EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 17.6.2026
SWD(2026) 155 final

PART 24/27

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

Slovakia

Slovakia

Contents

Executive summary

Slovakia's digital transformation is advancing, but structural weaknesses remain. A high share of young people display at least basic digital skills, but the overall proportion of individuals with at least basic digital skills is below the EU average, with particularly low levels among older groups. Small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) are catching up in basic digitalisation and businesses are gradually increasing their use of advanced technologies, but Slovak businesses still show lower levels of digitalisation compared to their EU peers and face significant ICT specialist shortages. Connectivity infrastructure has been markedly improved, yet rural areas are still underserved by fixed gigabit networks. Overall, while Slovakia has put interlinked strategies in place to support its digital transformation, issues such as funding availability, long-term planning and investments, as well as efficient project implementation and monitoring still represent key challenges.

Existing shortcomings in Slovakia's digital transition affect the country's **competitiveness**. Persistent gaps in digital skills across the population and workforce, together with a shortage of ICT specialists, restrict the pool of workers able to support businesses' digital transformation and slow down the adoption of tools such as cloud, data analytics and artificial intelligence (AI). Many SMEs still rely on relatively low-tech processes and lack the managerial and technical capacity for more advanced digital investments, hampering potential gains in productivity and innovation. Digital public services also remain below the EU average, with room for improvement in terms of interoperability and user-friendliness.

Slovakia is still consolidating the strategic capabilities needed to increase its **digital leadership**. The frontier-technology landscape – from deployment of advanced digital technologies at scale, to semiconductors, edge nodes, quantum technologies and a strong start-up/scale-up base – remains modest. Nevertheless, the 'Vision for Artificial Intelligence in Slovakia' and work on a national AI strategy, among other measures, signal growing ambition in AI uptake. In parallel, ongoing efforts supporting the development of a high-performance computing (HPC) ecosystem represent an important step towards strengthening research and innovation capacity. Importantly, the success of these initiatives will depend on clear, time-bound plans and stable, long-term financing to ensure the economy can reap the benefits associated with such technologies.

Slovakia in the Digital Decade

Slovakia shows a substantial level of ambition in its contribution to the Digital Decade having set 12 national targets (out of 14 possible), 83% of which aligned with the EU 2030 targets. In its national roadmap, Slovakia provided 12 trajectory points for 2025 (out of 13 analysed). The country is following them moderately well with 58% considered on track. Slovakia addressed 56% of the nine recommendations issued by the Commission in 2025 by making some changes through new measures. According to the national roadmap, by the end of 2026, 72% of the measures will come to an end. The total public budget associated to these measures is EUR 1.63 billion, representing 72% of the total public budget outlined in the roadmap.

According to the special Eurobarometer on the Digital Decade 2026, 79% of Slovak people consider that digital policy should have a high or very high priority in shaping our future in Europe. They also think that, in the next 10 years, the EU should cooperate with Member States to reinforce cybersecurity and protection from online threats (93%), promote digital education and skills programmes (92%) and strengthen the regulation of online platforms (84%).

In addition, 79% of Slovak respondents think that the EU should reduce its dependencies on digital from non-EU countries, and 86% that EU should prioritise investments in digital infrastructure and services that are developed and controlled in Europe. Meanwhile, 54% would be willing to switch to an EU-based digital service provider even if it means slightly higher costs.

Funding for digital and multi-country projects

Slovakia allocates 21% of its total recovery and resilience plan to digital (EUR 1.2 billion). In addition, under cohesion policy, EUR 0.7 billion, representing 6% of the country's total cohesion policy funding, is dedicated to advancing Slovakia's digital transformation.

Slovakia is a member of the Local Digital Twins towards the CitiVERSE European Digital Infrastructure Consortium (EDIC). Slovakia directly participates in the Important Project of Common European Interest (IPCEI) on Microelectronics and Communication Technologies (IPCEI-ME/CT) and in the Tech4Cure IPCEI. Slovakia is also a participating state of the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking (JU) and of the Chips JU.

Digital Decade KPI (1)	Slovakia				EU		Digital Decade target by 2030	
	Last available	DESI 2026 (year 2025)	Annual progress	National trajectory	DESI 2026	Annual progress	SK	EU
Fixed Very High Capacity Network (VHCN) coverage	73.0%	83.6%	14.5%	64.0%	85.5%	3.7%	100.0%	100%
Fibre to the Premises (FTTP)	67.8%	76.0%	12.2%	-	74.1%	7.1%	-	-
Basic 5G coverage	87.9%	93.9%	6.7%	85.0%	96.8%	2.6%	98.5%	100%
Edge Nodes (estimate, new methodology)	-	107	-	-	7451	-	-	10000
SMEs with at least a basic level of digital intensity *	42.2%	57.1%	16.3%	65.0%	71.4%	11.0%	90.0%	90%
Cloud *	30.2%	32.9%	4.5%	39.0%	46.7%	9.5%	75.0%	75%
Artificial Intelligence	10.8%	18.0%	67.0%	18.0%	20.0%	48.0%	75.0%	75%
Data analytics *	30.2%	38.8%	13.3%	18.0%	39.9%	9.5%	75.0%	75%
AI or Cloud or Data analytics *	45.8%	55.1%	9.8%	-	63.2%	7.5%	-	75%
Unicorns	0	0		1	324	10.2%	3	500
At least basic digital skills *	51.3%	53.6%	2.2%	57.0%	60.4%	4.3%	70.0%	80%
ICT specialists	4.6%	4.4%	-4.3%	4.0%	5.0%	2.0%	6.0%	~10%
e-ID scheme notification		Yes						
Digital public services for citizens	72.6	76.3	5.1%	76.0	84.6	2.8%	100.0	100
Digital public services for businesses	73.4	73.9	0.6%	87.0	88.6	2.7%	100.0	100
Access to electronic health records	72.0	72.0	0.0%	55.0	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

Slovakia has made significant progress in deploying **digital infrastructure**. Very high capacity networks (VHCN) and fibre-to-the-premises (FTTP) coverage experienced marked growth, while 5G networks in urban areas achieved near total coverage. However, VHCN and FTTP coverage remains significantly lower in rural areas, where low population density, high per-premises deployment costs and complex permit procedures continue to slow roll-out and limit commercial viability.

In the business sector, Slovakia is making efforts to address structural barriers to digitalisation, particularly among **SMEs**, but despite promising growth, SME basic digitalisation is still lagging behind. Ongoing support measures, such as European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs) and dedicated loans, are well regarded by businesses and encourage medium- to long-term planning, but the overall coverage of such initiatives is modest compared to the needs of the business population. Limited access to funding and understanding of digital technologies, as well as skills shortages within the workforce, represent underlying challenges to the digitalisation of businesses.

The **uptake of advanced digital technologies** has gradually improved in recent years but remains below broader EU levels. Slovakia is putting in place the policy and institutional framework to support wider adoption, with a particular focus on AI and high-performance computing (HPC). However, progress in these areas needs to go hand-in-hand with raising the basic level of digitalisation in the business sector, as many businesses are not yet digitally mature enough to integrate advanced technologies effectively. The **start-up and scale-up ecosystem** remains relatively small and marked by structural weaknesses: venture capital activity is limited, access to first customers is difficult, and large companies are often reluctant to work with new businesses.

Protecting and empowering EU people and society

Digital skills of the population and ICT specialist availability remain bottlenecks in the digital transformation of the Slovak economy. Overall **digital skills** are below the EU average, with particularly low levels among older and disadvantaged population groups, despite a comparatively strong performance among young adults (16-24). A wide range of measures, including an ongoing curriculum reform, are being rolled out, but their full impact will take time to materialise. At the same time, Slovakia faces persistent shortages of **ICT professionals** across both public and private sectors, negatively affecting the digitalisation of the economy. Such shortages are compounded by limited opportunities and resources for upskilling and reskilling the workforce and limited participation of women in the ICT sector.

The **digitalisation of the public sector** is progressing but faces implementation challenges. Work on the digitalisation of 16 “priority life situations” continues, aiming to digitalise a set of key public services by 2026. However, further improvements are needed in relation to the user-friendliness, interoperability, transparency and the adoption of a uniform approach for eGovernment services across the public administration. The digitalisation of healthcare has advanced, promising time savings for the public and improved interoperability once fully implemented. However, Slovakia continues to lag behind the EU average in achieving universal public access to electronic health records (EHRs) by 2030.

Recommendations

- **Digitalisation of SMEs**: Strengthen and scale up the existing support framework for business digital transformation by ensuring the medium- to long-term continuity of key support structures (e.g. EDIHs) and expanding the scale and reach of existing instruments and access to finance. Improve the outreach and visibility of existing instruments, while ensuring that support measures are easy to access and do not impose an excessive administrative burden. Expand support for digital skills, managerial awareness, and digital transformation planning capacity within businesses, including by building on existing initiatives such as the “Digital Skills for a Green Future of Slovakia” project. Promote a

gradual digitalisation pathway for SMEs, from basic digital foundations to the uptake of advanced technologies.

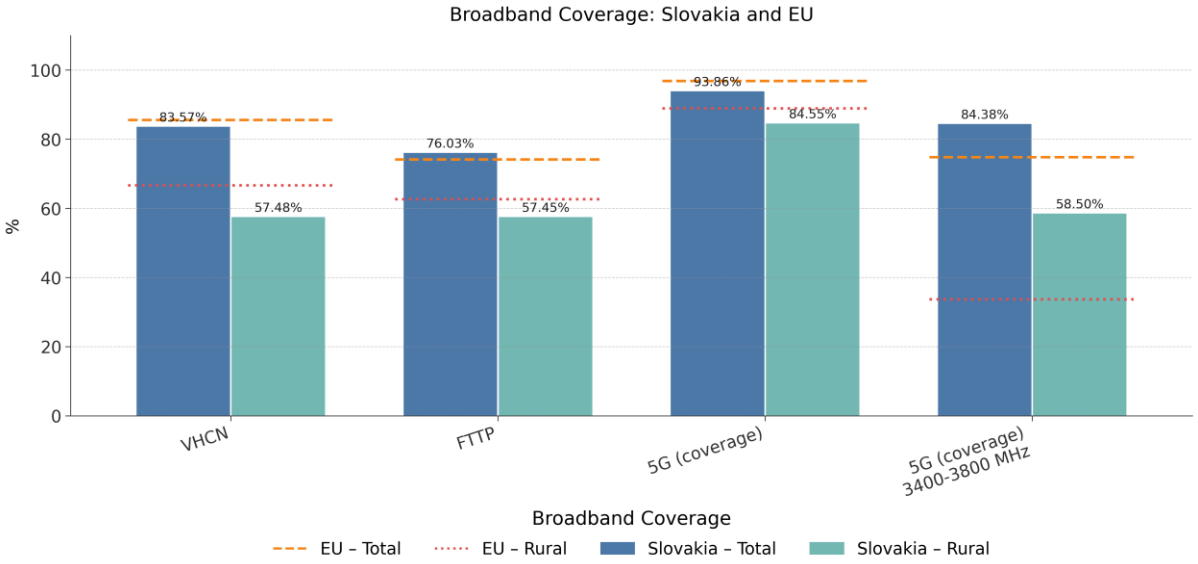
- **ICT specialists**: Scale up flexible, labour-market-oriented upskilling and reskilling opportunities for specialised ICT profiles in both the private and public sectors. Expand and adapt higher education and vocational ICT pathways in line with labour market needs, while strengthening measures to retain ICT graduates in Slovakia. Moreover, continue to address barriers to women's entry, retention and progression in ICT studies and careers, for instance through targeted outreach, guidance, and support measures.
- **Digital skills**: Expand opportunities to acquire and regularly update digital skills, with a focus on the workforce and socio-economic groups with lower-than-average levels of digital skills, so as to better support labour market participation and businesses' digital transformation. Moreover, further strengthen digital education across the school system, including through continued teacher training and support, as well as targeted measures for students from disadvantaged backgrounds and marginalised communities.
- **Advanced digital technologies**: To maximise the impact of investments in AI and HPC and promote tangible value creation for the economy, adopt a coherent national approach that supports long-term sustainability and scalability. Continue to strengthen the national AI ecosystem by building on existing national infrastructural and energy resources and expertise, and promote the integration of the Slovak AI ecosystem into the wider EU ecosystem (for instance through EDIHs, AI factories, and Technical Experimentation Facilities, as well as through greater use of sector-specific support under the Apply AI strategy).
- **Digital public services:** To improve user-friendliness and uptake, enhance interoperability, transparency, and consistency across digital public services, while strengthening implementation capacity of digital public service projects across the public administration, notably as regards inter-ministerial/agency coordination, monitoring and evaluation. Increase the availability of digital public services for cross-border citizens and businesses.
- **Connectivity**: Sustain the rollout of gigabit-capable fixed networks, prioritising the closure of gaps in rural and underserved areas, for instance by targeting public support to digital infrastructure deployment and by ensuring the coordination of funding programmes and regulatory measures at national and regional level to support balanced deployment. Foster demand and uptake, while cooperating with industry stakeholders to address deployment barriers and support timely rollout. Promote the deployment of 5G SA (standalone) networks and enable advanced use cases.
- **Semiconductors**: Strengthen the semiconductor ecosystem by ensuring that participation in EU semiconductor initiatives, in particular the current IPCEIs on Microelectronics and Communication Technologies (ME-CT) and on Advanced Semiconductor Technologies (AST), receive full and timely support and translate into broader domestic capability-building for relevant companies.

