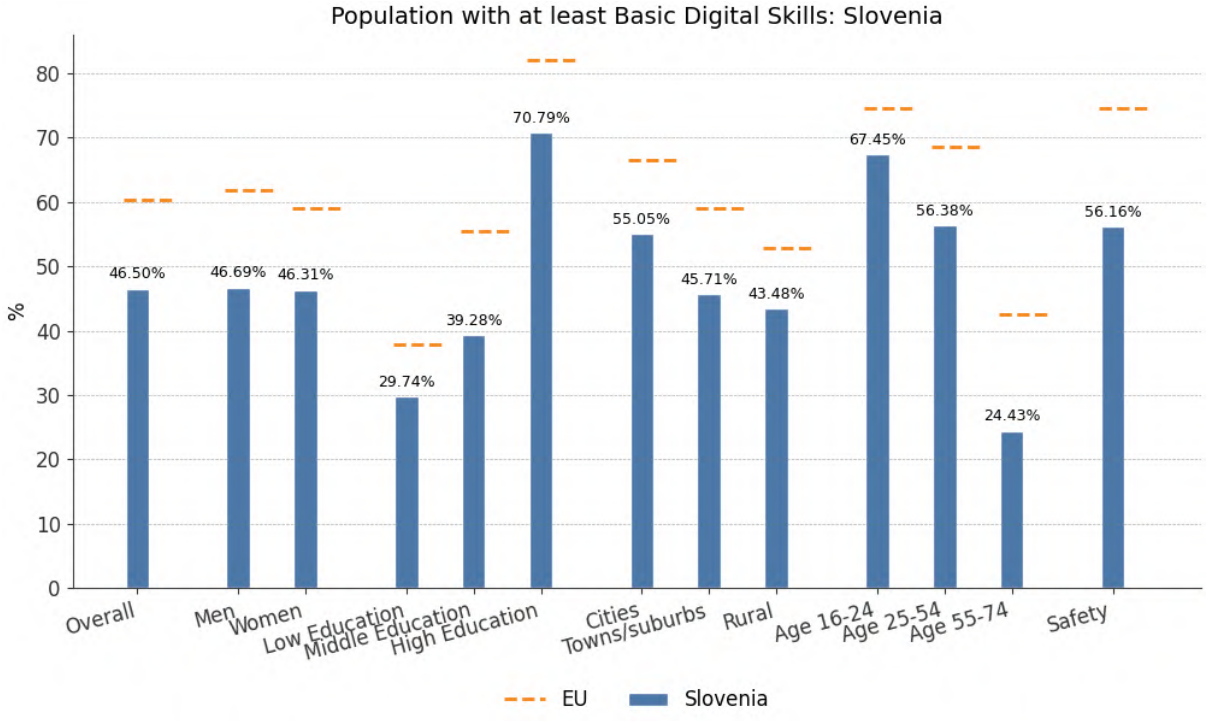
Protecting and empowering EU people and society

Empowering people and bringing the digital transformation closer to their needs

Equipping people with digital skills

Basic digital skills

Performance Assessment



In Slovenia, 46.5% of individuals aged 16-74 had at least basic digital skills in 2025, a slight annual decline of 0.2% since 2023, which is below the EU average of 60.4%. In 2023, Slovenia's figure was 46.7%, compared with the EU's 55.56%. While the EU recorded annual growth of 4.3%, Slovenia remained largely unchanged. The country is lagging behind the national trajectory as defined in its Digital Decade national roadmap, in which the target was 63% by 2025.

The **gender gap** in Slovenia is 0.38 percentage points (pps) in favour of men, with 46.69% of men and 46.31% of women having at least basic digital skills. This gap is much smaller than the EU average of 2.75 pps in favour of men.

Education level significantly influences digital proficiency in Slovenia. Individuals with no or low formal education have a digital skills rate of 29.74%, below the EU average of 37.56%. This represents a gap of 16.76 pps in relation to the national average.

In cities, 55.05% of individuals in Slovenia have at least basic digital skills, compared with 43.48% in rural areas. Slovenia's urban-rural skills gap is 11.57 pps, smaller than the EU average gap of 13.67 pp, but both urban and rural scores remain below EU levels.

