

**Opinion from the Digital Decade Board (DDB)
to the 2026/2027 Review
of the Digital Decade Policy Programme**

**A common orientation
for the Review of
the Digital Decade Policy
Programme**

PREFACE

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Reinforcing the EU's digital competitiveness is essential for economic resilience, driving productivity and creating high-value jobs.

To achieve this, the Digital Decade Policy Programme has been instrumental as the EU's strategic compass for digital transformation, providing a strong framework for Member States and the European Commission.

The adoption of key Digital Decade objectives and targets – covering infrastructure, business, skills and government – has provided a clear strategic focus for policy action, underpinned by measurable performance benchmarks.

Each year, the State of the Digital Decade Report informs on progress made, driving policy development to accelerate the Union's digital adoption and transformation, while also driving concrete action through recommendations and multi-country projects.

As technological advances accelerate and the geopolitical landscape evolves, the review of the Digital Decade Policy Programme is a critical step to sustain progress and adapt to technological change.

A key milestone in launching this important process is the Digital Decade Board Opinion on the 2026/2027 Review, prepared by the Members of the Digital Decade Board based on the extensive experience they have gained since 2023 in advising the Commission.

It is on their behalf, and as Penholders coordinating the drafting of this Opinion, that we are now sharing these priority recommendations for the Commission to take forward in the review process.

These high-level and ambitious priorities focus on:

- updating the Digital Decade objectives, targets and indicators to maintain strategic ambition;
- simplifying and improving governance to streamline Digital Decade reporting and strengthen coordination mechanisms;
- ensuring that EU funding cycles effectively deliver on the Digital Decade priorities.

We expect that the vision set out in this Opinion will help shape a strong review process, leading to a renewed Digital Decade Policy Programme that sets the right direction for the next phase and stands as a significant contribution to this College's legacy.

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***Disclaimer:** This Opinion reflects the views of the members of the Digital Decade Board, expressed in their capacity as an expert group established under Commission Decision C(2022) 7141. It does not constitute and shall not be interpreted as a position of the European Commission or any of its services.*

THE DIGITAL DECADE BOARD,

Having regard to the Decision (EU) 2022/2481 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022 establishing the Digital Decade Policy Programme 2030 and in particular Article 4(2) thereof,

Having regard to Article 6(7) of Commission Decision C(2022) 7141 of 11 October 2022 setting up the group of experts 'the Digital Decade Board' (hereinafter: the DDB or the Board),

Having regard to the TTE Council Conclusions on European Competitiveness in the Digital Decade of 5 December 2025,

Has adopted the following opinion:

1. INTRODUCTION

- **The DDB** was established by [Commission Decision C\(2022\) 7141 of 11 October 2022](#) as a group of experts [mandated](#) to assist and advise the European Commission on digital transformation issues, including relevant legislation, policies, measures and actions contributing to the 2030 Digital Decade targets. Article 6(7) of the Decision expressly empowers the Board to issue opinions at the request of the European Commission.
- **The present Opinion has been prepared by the Members of the DDB**, in response to the European Commission's request during the DDB's 11th meeting on 25 September 2025, as recorded in the official minutes.
- This Opinion focuses on the priorities of the Board to be taken forward in the European Commission's review of the digital targets and the relevant definitions by 30 June 2026, without pre-judging future negotiations of a legislative proposal to amend the European Commission Decision (EU) 2022/2481.
- This Opinion has been prepared in accordance with the letter of the DDB to the European Commission from 10 November 2025, which outlined the scope, process and timeline for the preparation of the Opinion, with the representatives of Finland, Slovenia and Ireland coordinating parts of the drafting work with the support of the European Commission acting as secretariat.
- This Opinion supports and has as a starting point the Council Conclusions on European Competitiveness in the Digital Decade adopted in December 2025.
- The Opinion builds directly on the **State of the Digital Decade (SDD) Reports of 2023, 2024 and 2025**, which provide the most comprehensive evidence base of progress and shortcomings. These reports have consistently highlighted challenges towards the Digital Decade targets and objectives set out in the Digital Decade Policy Programme (hereinafter:

the DDPP) towards 2030, with regard to the achievement of a digitally sovereign, more competitive and secure, and inclusive Union, and promoting the development and use of advanced technologies, including AI,¹ secure and trusted digital infrastructure and services, basic and advanced digital skills, digital public services, and connectivity, while addressing the digital divide.

- The DDB has **extensive experience with the implementation of the Digital Decade**. Since its establishment, the DDB has convened 15 plenary meetings (approximately four per year, out of which two held in person), established a sub-group on indicators, and exchanged best practices via the Best Practice Accelerator. The DDB's work has been complemented by the Digital Decade Committee (DDC), a distinct comitology committee established under the DDPP decision to assist in adopting the implementing decision setting out KPIs to measure the progress towards the Digital Decade and decisions establishing European Digital Infrastructure Consortia (EDICs).
- The DDB was also enhanced through high-level meetings organised under the rotating Presidencies, notably in Brussels in May 2024, in Budapest in November 2024 and during the Digital Summit in Gdańsk under the Polish Presidency in June 2025. Together, these formats have enabled peer learning, exchange of national expertise, and joint reflections with the European Commission. The discussion has also been complemented by exchanges held at Council level.
- **This Opinion** focuses on areas where the Board has **evidence and experience** to share - whether from SDD findings or from its own deliberations. **This is where the DDB can contribute most effectively to the 2026/2027 Review of the DDPP (hereinafter: the Review)**, ensuring that recommendations are grounded in data, national realities, and expert endorsement.

2. SCOPE OF THE OPINION, OBJECTIVES & CHALLENGES

- Article 4(2) of the DDPP Decision requires that *“The European Commission, taking into account in particular the information submitted by Member States in accordance with Article 5(2) and Articles 7, 8 and 9, shall review the digital targets and the relevant definitions by 30 June 2026. The European Commission shall submit a report to the European Parliament and to the Council regarding the outcome of the Review and shall submit a legislative proposal to amend the digital targets where it considers it to be necessary to address technical, economic or societal developments in order to achieve a successful digital transformation of the Union.”*
- In addition, the DDB notes that the Executive Vice-President of the European Commission for Tech Sovereignty, Security and Democracy, Ms Henna Virkkunen, was tasked in her mission letter with leading the Review of the Digital Decade implementation strategy and targets, taking into account technological developments, cybersecurity concerns, as well as productivity and sustainability goals.

¹ See [Connectivity | Shaping Europe's digital future](#).

