



2030 DIGITAL DECADE

**Annex
Greece**

REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE DIGITAL DECADE 2023

Digital Decade Country Report 2023: Greece

Greece has scope to improve its performance in the digital transition and to contribute to the collective efforts to achieve the EU's Digital Decade targets. Greece has embraced the digital transformation as a strategic opportunity to build a more competitive and resilient economy and society with its [Digital Transformation Bible](#) for 2020-2025, which is aligned with the Digital Decade Policy Programme. While Greece has made rapid and tangible progress in digitalising public services over the past years, it needs to address significant gaps in the other dimensions, such as the low coverage of very high-capacity networks and the low number of ICT specialists employed.

Greece is collaborating with other Member States in exploring the possibility to set up **European Digital Infrastructure Consortia (EDICs)** on: (i) establishing the European Cybersecurity Skills Academy; (ii) establishing an Alliance for Language Technologies, to develop a common infrastructure in the field of natural language processing and to develop large multi-language models; and (iii) Innovative Massive Public Administration inter-Connected Transformation Services, to develop a new generation of advanced cross-border public services.

DIGITAL SKILLS

More than half of Greece's population have at least basic digital skills (52%), close to the EU average (54%). The percentage of ICT specialists in total employment in Greece is 2.5%, among the lowest in the EU. The share of women among ICT specialists is, at 20.3%, however above the EU average of 18.9%. The current outlook is weakened by several factors, such as the brain drain of digital talent, the lack of specialisation sought after by companies, which should be regularly screened, and the insufficient number of ICT graduates. In this context, Greece is expected to benefit from the recently launched 'Digital transformation executive network', which aims to coordinate more effectively the development, implementation, and evaluation of digital policies. Moreover, Greece is actively committed to contributing to the EU's 2030 digital skills targets and objectives by chairing the informal working group exploring the possibility of submitting a proposal for an EDIC on the European Cybersecurity Skills Academy.

Greece should significantly step up its efforts in the area of digital skills. The need to expand the digital talent pool of ICT specialists in Greece will require special attention to tackle the current gap and ensure the economy benefits from a digitally skilled population. It is also crucial that Greece can forecast the skills required to match the labour market needs and anticipate changes in skills.

Digital Decade Country Report 2023: Greece

DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Greece still lacks a comprehensive strategy to steer investments and initiatives aligned with the 2030 Digital Decade target of Gigabit connectivity for all. The country is lagging behind the EU average on fixed very high capacity network coverage (28% vs. 73%). The [Greek National Broadband Plan 2021–2027](#), adopted at the end of 2022, aims to put in place 100 Mbps infrastructure, readily upgradeable to 1 Gbps, which falls short of the Digital Decade target for universal Gigabit speeds by 2030. Greece performs much better on mobile connectivity and, as a frontrunner in making the 5G pioneer bands available, reached overall 5G coverage of 86% in 2022 (above the EU average of 81%).

Regarding other digital infrastructures, Greece actively participates in developing multi-country projects, e.g. in the European Quantum Communication Infrastructure (EuroQCI) initiative with HellasQCI. It also participates in the Important Project of Common European Interest (IPCEI) on Microelectronics and Communication with 6 direct participants focusing on design, edge AI, aerospace/defence, and packaging.

Greece should step up its efforts on connectivity infrastructure, in particular Gigabit coverage. Greece should further improve the effectiveness and coordination of initiatives to ensure coherence in achieving its connectivity goals. Greece's efforts in the area of semiconductors and quantum should be sustained in order to help the EU become a strong market player in these areas.

DIGITALISATION OF BUSINESSES

In 2022, Greece took several measures to create favourable conditions for businesses to speed up their digital transformation, but the digital intensity of SMEs and the uptake of advanced digital technologies by Greek businesses needs to step up to contribute to the collective efforts in reaching the Digital Decade targets. The level of digital intensity of SMEs in Greece is 41%, still far from the EU average of 69%. Regarding take-up of advanced digital technologies, enterprises in Greece have been slower at adopting them: in 2020 13% were using big data (EU average: 14%), whilst 15% were using cloud services (EU average: 34%), and only 3% were using AI (EU average: 8%). However, the digital technologies sector is one of the most dynamic sectors of the Greek economy, with growth rates among the highest in the country (6.1% between 2017 - 2021 in compound annual growth rate (CAGR) terms), which could boost Greece's contribution to the Digital Decade.

Greece should significantly step up its efforts in the area of digitalisation of businesses, notably by swiftly implementing the RRP measures and the ERDF Programmes, 'Competitiveness' and 'Digital transformation'. Attention should be paid to supporting the development and deployment of advanced technologies, including big data, AI, in particular in SMEs.

DIGITALISATION OF PUBLIC SERVICES

Greece continues to implement its ambitious strategy to digitalise the public services, making remarkable progress towards achieving the Digital Decade targets. While still performing below the EU average, in 2022 the score for digital public services increased to 65 for citizens (+13 points) and 74 for businesses (+26 points). Moreover, in 2022, the Hellenic Public Administration Certification Authority (APED) was launched to secure electronic identification, strengthen trust in services and improve authentication procedures in line with the eIDAS Regulation. Greece scores 61 on access to e-health records, significantly below the EU average of 72, as the scope of data accessible is limited and authentication is not handled with an electronic identification (eID) that has been notified or is compliant with the eIDAS Regulation. Nonetheless in 2022, several digital health projects were launched, such as the mobile application [Myhealth](#), which will contribute to the Digital Decade target of 100% of citizens having access to their e-health records.

Greece should step up its efforts to digitalise public services. In particular, it should notify to the Commission an eID scheme under the eIDAS Regulation. The roll-out of the considerable investments earmarked in the RRP for modernising the public administration should continue at the same pace to ensure that citizens and businesses benefit in the immediate future. On e-health records, the scope of data accessible should be expanded and equal access should also be strengthened for disadvantaged groups. Expanding the national telemedicine network should help providing equal access to health services for all residents of the country, regardless their location.

DIGITAL IN GREECE'S RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE PLAN (RRP)

The Greek RRP devotes EUR 7.1 billion (23.3%) to the digital transformation, of which EUR 6.8 billion is expected to contribute to the Digital Decade targets¹. The first payment disbursed related to 15 milestones and targets, including an IT tool to monitor the labour market and measures to support private investments in digitalisation. The second payment related to 28 milestones and targets, including the launch of a support scheme for digitalising SMEs. Further milestones and targets include modernising the lifelong learning strategy, upskilling and reskilling people in digital skills, and creating and upgrading infrastructure of research centres across the country.

¹ Based on Annex VII of the RRF Regulation. Furthermore, a qualitative assessment of the data took place to allow for an estimation of the possible contribution of RRF measures to the Digital Decade targets and the remaining part is also supporting the general objectives of the Digital Decade. This applies to all descriptions of the RRFs included in this Annex. The information provided refers to the Recovery and Resilience Plan as adopted by the Council before 1 September 2023, without prejudice to potential ongoing revisions of the plan.