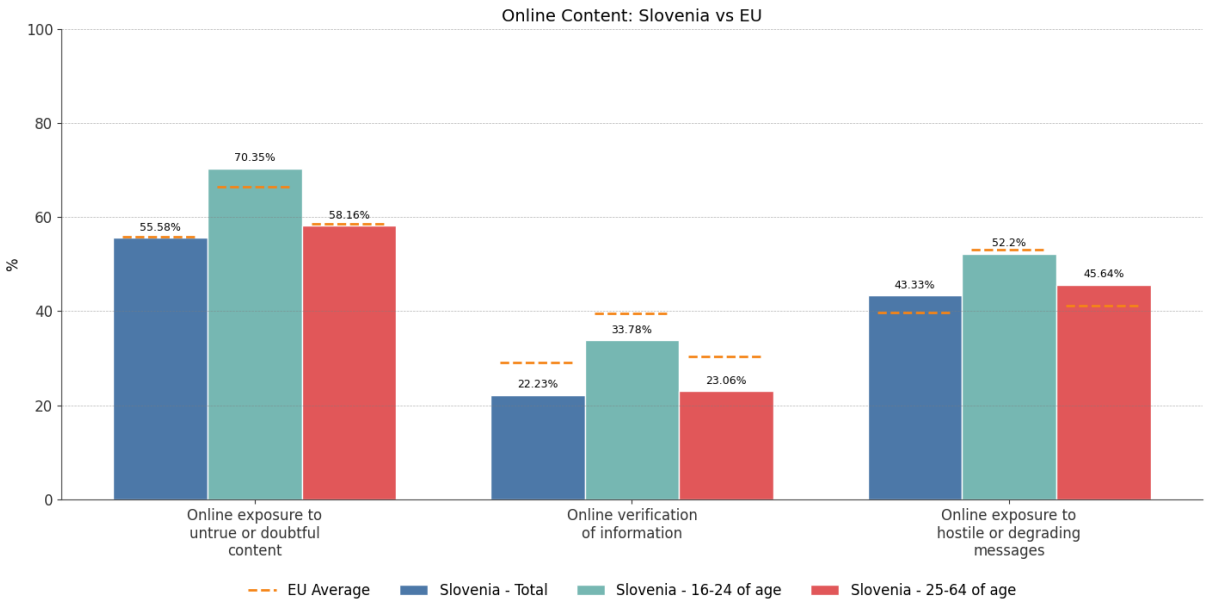
Slovenia

Young adults aged 16 to 24 in Slovenia have a digital skills rate of 67.45%, below the EU average of 74.55%. The older age group of 55 to 74 reaches only 24.43%, far below the EU average of 42.6%. The gap between young adults and older adults is therefore particularly pronounced.

In terms of **digital safety skills**, 56.16% of individuals in Slovenia have at least basic safety skills, well below the EU average of 74.63%.

In 2025, 37.56% of people in Slovenia used **generative AI**, above the EU average of 32.66%. 15.24% of individuals in Slovenia used generative AI for work, slightly below the revised EU average of 15.36%. According to the **Digital Decade Eurobarometer 2026**, the main obstacles to using, or using more, generative AI tools reported by Slovenians were concerns about privacy or data protection (30%), concerns about inaccurate content or incorrect information (30%) and having no need to use such tools (28%).

In summary, Slovenia's digital skills profile shows stagnation and performance below the EU average in most areas. The gender gap and urban-rural gap are comparatively limited, but age and education divides remain significant. Digital safety skills are weak, while generative AI use is relatively high compared with the weak basic-skills base.



In 2025 55.58% of **individuals were exposed to untrue or doubtful content online in Slovenia**, following an increase of 2.6% annually since 2023, when the figure stood at 52.77%. This places Slovenia slightly below the EU average of 55.90% in 2025. The annual growth rate for the EU was 6.5%, indicating that exposure to such content is increasing more slowly in Slovenia than in the EU overall. In 2025, 70.35% of individuals aged 16 to 24 in Slovenia reported exposure to such content, above the EU average of 66.34% for this age group. For individuals aged 25 to 64, the figure was 58.16%, slightly below the EU average of 58.57%. The gap between the younger age group and adults aged 25 to 64 was 12.19 pps, wider than the EU average gap of 7.77 pps.

However, only 22.23% of individuals in Slovenia **verified the truthfulness of online content** in 2025, below the EU average of 29.16%. This followed an annual increase of 8.6% since 2023, slightly below the EU growth rate of 9.6%. Younger individuals aged 16 to 24 are more likely to verify online content,

with 33.78% doing so in 2025, compared with 23.06% of those aged 25 to 64. Both figures are below the respective EU averages.

In 2025, 43.33% of Slovenians were **exposed to hostile or degrading messages online**, above the EU average of 39.72%. This represents a slight annual decline of 0.5% since 2023, while the EU recorded an increase. For individuals aged 16 to 24, the figure was 52.2%, slightly below the EU average of 52.99%, and for those aged 25 to 64, it was 45.64%, above the EU average of 41.14%.

Overall, Slovenia's online-content profile is mixed. Exposure to untrue or doubtful content is close to the EU average and is growing more slowly, while exposure to hostile or degrading messages is falling slightly. However, verification of online content remains below the EU average, and young people are particularly exposed to untrue or doubtful content.