- **In view of the European Commission’s right of initiative, the scope of the Review - and of this Opinion requested by the European Commission - extends beyond a technical assessment of the targets.** The Review considers a broader perspective which includes the **shifting context** in geopolitics, economic and societal challenges and **renewed EU policy priorities**, such as sovereignty in an open manner², competitiveness, resilience, security and the protection of minors online.
- In this context, the scope of the opinion encompasses the overall objectives of the DDPP, the **relevance and ambition of its goals**, the effectiveness of the **governance framework (including the role of the European Digital Infrastructure Consortia (EDICs))**, and the alignment of policy, funding, and coordinated implementation. It is essential that the targets and timeline of the DDPP remain closely aligned with implementation dynamics - including the deployment of digital infrastructures, the evolution of the regulatory framework and standardisation efforts - as these elements directly shape investment needs and priorities. In this respect, the DDPP should provide the Union with a common strategic reference framework, enabling coherent steering, prioritisation and effective governance of European digital infrastructure development.
- The DDB sees the Review as an opportunity to reinforce the strategic relevance of the DDPP and strengthen its programme-level governance, ensuring clearer political direction, prioritisation and coherence across digital policy and infrastructure actions. **The Review should notably recognise that success across all targets will rely on several horizontal dimensions such as cybersecurity, environmental sustainability, sovereignty, and inclusivity** which should be systematically integrated as cross-cutting enablers across all pillars of the Digital Decade - including infrastructure, skills, public services and business digitalisation. In parallel, the Review should make technical and administrative governance (including reporting, monitoring and operational processes) more flexible, proportionate and outcome-driven, contributing to the reduction of administrative burden in line with the European Commission’s simplification agenda. Technical implementation should remain lightweight, agile and supportive of rapid deployment, while preserving comparability and accountability.
- The evidence gathered throughout the Digital Decade collaboration indicates that **the EU is not yet fully on track to meet all the targets and objectives** laid down in the 2022 decision. The EU progress in AI uptake by businesses is lagging (19.9% in 2025 vs. 75% target) and the EU’s share of global semiconductors value chain revenues was 10.5%, unlikely to reach 20% global share by 2030 and displaying digital sovereignty gaps. Just more than half of the EU population has at least basic digital skills, and technological progress poses significant sustainability challenges, such as those related to growing energy consumption and water use by data centres.

² This understanding of digital sovereignty also takes into account the principles reflected in the Declaration for European Digital Sovereignty endorsed by all Member States in November 2025. Council of the European Union (2025), *Declaration for European Digital Sovereignty*, Council document ST 15781/25, 27 November 2025, <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-15781-2025-INIT/en/pdf>.

- **The DDB recognises that some indicators may require updating, reformulating or discontinuing to better capture strategic or national realities.**
- Regarding **governance**, the DDB is concerned about fragmented implementation of the Digital Decade across Member States (MS), as well as the fragmented landscape of the digital governance at EU-level, misaligned policy and funding frameworks, administrative burden related to implementation of the digital acquis and coordination across governance levels, including at EU level between the DDB and other relevant digital governance bodies and boards, as well as the still limited uptake and operational deployment of multi-country projects, including EDICs.
- On **EDICs**, the DDB wishes to emphasise that these instruments should continuously be used in a proportionate manner, without duplicating or crowding out private investments. Several DDB members have also highlighted broader constraints stemming from the current State aid framework, notably the limited flexibility of existing instruments for supporting large-scale deployment-oriented digital projects and the length of notification procedure. In reviewing EDICs as instruments, the DDB moreover wishes to highlight the importance of continuously ensuring open, efficient, predictable, and transparent processes for their establishment, and sees the need to further clarify the framework and conditions to make it an effective instrument. Additionally, the governance structure of the EDICs tends to become bureaucratic with multiple governance bodies and burdensome decision-making procedures, which hampers their effective implementation.
- Taken together, this **two-tier approach - consisting of strategic steering at EU level and flexible implementation at Member State level** - would allow the DDPP to combine strong strategic direction with lean and efficient technical implementation. It would also support stronger multi-country cooperation, including through a reinforced EDIC framework better linked to future funding opportunities, while ensuring alignment with Europe's competitiveness, growth and sovereignty objectives, including in the context of large-scale and fast-moving digital investments.
- The Opinion is intended both as a recap and a forward-looking contribution to the Review, helping to make it more focused and better aligned with the EU's broader policy priorities. Its added value lies in providing an evidence-based rationale for adjustments, drawing on the State of the Digital Decade reports and the Board's experience, while injecting Member States' knowledge to reflect implementation realities. Overall, it strengthens the case for revised targets through DDB endorsement and national insights and demonstrates that the Review is anchored in both evidence and expertise.
- Finally, this Opinion must also be seen in the wider political context. As underlined in President Von der Leyen's State of the Union speech (10 September 2025), this is "Europe's independence moment": delivering digital technologies and infrastructures that not only serve competitiveness and innovation, but also reinforce our industrial base, complete the Single Market, and strengthen our sovereignty in an open manner. Moreover, the Opinion is complementary to the Council Conclusions on European Competitiveness in the Digital Decade. It is against this backdrop that the objectives and challenges of the Review should be understood.

3. REVIEWING TARGETS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 - Introduction

The State of the Digital Decade reports and DDB discussions show that several 2030 targets are misaligned with rapid technological, economic, and geopolitical realities. Consequently, the Board reinforces the need for strategic EU collaboration toward a common, ambitious direction. It supports extending the DDPP's time horizon to at least 2035, including for its targets and general objectives, while maintaining a high level of ambition.

As a consensus text, this Opinion navigates differing perspectives by focusing on areas of common ground to inform the European Commission's Review. Final policy choices and the subsequent legislative process will remain the European Commission's responsibility.

In developing the proposals below, the Board has been guided by three principles:

- First, to facilitate consensus on areas or terminology that remain contested, the Opinion may anchor relevant concepts in the most recent Commission policy framework in positions endorsed by the Council.
- Second, where new targets or indicators have been proposed, these are generally presented as areas for the European Commission to explore or consider, pending further methodological work and consultation.
- Third, the Opinion consistently emphasises the need to balance updating the set of targets with maintaining proportionality, minimising administrative burden and making full use of existing data sources, definitions and reporting mechanisms. In line with a 'one-in, one-out' approach, any proposed new target or indicator should demonstrate clear added value and policy relevance. Indicators should primarily measure progress in the digital transformation and its outcomes, rather than the implementation of specific legislative instruments.

