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Digital Decade 2026 country report

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State of the Digital Decade 2026: Closing structural gaps and mobilising investments for 2030 and beyond

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DIGITAL DECADE COUNTRY REPORT 2026

Sweden

Sweden

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Executive summary

Sweden is one of the front runners and is above the EU average on almost all indicators. The country has the ambition to become one of the global leaders in the digital field. Sweden remains attractive for start-ups, as the high number of unicorns shows. Sweden has performed and continues to perform particularly well on digital skills, with a population with good ICT skills and a highly skilled workforce. Individuals and business benefit from high-quality fixed and mobile connectivity. Operators have started to roll out 5G stand-alone (SA) networks. The country has improved fixed and mobile connectivity in the most populated areas. However, connecting the very last buildings to the fibre network remains an issue.

The country is actively working on its weaknesses. 5G coverage has increased substantially over the last years and is now close to 100% in many regions. However, to ensure that all rural areas can also fully benefit from increased digitalisation, Sweden needs to continue deploying fibre and 5G SA networks. For several years, Sweden has scored below the EU average on electronic access to health records but is now catching up with the EU average.

While Sweden is among the leaders in the EU and has taken action to increase the uptake of AI, more needs to be done to promote the widespread adoption of AI technologies among enterprises. Over the last year, Sweden has updated several of its digital policies. This includes the presentation in May 2025 of a 2025-2030 national strategy on digitalisation based on five pillars: digital skills, digitalisation of businesses, digitalisation of public services, and digitalisation of welfare and connectivity. In February 2026, Sweden presented an AI strategy in which it announced its ambition to be one of the top 10 global leaders in AI. The AI strategy was accompanied by an action plan with a list of initiatives.

Sweden in the Digital Decade

Sweden demonstrates a moderate level of ambition in its contribution to the Digital Decade, having set 13 national targets out of a possible 14, 54% of which are aligned with the EU 2030 targets. In its national roadmap, Sweden provided 12 trajectory points for 2025 out of 13 analysed. The country is following them moderately well, with 58% considered to be on track. Sweden addressed 67% of the six recommendations issued by the Commission in 2025, either by implementing significant policy changes (17%) or making some changes (50%) through new measures.

Sweden submitted an updated Digital Decade national roadmap on 24 February 2026. The roadmap contains 68 measures, of which 27 are new. The total budget is EUR 3.55 billion, with EUR 2.89 billion coming from public budgets (equivalent to approximately 0.49% of Sweden’s GDP in 2025). According to the national roadmap, by the end of 2026, 46% of the measures will come to an end. The total public budget associated with these measures is EUR 1.18 billion, representing 41% of the total public budget outlined in the roadmap.

According to the special Eurobarometer on ‘the Digital Decade’ 2026, 83% of Swedish people consider that digital policy should have a very high/high priority for the EU in shaping our future in Europe. They also think that, in the next 10 years, the EU should cooperate with Member States to improve cybersecurity and protection from online threats (98%), build an independent European digital infrastructure (broadband, 5G, cloud computing, semiconductors) (88%) and promote digital education and skills programmes/develop shared digital public services (e.g. digital ID, e-Health) (both on 86%).

In addition, 88% of Swedish respondents think that the EU should reduce its dependencies on digital solutions from non-EU countries, and 94% consider that EU should prioritise investments in digital infrastructure and services that are developed and controlled in Europe. Meanwhile, 73% 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

Sweden allocates 21% of its total recovery and resilience plan to digital technology (EUR 0.6 billion). In addition, under cohesion policy, EUR 0.2 billion, representing 13% of the country's total cohesion policy funding, is dedicated to advancing Sweden's digital transformation.

Sweden is a participating state of the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking (JU) and of the Chips JU.