Based on the results of the Digital Decade Eurobarometer 2026, 96% of **Slovenian people think that the EU should give high priority to strengthening the protection of children and young people online**, while 90% agree that online manipulation poses a threat to democratic processes. In terms of personal impact, the issues most frequently cited are fake news and disinformation (57%), misuse of personal data (41%) and insufficient protections for minors (38%).

Policy context and assessment of the recommendation

Slovenia's weak performance in basic digital skills has to be seen in the context of broader pressure on basic skills and adult learning. Evidence from the field of education suggests basic skills, including digital skills, are deteriorating while overall adult participation in learning remains low, especially among vulnerable groups. The 2023 international computer and information literacy study (ICILS) 2023 reports that around half of students are low achievers in digital literacy, which implies that there are weaknesses in the school-age pipeline. These factors make it harder for short-term training programmes alone to shift the headline indicator quickly.[4]

Slovenia has continued to implement a broad policy mix to improve basic digital skills through non-formal training, practical digital-inclusion support and changes in formal education. The response targets different groups, including children and young people, adults, older people and users needing help with digital public services. The authorities established four main strands of action: digital-skills training for children and young people, training for adults, **Mobile Heroes** for older people, and **Digi Info Points** providing practical support for the use of digital public services.

Non-formal training targets the groups where Slovenia performs weakest, namely older people and adults with lower digital participation. Mobile Heroes targets people over 55 and has been implemented through 968 training courses attended by 16 748 people. A new call is being drawn up. Digi Info Points have provided 288 340 consultations across Slovenia, which is important for broad territorial accessibility and for helping users who need practical support rather than formal training. The RRF project "**Strengthening the Digital Competencies and Skills of Public Employees**" is also currently underway and includes initiatives aimed at enhancing the basic digital skills of public employees (the project is scheduled for completion on 30 June 2026).

The formal-education response is becoming more systematic. In 2025, the **update of curricula** from preschool to upper-secondary education was completed and approved: DigComp 2.2 digital skills was integrated into subjects and teaching guidelines prepared. RRF-supported teacher training is expected to support the rollout of the new curricula in 2026. At the same time, core computer and informatics

[4] ibid, Annex 4: Innovation to business; Annex 13: Education and skills.

topics were not fully included in the reform, although a **new subject for grade 7** is being prepared. The impact of this curriculum reform will depend on implementation, teacher capacity and the extent to which foundational computer science and informatics are embedded in practice.

School-level development projects and teacher training also support the wider skills pipeline. Between 2023 and 2026, 11 development projects have been implemented in 147 preschools and schools to strengthen digital skills and foundational computer and informatics knowledge. The **Digital Teacher project** has trained teachers in digital skills, core computer and informatics knowledge, sustainability and financial literacy, and a new public call for 2026–2029 is being drawn up. These measures broaden the ecosystem, but much of the response is still moving from project-based delivery towards more permanent implementation.

The policy response increasingly recognises the safety and trust dimension of basic digital skills. In terms of training for older people, the authorities highlighted the need for participants to receive practical support based on their needs, such as health-related digital services and smartphones. Trainers also raise awareness of online safety and data protection. This is a key issue given Slovenia's weak digital safety skills and low verification of online content, and ensures that media literacy, critical thinking and safe use of digital tools form part of the basic-skills agenda.

2025 recommendation on basic digital skills: Increase and intensify education and training offers and integrate digital skills into the education curricula from an early age.
Slovenia made some efforts to address the recommendation through new policy actions in 2025. It continued and expanded non-formal digital-skills training for children, adults and older people, supported digital inclusion through practical entry points, and adopted curriculum reform and teacher-support measures to embed digital skills more systematically in formal education. The response is broader than before and increasingly supports groups with persistently low digital participation, especially older people, low-qualified adults and vulnerable groups. However, many measures are recent and still being rolled out, so their effects are not yet visible.

ICT specialists and above basic digital skills

Performance assessment

In 2025, 4.5% of ICT specialists in Slovenia were in full-time employment, an increase of 4.7% in 2025, which is below the EU average of 5.0%. Progress was stronger than the EU average of 2.0%, but the level remains below the EU average. However, the country is lagging behind its trajectory presented in the Digital Decade national roadmap.

The proportion of female ICT specialists in Slovenia is improving, but ICT training courses show a concerning trend. Slovenia had a slightly lower proportion of female ICT specialists than the EU at 19.2%, compared to the EU's 19.5%. However, in 2024, the proportion of ICT graduates among all graduates was 5.4% in Slovenia. This performance is concerning, as a limited proportion of ICT graduates makes it more difficult to bridge the gap in the training of more ICT specialists for the future workforce. In 2024, 7.98% of Slovenian businesses recruited or tried to recruit personnel with specialist ICT skills (EU average: 9.55%).