This chapter highlights the areas where updates are needed, provides recommendations for updating targets and indicators and introduces general principles for the DDPP targets Review. The recommendations focus on and prioritise the DDPP digital targets rather than attempting to cover the whole DDPP with general objectives.

3.2 - Key findings from SDD-reports 2023-2025 and Member States and DDB collective experiences

Across the State of the Digital Decade reports, the 2026 Annual Single Market and Competitiveness Report, and Member States' collective experiences, the following key elements emerge:

- While progress has accelerated in several areas since 2021 - notably 5G coverage, fibre deployment, SME digitalisation and cloud uptake - the EU remains off track in several key areas critical for competitiveness and technological leadership, including data centres deployment, AI deployment, ICT specialists, semiconductors and basic digital skills.
- Where EU legislation, policies and priorities have evolved since the DDPP was created, the digital targets should reflect these changes.

- Digital transformation requires ambitious measures and cross-sectoral cooperation. The EU needs to ensure efficient coordination across different sectors to ensure impactful and scalable implementation.
- DDPP and EU wide data and digital infrastructures are needed to support building the Digital Single Market and the EU competitiveness. The Annual Single Market and competitiveness Report and the SDD23-25 have identified limited progress on SME digitalisation and AI adoption and the need to capture the recent development of AI.
- SDD24 confirmed persistent challenges in data interpretation and highlighted the need to align indicators with new realities (AI, cybersecurity, sustainability).
- SDD25 stressed the urgency of revising outdated targets expanding coverage to sovereignty, cybersecurity, and green ICT.
- The SDD 2025 and 2026 reports have highlighted the growing importance of societal challenges in the digital transformation, including the protection of minors online.
- SDD23-25 underline that digitalisation is both a key enabler of the green transition in different use cases and a growing source of environmental pressure, reflecting the current challenges associated with the misalignment of delivering new data centres versus the enabling infrastructure needed for the green transition.
- The reports also underline that 80% of Europe's core digital technologies still come from outside the EU, while the digital skills gap remains significant (only half of EU citizens have at least basic competences).

This evolving context, confirmed across SDD23-25, shows that target adjustment is not merely a technical but a strategic exercise to ensure that the DDPP supports competitiveness, sovereignty in an open manner, and inclusion.

3.3 - Recommendations and rationale for updating the targets

Before considering potential additions, revisions or removals of targets, the DDB recalls that the primary purpose of the Digital Decade targets is to provide a stable, comparable and policy-relevant framework for monitoring progress towards the Union's digital objectives. Any review of the targets should therefore strike an appropriate balance between ambition, stability, technological evolution, policy relevance and proportionality.

Therefore, the DDB invites the European Commission to ensure that the Review remains focused on the most relevant targets and indicators to steer development. In line with the Council Conclusions on European Competitiveness and the 'one-in, one-out' logic, any new or revised target should have clear policy relevance, demonstrate added value relative to existing legislation, and be developed in consultation with Member States, statistical authorities, and stakeholders.

To avoid disproportionate administrative burden, new proposals must feature clear definitions, EU-wide comparability and regular data collection that, to the extent possible uses already existing data collection frameworks.

Accordingly, the DDB invites the European Commission to explore the proposals presented in the next sections of this Chapter.

3.3.1 - Overall guidelines for setting future-proof targets and indicators

a) Methodology:

- Where new targets or indicators are proposed, the European Commission should clearly explain their added value, relationship to the existing framework, and expected administrative impact, and assess whether streamlining or consolidation elsewhere would be appropriate. KPIs should be added, maintained, consolidated or removed based on a thorough assessment of their relevance, reliability, comparability and administrative impact.
- The DDB emphasises that indicators must be reliable, comparable, and transparent- The Review could propose a stable indicator framework, to preserve consistency and data comparability. This includes the need for sufficiently detailed and concrete indicator proposals to enable Member States to assess their feasibility, proportionality and potential impact prior to their introduction. At the same time, the Review should be an opportunity for the DDPP to promote methodological agility, enabling periodic technical updates to indicators without legislative overhaul.
- The DDB emphasises that indicators for e.g., cybersecurity and Digital sovereignty need to ensure that sensitive information is not exposed.
- The DDB emphasises that it is crucial for any new or updated target to be based on solid methodology and metrics that make the most possible use of existing or collected data. DDB invites the European Commission to make use of existing international indicators and databases, such as [OECD Going Digital](#).
- The DDB emphasises the importance to better connect and align DDPP work with standardisation regarding technological maturity and expected uptake: the Review could explore ways to make better use of the work plans of standardisation organizations.
- The DDB highlights the importance of analysing the EU as a whole - while maintaining the existing Member State-level assessment of targets and objectives.
- The DDB recommends that the Review highlights the user perspective, e.g., by focusing on usability and evolution of actual usage (citizens, enterprises, end-users), rather than solely on whether systems have been implemented.
- The Board recommends identifying and deploying targets that play an important general role in various areas, such as the business wallet and the Digital Product Passports.

b) Enhancing the link between the DDPP and EU digital legislation:

- Legislation is one of the available tools to reach targets in DDPP. The DDB invites the European Commission to clarify the link of the DDPP targets with the overall digital legislation and the digital initiatives in various sectors particularly taking into account the ongoing legislative simplification efforts under the Omnibus initiatives.
- The DDB recommends focussing on the areas that are not covered in existing or upcoming EU digital legislation, unless they support its implementation. The EU digital legislation and initiatives in various sectors include objectives and obligations for digital development. The DDPP covers common EU digital targets, but there is a risk of overlaps. The DDPP targets

should bring added value by filling the gaps. Hence, there is a need for a better overview of all the existing legislation and strategies as well as of the initiatives in the pipeline. This will also contribute to ensuring that all new legislation supports the simplification goal.

- The DDB calls on the European Commission to ensure effective cross-sectoral coordination across relevant Commission services and policy areas when preparing proposals for digital legislation and policies.
- The Board calls on the European Commission to ensure that DDPP targets actively guide and reinforce the work of the European Interoperability Board, the European Data Innovation Board and the AI Board, ensuring strong synergies between EU digital Boards and expert groups, providing strategic direction, and integrating their input into the achievement of the Digital Decade targets - including through measurable metrics on the status of relevant digital infrastructures.