A competitive, sovereign and resilient EU based on technological leadership

Building technological leadership: digital infrastructure and technologies

Connectivity infrastructure

Performance assessment



Slovakia has achieved 83.57% of Very High Capacity Networks (VHCN) coverage after a strong increase of 14.5% in 2025 and remains only slightly below the EU average of 85.54%. As such, Slovakia's growth rate outpaced the EU-wide growth rate of 3.70%. In 2024, Slovakia's VHCN coverage was 72.97%, which was also below the EU average of 82.49%. For households living in sparsely populated areas, Slovakia's VHCN coverage was 39.62% in 2024, significantly lower than the EU average of 61.87%. In 2025, this figure rose to 57.48%, still below the EU average of 66.66% but significantly narrowing the gap. Slovakia's annual growth rate in these areas was an impressive 45.10%, far exceeding the EU's growth rate of 7.70%. Overall, Slovakia is on track with the trajectory presented in its Digital Decade national roadmap.

Slovakia is at 76.03% of Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) coverage after an increase of 12.2% in 2025, slightly surpassing the EU average of 74.13%. While in 2024, Slovakia's FTTP coverage was 67.76%, marginally below the EU average of 69.24%, Slovakia's annual growth rate surpassed the EU's growth rate of 7.10%. In sparsely populated areas, Slovakia's FTTP coverage was 39.34% in 2024, lower than the EU average of 58.76%. By 2025, this figure had increased to 57.45%, closely approaching the EU average of 62.61%. Slovakia's annual growth rate in these areas was 46.0%, significantly outpacing the EU's growth rate of 6.50%. Slovakia did not provide a national trajectory point for 2025 in the Digital Decade national roadmap.

Slovakia basic 5G coverage reached 93.86% after an increase of 6.70% in 2025 and stands close to the EU average of 96.79%. As such, the country is on track with the trajectory presented in its Digital Decade national roadmap. In 2024, Slovakia's 5G coverage was 87.94%, lower than the EU average of

94.35%. Slovakia's annual growth rate was higher than the EU's growth rate of 2.60%, which allowed it to narrow the gap with the EU level. For households in sparsely populated areas, Slovakia's 5G coverage was 72.51% in 2024, lower than the EU average of 79.58%. By 2025, this figure had significantly risen to 84.55%, still slightly below the EU average of 88.88%. However, Slovakia's annual growth rate in these areas was 16.60%, higher than the EU's growth rate of 11.70%.

Slovakia reached an 84.38% 5G coverage in the 3.4-3.8 GHz band after an increase of 19.60% in 2025, exceeding the EU average of 74.75%. As such, Slovakia surpassed the EU's growth rate of 10.6%. The 3.4-3.8 GHz mid-band is crucial because it provides a good balance between coverage with high capacity, making it a cornerstone for advanced 5G use cases, that can be replicated as reference models across sectors, and socio-economic drivers. These include applications in manufacturing, such as industrial IoT, or healthcare, for example telemedicine. In 2024, Slovakia's coverage in this band was 70.57%, already higher than the EU average of 67.60%. In rural areas, Slovakia's coverage was 46.69% in 2024, significantly higher than the EU average of 25.36%. By 2025, this figure had substantially increased to 58.50%, remaining well above the EU average of 33.71%. Slovakia's annual growth rate in these areas was 25.36%.

Slovakia has made significant progress in expanding its broadband coverage, particularly in fixed VHCN, FTTP, and basic 5G coverage, getting close to or even surpassing, average EU coverage levels. In many cases, Slovakia's annual growth rates outpace those of the EU, particularly in sparsely populated areas. However, room for improvement remains, especially in rural areas.

The table below provides an overview of VHCN, FTTP and 5G coverage across NUTS-2 regions in Slovakia, highlighting some regional variation. For fixed networks (VHCN and FTTP), Western Slovakia (*Západné Slovensko*) records the weakest performance. As noted above, rural coverage is generally low across the country. However, regional differences show that rural coverage is broader in the Bratislava (*Bratislavský kraj*) and Eastern Slovakia (*Východné Slovensko*) regions, while Western Slovakia again records the lowest levels. As regards 5G, overall coverage exceeds 90% in all regions, with the highest coverage achieved in the Bratislava region, and rural coverage is above 80% across rural areas.

	VHCN coverage		FTTP Coverage		5G Coverage	
	Overall	Rural	Overall	Rural	Overall	Rural
National coverage	83.57%	57.48%	76.03%	57.45%	93.86%	84.55%
Bratislavský kraj	94.11%	64.23%	80.91%	64.23%	98.43%	82.71%
Stredné Slovensko	79.66%	58.01%	73.90%	58.01%	91.76%	85.61%
Východné Slovensko	91.32%	67.88%	83.07%	67.88%	91.25%	80.54%
Západné Slovensko	75.71%	49.83%	70.14%	49.74%	95.00%	86.42%

In terms of 5G SIM card take-up, Slovakia is at 47.44% of the total population after an increase of 78.7% in 2025, yet it remains below the EU average of 55.55%. In 2024, Slovakia's share was 26.54%, compared to the EU's 35.56%. The growth rate of 78.7% in Slovakia surpasses the EU's annual growth rate of 56.2%, indicating a significant pace of adoption, albeit from a lower starting point.

The share of fixed broadband subscriptions with speeds of 1 Gbps or more stood at 3.18% in 2025, after an increase of 16.4%, which is considerably lower than the EU average of 26.97%. In 2024, Slovakia's share was 2.74%, while the EU's was 22.25%, after a stronger growth rate of 21.2%.

Policy context and assessment of recommendations

The rollout of VHCN and FTTP advanced significantly in Slovakia over the past year, driven by ongoing investment from telecom operators. This brought FTTP coverage slightly above the EU average, and VHCN coverage close to EU levels. However, existing obstacles still constrain the pace and extent of deployment towards achieving Digital Decade targets. Economically, rollout is hindered by rising costs for construction, labour, and materials, with additional pressure from higher energy prices, inflation and increased taxation. Administratively, operators report that permit procedures can be lengthy and administratively complex, with a relatively low degree of digitalisation and differing practices across municipalities.

The above-mentioned economic and administrative challenges are more acute in rural and sparsely populated areas, which historically have lower coverage by gigabit networks. Networks deployment in rural areas underwent a strong increase between 2024 and 2025, but existing obstacles tend to make investment more difficult to justify for telecom operators. The geographical characteristics of the territory, low population density and dispersed households translate into long routes for relatively few customers, which raises the cost per premises of civil works, permits and surface restoration. To address these issues, in 2025, Slovakia had planned EUR 112 million worth of investment in connectivity measures, including a dedicated measure to support the deployment of gigabit infrastructure in rural areas. However, while the preparatory work to support this measure was carried out, the related amount was ultimately reallocated to different priorities, which may negatively affect Slovakia's progress towards addressing the urban-rural divide.

Noteworthy changes to the legal framework entered into force in 2025, in particular the new Construction Law (April 2025) and the Gigabit Infrastructure Act (GIA), implemented through an amendment to the Act on Electronic Communications (effective from 12 November 2025). Given the recent implementation of these measures, an assessment of their impacts is premature. However, initial feedback indicates that they have brought noteworthy changes. A key positive effect of the GIA concerns customer connection lines. The new Construction Law initially made the last 100 metres from the pavement to the house subject to notification, but this was reversed by the GIA. At the same time, the Construction Law sought to simplify permit procedures by merging planning and building permissions into a single procedure. However, telecom operators report that, in practice, this is expected to make some minor works more complex, as simple interventions require more extensive project documentation and multiple consents. Moreover, implementation of the updated rules on the ground is uneven. Municipalities across the territory tend to apply different approval requirements and often impose additional side conditions, such as surface restoration. Digitalisation is also incomplete, hence paper and electronic procedures may run in parallel. The Office for Spatial Planning and Construction, established in 2022 is in charge of providing a unified permit framework, but progress in this area has not yet fully materialised.

Demand-side factors might also weigh on gigabit deployment, limiting uptake. Demand for very high-speed internet in Slovakia remains relatively modest, especially outside major urban centres, which makes it harder for operators to justify large-scale investments in gigabit networks. Notably, the share of fixed broadband subscriptions >= 1 Gbps in 2025 is 3.18% (only slightly increased from 2024), compared to an EU average of 26.97%. the share of fixed broadband subscriptions >= 100 Mbps in Slovakia also remain low compared to EU average, reaching 48.84% in 2025 (compared to the EU's 71.88%). Many households seem to consider existing broadband speeds sufficient and perceive limited added value in higher-speed FTTP offers, which might reflect, among others, lower levels of

teleworking and only gradual uptake of advanced e-Government, e-Health and other data-intensive services.

In this context, the government's 'Online Pupil – Social Vouchers for Internet Connection for Pupils' project (State aid approved by the European Commission in 2025) is an attempt to promote fixed broadband access for specific vulnerable groups, including primary and secondary school pupils from families in material need or with special educational needs. While expected to cover 48 000 pupils over two years, however, the vouchers are limited to ensuring access to a stable home internet connection of at least 30 Mb/s, rather than stimulating demand for gigabit-capable services.

At the same time, Slovakia has no fixed copper switch-off date or binding time plan. Slovak authorities support voluntary copper migration by the incumbent dominant operator but lack mandatory timelines or copper switch-off areas. The switch-off of copper networks can play an important role in ensuring the take-up of fibre. Together with demand support, this can contribute to fostering investments and fully unlocking the benefits of the connectivity ecosystem, while maximising the socio-economic value of high-speed infrastructure.

In addition to economic and administrative barriers, market structure and access conditions to infrastructure also shape incentives for gigabit rollout. The Slovak telecom market is characterised by a concentrated structure in the mobile segment, with four nationwide mobile network operators accounting for the vast majority of subscribers and revenues. In contrast, the fixed broadband market is more fragmented, with the same four bigger players joined by a significant number of additional operators, including both larger regional providers and smaller local ones, which play an important role in the provision of broadband services. Operators point to difficulties in access to key wholesale inputs, such as passive infrastructure and backhaul capacity, which can create bottlenecks that affect infrastructure-based competition and the pace of gigabit network deployment, particularly in less densely populated areas. Against this background, the Regulatory Authority for Electronic Communications and Postal Services is conducting, in line with European Commission guidance, a market analysis of 'Wholesale local access services provided at a fixed location', focusing on whether wholesale access to fixed networks is provided under conditions that support effective market entry and expansion. In parallel, the Antimonopoly Office of the Slovak Republic has launched a sector inquiry into the deployment of fibre networks on electricity poles and the terms under which alternative operators can access both the underlying infrastructure and the networks built on it.