Digital Decade KPI (1)	Sweden				EU		Digital Decade target by 2030	
	Last available	DESI 2026 (year 2025)	Annual progress	National trajectory	DESI 2026	Annual progress	SE	EU
Fixed Very High-Capacity Network coverage	89.7%	89.8%	0.1%	-	85.5%	3.7%	98.5%	100%
Fibre to the Premises (FTTP)	85.6%	85.6%	0.0%	98.0%	74.1%	7.1%	98.5%	-
Basic 5G coverage	98.6%	98.7%	0.1%	100.0%	96.8%	2.6%	100.0%	100%
Edge Nodes (estimate)	-	226	-	-	7 451	-	-	10 000
SMEs with at least a basic level of digital intensity *	79.9%	86.5%	4.0%	89.9%	71.4%	11.0%	95.0%	90%
Cloud *	66.0%	67.6%	1.2%	89.0%	46.7%	9.5%	94.0%	75%
Artificial Intelligence	25.1%	35.0%	39.7%	18.0%	20.0%	48.0%	39.5%	75%
Data analytics *	35.0%	38.6%	5.1%	41.5%	39.9%	9.5%	56.5%	75%
AI or Cloud or Data analytics *	73.1%	76.5%	2.3%	-	63.2%	7.5%	-	75%
Unicorns	41	48	17.1%	49	324	10.2%	64	500
At least basic digital skills *	66.4%	70.0%	2.6%	76.8%	60.4%	4.3%	89.7%	80%
ICT specialists	8.6%	8.9%	3.5%	10.2%	5.0%	2.0%	12.9%	~10%
eID scheme notification		Yes						
Digital public services for citizens	85.9	84.2	-2.1%	87.5	84.6	2.8%	90.0	100
Digital public services for businesses	90.4	90.4	0.0%	89.0	88.6	2.7%	90.5	100
Access to electronic health records	77.9	86.5	10.9%	76.0	86.5	4.6%	78.5	100

(1) See the methodological note for the description of the indicators and other metrics
(2) The latest available data are from DESI 2025 (reference year 2024) except for indicators marked with a star * which come from DESI 2024 (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

Sweden is performing well in **connectivity**, being above the EU average in fibre and 5G coverage. Coverage of last premises, in particular, in sparsely populated areas will be key to achieving full coverage by 2030. The average support per building for connecting to the fibre network was SEK 80 643 in 2025, which is an increase compared with SEK 36 749 per building in 2022. This indicates that the remaining buildings are becoming increasingly expensive to connect, which Sweden has pointed out in its roadmap. At the same time, the differences in broadband access between urban and rural areas continue to decrease. Sweden is dependent on international fibre-optic submarine cables for connectivity with the rest of the world. On quantum technologies, Sweden is committed to work with European partners to secure existing submarine cable connectivity, and to develop alternative submarine cable routes to enhance resilience, for example. The work on quantum continues based on the flagship project, quantum agenda that was issued in 2024, by the Wallenberg Centre main quantum technology actors in Sweden. Conclusions are the need for Quantum Technology (WACQT), deepening international relations and collaborations, and a continuation of the work done in the quantum flagship WAQCT. During 2025, Sweden has prepared for and organised itself for the integration of quantum flagship activities into the EuroHPC JU.

Sweden has improved on AI and Swedish businesses are leading in terms of private sector AI uptake. There are reasons, however, to continue to strengthen its AI infrastructure and to further promote the integration of its AI ecosystem into the wider EU ecosystem, also through Testing and Experimentation Facilities (TEFs) and European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs), and also through the EuroHPC JU, for example through the Swedish AI Factory MIMER which are key support infrastructures for business adoption of AI technologies. The country remains just below the EU average on data analytics.

Protecting and empowering EU people and society

The population's level of basic **digital skills** is well above the EU average. The proportion of ICT specialists is also above the EU average. However, vacancies remain as there is a skills shortage and high competition for the right digital skills, especially for AI use and for SMEs. A further increase in the supply of ICT specialists to the job market should continue to relieve skills shortages in other sectors of the economy.

Sweden has acted to further digitalise its **public services.** Sweden has lagged behind on access to e-Health records in particular, but has recently improved compared with previous years. The setting up of a government electronic identity will also support access to e-Health records. An important measure as regards the digitalisation of public services is Ena, which is Sweden's digital infrastructure. It sets up a common infrastructure for exchanging information between public administrations and coordinated with sector specific infrastructure, for example health and social welfare. Sweden scores below the EU average in the latest EU justice scoreboard on digital access to court judgments, and the digitalisation of public judicial services still lags behind as concerns the deployment of the necessary IT solutions which are indispensable for cross-border judicial cooperation as a key reform of digital public services.

Sweden already attracts data processing centres, also in the north of the country. To better understand the environmental impact of the energy-consuming data centres, Sweden should collect facts and figures.