3.3.2 - New targets to areas where policy gaps exist

a) Digital sovereignty

The DDB invites the European Commission to further explore how the objective of digital sovereignty in an open manner, as set out in the DDPP, could be operationalised through a limited set of measurable indicators. In doing so, the European Commission could assess, inter alia, aspects such as resilience, interoperability, competitiveness and reduced critical dependencies. In this context, the Review should take into account the common understanding reflected in recent EU discussions (notably on the Tech Sovereignty Package), while preserving the integrity of the Single Market and openness to trusted partners. **Given the methodological complexity of this concept, further work is required to develop clear solutions, robust measurement approaches and an assessment of feasibility and impact before any potential target-setting.** Where possible, such work should build on existing or accessible data and definitions at European and national level to the greatest extent possible.

The DDB invites the European Commission to consider how applicable sovereignty frameworks can be reflected in the indicators measuring maturity across relevant technologies and infrastructures. Two complementary approaches could notably be considered:

- Dedicated sovereignty indicators focused on key infrastructures and services (e.g., selecting a few targets on the EU's share in specific digital infrastructures or services, such as cloud deployment and data, which would be meant to capture the most important areas for EU cooperation and Member States' efforts to foster its sovereignty).
- Sovereignty sub-indicators embedded, where appropriate, within all/most targets, ensuring sovereignty is systematically taken into account without creating a parallel measurement framework.

In either case, the DDB encourages the European Commission to factor in other elements central to EU sovereignty, notably interoperability and the use of open, provider-neutral architectures. Overall, it is important that policy measures and digital targets remain aligned and mutually reinforcing in supporting the Union's objectives on digital sovereignty in an open manner.

As part of Europe’s digital sovereignty in an open manner, the Board considers it essential to strengthen the availability of **cybersecurity products and services of EU origin**. The Review could explore the introduction of a new target and indicator to measure the availability of EU-origin cybersecurity products and services across the Union. Such a target would align with the priorities of the European Competitiveness Fund (ECF) and build on ongoing actions implemented by the European Cybersecurity Competence Centre (ECCC).

b) Cybersecurity

The EU Digital Decade Strategy positions cybersecurity as a prerequisite for Europe’s digital transformation, requiring enhanced resilience, shared situational awareness, collective response capabilities, and strong cross-border cooperation. **The Board recommends introducing a dedicated target and indicator on cybersecurity to support the long-term security of critical systems and data. The Board also emphasizes the importance of systematically integrating cybersecurity as a horizontal enabler across all Digital Decade targets and indicators.**

Looking ahead, **quantum computing** poses a significant threat to cybersecurity by potentially rendering current, asymmetric cryptographic algorithms obsolete. This would enable future adversaries to compromise the confidentiality, integrity, and authenticity of digital communications and data. A timely transition to post-quantum cryptography is essential to protect European data also from the ‘harvest now, decrypt later’ threat.

Post-Quantum Cryptography (PQC) offers quantum-resistant alternatives to current, potentially vulnerable cryptography, and its proactive adoption across the Union is essential to ensure the long-term security of communications, services, and digital assets. In combination with the use of quantum key distribution (QKD) wherever practical and the European Quantum Communication Infrastructure (EuroQCI), PQC could secure EU critical infrastructure against the threat posed by quantum computers. A well-managed and timely transition to PQC is therefore critical for strengthening the resilience of digital infrastructures, safeguarding strategic autonomy, and maintaining trust in EU digital ecosystems. Strengthening EU technological capabilities and fostering a robust European PQC ecosystem will be key to this transition and can position the Union as a trusted global partner for secure communications, digital identities, artificial intelligence, and quantum technologies.

The Board invites the European Commission to explore whether and how the transition to post-**quantum** cryptography should be reflected within a broader cybersecurity resilience target or indicator, taking into account the NIS Cooperation Group’s Coordinated Implementation Roadmap for the Transition to PQC. Any such approach should avoid creating a separate monitoring layer where existing cybersecurity frameworks can be used.

In addition, the Board considers that indicators supporting the assessment of cyber preparedness and resilience at Union level could provide valuable insights for policymakers. Given the complexity of measuring cybersecurity outcomes directly, the Review should build, where possible, on existing European monitoring and reporting frameworks, including the ENISA Cybersecurity Index and related assessments. Any future indicators should be based on clear methodologies and comparable data, while avoiding disproportionate administrative burden.

New cybersecurity targets should aim at supporting Member States and the private sector in strengthening cyber preparedness, resilience and capabilities, while remaining coherent with the objectives of the NIS2 Directive and other relevant EU cybersecurity legislation. At the same time, the focus of the DDPP should be on strategic cyber capabilities, technological leadership and skills development rather than setting new baseline compliance requirements. Furthermore, strengthening cybersecurity in the healthcare sector in alignment with the European action plan on the cybersecurity of hospitals and healthcare providers is important.

c) Sustainable digitalisation

The Board recommends strengthening the integration of environmental sustainability and the digital transformation, including through the gradual development of indicators on the environmental footprint of the ICT sector. The rapid growth of AI is accelerating the demand for computing power, data storage, and data centres, whose energy consumption and carbon footprint are rapidly increasing. Given the methodological complexity and heterogeneity of the dimensions concerned, a stepwise approach should be followed, prioritising areas where definitions and data availability are sufficiently mature and avoiding disproportionate burdens for Member States. **Further work is needed to develop concrete, operational indicators (including definitions, data sources and targets) before their feasibility can be fully assessed.**

The target could focus on the net carbon emissions of data centres. The Cloud and AI Development Act, the Energy Efficiency Directive, relevant reporting requirements and the EU Data Centre Energy Efficiency Package could support the development of appropriate targets and indicators. Voluntary initiatives, such as the Climate Neutral Data Centre Pact, could also contribute to the underlying metrics and data collection.

The target could also encompass measures linked to net carbon emissions and energy consumption in other sectors. This could include indicators measuring the deployment of digital solutions that demonstrably contribute to emissions reductions, for example in energy, transport or industry. Any such indicators should build, where possible, on existing reporting frameworks and data sources in order to minimise administrative burden.

d) Data for AI

The Board recommends exploring **refinements to existing indicators** and, **where clearly justified, the introduction of targeted new metrics to capture data quality, availability, interoperability and readiness for AI**, including data completeness, reusability and the maturity of interoperability and data-sharing infrastructures. The indicators should be anchored in measurable dimensions, including data standardisation and governance (e.g., metadata, licensing, semantic alignment), infrastructure performance (e.g., APIs), and effective use (e.g., AI applications and data quality). Any new target in this area should align with the implementation frameworks established under the Data Act, the Interoperable Europe Act and related governance structures, avoiding parallel monitoring mechanisms.

e) European data infrastructure for businesses and products (European Business Wallets)

The Board recommends exploring whether future digital tools under development, including the EU Business Wallet and the Digital Product Passport, should be reflected through gradual, practical indicators **once the legal and implementation framework is sufficiently mature**. The use cases could be selected after the finalisation of the EBW negotiations. The Board notes that the European Business Wallet is already being considered as an enabling component in emerging Internal Market legislation, including in recent Commission proposals such as the 'EU Inc.' initiative and the Industrial Accelerator Act. The Europe Maturity Assessment Framework could help in setting up the appropriate indicators.