2025 recommendation on VHCN/FTTP: Facilitate infrastructure deployment by lifting administrative barriers and supporting collaboration between stakeholders, especially for the deployment of fibre optic networks.
In 2025, Slovakia made some efforts to address the recommendation through new policy actions. Nonetheless, Slovakia made solid progress in the rollout of VHCN and FTTP, increasing coverage in both urban and rural areas and approaching the EU average. This progress was entirely driven by telecom operators' investment. Public authorities took some steps to facilitate infrastructure deployment, particularly with updates to the regulatory framework associated with the implementation of the GIA. Initial feedback to the current framework associated with VHCN/FTTP rollout points to improvements but also indicates that administrative procedures remain complex in certain cases, with lack of a unified methodology across municipalities. The Antimonopoly Office and National Regulatory Authority are examining whether access conditions and market dynamics enable effective competition at the wholesale level, which is

expected to influence the ability of operators to deploy and scale fixed networks, thereby shaping the overall environment for gigabit rollout.

Despite strong improvement, deployment of gigabit networks in rural areas is particularly constrained by high costs and administrative and geographical barriers, combined with relatively low demand, resulting in lower coverage than in urban areas.

5G deployment in Slovakia achieved good progress in 2025, with improvements in both coverage and technological maturity. As nationwide coverage approaches 100%, the focus is expected to shift towards increasing capacity and improving the user experience in densely populated urban areas, including the rollout of more advanced 5G and 5G+ capabilities. The 5G-netowrks expansion was driven by substantial private investment and the refarming of spectrum following the complete switch-off of 3G services in September 2025.

In July 2025, Slovakia concluded its largest multi-band auction of mobile spectrum to date, covering the 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1 500 MHz, 2 100 MHz, 2 600 MHz (FDD) and 2 600 MHz (TDD) bands. It was the largest spectrum award ever held in Slovakia, and it is expected to improve service quality by enabling mobile operators to extend coverage, increase mobile broadband speeds and provide more stable connections. The requirements set out in the auction tender documents feature progressively stricter coverage and deployment obligations across frequency bands and operator types (existing vs new entrants). Low-frequency bands (800 MHz and 900 MHz) are subject to the highest obligations, with all operators required to achieve at least 95% population coverage by 2033. Higher frequency bands have less stringent requirements, ranging from partial population coverage to minimum base station deployment across regions. However, given technological neutrality, these obligations relate to network deployment rather than explicitly to 5G. At the same time, licences in the 3.4-3.8 GHz band entered into force in September 2025 and are expected to support a more capacity-driven phase of 5G deployment, particularly in dense urban and high-traffic areas.

In parallel, **Slovakia has also begun deploying more advanced 5G Standalone (SA) networks**. While only 3.1% of the country's 5G base stations are 5G SA (below the EU average of 22.2%)[1], two mobile operators launched commercial 5G SA services in 2025, with coverage expected to reach around 52% of the population by the end of the year, currently focused on business (B2B) customers. A third operator plans to introduce 5G SA in 2026.

Despite the progress achieved, structural barriers remain, reflecting the broader challenges faced in deploying fixed broadband networks. Complex administrative and permit procedures, inconsistencies between municipalities, and rising costs affect 5G networks deployment particularly in rural areas. Notably, Slovakia's mountainous terrain makes network deployment more complex, particularly in valleys and remote areas, often requiring additional infrastructure to ensure consistent 5G coverage. Combined with a scattered settlement pattern that increases costs and reduces commercial incentives, this makes it more difficult to extend coverage to all populated areas despite high overall population coverage. Broader regulatory and cost pressures, including new cybersecurity obligations, also add to operators' operational burdens. Local anti-5G activism, sometimes echoed by municipalities, can further complicate site acquisition and upgrades.

On the demand side, the picture is mixed. While coverage is now very high, full uptake depends on users having 5G-capable devices, appropriate SIM cards and prices. Notably, less than half of the

[1] European 5G Observatory 2026.

population (47.44%) had 5G SIM cards in 2025. However, this represents a major increase on 2024, when just 26.57% of the population used 5G SIM cards.

Semiconductors

Slovakia is not a strong chip manufacturer but has taken some initial steps to stimulate the building of a semiconductor ecosystem. In 2024, the government and academia launched the Slovak Chips Competence Centre in Bratislava – aligning with the EU Chips Act initiative – to support research, development, education and prototyping. Activities in Slovakia will focus on power electronics, including module design, assembly and packaging, and testing. The centre brings together government, universities and industry to strengthen domestic capabilities and create a semiconductor ecosystem in Slovakia.

Two Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEI) in the field of chip production continue to progress well and are delivering promising early results. The project 'Memristor technology R&D for industry' aims to develop cutting-edge technologies and AI solutions, with a focus on advanced chip products and embedded systems optimised for neuromorphic, memristor-based applications. The second IPCEI project has completed the development phase of a single-chip wireless receiver integrating multiple functions to reduce cost and electricity consumption, and it has performed very strongly. However, constraints in public funding may affect the progress of the project. Adequate and continued funding and timely support will be required to progress to the production phase, as well as foster broader domestic capacities and company participation in current and future projects.

Edge nodes

Performance assessment

According to the Edge Node Observatory, Slovakia is estimated to have deployed a total of 107 edge nodes by 2025. Due to a change in methodology, this number cannot be compared to previous estimations.

Policy context and assessment of recommendations

Edge node deployment in Slovakia remains at a very small scale, driven mainly by private actors. In Slovakia, there is not currently a lead public authority assigned for national edge infrastructure strategy, and no specific new national programmes have been reported. However, in light of the growing spread of AI, the ongoing industrial digitalisation, and the EU's strategic autonomy objectives, the importance of edge nodes is likely to rise significantly, warranting greater attention from each Member State.

Quantum technologies

Slovakia's principal activity in quantum technologies remains the development of a national quantum communication network. In December 2025, under the skQCI project (part of EuroQCI), the country activated its first commercial quantum-secured link between Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice and the University of Prešov, described as the first fully operational component of the planned network. A hybrid national system combining quantum key distribution with post-quantum cryptography is being deployed, connecting key institutions in Bratislava, including the Office of the President, the National Security Authority, and the Slovak Academy of Sciences' Quantum Pavilion. The wider backbone is still being rolled out: plans include the set up of 12 nodes between Bratislava

and Košice and potential cross-border connections to neighbouring countries, currently at the construction or planning stage.

Once fully deployed and integrated into the European Quantum Communication Infrastructure, Slovakia's network will enable end-to-end quantum-secure communications, strengthening the protection of sensitive data across critical sectors. Moreover, full deployment could support high-value digital services and investment, although cost, scalability, and technological choices remain relevant considerations.

On the human-capital side, the Slovak National Centre for Quantum Technologies (QUTE.sk) has launched training programmes and awareness-raising activities for industrial partners and potential users, as well as the mobiQUTE and fellowQUTE schemes to support mobility and early-career research in quantum technologies and strengthen international links.

Supporting EU-wide digital ecosystems and scaling up innovative enterprises

SMEs with at least basic digital intensity

Performance assessment

As of 2025, a majority of Slovak SMEs (57.09%) have achieved at least a basic level of digital intensity, marking a notable increase from 42.19% in 2023 (+16.3%), though still remaining well below the EU average of 71.38%. A positive trend in the digitalisation of SMEs thus emerges, with an annual growth rate of 16.3%, which outpaces the EU's growth rate of 11.0%. However, SMEs with a very high digital intensity only constituted 5.37% of the total in 2025, below the EU average of 9.07%. Overall, Slovakia is lagging behind it's the trajectory presented in its Digital Decade national roadmap.

Policy context and assessment of recommendations

While there has been solid progress, the digitalisation of SMEs in Slovakia continues to be constrained by structural factors, notably digital skills gaps within businesses, limited access to funding and low understanding of the added value of digital technologies. If these challenges persist, they may weaken SMEs' ability to adopt productivity-enhancing technologies and respond effectively to changing market conditions, undermining broader competitiveness by slowing innovation and reducing efficiency gains. Recent policy measures to support business digitalisation have sought to tackle these challenges by prioritising micro-enterprises and SMEs and addressing systemic needs related to skills development and the financing of digital transformation.

Key initiatives include the **Digitrans** scheme, the pilot of which was completed in 2025 and supported 200 micro-enterprises with very low levels of digitalisation through a EUR 2 000 voucher and ad hoc advice. Beneficiaries highly valued Digitrans's simple procedures, the limited administrative burden and rapid support it provided, which proved particularly useful as a first step in their digital transformation. Feedback from the pilot suggests that companies receiving technical assistance alongside a financial voucher were able to implement digital tools more effectively and demonstrated a greater willingness to invest their own resources beyond the grant. However, the overall impact of the scheme is constrained by the relatively small size of the financial assistance provided.

Another relevant measure is a **guarantee loan with a grant component** launched in 2025 and available through various financial institutions, with the purpose of supporting investments to promote digitalisation and automation, as well as competitiveness and the green transition. The instrument has

been well received by businesses, who consider it well suited to support digital transformation because it mobilises substantial resources in connection with a medium- to long-term business plan.

Slovakia also continued to support the operations of five European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs). The EDIHs have provided valuable, tailored assistance to businesses at different stages of digital maturity and are perceived positively. However, their experience also highlights structural weaknesses in the business base and the wider ecosystem. Geographical and sectoral imbalances emerge, with digital readiness and investment appetite being generally stronger in the Bratislava and Košice regions, while the Prešov region tends to be less developed. Traditional firms also tend to be harder to attract, as they are often unaware of, or hesitant about, investing in digital solutions, making it more difficult to reach those most in need. Generally, IT providers are highly willing to cooperate within the EDIHs, but engaging end-user SMEs is more challenging. Looking ahead, the continuation of EDIH activities is uncertain, as funding beyond May 2026 is not guaranteed, due to reallocations within Programme Slovakia and the absence of national co-funding.

The limited availability of funding for digitalisation remains a persistent challenge, suggesting a need to expand existing support measures. Current schemes reach only a small share of the businesses that could benefit, and demand exceeds available resources. The long-term availability and potential for scale-up of support schemes are constrained by limited national resources and heavy reliance on EU funding. At the same time, visibility and outreach could be improved, as many enterprises are either unaware of available programmes or unsure of their practical benefits.

In parallel, **the persistent shortage of relevant digital skills and ICT specialists represents a structural barrier to businesses' ability to pursue digital transformation**. Many SMEs lack personnel capable of understanding, specifying and managing digital transformation projects. The formal education system produces an insufficient number of ICT specialists, and relevant training, upskilling or reskilling opportunities for workers are limited. Industry representatives report that, while companies are generally willing to invest in training, only a small share uses existing courses. Such limited uptake could be due to a mismatch between training offer and business needs, alongside constraints on time and resources; as a result, most learning happens informally in the workplace.

In this context, the ongoing 'Digital Skills for a Green Future of Slovakia' project is particularly relevant, as it aims to establish a standardised reference framework for assessing digital and green skills. Designed in cooperation with industry and experts, it is intended to align closely with business needs. As part of the project, conferences and seminars on automation, robotics and cybersecurity are organised to provide practical know-how for strategic decision-making. These activities represent a positive step forward, complementing other measures to support training within the digital transition (see section on ICT specialists and basic digital skills), but a corresponding expansion of the actual training offer will be needed to meet training needs.

2025 recommendation on SMEs: Continue building on existing measures targeted at SMEs (e.g. EDIHs, Digitrans), expanding their scope and pool of beneficiaries, while ensuring continued support in the medium to long term.
In 2025, Slovakia continued the implementation of existing measures but did not apply any new measures. Over recent years, Slovakia has pursued an approach aimed at tackling structural challenges related to the digitalisation of its business sector, with a particular focus on SMEs. These measures are generally well regarded by businesses – especially EDIHs and financial instruments such as loans and grants – as they provide targeted support while requiring enterprises to develop a medium- to long-term plan. However, their scale and coverage remain limited: support still reaches only a minority of potential beneficiaries and persistent regional disparities and skills

shortages are underlying challenges. Moreover, funding beyond the current programming period, particularly for EDIHs, is uncertain due to limited national resources and continued heavy reliance on EU funding. As a result, the system currently benefits only a relatively small share of businesses and has not yet achieved the scale, continuity or visibility required to support digitalisation more broadly across the economy in the medium to long term.