Policy context and assessment of the recommendation

Slovenia has a broad policy framework for ICT specialists and advanced digital skills, an area increasingly seen as a bottleneck. The policy mix combines skills forecasting, VET and higher-education reform, curriculum modernisation, teacher support, digitalisation in education and measures to widen

participation in STEM and ICT pathways. The response is becoming more operational, especially in relation to labour-market alignment, future-skills forecasting and the education pipeline.

A central element is labour-market platform, presented by authorities as a forecasting and skills-intelligence tool. Its purpose is to identify labour-market demand, provide short-, medium- and long-term projections, and to support better alignment between education and training provision and future skills needs. The aim is not only to produce more graduates, but also to ensure the right skills in the right areas and at the right speed. The October 2025 release of needs projections to 2039 made gave this function tangible form.

In secondary and vocational education, the policy response is becoming more operational. The authorities reported that 48 revised upper-secondary VET programmes were adopted in 2025, incorporating digital, financial and green skills, and that these programmes will be introduced gradually from the 2026/2027 school year. Further work-based learning tools and broader efforts to improve labour-market relevance are also being developed. Digital skills are also being integrated across curricula and school development projects, including foundational computer science.

Higher-education policy is moving in the right direction, but has yet to be implemented in full. The 2025 Higher Education Act is framed as a major reform to improve quality, flexibility and labour-market relevance, including through increased funding and a framework for micro-credentials. Cohesion-policy support is also expected to help universities develop more flexible pathways, including short courses and micro-credentials developed with employers. However, some aspects are still at the development stage and the higher-education response is not yet fully consolidated.[5]

Teacher capacity and school-level digital transformation also form part of the wider advanced-skills agenda. The authorities highlight continued digital teacher training, digital infrastructure, AI- and data-related capacity building, and school-level development in computational thinking and digital skills. This broadens the ecosystem, but much of the response has yet to complete the transition from project-based delivery towards more permanent implementation.

The policy framework incorporates a fairer gender balance but lays down few concrete measures. Annual calls for NGO projects aimed at reducing stereotypes and encouraging girls into ICT and STEM were reported, with five projects selected in 2025. The youth-oriented digital-skills call 'JR MLADI 2025–2026' also includes a strand specifically for ICT content for girls and women.

2025 recommendation on ICT specialists: Improve the early identification of labour market needs and address them accordingly through training offers and with the help of the higher education reform.
Slovenia made some efforts to address the recommendation through new policy actions in 2025. It advanced labour-market intelligence and forecasting tools, adopted revised VET programmes with stronger digital content, and moved forward with higher-education reform, including more flexible provision such as micro-credentials. Wider curriculum and teacher-support reforms, together with measures to encourage girls into ICT and STEM, also contribute to the longer-term pipeline. However, there has been limited progress. These are steps in the right direction but they do not go far enough, in scale or impact, to close the gap between demand and supply, especially as shortages

[5] ibid, Annex 13: Education and skills; European Commission, Education and Training Monitor 2025: Slovenia, 17 September 2025.

persist and demand is increasingly concentrated in AI, cybersecurity, data and semiconductor-related fields.

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

Performance assessment

In 2025, Slovenia's total digital public services score for citizens (which covers both national and cross-border users) was 84.23/100 points, a 7.2% increase compared to 2024. As such, Slovenia is just below the EU average of 84.64/100 points. The country is on track according to its trajectory presented in the Digital Decade national roadmap. As regards digital public services for national citizens, Slovenia reached 96.66/100 points in 2025. This is above the EU average of 94.01/100 points. However, the performance of cross-border digital public services for citizens is weaker, with a score of 71.79/100 points, which is below the EU average of 75.28/100 points. Both components improved from 2024, but cross-border maturity is clearly low.

Slovenia scores particularly well in some citizen-related life events such as Moving (95.0), Career (90.0) and Transport (87.97). However there is room for improvement in Health (62.86), Studying (78.8) and Family (87.75). Across levels of government for national citizens' digital public services, central government services scored 89.87/100 points and local government services scored 96.25/100 points.

Slovenia's total digital public services score for businesses (covering both national and cross-border businesses) was 86.25/100 points in 2025, below the EU average of 88.59/100 points, a 1.5% increase compared to 2024. The country is lagging behind its trajectory presented in the Digital Decade national roadmap. One business-related life event with a very good score is Regular Business Operations (92.5), whereas in the case of Business Start-Up (80.0) there is room for improvement. Slovenia's cross-border digital public services score for businesses was 72.5/100 points in 2025. These results are below the EU average of 78.37/100 points. On the other hand, digital public services for businesses available to national users in Slovenia scored 100.0/100 points, above the EU average of 98.81/100 points.