3.3.3 - Current targets to be removed or revised

Overall recommendation: The Board invites the European Commission to assess whether some targets should be removed as they might be outdated, to revise others to match technological development, or to introduce more suitable indicators.

- **AI Literacy and digital skills.** The Board recommends complementing the existing target of "80% of the population with at least basic digital skills" with additional indicators. While maintaining the importance of broad-based digital literacy and inclusion, the Review could also explore dedicated indicators related to AI and data literacy, including citizens' ability to interact safely and effectively with AI systems, assess the authenticity and reliability of digital information, and contribute to a secure digital environment for both the public and private sectors. Particular attention should also be given to strengthening STEAM education, talent pipelines and lifelong learning, while ensuring inclusiveness across broader population groups, including older age groups. In parallel, it is important to raise children's digital skills and awareness to help them navigate online environments safely and manage emerging risks.
- **ICT specialists.** The Board recommends complementing the ICT specialists target with more granular indicators, such as advanced digital skills, to address and better capture the skills demand and needs in areas such as high-level AI, cybersecurity, quantum and other strategic technologies. In this regard, further work may be needed to develop clear, internationally comparable definitions and measurement methodologies for these specialist categories.
- **Digital Identity.** The DDB points out that the current indicator focuses mainly on the implementation of eID and the approach is thus limited and outdated. The introduction of an indicator on the actual adoption of digital identity by citizens could be an avenue to consider. Considering the mandatory rollout of the European Digital Identity Wallet under the revised eIDAS Regulation, the Review should consider developing practices to measure the current usage percentage target with an indicator measuring cross-border functional interoperability and effective service integration.
- **Tech uptake - utilisation of cloud.** The DDB considers this target could be refined to better align with policy actions, including coordination with the AI Continent Action Plan and the Cloud and AI Development Act. The Review could explore a shift toward qualitative

indicators measuring AI governance maturity, integration into industrial processes, SME support frameworks and effective deployment in productive sectors. A very essential element is companies', particularly SMEs', ability to integrate the use of cloud services into their business operations. Companies' capability to use cloud services can be evaluated through self-assessment.

- **Late adopters.** SMEs reaching a basic level of digital intensity: The Review could ensure the indicators remain aligned with technological developments, while preserving comparability over time.
- **Semiconductors.** The Board considers that the EU market-share target is no longer the most appropriate metric, given its strong dependence on external developments. Instead, strategic targets should focus on strengthening the EU's position in high-value and strategic segments of the semiconductor value chain - including design, extraction and supply of raw materials, equipment, manufacturing, and advanced packaging - with attention to areas of global indispensability, as well as the strengthening of domestic demand. Additionally, the resilience of semiconductor supply chains needs to be improved to avoid future supply crises. To this end, supply chain transparency is to be increased, and chip supply diversified. In light of the ecosystem's global nature and the uneven footprint across Member States, reliance on national KPIs should be approached with caution. Indicators could instead capture EU-level investment and production capacity in priority segments, scale-up dynamics across the ecosystem, and the leverage of private investment mobilised by public support. The target and its indicators are being reassessed as part of the European Commission's upcoming review of the Chips Act in autumn 2026.
- **Quantum computing.** The DDB considers that the current EU target may not fully reflect international leadership, and suggests exploring a shift from purely capacity-based metrics towards indicators that capture real-world performance, benchmarking and industrial relevance, including in fault-tolerant quantum computing, hybrid classical-quantum computing and quantum-AI use cases. Any adjustment would need to be underpinned by a clear rationale, feasibility assessment and realistic measurement approach.
- **eHealth.** The European Health Data Space (EHDS) introduces binding rules for health data use, making the current target on access to Electronic Health Records (EHRs) potentially insufficient. Monitoring should be updated so that DDPP indicators complement the new regulatory requirements rather than duplicate them. Healthcare is recognized as a strategic sector for AI, with many EU Member States prioritising it and beginning to track AI use. The Review could therefore introduce an indicator on AI deployment in healthcare to support a harmonised European approach to measuring adoption. The Review should consider adding new metrics on actual use to complement the current access indicator, while still capturing system readiness and infrastructure. Any usage indicators should measure system maturity rather than differences in user behavior.

4. GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN REDUCTION

4.1 - Rationale for reform

Experiences from Member States, together with exchanges within the DDB, point to a shared understanding that adjustments to the current Digital Decade governance framework are needed. Across Member States, a consistent message has emerged: while consistent monitoring is essential, the current governance setup generates significant administrative and coordination burden. Overlapping reporting obligations, misaligned timelines and frequent adjustments to indicators risk diverting resources away from implementation, investment, and results. In several cases, the effort required to comply with reporting and coordination requirements outweighs the practical benefits for national policymaking. At the same time, certain existing instruments and initiatives (such as the Best Practice Accelerator (BPA) and EDICs) are yet to realise their full potential.

The DDB considers that a renewed governance approach should therefore aim not only to track progress, but to actively enable delivery, for example by helping identify multi-country project that may be implemented in the form of an EDIC. Furthermore, the Review should acknowledge differences in financing pathways, Member States's budgetary frameworks and realistic administrative absorption capacity across Member States. Governance expectations and implementation timelines should remain proportionate and realistic, ensuring sustainability of national contributions and avoiding excessive strain on national administrations.

The DDB notes the publication of the [EU Open Source Strategy](#) and recalls that open-source ecosystems can contribute to European technological sovereignty, competitiveness and resilience. In this context, the Board stands ready to contribute, within its mandate, to the monitoring and exchange of best practices related to the implementation of the Strategy.

4.2 - Strategic objectives of Governance

4.2.1- Strategic approach to governance

Against this background, the DDB considers that governance reform should not only aim at reducing burden, but also at improving strategic coordination and implementation capacity across governance levels, while avoiding fragmentation, overlap or duplicative reporting requirements.