The Swedish National Cybersecurity Strategy highlights that the cybersecurity landscape is characterised by 'inadequate incident management' and 'insufficient information sharing between the private and public sector'. One of the targets set out in the strategy is 'strengthened public-private management of cybersecurity incidents'.

Recommendations

- **Fixed broadband:** Sweden should complete the networks to bridge the urban-rural divide.
- **Mobile broadband:** Sweden should accelerate 5G roll-out in rural areas. It should also promote the deployment of 5G SA networks while enabling advanced use cases.
- **e-Health:** Continue efforts to increase the availability of electronic health records.
- **AI:** Sweden should sustain its efforts to promote the widespread adoption of AI technologies among enterprises, with a particular focus on SMEs. To that end, Sweden should continue to strengthen its AI infrastructure while improving access to critical EU-wide AI infrastructures, including AI factories and Gigafactories, particularly for SMEs, start-ups, and mid-cap businesses. To further accelerate AI adoption across key sectors, Sweden should actively participate in and promote the sectoral flagship initiatives set up under the Apply AI strategy and should continue promoting the integration of its AI ecosystem into the wider EU ecosystem including through TEFs and EDIHs, which are key support infrastructures for business adoption of AI technologies.
- **Cybersecurity:** Promote national public-private cooperation frameworks for cybersecurity information sharing (for example voluntary information-sharing arrangements as referred to in Article 29 of the NIS2 Directive) and frameworks for national authorities to share information on cybersecurity incidents.
- **Green**: Monitor and quantify the environmental impact of the digital transformation, in particular as regards the impact of data processing.
- **Quantum:** Sweden should: (i) strengthen its national positioning in the EuroHPC JU governance and align national strategies accordingly; (ii) ensure strong representation there and align the national quantum strategy, national calls and infrastructure plans with the EuroHPC JU's work programmes, access schemes and infrastructure roadmaps; (iii) shift from mainly research funding to industrial scale-up, with stronger support for quantum software, compilers, middleware, error-correction/error-mitigation tools, and hybrid HPC-QC application stacks; and (iv) align national calls more closely with the EU roadmaps, EuroHPC deployments, the EuroHPC JU work programme, and the Chips JU quantum pilot lines.