Overall, there was a mixed picture in the two Digital Decade key performance indicators (KPIs). Slovenia performs strongly in national digital public services, especially in the case of businesses, but cross-border digital public services remain the clearest area of underperformance for both citizens and businesses.

In access to e-Health records Slovenia's score was 92.56, an increase of 5.8%, above the EU average of 86.51. The country is on track according to its trajectory presented in the Digital Decade national roadmap.

Policy context

Slovenia's policy approach is moving beyond the digitalisation of individual services towards broader public-administration transformation. The authorities reported that, alongside the Digital Public Services Strategy 2030, the first iteration of the Action Plan, adopted in 2023, contains **109 measures** from **26 competent authorities**, and that a new iteration was being prepared in early 2026. They also stressed that some of the most difficult challenges concern services delivered outside the central government's direct responsibility, across a fragmented institutional landscape that includes municipalities, hospitals, universities and courts. According to EU's 2025 Justice Scoreboard, Slovenia's level of digitalisation of its justice system is no better than average, with improvement needed in digital

solutions allowing citizens and businesses to initiate and follow civil/commercial, administrative and criminal proceedings online.

From a simplification and competitiveness perspective, authorities indicate that one current priority is to shift users from physical to digital channels because digital services are faster, cheaper and more convenient. This is consistent with broader Commission analysis highlighting administrative burden, regulatory complexity and the economic importance of simpler procedures for businesses and investment.[6]

A major recent development concerns digital identity. The authorities explained that Slovenia has broadened its domestic eID base by introducing the biometric identity card in 2023 and by upgrading the *eOsebna* mobile application in September 2025 into a standalone, high-assurance electronic identification solution. These measures are accompanied by communication and user support through a network of **162 Digi Info Points**.

The authorities report that the **European Digital Identity Wallet** was in transition rather than a completed deployment. Slovenia expects to issue its first wallets for natural persons in early 2027, while national solutions will continue during the transition period. Slovenia is participating in some wallet pilot projects, but it does not yet have a specific digital identity solution for legal entities and remains cautious about the evolving business-wallet framework.

Business-facing digital public services are organised mainly through **eUprava** for citizens and **SPOT** for businesses. Slovenia has a strong domestic business-services profile, with mandatory digital channels for companies. This was reinforced by the adoption in October 2025 of the Act on the "Exchange of Electronic Invoices and Other Electronic Documents", which extends mandatory electronic invoicing to business-to-business exchanges, with full implementation scheduled for 1 January 2028. The authorities indicated that the earlier introduction of mandatory e-invoicing in the public sector in 2015 had already supported company digitalisation, and that a similar effect can be expected again. Slovenia is among the first countries to implement the technical components of the Once-Only Technical System for cross-border evidence exchange. At the same time, remaining barriers are linked to translation, cross-border interoperability and support for foreign digital identities.

Digital health is one of the more developed parts of digital public services. The Ministry of Health expressed strong confidence in the **zVEM** environment, Slovenia's central digital health portal, and emphasised the use of common public-sector building blocks rather than standalone health solutions. The authorities also referred to RRF support for communication with general practitioners and care teams, and to delegated access through *zVEM pooblastilo*, the authorisation function allowing another person to access health information on a user's behalf, including for parents of children up to 15 and people in care or guardianship. The authorities also reported strong practical uptake of these functions, with more than **50 000** delegated-access consents registered within a few months and more than **600 000** registered zVEM users, alongside additional access linked to children and guardianship arrangements. On AI, authorities indicate that the health system is proceeding cautiously and is currently focusing on non-clinical uses.

Slovenia has also developed digital public services in spatial planning and construction. It has established a spatial information system providing access to spatial data and services in these fields, while enabling electronic procedures through the ePlan (ePlanning) and eGraditev (eBuilding) systems.

[6] ibid, Annex 4: Innovation to Business.

Leveraging digital transformation for a smart greening

In Slovenia, air emissions of the ICT sector are slightly below the EU average, while the recycling of electronic equipment is comparatively strong. **Sectoral data on air emissions published recently by Eurostat show that** the ICT sector in Slovenia emitted **21.9 kg CO2 eq per capita**, which is below the EU average of **22.8 kg CO2 eq** (data from 2022). Most of these emissions come from the ICT services activities (**92.2%**). The ICT sector accounted for **0.41%** of air emissions in the total economy, above the EU average (**0.35%**). 93.40% of ICT-related waste collected (corresponding to two categories of waste electrical and electronic equipment) are recycled or prepared for reuse, which is among the best in the EU (EU average: 80.23%). According to the Digital Decade Eurobarometer 2026, 49% of Slovenians consider that green digital technologies (e.g. energy-saving technologies) will have the most positive impact in the next 10 years, which suggests relatively broad public recognition of the role digital technology can play in supporting the green transition.