Take up of advanced technologies

Performance assessment

The adoption of advanced digital technologies among Slovak businesses improved in 2025, especially as concerns the use of AI and data analytics. In these technologies, Slovakia demonstrated stronger growth rates than the EU average, although overall uptake among Slovak businesses remains lower than at EU level. A relatively weaker improvement was registered in the use of cloud technologies. Following a similar trend as their EU peers, the degree of adoption of advanced technologies is considerably higher among large enterprises than among SMEs.

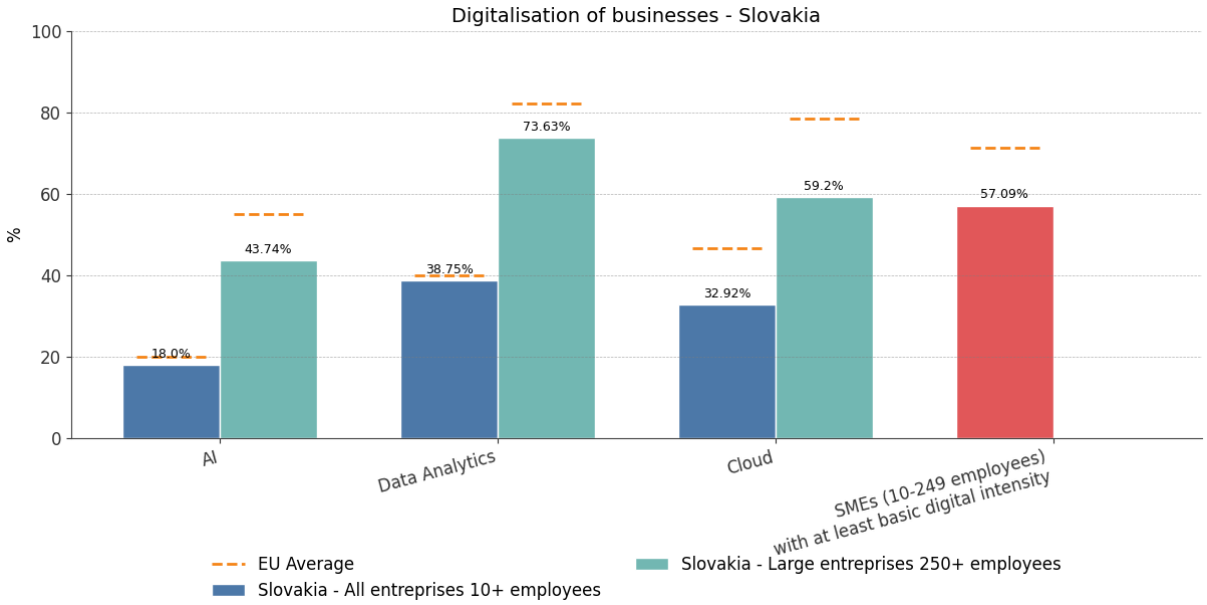
AI uptake saw the most substantial increase, with 18.0% of Slovak enterprises adopting AI in 2025. This figure remains slightly below the EU average of 19.95% but underwent a strong growth rate of 67.0% since 2024, which is higher than the EU's growth rate of 48.0%. This means Slovakia is on track with the trajectory presented in its Digital Decade national roadmap. In 2024, the adoption rate in Slovakia was 10.78%, compared to the EU average of 13.48%. Looking specifically at SMEs, 16.91% adopted AI in 2025. While this was below the EU average of 18.9%, Slovak SMEs underwent a stronger improvement of 69.1% since 2024, compared to the EU's 49.5%. For large enterprises, 43.74% had adopted AI in 2025, below the EU average of 55.03%, but with a growth rate of 50.3%, above the EU's growth rate of 33.7%.

Data analytics adoption also showed robust progress, with 38.75% of Slovak enterprises adopting data analytics in 2025. While this figure is lower than the EU average of 39.85%, it reflects an annual growth rate of 13.3% since 2023, above the EU's growth rate of 9.5%. The country is on track according to the trajectory presented in its Digital Decade national roadmap. In 2023, the adoption rate in Slovakia was 30.17%, compared to the EU average of 33.25%. Specifically, 37.28% of Slovak SMEs had adopted data analytics in 2025, with an annual growth rate of 14.2%, again outpacing the EU's growth rate of 9.7%. Nevertheless, this figure is below the EU average of 38.59%. For large enterprises, 73.63% adopted data analytics in 2025, below the EU average of 82.03%, and experienced a lower growth rate of 3.6%, compared to the EU's 6.9%.

As opposed to AI and data analytics, the uptake of cloud technologies experienced limited progress. 32.92% of Slovak businesses adopted cloud solutions in 2025, with an annual growth rate of 4.5%. Cloud technologies adoption is thus considerably lower than the EU average of 46.69%. As such, Slovakia is lagging behind compared to the trajectory presented in its Digital Decade national roadmap. The EU's growth rate was also higher at 9.5% annually since 2023. In 2023, the adoption rate in Slovakia was 30.16%, compared to the EU average of 38.97%. For SMEs, 31.81% adopted cloud technologies in 2025. This figure is below the EU average of 45.74% and experienced a lower growth rate of 4.6%, compared to the EU's 9.7%. Meanwhile, 59.2% of large enterprises adopted cloud technologies in 2025, with a growth rate of 2.3%, which is lower than the EU's growth rate of 6.0%. This figure is also significantly lower than the EU average of 78.32%.

Taking the adoption of AI, cloud, or data analytics technologies together, 55.12% of Slovak enterprises engaged with at least one of these technologies in 2025, While experiencing an annual

growth rate of 9.8% between 2023 and 2025 – higher than the EU's 7.5% – overall uptake is below the EU average of 63.2%. In 2023, the adoption rate in Slovakia was 45.76%, compared to the EU average of 54.7%. Among SMEs, 53.74% adopted at least one of these technologies in 2025, below the EU average of 62.32%. However, Slovak SMEs experienced an annual growth rate of 10.2% since 2023, which is higher than the EU's growth rate of 7.7%. Conversely, large enterprises experienced a slightly lower annual increase of 3.1% in uptake of AI, cloud or data analytics compared to the EU average of 3.4%. While the vast majority (87.93%) of Slovak large enterprises adopted at least one of these technologies in 2025, this figure is still slightly below the EU average of 92.78%.



Policy context and assessment of recommendations

Slovakia is working to create an environment conducive to the development and uptake of advanced digital technologies, with particular emphasis on promoting AI and building an ecosystem for HPC. In doing so, it is seeking to balance this ambition with support for the digitalisation of less digitally mature enterprises - especially SMEs (see section 'SMEs with at least basic digital skills'), which represent over 99% of all Slovak enterprises – as many still need to make significant progress in basic digital capabilities before they can effectively adopt advanced technologies. Many SMEs continue to rely on simple accounting software and fragmented processes, and they often face uncertainty or lack of understanding around data protection, the use of AI tools and basic cybersecurity. A shortage of ICT specialists and limited digital skills across the wider workforce further slows the transition to more advanced solutions.

In December 2025, the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatisation (MIRRI) presented a 'Vision for Artificial Intelligence in Slovakia' (Vízia AI pre Slovensko) as the basis for a forthcoming national AI strategy, setting out a strategic framework for AI adoption built on energy efficiency, digital sovereignty and safety. Complementing this initiative, the Slovak Centre for Artificial Intelligence Research is leading related work, including preparatory activities on the national AI strategy, an AI sandbox, an AI popularisation campaign and an online AI information point, supported by targeted funding from MIRRI. Overall, the policy approach aims to create a structured, predictable environment in which businesses can gradually experiment with and adopt AI in a secure and legally compliant manner. It is important to foster the careful and well-informed integration of AI into business operations, ensuring that its use is meaningful and sustainable. At the same time, significant work is still needed to strengthen education and awareness on AI, enabling businesses to assess safe

and ethical uses and to understand how existing regulations, particularly the AI Act, should be implemented.

Slovakia has also been selected to receive EU funding for an AI antenna ('SKAIAT'), linked to AI:AT, the AI Factory in Austria. This AI Factory Antenna aims to enhance cross-border innovation and scientific excellence, accelerate the development and deployment of trustworthy AI solutions in Central Europe, foster interdisciplinary collaboration and industry-academia partnerships, and contribute to the European ecosystem for human-centric and sustainable AI.

Slovakia is strengthening its role in HPC, with new national supercomputing infrastructure becoming operational and further systems planned. The high-performance computer Devana was installed at the Slovak Academy of Sciences in 2023 and is used primarily by researchers and scientists for tasks such as climate and environmental modelling, materials science, bioinformatics, and the development and testing of machine learning models. **Between 2025 and 2026, Slovakia launched its first supercomputer**, Perun, distributed across two sites: the Technical University in Košice, whose system was launched in late 2025, and the Slovak Academy of Sciences, whose system became operational in March 2026. Together, the supercomputing systems are intended to provide integrated infrastructure-support tasks, such as large-scale simulations, climate modelling and AI training.

The positive impact of Slovakia's HPC infrastructure hinges on sustained operational funding, effective user support, and the successful translation of infrastructure into real-world use going beyond research and academia. To secure these outcomes, large-scale support for such advanced technologies should be anchored in a long-term plan, setting measurable milestones to validate its value and viability over time. Current projections, including estimates from the Slovak Academy of Sciences, underscore the scale of this commitment, with annual operational costs for the supercomputer alone reaching approximately EUR 1.7 million.

Against this backdrop, Slovakia's AI ecosystem can build on the resources, infrastructure and expertise already present in the country. The AI Factory Antenna provides an initial framework for coordination, cross-border collaboration and knowledge transfer, while the expanding HPC infrastructure strengthens national capacity for compute-intensive research and AI development. Together, these assets create a basis for linking scientific excellence with industrial uptake, skills development and wider deployment across the economy. Slovakia's energy resources, particularly nuclear power, may also represent a relevant enabling factor in supporting the long-term operation of compute-intensive AI and HPC infrastructure.

2025 recommendation on AI, Cloud and Data analytics: Accelerate the implementation of planned measures, prioritising solutions that limit administrative burden and ensure transparency. In particular, continue supporting the uptake of AI across businesses and in the public administration, addressing existing informational and managerial barriers.
In 2025, Slovakia made some efforts to address the recommendation through new policy actions supporting AI uptake, particularly through the 'Vision for Artificial Intelligence in Slovakia', preparatory work on a national AI strategy, and targeted initiatives to support the understanding and uptake of AI technologies. However, ongoing measures remain at an early and preparatory stage, hence their full impact can only be assessed in the longer term. The uptake of advanced technologies, especially AI and data analytics, experienced a solid increase, but adoption levels in Slovakia still lag behind the EU average. While continuing to strengthen uptake, it will be important to guide the use of such technologies, especially AI, in a way that is

meaningful and adds real value to the economy, accompanied by continued training and awareness-raising among the business population.

Significant progress has been made in developing an HPC ecosystem, which is expected to be valuable for research and academia in particular. However, it will be crucial to secure stable long-term operational funding and the necessary supporting infrastructure, so that investments translate into sustained, practical benefits.

Overall, persistent basic digitalisation gaps and skills shortages, especially among SMEs, continue to constrain the broader uptake of advanced technologies, underlining the need for enterprises to reach a basic level of digital maturity before they can fully benefit from AI, HPC and other advanced tools.

Unicorns, scale-ups and start-ups

Performance assessment

At the beginning of 2026, Slovakia had yet to see the emergence of any unicorn companies. This means that the country is lagging behind the trajectory presented in its Digital Decade national roadmap, which anticipated the emergence of one unicorn by 2025.