Member States have repeatedly stressed that effective delivery of the Digital Decade depends on clearer coordination structures, stronger political steering and better alignment between EU and national implementation dynamics.

- The DDB supports the further development of the DDB as a central forum for strategic coordination, monitoring, and alignment between different boards and expert groups related to digital, and of multi-country projects.
- The DDB invites the European Commission to recognize and better reflect the role of the DDPP in the upcoming Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034 - particularly in the light of the proposals for a European Competitiveness Fund (ECF), and National and Regional Partnerships Plans (NRPP).

- The DDB calls on the European Commission to have a more informal and strategic role in informing national representatives in DDB on the status of EU digital investments aimed at achieving the Digital Decade targets, as well as give Member States the opportunity to exchange views on their future direction and prioritization.

4.2.2 - Facilitating peer-learning

At the same time, exchanges within the DDB and the Best Practice Accelerator have demonstrated the added value of structured peer-learning and practical exchanges between Member States, on occasion also including representatives of the private sector. While implementation contexts differ significantly across the Union, several Member States highlighted that more operational cooperation and knowledge-sharing could help accelerate deployment and avoid duplication of efforts.

- Member States should retain the flexibility and own decision-making with regard to how to achieve the objectives and targets, taking into account the Member States' different national digital context.
- With particular attention to ensuring that this does not create additional burdens for Member States, the DDB calls on the European Commission to support the operation of Best Practice Accelerators also in areas where they have not yet been established. The coordination and ownership of Best Practice Accelerators by Member States' DDB Representatives should remain voluntary and could rotate periodically among participating Members to broaden ownership and exchange of experience. Where Member States jointly determine that a more in-depth exchange of good practices aimed at more effectively achieving the Digital Decade targets is feasible (for example through study visits), such activities should be supported through EU financial resources.
- Peer reviews, including structured study visits, and the involvement of thematic experts could further support the identification, adaptation and scale-up of effective solutions.

4.2.3 - Importance of consistent and comparable monitoring

The DDB also notes that frequent methodological adjustments and evolving reporting requirements have created uncertainty for long-term national planning and implementation. Several Member States stressed the importance of ensuring stability, predictability and comparability of indicators over time, while preserving sufficient flexibility to reflect emerging technological developments.

- The DDB underlines the importance of maintaining Digital Decade indicators that are consistent, as much as possible aligned with indicators in other programmes, such as the Annual Single Market and Competitiveness Report, and comparable over time, in support of effective monitoring and implementation.
- The Board considers it important that governance and monitoring arrangements contribute effectively to the implementation of digital policies, fostering innovation, competitiveness, and sustainable digital transformation across the EU.
- While the framework should remain agile enough to incorporate new realities (e.g., AI), KPI instability can create a governance and delivery risk: frequent changes to indicators or

methodologies weaken political credibility, complicate national planning, and increase reporting burden for Member States, undermining communication with stakeholders.

4.3 - Concrete suggestions

In light of these challenges and experiences gathered through the implementation of the Digital Decade, the DDB considers that the Review should aim to establish a governance framework that is more strategic, implementation-oriented and proportionate, while avoiding unnecessary duplication and administrative burden. The DDB therefore proposes a governance approach guided by the following suggestions:

4.3.1 - Simplification and reduction of administrative burden

- The DDB calls on the European Commission to reduce administrative burden by further promoting ‘once-only reporting’ in a simple format, ideally generated automatically through data, and simplified procedures within the Digital Decade governance framework.
- The Board considers that Digital Decade governance for each Member State should not require the creation of a separate or duplicative roadmap document where existing national digital strategies are already aligned with the Digital Decade objectives, while ensuring that an appropriate overview is maintained to support transparency, coordination and coherence across governance levels, including through streamlined and user-friendly formats, such as pre-filled templates, to ensure comparability and consistency across Member States. The Digital Decade roadmap should remain the common framework for monitoring, cooperation and comparability across Member States. Existing national strategies should, where appropriate, be used as a basis for preparing or updating Digital Decade roadmap requirements. The European Commission could provide guidance on how those strategies can be adapted to the format of Digital Decade roadmaps. Governance should primarily consist of structured reporting to the European Commission on national strategies, objectives, indicators, and best practices, rather than the preparation of additional standalone documents. Member States without such strategies would, however, need to establish an appropriate roadmap in line with requirements in the DDPP. The Review could also explore whether the update cycle for Digital Decade roadmaps could be better aligned with national planning and investment cycles, while preserving their role as the common framework under the DDPP.
- The DDB encourages the European Commission to continue organising a single annual country exchange dedicated to the Digital Decade. During these exchanges, the European Commission should rely on existing processes and statistically validated data sources (e.g., Eurostat and relevant Commission studies) and use the dialogue to gather implementation context and qualitative insights, without creating additional reporting obligations for Member States.
- To support this process, the European Commission could explore using an enhanced Digital Decade visualisation tool building on the existing DESI infrastructure, enabling a clear presentation of each Member States’ indicators against EU targets and national targets,

historical progress, links to country reports with relevant recommendations and to key documents and existing dashboards.

4.3.2 - A strengthened coordination and peer learning role for the Digital Decade Board (DDB)

The DDB is widely recognised as a valuable coordination forum, but the DDB Members consider its strategic potential as not yet fully leveraged.

- The DDB invites the European Commission to leverage on the Board's broad and informal character to facilitate an early exchange with Member States on forthcoming proposals, strategies, and initiatives from DG CNECT.
- The DDB recommends that the European Commission support the Board by providing an overview of relevant outputs from other EU-level bodies (and also envisage joint sessions on strategic topics) and fora linked to the Digital Decade (e.g., AI Board, DSA Board) and by facilitating structured deep-dive workshops within DDB meetings on strategic topics of common interest (such as sovereign digital infrastructure (e.g., cloud and data spaces), AI deployment, digital skills shortages, or implementation bottlenecks in multi-country projects). These exchanges should aim to identify shared priorities, promote peer learning and inform collective strategic orientations, without creating additional reporting layers or duplicating existing coordination structures.
- The DDB considers that DDB meetings should include a regular overview of EU-level initiatives (including forthcoming proposals, strategies, etc.) and monitoring of progress using officially published, existing monitoring outputs (e.g., the Digital Decade visualisation tool), with a particular focus on areas where country-specific recommendations have been issued. This overview should serve as a basis for strategic discussion and peer exchange, without introducing additional reporting requirements.
- The Board also invites the European Commission and Member States to explore whether DDB meetings could occasionally include a dedicated exchange on the implementation of multi-country projects (e.g., EDICs), focusing on practical challenges lessons learned and ideas for solutions, without creating new reporting or duplicating existing instruments. I. Especially, the EDIC framework should be more closely aligned with future MFF instruments and Digital Decade targets to ensure operational continuity, strategic prioritisation, and adequate funding predictability.