Slovenia is gradually building a stronger framework for linking digital transformation to the green transition, but the interaction between the two is still not yet fully systematic. In the **Digital Public Services Strategy 2030** trusted data management, interoperability and common data spaces are the core building blocks of digital transformation, and modern ICT infrastructure is linked to more energy-efficient public services. The **Strategy of Digital Transformation of the Economy** likewise presents digitalisation as a route to higher efficiency, productivity, competitiveness and resilience, and aims to ensure sustainable transformation effects.

According to the authorities, the main obstacles are the weaker enabling framework for scale, especially the lack of robust environmental, climate and **environmental, social and governance (ESG)** data ecosystems, uneven governance arrangements and limited capacity to turn promising local or sectoral initiatives into a more systematic model. In other words, it is no longer merely about the existence or otherwise of projects and pilots. Without stronger ESG, environmental and climate data ecosystems it is not possible to measure either the footprint or the benefits of digital technologies in a meaningful way.

The authorities identified three related weaknesses: i) measurement gaps, ii) fragmented data and interoperability problems across institutions, and iii) uneven sectoral and territorial coverage, including climate-risk data relevant for business and infrastructure decisions. They also underlined that SMEs are the weakest link, because they have the least access to ESG and **greenhouse gas** tools and because they are deeply embedded in cross-border value chains. The Surveying and Mapping Authority and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning report that the **GreenSLO4D** project strengthens the horizontal integration of information systems, data and processes across spatial planning, construction, real-estate registration, environmental protection, water management and nature conservation. This integrated approach is intended to improve coordination between competent authorities and support both the green and the digital transition. Amendments to the Auditing Act partly transpose the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive and the Slovene Enterprise Fund is supporting ESG training for SMEs.

A second strand concerns the environmental sustainability of digital infrastructure and equipment. In 2025, Slovenia amended the **Decree on Green Public Procurement** and introduced or strengthened mandatory green and circular requirements for energy-related ICT and digital infrastructure, including

data centres, server rooms, cloud services, convertible tablets, electronic displays, mobile phones and smartphones. According to the authorities, the measure was implemented jointly by the Ministry of Public Administration and the Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Energy and operationalises the "energy efficiency first" principle in public procurement. The updated framework lays down energy-efficiency and monitoring requirements and encourages the purchase of used or refurbished products. The authorities also referred to the new Arnes data centre in Maribor, where excess heat is intended to be used in the city's heating system.

A third strand is the growing local and municipal dimension of digital-for-greening, through smart-community initiatives and digital twins. Examples include pilots in Kranj and Ljubljana, environmental monitoring and resilience projects in Moravske Toplice and Ajdovščina, and digitally supported energy-transition and mobility tools in Velenje and Kočevje. At national level, the Surveying and Mapping Authority launched a research project a geospatial digital twin of Slovenia to help with more complex spatial decision-making. However, Slovenia's broader decarbonisation and circular-economy agenda still faces structural constraints, including slow progress on circular-economy indicators, permitting and financing obstacles, uneven regional innovation capacity and ICT skills shortages. The Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development reports that material consumption has increased faster than the EU average over the past decade, the circular material use rate remains low, and 63.9% of companies reported ICT staff shortages in 2024.

The authorities also identified smart energy management, smart mobility, digital twins, real-time monitoring, industrial and energy data spaces and SME ESG tools as the areas with the strongest scaling potential. Several funding channels already exist, including the Climate Fund, cohesion-policy measures on energy efficiency and decarbonisation, and Eco Fund support for building management, mobility and energy optimisation. Stakeholders broadly support this view, reporting uneven implementation capacity, limited inclusiveness in consultation, and the need for clearer governance and monitoring of roadmap measures. The main question is therefore less about whether the instruments exist than whether they can be deployed in a coordinated and scalable way across sectors and levels of government.

2025 recommendation on green: Enhance digital technologies to support the green transition, in particular by addressing the interaction between green and digital initiatives in a more systematic manner.

Slovenia made some efforts to address the recommendation through new policy actions in 2025. These included the updated green public procurement framework with mandatory green and circular criteria for ICT equipment, digital infrastructure and data centres, continued development of digital twins and smart-community pilots, as well as smart energy and mobility measures and funding instruments supporting energy efficiency, decarbonisation and circular-economy solutions. Growing policy attention is also being given to environmental, climate and ESG data ecosystems as enabling infrastructure for digital-for-greening applications. However, there has been uneven progress. The link between digital and green policies is still not sufficiently systematic, especially on measurement, interoperability, SME access to ESG tools, municipal scale-up and national governance arrangements.