A competitive, sovereign and resilient EU based on technological leadership

Building technological leadership: digital infrastructure and technologies

Connectivity infrastructure

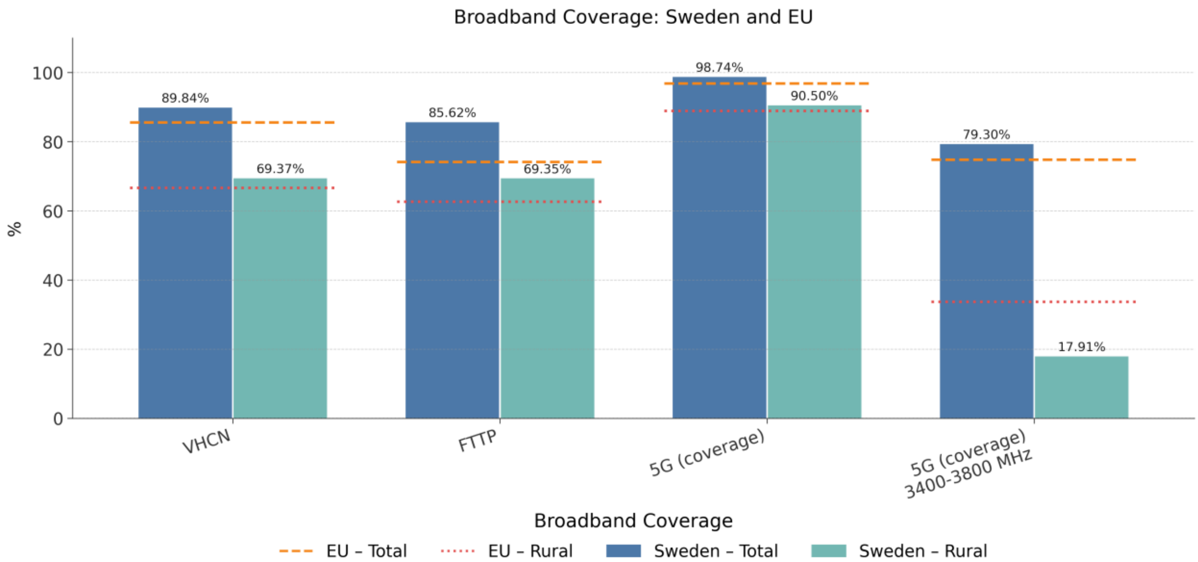
Performance assessment

Fixed Very High-Capacity Network (VHCN) coverage. Sweden achieved a VHCN coverage of 89.84% in 2025, following a slight increase of 0.1% from the previous year, and surpassing the EU average of 85.54%. In 2024, Sweden's coverage was 89.74%, which was higher than the EU's 82.49%. In terms of growth, Sweden's performance was inferior to the EU's 3.7% increase.

For households residing in sparsely populated areas, Sweden's VHCN coverage was 69.37% in 2025, following a minor decrease of 0.1% from 2024, but was still above the EU's 66.66%. In 2024, Sweden's coverage was 69.45%, which was higher than the EU's 61.87%. In terms of growth, Sweden's performance was inferior to the EU's 7.7% increase.

Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) coverage. Sweden's FTTP coverage was 85.62% in 2025, maintaining the same level as in 2024, and exceeding the EU average of 74.13%. In 2024, Sweden's coverage was 85.58%, which was higher than the EU's 69.24%. In terms of growth, the EU experienced a 7.1% increase, while Sweden had no growth.

For households residing in sparsely populated areas, Sweden's FTTP coverage was 69.35% in 2025, following a minor decrease of 0.1% from 2024, but was still above the EU's 62.61%. In 2024, Sweden's coverage was 69.45%, which was higher than the EU's 58.76%. In terms of growth, Sweden's performance was inferior to the EU's 6.5% increase.



Overall 5G coverage. Sweden achieved a 5G coverage of 98.74% in 2025, following a slight increase of 0.1% from the previous year, and surpassing the EU average of 96.79%. In 2024, Sweden's coverage was 98.59%, which was higher than the EU's 94.35%.

For households residing in sparsely populated areas, Sweden's 5G coverage was 90.5% in 2025, following a minor increase of 0.2% from 2024, and exceeding the EU's 88.88%. In 2024, Sweden's coverage was 90.35%, which was higher than the EU's 79.58%. Sweden´s spectrum assignment for 900 MHz to Telia requires increased role out of coverage in rural areas up to 2030. Spectrum assignment for 2,1 GHz and 2,6 GHz requires all operators to expand coverage for high-traffic railways up to 2030.

5G coverage in the 3.4-3.8 GHz band. Sweden achieved a 5G coverage in the 3.4-3.8 GHz band of 79.3% in 2025, following an increase of 7.1% from the previous year, and surpassing the EU average of 74.75%. In 2024, Sweden's coverage was 74.01%, which was higher than the EU's 67.6%. In terms of growth, Sweden's performance was inferior to the EU's 10.6% increase. The 3.4-3.8 GHz mid-band provides a good balance between coverage with high capacity, making it a cornerstone for advanced 5G use cases. These use cases include applications in manufacturing, such as industrial IoT, or healthcare, for example telemedicine. Only 4.2% of 5G base stations constitute 5G SA; the EU average is 22.2%.

For households residing in sparsely populated areas, Sweden's 5G coverage in the 3.4-3.8 GHz band was 17.91% in 2025, following a significant increase of 76.0% from 2024, but was still below the EU's 33.71%. In 2024, Sweden's coverage was 10.17%, which was lower than the EU's 25.36%. In terms of growth, Sweden's performance was superior to the EU's 32.9% increase.

The table below provides an overview of VHCN, FTTP and 5G coverage across NUTS-2 regions in Sweden. It reveals that overall connectivity coverage is strong across all Swedish regions; however, coverage in rural parts is lagging in all regions, in particular as regards VHCN and FTTP coverage.