Policy context and assessment of recommendations

Slovakia's start-up and scale-up ecosystem is relatively small and marked by structural weaknesses. Venture capital is limited (0.016% versus EU average of 0.063% of GDP in 2024), and this is compounded by weak access to first customers and the reluctance of large companies to work with start-ups, making proof-of-concept development and scaling particularly difficult. According to the Startup Report Slovakia 2025 compiled by SLSP and Civitta – based on a survey of 183 start-ups and 41 investors from across Slovakia – key shortcomings include poor access to investors, complex financing conditions, and a lack of state support. As a result, half of the surveyed start-ups are planning to leave the country.

Public support for start-ups and scale-ups is close to absent. Recent support measures are relatively small in scale. They include MIRRI's efforts to develop a functional GovTech market through the 'Hacknime.to' initiative, which has organised six hackathons and produced nine winning start-up solutions. These solutions were then able to progress to the implementation stage, with the public administration acting as a reference client. MIRRI is also co-financing five EDIHs, which provide access to testing infrastructure, and is preparing an AI Regulatory Sandbox in cooperation with the national Centre for Artificial Intelligence. Public support has additionally enabled 15 Slovak start-ups to participate in international events, enhancing their visibility and access to investors. On the other hand, the plan to establish a European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) office in Slovakia, included in the 2024 adjustment of Slovakia's Digital Decade roadmap, has been abandoned.

At the academic level, the Slovak University of Technology has developed a University Technology Incubator (InQb) that supports students and graduates in developing business ideas into start-ups and connects them with investors, corporates, and the wider innovation system, potentially offering a new pathway for nurturing start-ups.

Overall, the absence of stable, dedicated instruments for start-up investment, combined with the small size of the domestic market, means that many Slovak start-ups still view international relocation as a necessary step for scaling.

2025 recommendation on Unicorns: Expand existing measures aimed at supporting the growth of scale-ups and start-ups that drive innovation and invest in emerging technologies
In 2025, Slovakia made some efforts to address the recommendation through new policy actions. The country undertook a few small-scale initiatives to support the growth of start-ups and scale-ups. However, such initiatives are insufficient to address the structural weaknesses of the start-up and scale-up ecosystem, which remains modest.

Strengthening cybersecurity and resilience

Slovak enterprises are lagging slightly behind their EU peers in the implementation of cybersecurity measures, with 51.96% of enterprises applying at least five cybersecurity measures in 2024 (out of 11 measures as measured by Eurostat), lower than the EU average of 56.85%. Gaps with respect to EU levels are particularly pronounced in maintaining log files for analysis after security incidents (38.73% in Slovakia compared to 45.16% in the EU) and data backup to a separate location (including backup to the cloud) (73.17% in Slovakia compared to 79.23% in the EU). On the other hand, a larger share of Slovak enterprises (43.19%) uses encryption techniques for data, documents or emails compared to the EU average (39.72%). Slovakia also recorded one of the lowest shares of enterprises reporting ICT security incidents in 2024, at just 12%, with the EU average of around 22%.

A shortage of cybersecurity specialists in the Slovak labour market negatively affects both the public administration and the private sector. At the same time, prevention measures within the broader population are insufficient, pointing to low awareness of cybersecurity risks. In 2025, 66% of Slovak citizens reported using digital safety measures, such as checking website security or reading privacy statements before sharing personal data, compared with an EU average of 74.6% (Eurostat). A public opinion survey by the Cybersecurity Competence and Certification Centre of the Slovak Republic (1 000 respondents) also showed that many residents underestimate cybersecurity risks and apply only limited security practices: 66% use the same password for multiple accounts, 60% do not use multi-factor authentication, over 50% do not perform basic backups, and awareness of concepts such as ransomware and phishing remains low. At the same time, according to the 2026 Digital Decade Eurobarometer results, 93% of Slovaks believe that, over the next 10 years, the EU should cooperate with the Member States to reinforce cybersecurity and protection from online threats (EU 91%).

Slovakia is implementing a range of measures to strengthen cybersecurity in public administration, mainly funded through the RRF and Programme Slovakia. MIRRI has launched calls worth over EUR 40 million, enabling more than 100 public organisations to improve security monitoring, standardisation, training, and critical infrastructure protection based on risk analyses. Key initiatives include establishing sector-based security operations centres, making critical infrastructure more secure, and improving cybersecurity skills and awareness among students and public sector employees. The Central Cybersecurity Portal, launched in 2025, serves as the official cybersecurity support platform across public institutions, acting as a central hub with tools, guidelines and educational resources for public authorities. Upcoming plans include a national project to help smaller municipalities implement shared security services and access expert support. These measures, together with inspection activities and growing international cooperation, are framed by the new National Concept of Informatisation of Public Administration, which prioritises compliance, resilience, awareness, training and stronger coordination among key security actors. Through the RRF, Slovakia is also integrating 930 critical IT systems into a central incident management and early warning system, supported by new technologies, a threat catalogue and a cybersecurity management methodology, to be fully implemented by 30 June 2026.

Slovakia

The government's computer security incident response team (CSIRT) handled several incidents in 2025 and proactively scans the infrastructure of more than 300 public bodies for vulnerabilities, with the long-term aim of covering 800 entities, while monitoring domain availability and providing threat intelligence. However, room for improvement in strengthening incident detection capabilities and structured incident reporting remains. In February 2026, the Slovak government approved the new National Cybersecurity Strategy for 2026-2030, intended to function as a 'strategic compass' for cybersecurity by strengthening infrastructure resilience, governance and coordination, ensuring alignment with EU rules and enhancing preparedness for future technologies. The strategy will be further operationalised by an action plan for 2026-2030 specifying implementation tasks for central state bodies.

2025 recommendation on cybersecurity: Continue ongoing efforts to strengthen cybersecurity, while also allowing the appropriate authorities to enforce prompt and necessary actions to mitigate identified threats or weaknesses.

In 2025, Slovakia continued the implementation of existing measures but did not take any new measures. The country maintained ongoing and planned efforts to strengthen the cybersecurity of its public administration and improve the prompt mitigation of threats.

However, cybersecurity maturity and compliance in public sector organisations is still sub-optimal, compounded by legacy systems and vendor lock-in, and room for improvement exists in incident detection and reporting. As a result, although the strategic direction and core capacities are taking shape, the ability to ensure timely and systematic mitigation of threats and vulnerabilities across the entire public administration is still only partially in place.

Moreover, society-wide cybersecurity remains constrained by persistent human-factor risks, low awareness and poor digital hygiene, as well as a shortage of qualified cybersecurity specialists in both the private and public sectors.

Going forward, there is room for increasing Slovak research institutions and companies' participation in the Horizon Europe cybersecurity call, based on targeted interventions and including dedicated national co-funding initiatives, ENISA partnership programmes or partnerships between universities and industry.

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

Slovakia shows promising growth in digital skills among young adults, but it lags behind the EU in overall digital proficiency, particularly in rural areas and among older adults.

In 2025, 53.56% of individuals aged 16-74 had least basic digital skills, **following an increase of 2.2% annually since 2023**, when the figure was 51.31%. **This places Slovakia below the EU average**, which rose from 55.56% in 2023 to 60.40% in 2025, reflecting an annual growth rate of 4.3%. The country is lagging behind the trajectory presented in its Digital Decade national roadmap.

On a positive note, 80.53% of young adults aged 16 to 24 in Slovakia have at least basic digital skills, surpassing the EU average of 74.55 and experiencing a stronger annual growth rate (6.8% compared to the EU's 3.2%). However, the gap between this age group and those aged 55 to 74 is considerable at 50.01 percentage points, much higher the EU average (31.95 percentage points). Among older adults aged 55 to 74, only 30.52% possess at least basic digital skills, which is lower than the EU average of 42.6%, and growing at a slower pace (2.4% since 2023, below the EU's 7.2%).

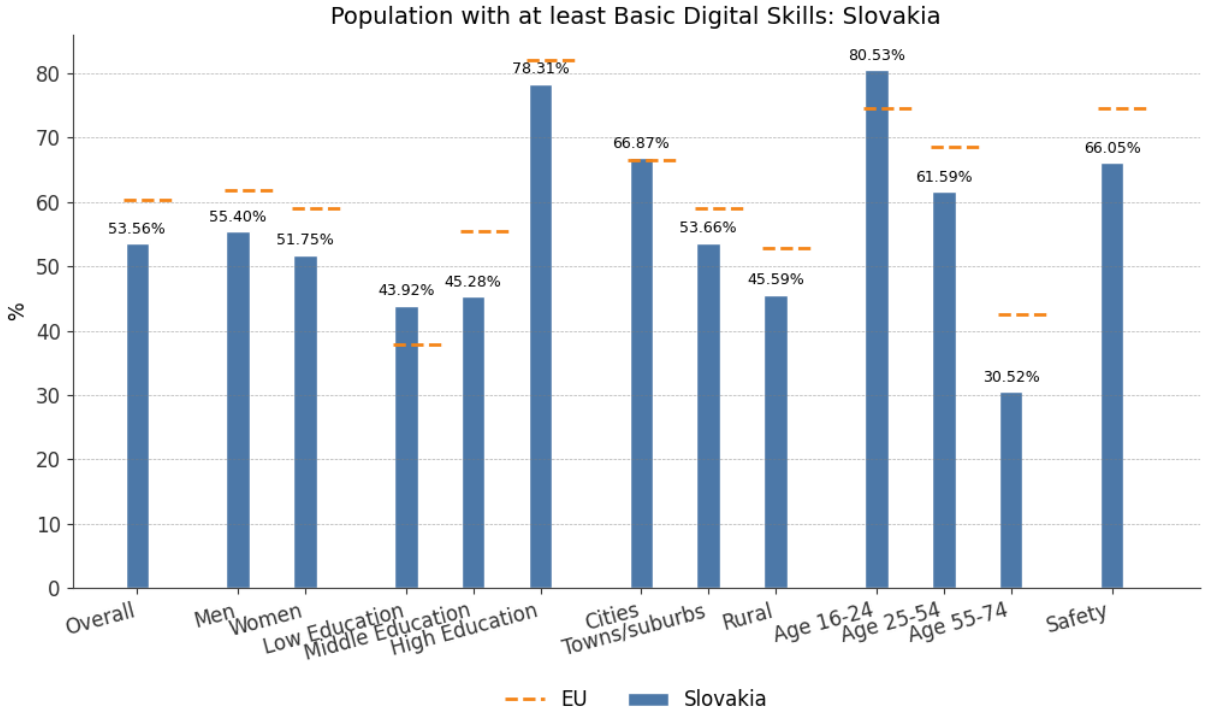
While in the urban areas of Slovakia the proportion of individuals with at least basic digital skills is broadly in line with the EU average (66.87% in Slovakia compared to 66.50% at the EU level) and an annual growth rate of 4.0% (exceeding the EU's 3.1%), **the challenge is more evident in rural areas**. In these areas, only 45.59% of individuals have at least basic digital skills, compared with an EU average of 52.83%, having experienced a slower-than-EU-average annual growth rate (1.8% vs 5.5%) since 2023.

A gender gap also exists, with more men (55.4%) than women (51.75%) possessing at least basic digital skills. This gap is wider than the EU average of 2.75 percentage points. In terms of growth since 2023, Slovakia's male population saw an annual increase of 2.6%, while the female population experienced a slower growth rate of 1.7%, both of which are below the EU averages of 4.4% for men and 4.1% for women.

Following a similar trend at the EU level, fewer individuals with lower education tend to have at least a basic level of digital skills. Among Slovaks with no or low formal education, 43.92% have at least a basic digital skills attainment level, which is about 10 percentage points lower than the national average, but higher than the EU average of 37.56% for this group. Slovakia's growth rate in this category is notably high at 16.6% annually since 2023, surpassing the EU's 5.7%.

In terms of digital safety skills, 66.05% of individuals in Slovakia reported taking actions to protect their personal data online in 2025, which is lower than the EU average of 74.63%. The annual growth rate for this indicator is 1.7%, below the EU's 3.6%.

In 2025, 30.79% of people in Slovakia used generative AI for all purposes, slightly below the EU average of 32.66%. For professional purposes, 10.95% of people in Slovakia used generative AI, which is lower than the EU average of 15.36%. Notably, based on the results of the Digital Decade Eurobarometer 2026, the biggest obstacles to use or greater use of generative AI tool in the Slovak public's personal, working or education lives include concerns about privacy or data protection (39%, EU 39%), concerns about inaccuracy or incorrect information (35%, EU 36%), and concerns about potential job losses due to generative AI tools (31%, EU 28%).