Annex I: National roadmap analysis

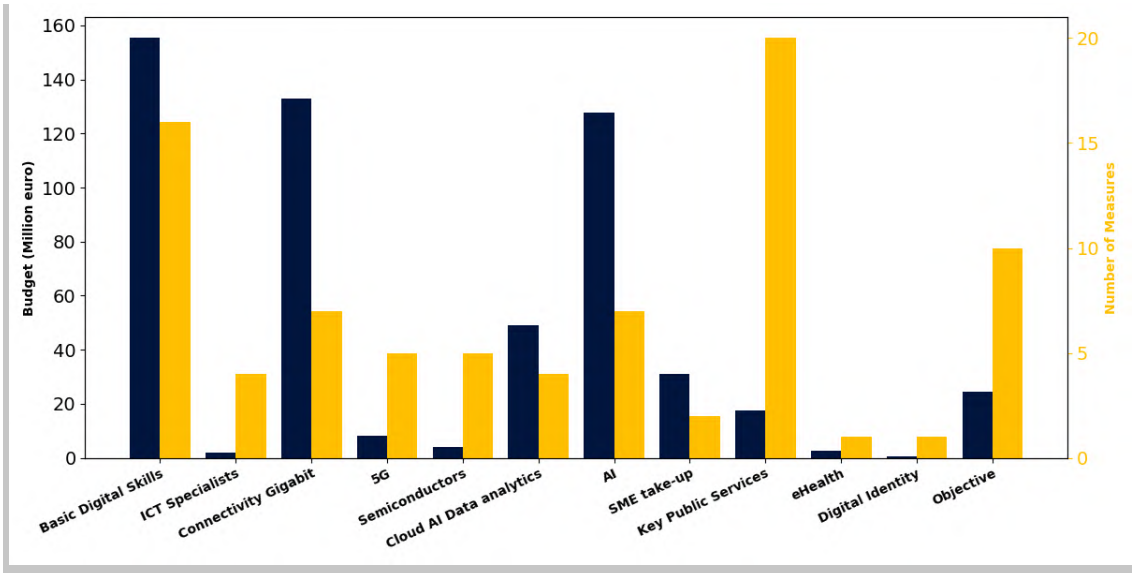
Slovenia's national Digital Decade strategic roadmap

Slovenia submitted a revised national Digital Decade roadmap on 14 August 2025 which brings it together with the Digital Slovenia 2030 Action Plan. While the update brings some new impulses in line with the new Commission's priorities in areas like green IC, AI and semiconductors, the update does not sufficiently address the challenges the country is facing, especially in the areas of basic and advanced digital skills and digitalisation of businesses.

The new roadmap responds to a limited number of the recommendations issued in last year's report:

- All national target values were kept in line with the EU's 2030 ambition level. The additional targets on e-ID uptake by 80% of users of public services was also maintained, along with the quantitative estimates on how Slovenia will contribute to achieving the semiconductor target through companies involved in semiconductor R&D and manufacturing and the edge node target with companies deploying edge nodes.
- The roadmap contains some new or changed measures compared to the initial roadmap submission in 2023. New measures were added for several areas, especially for digitalisation of public administration. However, several measures, especially linked to Digital Decade objectives and all measures linked to startups have been removed from the adjusted roadmap.
- The adjusted roadmap was consulted with stakeholders. The Slovenian national network of non-governmental organisations for an inclusive information society has continued to systematically monitor the implementation of the national roadmap through the project 'Co-creating digital policies in Slovenia 2 – CODIS 2', led by the Institute for Electronic Participation. This project received funding from the European Citizen Action Service (ECAS)[24]. Key outcomes of the project include the development of a dashboard monitoring the roadmap implementation, the production of monitoring reports and the organisation of workshops. Based on these activities, the NGO network has formulated recommendations on the roadmap adjustment, which were shared with the Ministry of Digital Transformation and also reflected in the NGO network's feedback in the context of the national roadmap adjustment consultation. The follow-up project 'CODIS 3', also funded by ECAS, will continue these monitoring activities with a focus on good governance principles.

Measures and budget in national roadmap[7]



In total, Slovenia presented 82 the measures with a total budget of EUR 555 million (mostly coming from public budgets), which corresponds to approximately 0.79% of Slovenia's GDP. Basic digital skills and digital public services are the targets with the highest number of measures. In terms of budget, the highest shares are allocated to basic digital skills and AI uptake.