4.3.3 - Actionable recommendations

- The DDB encourages the European Commission to continue strengthening the country-specific recommendations by providing a concise, country-specific assessment that clearly highlights strengths, structural constraints and priority areas for action. Recommendations should help Member States with how they can bridge gaps to targeted KPIs, e.g., link to funding, best practices etc., and also reflect the specific profile and capacity of each Member State, recognising that equal progress across all Digital Decade areas may not be feasible in every case and, where necessary, allowing for proportionate and realistic implementation timelines aligned with national circumstances. Moreover, retaining Member States flexibility and decision-making with regard to how to

achieve the objectives and targets, taking into account the Member States' different national context.

- The Board invites the European Commission, when preparing its annual recommendations to Member States, to draw on insights from the repository of best practices to make the recommendations more actionable, while using the DDB and other collaborative elements of the DD (e.g., BPA) as a forum for Member States to exchange concrete project examples and implementation approaches.
- The Board recommends exploring how study visits and the replication of good practices could be supported through existing instruments, including a potential dedicated Technical Support Investment flagship to help Member States translate recommendations into implementable actions.

5. FUNDING AND TIMELINE

This chapter examines how the 2026/2027 Review of the Digital Decade Policy Programme (DDPP) can significantly contribute to closing the competitiveness gap highlighted in the Draghi Report. It explores ways to ensure EU funding cycles effectively deliver on the Digital Decade's priorities by:

- Leveraging the credibility of the Digital Decade reports to inform funding priorities with the DDPP's strategic objectives; and
- Adopting a more strategic approach to bolster the EU's global digital competitiveness.

5.1 - Investment and reform gaps

The [Draghi Report](#) (September 2024) identified Europe's productivity lag as a direct consequence of its underdeveloped tech sector, which has struggled to fully harness the opportunities of the digital revolution. To close this gap, the report calls for an unprecedented increase in annual investments - equivalent to 4-5% of EU GDP (EUR 750-800 billion) - including to drive innovation in artificial intelligence, semiconductors, cloud computing, quantum and digital infrastructure.

Since 2023, the State of the Digital Decade Reports have highlighted persistent investment gaps and the need for accelerated action. Mapping of EU-level funding in the 2024 and 2025 reports shows that the 2020-2027 MFF allocates substantial resources to digital priorities. Across the main EU instruments around ¹ EUR 177.5 billion directly contributed to Digital Decade targets with the RRF accounting for the bulk of digital investments. However, the 2025 State of the Digital Decade Report highlights that current funding remains insufficient to address structural gaps in foundational technologies.

In addition, to strengthen the effectiveness of investments directed to the digital transition, but while not prejudging negotiations on the MFF, the Board encourages the European Commission to consider the following recommendations as most critical for the Review:

- Simplifying access to funding in practice, by improving transparency and coherence of eligibility rules and application processes across programmes, with a particular focus on SMEs, startups and scaleups (e.g., clearer guidance, harmonised requirements, and where feasible a one-stop-shop / single entry point to facilitate access, faster processes), and making full use, where appropriate, of existing EU instruments, mechanisms and reviews

that are looking at simplifying access to funding such as the General Block Exemption (GBER).

- Reinforcing effective cross-border delivery and Public Private Partnerships, particularly for large-scale digital infrastructure and European consortia, by ensuring that governance and funding mechanisms are operationally usable, scalable and attractive for participation.
- The DDB highlights in this context the potential of EDICs as operational vehicles for the implementation of multi-country investments, building on their flexible governance model and experience in coordinating cross-border digital infrastructure. Addressing constraints stemming from the current state aid framework, enhancing the transparency in their establishment and streamlining the efficiency of their governance should further encourage EUMS participation. The DDB also encourages to consider how to best use IPCEI, PMI and PCI projects to further advance ambitions under the Digital Decade targets.
- Recognizing that public resources alone are not sufficient to fund the financing needs and consequently, identifying measures that provide incentives and remove barriers for institutional investors and financial intermediaries to help unlock sufficient capital from these sources.
- Ensuring predictability and continuity for digital investments, by informing national representatives on the status of EU digital investments to help navigate the phasing out of supports and prepare for the next phase, so as to avoid disruptions in investment pipelines and loss of reform momentum.
- Prioritising key enabling technologies and infrastructures (AI, semiconductors, cloud-edge, quantum, cybersecurity, future connectivity such as 6G) and ecosystems needed for deployment (data, talent, testing/sandboxes/certification and governance)
- Recognizing differences in absorption capacity across EU Member States should be taken into account, and expectations regarding national budgetary contributions need to be realistic and sustainable.

5.2 - Coherence between policy and funding instruments

Since its adoption, the DDPP has been instrumental in guiding the EU's digital transition, providing a strategic framework for Member States and the European Commission. As we are now shaping the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2028-2034, the DDB sees the Review as a critical opportunity to leverage the DDPP's strategic ambition and ensure that EU funding instruments are cohesive, strategic, and results-driven for Europe's digital transformation. This will be essential to deliver on the digital transition as a recognised prerequisite to achieving Europe's long-term competitiveness.

The State of the Digital Decade reports have consistently underscored that achieving the DDPP's ambitions requires sustained, predictable investment that transcends individual funding cycles. Over the past four years, these reports have emphasized the need to:

- Maintain and deepen the priority given to digital in EU programmes, notably in light of the progressive phasing-out of the RRF, which currently represents a major source of digital investment across the Union;

- Use the DDPP and national roadmaps to steer both public and private investment toward progressing on Digital Decade targets and objectives;
- Adopt a longer-term, predictable horizon beyond 2030, while recognising that different digital domains may require differentiated trajectories and investment horizons depending on technological maturity, deployment cycles and infrastructure needs, emphasising that, to ensure momentum and readability, one target date should be prioritized.