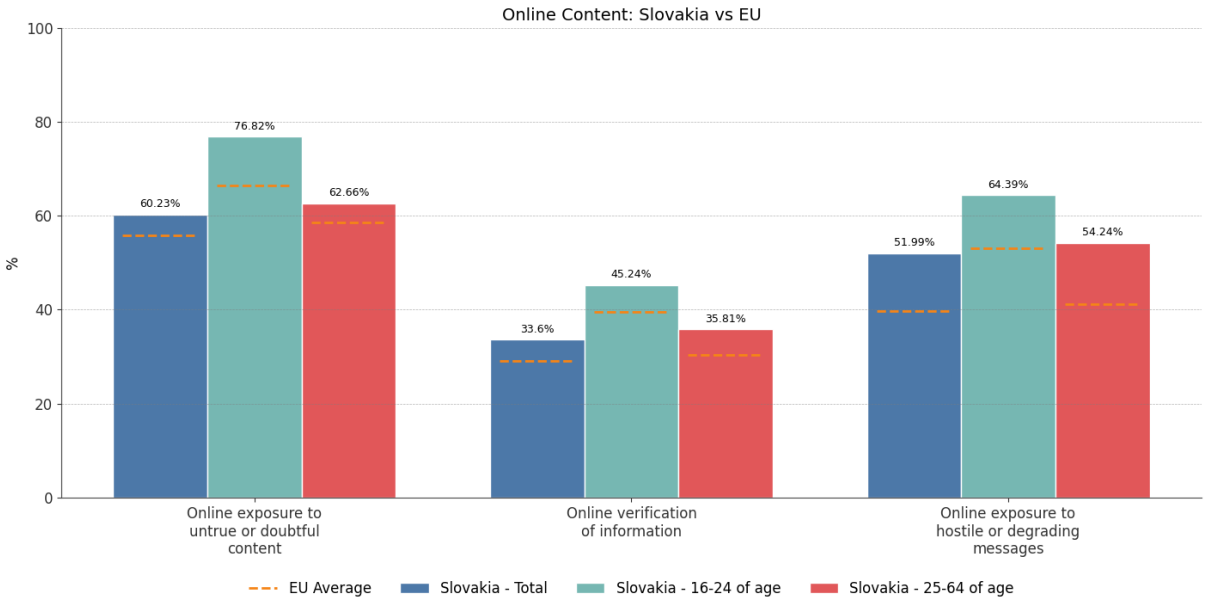
In 2025, 60.23% of individuals in Slovakia were exposed to untrue or doubtful content, standing above the EU average of 55.90%, following an annual increase of 5.5% since 2023 (lower than the EU's 6.5%). Trends across age groups reveal higher exposure among younger individuals, with 76.82% of 16- to 24-year-olds being exposed to such content in 2025, compared to 62.66% of those aged 25 to 64. This represents a gap of 14.16 pp. between the two age groups, which is significantly higher than the EU average gap of 7.77 pp. Notably, Slovakia's growth rate for the younger age group (7.0%) exceeds that of the EU (3.7%), while the growth rate for the older age group (4.0%) is lower than the EU's (6.4%).

For fact-checking, Slovakia ranked above the EU average (29.16%) in 2025, with 33.6% of individuals verifying the truthfulness of online content. However, Slovakia's annual growth rate of 6.2% is lower than the EU's 9.6%. Looking at behaviour across age groups, a positive trend emerges among younger people, with 45.24% of individuals aged 16 to 24 in Slovakia having verified online content in 2025, compared to 35.81% of those aged 25 to 64. This represents a gap of 9.43 pp., slightly higher than the EU average gap of 9.09 pp. However, the share of 16-24-year-olds verifying the truthfulness of online content remained stable since 2023 (-0.6% annual growth rate), as opposed to an annual increase of 6.7% at EU level. While stronger than for young people, the growth rate for the older age group (7.1%) is also lower than the EU's (9.9%).

The data reveals a concerning trend in the share of individuals exposed to hostile or degrading messages, which reached 51.99% in 2025, considerably above the EU average of 39.72%, after an

increase of 3.2% annually since 2023. Significantly higher exposure rates were registered among young people: 64.39% of individuals aged 16 to 24 in Slovakia were exposed to hostile or degrading messages in 2025, compared to 54.24% of those aged 25 to 64. This represents a gap of 10.15 pp., which is slightly lower than the EU average gap of 11.85 pp. However, Slovakia's growth rate for the younger age group (2.5%) is lower than that of the EU (5.6%), and the growth rate for the older age group (2.3%) is also lower than the EU's (9.2%).

Overall, **Slovakia consistently reports higher percentages of individuals exposed to untrue or doubtful content, as well as hostile or degrading messages, compared to the EU averages**. However, the annual growth rates for these issues in Slovakia are generally lower than those observed at the EU level. Younger individuals (aged 16 to 24) are more likely to be exposed to these online risks but are also more likely to verify the truthfulness of online content compared to older adults (aged 25 to 64).



Policy context and assessment of the recommendations

Positive trends are emerging in the digital skills of young people in Slovakia, but the overall picture remains mixed.

Lack of sufficient digital competencies within the working-age population constitutes a key challenge, undermining the workforce's digital capabilities and its capacity to support businesses' digital transformation. In this context, the low proportion of individuals with above-basic digital skills (21.16% versus an EU average of 31.43%) points to a limited baseline of digital literacy across the population, which can constrain businesses' ability to adopt digital tools at scale and increases reliance on employer-provided training. A better understanding of the potential and use of digital technologies is also needed at managerial level to effectively steer business digitalisation.

The education system as a whole faces several challenges that are reflected in the way digital skills are taught and acquired. Slovakia is experiencing a shortage of teachers, particularly STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics). This shortage is more pronounced in regions with high living costs and in rural areas, where securing stable staffing is especially difficult. The resulting territorial imbalances contribute to differences in the quality of education provided to students. At the same time, the existing teaching workforce's levels of digital proficiency vary from

institution to institution and are sometimes insufficient, affecting teachers' ability to integrate digital skills effectively into the curriculum and to support the development of students' technological capabilities. Students from disadvantaged backgrounds often have weaker basic skills and face particular barriers to acquiring the digital skills they need, due to challenges in accessing basic tools and high-quality education.

A range of measures is in place to respond to these issues, but improvements in digital skills take time to materialise. Ongoing efforts to promote digital competence development within the education system largely stem from the curriculum reform, which is being progressively rolled out and embeds digital citizenship and digital skills more comprehensively across education levels. In the 2024/2025 school year, the national curriculum was expanded to over 400 primary schools and complemented by the implementation of RRF investments in equipment and high-speed connectivity. The systematic professionalisation of the digital coordinator role in schools is intended to provide teachers with hands-on technical and methodological support for incorporating digital skills into their teaching practice. Specialised training modules seek to enhance educators' digital competencies and pedagogical skills, particularly in relation to using digital tools across different subjects. In parallel, efforts are under way to integrate AI in education, through the Plan for Responsible Use of AI in Education 2025-2027 and the provision of 20 000 ChatGPT Edu licences for teachers training.

Slovakia continues to support the **IT Fitness Test**, the largest digital competence testing initiative in the Visegrád Group, which reached its 15th edition in 2025. The IT Fitness Test is a free online assessment tool, covering four main categories: (i) internet; (ii) security and computer systems; (iii) office tools; (iv) social networks and collaborative tools. In 2025, a new test – the IT Master Test – was introduced to assess advanced digital skills, covering encoding information; complex security tasks; complex search tasks; and algorithmic thinking. In 2025, in Slovakia, 18 616 primary school students (7-16) participated, achieving an average success rate of 55.09%; 923 primary school teachers took the test, with a success rate of 68.57%. In turn, 37 458 high school and university students (over 15) took the test, with a success rate of 58.69%, while 3 519 high school and university teachers participated, reaching a success rate of 67.98%. The best results of participating students were achieved in the category of 'security and computer systems', followed by the 'internet' category. The worst performing category was that of 'office tools'. The results of the test suggest that Slovak students perform well in identifying security risks and can easily search for information, but they demonstrate limitations in finding connections, solving unknown situations, working in a team and understanding texts and data. Meanwhile 1 942 respondents participated in the IT master test. Of these, students (1 679) achieved a success rate of 60.4%, whereas teachers (263) achieved a success rate of 73.02%.

Slovakia also designed measures for the digital inclusion of disadvantaged groups. In 2025, vouchers for the purchase of digital equipment were distributed to over 130 000 students, with a parallel scheme providing digital equipment vouchers to 9 300 Ukrainian students resident in Slovakia. In the first half of 2025, consultations were launched with representatives of municipalities and the non-profit sector to identify needs at the local level, with particular attention on young people living in excluded communities. These consultations will result in a comprehensive analysis of the digital literacy needs of marginalised Roma communities, and the findings will feed into the tasks envisaged under the Action Plans of the Roma Equality, Inclusion and Participation Strategy 2030 (2028-2030). Specific measures also target seniors, combining training and outreach activities with the distribution of equipment.

The issues of online safety and disinformation are gaining increasing importance in Slovakia. Perceptions reported in the Digital Decade Eurobarometer 2026 results show that 92% of Slovaks (EU 92%) consider it a priority for the EU to strengthen the protection of children and young people online. Moreover, 89% of citizens in Slovakia believe that online manipulation (such as disinformation, foreign interference, AI-generated content, deepfakes) poses a threat to democratic processes (EU 87%). In turn, in the context of the enforcement of EU legislation on the behaviour of online platforms, such as social media and online marketplaces, the issues that Slovaks feel have the biggest personal impact on them are fake news and disinformation (57%, EU 53%), misuse of personal data (51%, EU 47%), and insufficient protection of minors (41%, EU 41%).

Against this background, **Slovakia is taking practical steps on online safety, with a focus on children's safety**. In 2026, MIRRI prepared a first draft of a specific law on protecting children in the digital space, aimed at setting clear and enforceable rules for safer online services. To combat disinformation, MIRRI supported a 2025 call by the Slovak Digital Coalition to fund activities that help prevent the spread of false information, identity abuse and organised disinformation campaigns. The call focused on awareness-raising, media and digital literacy, critical thinking skills and encouraging trust in quality journalism. With EUR 200 000 available and 70 applications submitted requesting almost EUR 1.4 million, the initiative highlighted both demand among organisations and the perception that disinformation is a significant issue requiring more systematic responses.

2025 recommendation on basic digital skills: Continue implementing existing measures to enhance the level of digital skills across all population groups, while ensuring that all educators possess adequate training, especially IT and mathematics teachers.
In 2025, Slovakia continued to implement existing measures to promote the acquisition of basic digital skills but did not adopt any new measures. The implemented measures largely stem from the Implementation of the National Digital Skills Strategy 2023-2026 and its action plan, which have largely been successfully delivered. Ongoing and past initiatives targeted all population groups, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups (people from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds and seniors), as well as students and teachers more broadly. While outcomes among young people (16-24) are positive, performance still varies markedly by living area, age, educational attainment and gender. Ensuring sustained digital skills development across society – and addressing structural weaknesses in the wider education system – will take time to fully materialise. At the same time, greater emphasis should also be placed on the working-age population, who are essential to supporting businesses' digital transformation.

ICT specialists

Performance assessment

In Slovakia 4.4% of those in total employment are ICT specialists in 2025, which is below the EU average of 5.0%. This follows a slight decrease of 4.3% from 4.6% in 2024. Women represent 15.5% of ICT specialists, below the 19.5% EU average, and one of the lowest shares in the EU. Nonetheless, Slovakia is on track with the trajectory presented in its Digital Decade national roadmap.