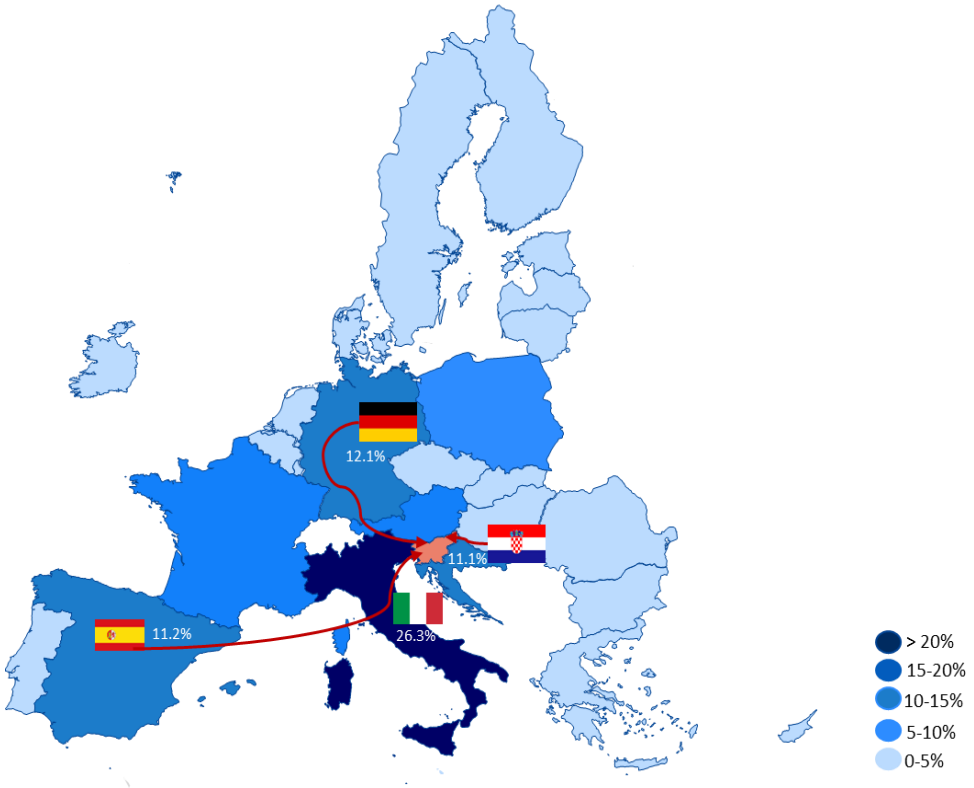
[7] When referring to national roadmaps, data used in this report are those declared by the Member States in their national roadmaps, on the basis of the Commission's guidance (C(2023) 4025 final). Data might reflect possible variations in reporting practices and methodological choices across Member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

Annex II: Funding, economic impacts & Multi-Country Projects

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

A modelling study conducted by the European Commission services, with the FIDELIO model, assesses the economic impact of the digital component of the RRF. As of November 2025, the digital part of the Recovery and Resilience Plan of Slovenia was evaluated to EUR 486 million with EUR 30 million for digital infrastructures, EUR 47 million for digital skills, EUR 122 million for the digitalisation of businesses, EUR 246 million for the digitalisation of public services, and EUR 42 million for other digital priorities.

The total economic impact of RRF digital measures is estimated to EUR 789 million for the national economy. Of this, EUR 524 million stems from the direct effects of Slovenia's own RRP and EUR 265 million corresponds to spillover effects from the implementation of other EU Member States' plans. Slovenia benefited the most from spillover effects from RRPs of Italy (EUR 69.6 million), Germany (EUR 32.1 million), Spain (EUR 29.6 million). The most impacted sectors are Manufacturing (EUR 168 million), ICT Services (EUR 168 million), and Construction (EUR 118 million).



RRF spillover effects to Slovenia

Slovenia

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

Slovenia allocates 24% of its total recovery and resilience plan to digital (EUR 0.5 billion)[8]. In addition, under cohesion policy, EUR 0.3 billion, representing 8% of the country's total cohesion policy funding, is dedicated to advancing Slovenia's digital transformation[9].

Multi-Country Projects

Slovenia is a member of the Alliance for Language Technologies EDIC, the Local Digital Twins towards the CitiVERSE EDIC and of the EUROPEUM EDIC and is an observer to the Digital Commons EDIC. Slovenia is a member of the consortium that aims to set up the EDIC in the area of cybersecurity skills. It is also working towards the setting up of an EDIC in the area of agri-food. Slovenia is directly participating in the Tech4Cure IPCEI. Slovenian entities are indirect and/or associated partners in the IPCEI on Microelectronics and Communication Technologies (IPCEI-ME/CT) and in the IPCEI on Next Generation Cloud Infrastructure and Services (IPCEI-CIS). Slovenia is also a participating state of the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking (JU) and of the Chips JU.

[8] 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.

[9] 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.