The European Commission's proposal for the MFF 2028-2034, particularly through the ECF, proposes to increase annual investments in digital and technological capabilities. With the digital transition as one of its core objectives (and one of four policy windows), the ECF consolidates fragmented programmes into a single, simplified funding mechanism. The ECF's proposed 'Digital Leadership' window, is currently proposed to be explicitly dedicated to advancing the digital transition. Digital transformation is also integrated into other ECF windows, such as Security and Defence, and is a priority across Erasmus+, Horizon Europe and the Connecting Europe Facility. Additionally, Member States could include digital investments through their National and Regional Partnership Plans (NRPPs), either through standalone digital chapters or horizontal integration. It is noted that the consolidation of several major funding instruments within the ECF may increase competition between policy priorities and therefore requires ensuring sufficient visibility and prioritisation for digital investments.

At the same time, the Board notes that the future MFF architecture for 2028-2034, including the role of the NRPPs, remains under negotiation and has not yet been approved by Member States. This includes how the future funding architecture will interact with the DDPP and its implementation logic.

As discussions on the next MFF progress, the Board, through this Opinion, emphasises the importance of alignment between the EU funding instruments and the DDPP, without prejudice to the ongoing MFF negotiations. This enables the level of progress towards achieving Digital Decade targets to inform and drive funding opportunities. To achieve this, the Review could consider the following actions:

- Planning for the achievement of Digital Decade targets needs to take account of the new MFF timelines in order to provide continuity and longer-term predictability for strategic investments.
- Aligning the Digital Decade indicators with other measures of digitalisation and technology adoption, such as those present in the Annual Single Market and Competitiveness Report.
- Empowering the annual State of the Digital Decade Report to inform on investment needs in EU programmes by assessing progress on the Digital Decade.
- Reinforcing synergies with Capital Markets Union initiatives and measures aimed at strengthening private capital mobilisation, scale-up financing and ecosystem development for European digital enterprises.
- Encouraging earlier project preparation and implementation readiness, drawing lessons from the RRF experience, in particular where short implementation timelines and procedural complexity created delivery risks for digital projects.

The Board considers that by taking these steps, the EU funding instruments will much more effectively contribute to achieving the Digital Decade's strategic objectives. This will drive a coherent, impactful digital transformation across Europe where progress and measures at national level are amplified by actions at EU level.

5.3 - Alignment with competitiveness and sovereignty goals

The 2023 State of the Digital Decade Report estimates that fully achieving the Digital Decade agenda could unlock EUR 2.8 trillion in economic value - equivalent to 21% of the EU's economy. Realizing this potential requires a substantial acceleration in reforms and investments across digital technologies, skills, and infrastructure.

Moreover, according to an ECFIN study, digital RRF investments are estimated to generate a cumulative macroeconomic impact of EUR 302.3 billion by 2030, corresponding to a multiplier of around 2 - above the average estimated multiplier for the RRF overall. The study also highlights the strong cross-border spillover effects generated through the Single Market, with several highly integrated Member States benefiting from impacts significantly exceeding their direct national allocations. This underlines both the strategic importance of sustained digital investment and the added value of coordinated European action and integration within the Single Market.

The Single Market Strategy highlighted the significant gains that the Single Market has brought since its establishment, increasing EU GDP by 3-4% and generating millions of jobs. The Strategy echoes the goals of the Digital Decade agenda, calling for a greater digitalisation of the Single Market and wider adoption of innovative, interoperable digital solutions across the Union.

Recent geopolitical and external developments have further exposed the EU's critical dependencies on foreign technologies and providers, underscoring the urgency of strengthening Europe's global digital competitiveness.

In response, the 27 EU Member States adopted the Declaration for European Digital Sovereignty in November 2025, defining digital sovereignty as "the EU and its Member States' ability to act autonomously and to freely choose their own solutions, while reaping the benefits of collaboration with global partners, when possible". Building on this unified commitment with the already established goal of the DDPP for sovereignty in an open manner, the Review presents a pivotal opportunity for a more strategic and decisive approach.

Discussions at the Conference on the Future of Digital Investments in the EU (July 2025, Danish Presidency of the Council of the EU), highlighted the need for a clearer strategic direction for EU digital investment, stronger leverage of private capital, and improved pathways from research to market and scale-up within the Single Market. Building on these reflections, as well as the Joint Research Centre's work on digital sovereignty, the Review could consider:

- Developing a common European framework for analysing opportunities, comparative advantages, dependencies, and critical technologies, using insights from the State of the Digital Decade reports and EU Member States' insights to inform on investment priorities.
- Sharing the State of the Digital Decade reports with relevant bodies in the governance of the ECF to inform and recommend on future EU investments.

- Support the bodies being proposed and negotiated as part of the European Competitiveness Fund in adopting a realistic roadmap for strategic investments, prioritizing a set of key technologies that have the most impact on the EU's competitiveness and security, building towards technological competitiveness on select key digital technologies.
- Embedding regular horizon-scanning and foresight exercises (e.g., the European Innovation Council's FUTURINNOV initiative, Strategic Foresight Reports), to identify emerging technologies and innovation needs, and to inform annual MFF steering and prioritisation so that EU investments remain agile, forward-looking, and aligned with long-term goals.

The DDPP would then focus on building on Europe's collective strengths: a rich innovation ecosystem and very solid research capabilities, while addressing persistent barriers - particularly for SMEs - that hinder effective scaling within the Single Market. The Board considers it will help secure the EU's digital future, fostering global leadership in an increasingly competitive technological landscape.

To ensure that the 2026/2027 DDPP Review significantly contributes to closing the competitiveness gap highlighted in the Draghi Report, the above key areas of action recommended by the Board should be considered.

6. CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

- The DDB calls for a 2026/2027 DDPP Review that builds on its experience, strengths and unique positioning to make the DDPP more strategic and outcome oriented. By keeping in mind the priority to reduce administrative burden, addressing the existing challenges, streamlining governance and reporting, reviewing targets and indicators, and aligning policy and funding, the Review can strengthen Europe's resilience, competitiveness, and digital sovereignty in the decade ahead.
- The Review should ensure that the Digital Decade remains a strategic coordination instrument, aligned with the EU's regulatory framework, funding architecture and industrial competitiveness objectives, while preserving the integrity of the Single Market and ensuring proportionate governance.
- The DDB invites the European Commission to prepare the Review report and submit a legislative proposal building on the expertise and recommendations presented in this opinion.
- The DDB stands ready to engage further in a dialogue with the European Commission to make the DDPP as impactful as possible for delivering Europe's digital transformation.

Signed and agreed by the Digital Decade Board Members on 27 June 2026