Policy context and assessment of the recommendations

Slovakia's labour market faces significant ICT skills shortages, particularly of highly skilled experts such as programmers, IT architects, cybersecurity specialists and data analysts, as reported by the Ministry of Labour. These skills gaps represent a key challenge for the Slovak economy, and have a direct impact on competitiveness and innovation. They form part of wider skills gaps in the labour market, largely driven by delayed responses of the education system to labour market needs, regional disparities and limited flexibility in qualification pathways.

With an inter-ministerial approach, Slovakia is making efforts to reform curricula and enhance the quality of studies in STEM fields, to increase the number of graduates in ICT study programmes at secondary vocational schools, specialised grammar schools, and higher education institutions. Positively, the share of ICT graduates increased by 10.4% between 2023 and 2024, reaching 5.3% in 2024. Notably, according to national level data, enrolments in ICT-focused programmes rose by 1 948 students between the 2021/2022 and 2024/2025 academic years, while tertiary enrolments in ICT programmes having risen by 747 students between 2022/2023 and 2024/2025. Despite this positive trend, a shortage of relevant skills persists, with graduate numbers being insufficient to meet labour demand. Moreover, Slovakia experiences substantial student outflow to higher education abroad, with many students not returning to Slovakia's labour market, with particularly low return rates among IT graduates.

At the same time, **companies struggle to train employees due to constraints related to funding and time, as well as the limited suitability of available training**. According to industry representatives, although firms report interest in investing in skills, most training occurs on the job, pointing to a shortage of agile, tailored options and concerns over staff retention after upskilling. The 'Digital Skills for a Green Future of Slovakia' project is an important first step. The project mapped green and digital skills profiles in close collaboration with businesses, providing a useful tool to identify training needs; however, the training offer needs to be expanded and made more flexible to support upskilling and reskilling at scale.

Various measures have been put in place in recent years to support the digital transition of the labour force. The 'Activation of Young NEETs for the Digital Age' project assesses young people's digital skills and then provides tailored training to support their transition into suitable careers. In parallel, the 'Support for Workforce Adaptation to the Digital Transformation of the Labour Market' project helps workers adjust to digital change through awareness raising, capability assessments and individual career coaching; both projects are due to end in 2027. In addition, the national 'Skills for the Labour Market' project seeks to boost the employability and adaptability of jobseekers – especially those under 30 – by offering retraining and education geared towards roles most in demand in AI, digitalisation and the green transition. However, while these measures contribute to improving digital skills among the general population and supporting labour market participation, their focus remains predominantly on basic and intermediate skills. As such, their direct contribution to addressing the shortage of ICT specialists in the Slovak economy is likely to be limited, as they do not primarily target the development of highly specialised ICT profiles.

Women are also under-represented in the ICT sector, accounting for only 15.5% of ICT specialists. The 2025 'Women in IT' survey by the civic association Aj Ty v IT, based on a sample of 800 women, reveals the existence of a pool of women in the Slovak labour market who are interested in developing digital skills and entering the ICT sector. However, key obstacles include limited training offers by businesses, financial and time constraints, and fear of failure. Women more broadly face structural barriers related to education pathways, career orientation, and workplace conditions that limit their entry, retention, and progression in the sector.

Efforts are under way to promote women's participation in ICT studies and careers. For example, the 'Digitálna Strelka' platform, launched in April 2025, provides girls, parents and teachers with structured information on ICT professions, study pathways, career opportunities and required skills. Through long-term cooperation with non-profit organisations, the Slovak government also supports educational and motivational activities for girls at different stages of education, such as coding camps, career events, workshops and programming competitions. Other initiatives include the annual

European Day for Women and Girls in ICT and Girls' Day visits, aimed at strengthening girls' interest, confidence and preparedness for further studies and careers in ICT.

2025 recommendation on ICT specialists: Ensure ICT studies are sufficiently offered and promoted, in line with labour market needs, as well as provide opportunities for workers to access lifelong learning and reskilling/upskilling programmes in this area.
In 2025, Slovakia made some efforts to address the recommendation through new policy actions. The country largely carried on with planned and ongoing efforts to strengthen its pool of ICT specialists, including a focus on fostering the participation of women in ICT career paths. Some new initiatives were launched, such as the annual European Day for Women and Girls in ICT, Girls' Day visits, and the Scratch Match programming competition, aimed at strengthening girls' interest, confidence, and preparedness for further studies and careers in ICT. Encouraging trends emerged, such as a rise in student enrolment in ICT programmes. Nevertheless, the labour market still faces a shortage of ICT specialists, alongside a broader need to raise digital skills across the workforce and persistently low level of female participation in the ICT sector. While current measures are a positive step towards equipping workers for the digital transition, they remain insufficient to meet wider economy-wide labour demand for specialised ICT profiles.

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

Performance assessment

In 2025, Slovakia's total digital public services score for reached 76.26 out of 100 points. This represents a 5.1% increase compared to 2024 but remains below the EU average of 84.64 points. Significant disparities exist between online service availability for national and cross-border citizens. When looking specifically at digital public services for national citizens, Slovakia reached 92.99 in 2025. This is only slightly below the EU average of 94.01, and marks a 3.1% increase from 2024. The digital public services for cross-border citizens, Slovakia's 2025 score was 59.52, significantly lower than the EU average of 75.28. However, this does reflect an 8.2% increase on 2024. Overall, the country is on track with the trajectory presented in its Digital Decade national roadmap.

Citizen-related life events that score particularly well include Starting a small claims procedure (91.67), Moving (90.00), and Transport (87.92). Conversely, Family (59.38), Health (60.00), and Career (64.58) show the most room for improvement. Across levels of government for national citizens' digital public services, central government services scored 85.91/100 points, regional government services scored 76.25/100 points, and local government services scored 64.17/100 points.

Slovakia's total digital public services score for businesses (covering both national and cross-border businesses) was 73.86/100 points in 2025, standing below the EU average of 88.59/100 points. This represents a 0.6% increase from 2024. On the basis of these results, Slovakia is lagging behind the trajectory presented in its Digital Decade national roadmap.

As for digital public services for cross-border citizens, **online services for cross-border businesses lag significantly behind those for national businesses, with a score of 50.50/100 points in 2025**. This reflects a 1.0% increase compared to 2024, but these results are well below the EU average of 78.37/100 points. On the other hand, digital public services for businesses available to national users in Slovakia scored 97.21/100 points. This represents a 0.5% increase since 2024 and places the country only slightly below the EU average of 98.81/100 points. The business-related life event scoring particularly well is Business Operations (82.5), whereas Business Start-Up (65.21) shows the most room for improvement.

Across the two Digital Decade KPIs, Slovakia's Digital Public Services for Citizens indicator performs better than its counterpart for businesses. This stronger performance is underpinned by digital public services for national citizens, which forms the most mature component of the KPI, even as digital public services for cross-border users remains less developed. Nonetheless, recent progress has been driven primarily by improvements in digital public services for cross-border users, reflecting positive momentum across the KPI.

For access to e-Health records, Slovakia's score remained unchanged in 2025 at 72.03, placing it below the EU average of 86.51 and among the lowest in the EU. However, the country is on track with the trajectory presented in its Digital Decade national roadmap.

Looking at the underlying features of key online public services, a mixed picture emerges for user-friendliness, efficiency and transparency. Slovak digital public services perform well in the availability of online support, help features and feedback mechanisms, achieving a stable score of 85.19 in 2024 and 2025 (compared with an EU average of 88.75 in 2024 and 90.01 in 2025). In addition, almost all Slovak e-Government websites are mobile-friendly: Slovakia scores 98.01 for the share of services that adapt to smartphone and tablet screens, outperforming the EU average of 97.35 in 2025.

In contrast, Slovakia scores relatively lower on transparency of service delivery, service design and personal data. The composite transparency score fell from 52.99 in 2024 to 50.23 in 2025, well below the EU average of 69.59 in 2025. The weaker performance is driven in particular by (i) a relatively low share of services that provide completion notifications and allow users to track progress (transparency of service delivery, scoring 31.05), and (ii) limited opportunities for users to manage personal data held by public authorities via government portals (transparency of personal data, scoring 36.30). At the same time, Slovakia performs better than the EU average on transparency of service design (scoring 83.33), reflecting the extent to which users are informed about and involved in policy and service design processes.

Finally, only a relatively small proportion of Slovak e-Government services uses information previously submitted to trusted government websites to pre-fill online forms. The pre-filled forms indicator - which measures the proportion of administrative steps that present data already known to public administrations – stood at 57.47 in 2025 (down slightly from 60.83 in 2024), compared with the EU average of 75.93. This is particularly relevant given that pre-filling can significantly reduce the burden for users.

Policy context and assessment of the recommendations

In 2025, only 13.64% of Slovak citizens used electronic identification (eID) to access online services, compared with an EU average of 52.26%. This low performance comes despite Slovakia scoring 76.6 for the availability of national eID logins to key digital public services, meaning that for most online services related to key life events, eID is already accepted as a valid form of identification. The low uptake may therefore be linked less to formal availability and more to factors such as user-friendliness, awareness, and the broader organisation of digital governance. On the other hand, Slovak authorities report high use of eID by businesses, as business statutory representatives are required to use eID for electronic communication with the public administration.

Improvements have recently been introduced to improve the usability of eID. In 2025, two eID applications – eIdentita and eDoklady, both national mobile eID wallets notified under eIDAS – were launched. The applications are expected to improve user-friendliness by allowing onboarding without a card reader and enabling users to sign in or authorise documents simply by holding an NFC-compatible smartphone close to their government ID. Stakeholders view these changes as positive

and user-friendly; however, the solutions remain difficult to set up, with clear guidance and awareness raising still missing.

In parallel, **Slovakia is working to improve its digital public services, with a focus on user-friendliness and consistency**. A central element of this effort is the development of 16 digitalised priority life situations financed by the RRF, which will bundle all relevant online services around key life events. Delivery of the 16 life situations is expected by Q2 2026, together with six central components (developed by the National Agency for Network and Electronic Services under the overarching coordination of MIRRI), which are intended to be reused by all ministries participating in the life situations. The first concrete example will be the 'school admission' life situation, which was rolled out in February 2026 for secondary schools and in May for primary schools and kindergartens, following a successful pilot with 10 kindergartens in Bratislava.

The life situations approach is intended to address long-standing structural issues in Slovak e-Government, particularly fragmentation across available services. **However, some bottlenecks remain**. Discrepancies in technical solutions adopted by the ministries responsible for different services currently limit interoperability, create fragmented user journeys, and lead to inconsistent interfaces and, in some cases, outdated platforms. Although the life situation concept is strategically sound and aligned with user needs, its implementation has revealed limited coordination, steering and communication within and across ministries. Different authorities engage different providers for the technological solutions underpinning their life situations, creating additional layers of complexity, and procurement practices are not consistently guided by a clear whole-of-government ICT strategy or sufficiently supported by in-house capability. Such implementation issues are closely linked to a wider vendor lock-in and complexity problem in Slovak digital public service development, which constrains competition, increases costs and slows digital modernisation. These challenges are further compounded by turnover and skills shortages in the public sector, including the outflow of experienced ICT specialists, which can weaken continuity and institutional memory on both the public and supplier sides.

Against this backdrop, **the approval in December 2025 of the National Concept of Informatisation of Public Administration for 2026-2030 is a positive step**. The concept rests on three main pillars: (i) digital transformation of processes and competences in public administration, making full use of digital technologies; (ii) data-driven operation, using data for better decision-making, personalised digital services and the responsible promotion of AI in the public interest; and (iii) open e-Government, in which public authorities provide basic infrastructure and open interfaces (APIs) to selected services and data, enabling innovative services to be developed by both the public and private sectors. In parallel, MIRRI is developing beta.slovensko.sk, a modernised interface and structure for the central e-Government portal slovensko.sk. While the platform is still under development and the rollout timeline remains unclear, it is expected to support services covered by the 16 priority life situations, as well as a further nine life situations beyond the scope of the RRF-funded measure. In principle, this should contribute to a more coherent and user-friendly front end for the public and businesses.

Stakeholders and experts in the field recognise the quality of the ideas and ultimate goals embedded in these and past strategies, but note persistent weaknesses in implementation, monitoring and evaluation. In past projects, key performance indicators have often not been tracked beyond the initial feasibility or project documentation phase, and there has been no systematic *ex post* assessment of impacts or benefits. In line with this, a need for increased transparency on ongoing investments in e-Government emerged, which could help reduce potential duplication or inefficiencies with existing infrastructure.

According to the Digital Decade Eurobarometer 2026, 77% of Slovak citizens already consider that the digitalisation of daily public and private services is making their life easier (EU 73%). More efficient digital public services could contribute to strengthening this feeling further, supporting citizens and businesses in their administrative tasks.

Slovakia is making slow progress towards achieving universal public access to electronic health records (EHRs) by 2030. Its score remains unchanged from 2024 and is still among the lowest in the EU. Key remaining barriers include the absence of a mobile application, the fact that geriatric homes do not supply data, and the lack of access for legal guardians and authorised persons. In addition, the online access service does not fully comply with web accessibility guidelines.

Over recent years, Slovakia has made significant efforts to digitalise its healthcare systems. In 2025, progress in Slovak e-Health accelerated, especially in the digitalisation of healthcare processes and back-office administration. However, the uptake of e-Health solutions among Slovak citizens remains low. According to the Slovakia Country Health Profile 2025 the use of digital tools for health falls below the EU average, particularly for booking appointments and accessing health records online. Notably, education level appears to be a significant factor, as individuals with higher education are two to more than three times more likely to use the internet for these activities than those with lower education. Ongoing developments may contribute to increasing use of digital healthcare solutions. Within the broader e-Government agenda, work on the 'health' life situation entered its final phase, despite some delays. Once this life situation is fully implemented, significant time savings for the public and further improvements in interoperability are expected.

Various services have moved from concept to real-world use and are set to enhance digital health service delivery. The eLab service has expanded its ecosystem of suppliers, strengthening interoperability and enabling authorised users to access laboratory results electronically in a more reliable way. eAgreements (eDohody) went into production on 1 August 2025, streamlining contractual and administrative processes, reducing paperwork, and improving traceability through unified electronic processing. From 1 January 2026, electronic submission of certificates of temporary incapacity for work to health insurance companies was introduced and made mandatory for practitioners, which has supported increased use of e-Health services.

Consideration is also being given to the safe integration of AI into healthcare. In 2019, Slovakia adopted its Strategy of Digital Transformation of Slovakia 2030, which recognises the potential of AI in healthcare. The National Health Information Centre Development Strategy 2026-2031 underscores the importance of high-quality data as a foundation and envisages the use of AI to support operational processes and health and policy planning, rather than to replace human decision-making. The Centre plans to ensure thorough development and testing of AI solutions, underpinned by strong human oversight, transparency and compliance with applicable regulations.

2025 recommendation on digital public services: Increase the transparency and availability of digital public services, particularly for cross-border users, including by enhancing the user-friendliness, functionalities and uptake of the eID mobile app and *Slovensko v Mobile app*.
In 2025, Slovakia made some efforts to address the recommendation through new policy actions. The country made some progress towards the improvement, modernisation and user-friendliness of its digital public services, but key shortcomings remain. Two eID applications (eIdentita and eDoklady), with improved features and user-friendliness, were launched. However, effective uptake of eID among citizens remains low, likely affected by limited guidance and weak awareness of available solutions.

Work continued on the development of 16 priority life situations, with final rollout expected in Q2 2026. A modernised front end (beta.slovensko.sk) is also under development to provide more coherent access to these services. Nonetheless, users continue to experience a fragmented and administratively complex digital landscape, with limited interoperability and implementation challenges potentially weakening the impact of recent investments. Moreover, long-standing issues of vendor lock-in, sub-optimal coordination across ministries and insufficient IT experts within the public administration hinder improvements.

Finally, availability of digital public services to cross-border users increased but remains considerably lower than the average for national users.

More effective digital public services can play an important part in increasing the efficiency of administrative procedures for both the public and businesses, making it possible to reduce administrative burden, providing a clearer overview of available opportunities and improving predictability. While the approval of the National Concept of Informatisation of Public Administration for 2026-2030 is promising, a coherent implementation and evaluation approach to the development of e-Government services is highly relevant.

Leveraging digital transformation for smart greening

Slovakia reported 14.2 kg of CO_2 equivalent emissions per capita linked to ICT-related activities in 2022, the majority being attributed to ICT services. As such, Slovakia positions itself as one of the countries with the lowest ICT sector related emissions per capita (EU average 22.8 kg of CO_2 equivalent per capita). The ICT sector contributes 0.22% of air emission in the Slovak economy (against an EU average of 0.35%). Among others, such low share of emissions might be explained by the relatively small ICT sector of the Slovak economy, which is strongly oriented towards automotive manufacturing and broader industrial production, and by the large share of nuclear energy in Slovakia's energy mix, lowering the carbon intensity of electricity generation. Moreover, **Slovakia recycles or prepares for reuse 92.89% of ICT-related waste collected (corresponding to two categories of waste electrical and electronic equipment), being one of the best performing Member States in this area**.

An overarching strategy linking the green and digital transitions is not in place. However, Slovakia is undertaking a few initiatives to adapt to and benefit from the changes brought about by the green and digital transitions, especially at the local level. The 'Digital Skills for a Green Future of Slovakia' project continued to be implemented over the reporting period. As part of the project, standardised Job Cards have been developed for 1 830 professions within the National System of Professions. The cards define the specific digital and green competencies required for each role and set precise proficiency levels that reflect current labour-market needs. Going forward, the Job Cards are expected to guide skills acquisition for the labour market and thus help maintain the competitiveness of the Slovak economy in the context of the green and digital transitions. In the near future, MIRRI plans to launch 'Digital Future II', a project dedicated to testing digital and green skills across the entire workforce and further raising awareness around the twin transition.

Slovakia's 2023-2026 Smart Cities and Regions Action Plan sets out a strategic framework with 12 priority areas to accelerate the development of smart local governments and regions, strengthen innovation in public administration and embed data-driven solutions that improve quality of life and sustainability across urban and rural territories. In parallel, Slovakia's participation as a member of the Local Digital Twins towards the CitiVERSE EDIC reflects its commitment to contribute to and benefit from the development of interoperable digital twin infrastructures across the EU.

The green aspect of digital technologies is considered relevant by Slovak citizens. According to the 2026 edition of the Digital Decade Eurobarometer, 60% of Slovaks believe green technologies (e.g. energy-saving tech), will be amongst the technologies with the most positive impact in the next 10 years (EU 50%). At the same time, the environmental impact of digital technologies is also considered relevant, with 84% of Slovak citizens believing that AI should be developed as a priority in an environmentally sustainable way (EU 78%).

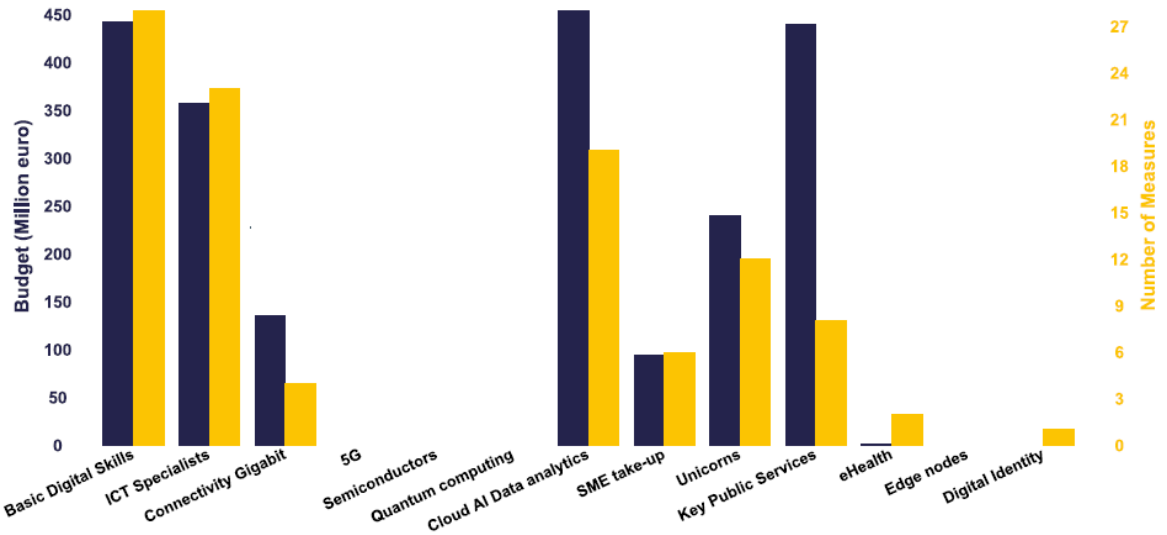
2025 recommendation on Green ICT: Develop a coherent approach to twinning the digital and green transitions.
In 2025, Slovakia continued the implementation of existing measure but did not take any new measures. An overarching and coherent approach to the green and digital transitions has not been developed, but the country made some progress in existing initiatives aimed at linking the twin transitions. At the same time, the country scores well in relevant indicators linked to the environmental footprint of its ICT sector.

Annex I: National roadmap analysis

Slovakia submitted an addendum to its Digital Decade roadmap on 27 November 2024, which contains 11 additional measures and two revised trajectories. Due to the timeline of Slovakia's standard legislative process, which mandates that all revisions and new measures be submitted to the government by June each year for the budget finalisation in September, it is not possible for Slovakia to address recommendations provided in June during the following year. For this reason, Slovakia was unable to draft measures directly addressing the recommendations provided by the State of the Digital Decade report in June 2024.

Nonetheless, in its roadmap adjustment, Slovakia introduced new measures aimed, in particular, at: supporting the digitalisation of businesses; promoting an environment that is conducive to exchange and innovation; and enhancing digital skills. All of these are relevant to the reality and needs of Slovakia's digital landscape. However, additional national funding for the new measures could not be secured. This implies that Slovakia will have to rely on external financing, particularly from the RRF and Programme Slovakia, to implement these measures. Such a limitation might also limit flexibility in adding or expanding measures going forward.

Measures and budget in the national roadmap[2]



In total, the roadmap is composed of 127 measures with a budget of EUR 2.26 billion, equivalent to 1.74% of Slovakia's GDP. The roadmap presents a comprehensive set of measures, which are grounded in multiple national level strategies and action plans. Together, these aim to support the digitalisation of Slovakia's economy and society from multiple angles, linking to all of the Digital Decade targets

[2] 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.

(except for edge nodes) and objectives. However, certain aspects, such as promoting leadership and sovereignty, and contributing to the green transformation, would require more concerted efforts.

Annex II: Funding, economic impacts and 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 of Slovakia was evaluated to EUR 1.25 billion with EUR 87 million for digital infrastructures, EUR 268 million for digital skills, EUR 253 million for the digitalisation of businesses, EUR 508 million for the digitalisation of public services, and EUR 138 million for other digital priorities.

The total economic impact of RRF digital measures is estimated to EUR 1.61 billion for the national economy. Of this, EUR 875 million stems from the direct effects of Slovakia's own RRP and EUR 730 million corresponds to spillover effects from the implementation of other EU Member States' plans. Slovakia benefited the most from spillover effects from RRPs of Spain (EUR 164 million), Italy (EUR 123 million), Germany (EUR 100 million). The most impacted sectors are ICT Services (EUR 382 million), Manufacturing (EUR 364 million), and Trade (EUR 183 million).

RRF spillover effects to Slovakia

Slovakia

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

Slovakia allocates 21% of its total recovery and resilience plan to digital (EUR 1.2 billion)[3]. In addition, under cohesion policy, EUR 0.7 billion, representing 6% of the country's total cohesion policy funding, is dedicated to advancing Slovakia's digital transformation[4].

Multi-country projects

Slovakia is a member of the Local Digital Twins towards the CitiVERSE EDIC and an observer to the Alliance for Language Technologies EDIC. Slovakia is directly participating in the IPCEI on Microelectronics and Communication Technologies (IPCEI-ME/CT) and in the Tech4Cure IPCEI. Slovakia is also a participating state of the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking (JU) and of the Chips JU.

[3] 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.

[4] 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.