	VHCN coverage		FTTP Coverage		5G Coverage	
	Overall	Rural	Overall	Rural	Overall	Rural
National coverage	89.84%	69.37%	85.62%	69.35%	98.74%	90.50%
Mellersta Norrland	82.04%	62.43%	78.60%	62.43%	94.73%	76.23%
Norra Mellansverige	84.85%	68.37%	81.22%	68.36%	96.29%	83.59%
Östra Mellansverige	89.11%	65.65%	86.06%	65.62%	99.40%	95.28%
Övre Norrland	86.06%	59.03%	84.51%	59.02%	95.02%	70.25%
Småland med öarna	86.44%	73.28%	83.53%	73.28%	98.03%	92.39%
Stockholm	95.20%	59.77%	90.19%	59.75%	99.82%	99.18%
Sydsverige	90.12%	75.33%	84.49%	75.26%	99.56%	95.47%
Västsverige	90.25%	75.91%	85.32%	75.91%	99.43%	95.66%

In terms of take-up, Sweden is above the EU average for mobile connectivity but below for fixed connectivity. Sweden has reached 16.08% for fixed broadband subscriptions faster than 1 Gbps after an increase from 9.82% in 2024, which is below the EU average of 26.97%. In Sweden, 76.07% of the population has 5G SIM cards, up from 50.17% in 2024, and the country is well above the EU average of 55.55%.

Policy context and assessment of recommendations

Sweden's digital economy and society index showcases a strong performance across all key performance indicators (KPIs) in both 2024 and 2025. The country consistently surpasses the EU average in terms of coverage for VHCN, FTTP, and 5G, both in total and for households residing in sparsely populated areas.

However, Sweden's growth rates in these areas, with the exception of 5G coverage in the 3.4-3.8 GHz band for households in sparsely populated areas, are generally inferior to the EU's growth rates. This suggests that while Sweden maintains a high level of coverage, it may need to accelerate its growth to keep pace with the EU's digital development.

Sweden continues to roll out FTTP. The average cost of fibre connection has varied and the last households are very expensive to connect, which makes it financially challenging to reach 100%. Access to fibre is about 98% in urban areas and 90% in sparsely populated areas, with a faster increase in sparsely populated areas in recent years. Consumer prices for fibre have increased much faster than inflation in recent years.

Support programme. A multiannual programme to support fibre deployment was already in operation, with dedicated allocations for 2025 and 2026. The year 2027 will be the final year for new applications under the programme, while projects approved in that year are expected to be completed by 2030.

Copper switch-off. All copper networks will be phased out by the end of November 2026. In December 2025, a total of 53 municipalities still had some copper; however, not even one per cent of the copper lines remain. Sweden was already down to less than one per cent in September 2025.

5G coverage has increased. Sweden lags behind the EU average for the 5G coverage only in the 3.4-3.8 GHz band in rural areas. Swedish spectrum licences are now awarded for the next 20 years. Recently, two operators were awarded the 1 800 MHz band; the licences start in 2028 and end in 2054. Two operators have active 5G SA networks in operation and that development in the area is progressing. Complementary solutions, such as satellite, may be required to reach 100% mobile coverage. Operators have expanded as far as it is economically justifiable and additional support may not necessarily lead to more expansion due to high operating costs in areas with few customers.

Satellites. The number of satellite-based subscriptions has increased in a few years from about 200 to 8 500 at the end of 2025, and the service is used all over Sweden, especially in dwellings, such as holiday homes, where there is no other connection.

New support programme. The national telecom regulator, Post- och Telestyrelsen (PTS), examined in February 2026 the conditions for introducing government support for the expansion, management and operation of infrastructure for mobile services. PTS presented a proposal aimed at strengthening mobile coverage and capacity along designated roads and railways. Should it be introduced, implementation would not begin before 2027. Any government aid programmes for infrastructure in Sweden are technology-neutral and would therefore not be limited to 5G. Nevertheless, such a programme, if implemented in 2027-2030, would be expected to generate additional 5G coverage.

2025 recommendation on connectivity: Encourage operators to speed up the deployment of 5G SA core networks, and ensure completion of the fibre network.
On the deployment of fixed networks, Sweden continued implementing existing measures in 2025 but did not take any new measures. Progress was made but the rural-urban divide persists as the table above shows. **On the deployment of mobile networks, Sweden continued implementing existing measures in 2025 but did not take any new measures.** Basic 5G networks cover almost all of the country.

However, on 5G SA only minor progress was made, with the start of a couple of network operations in 2025.

Semiconductors

On semiconductors, Sweden plays a proactive role. Several universities carry out advanced research in cooperation with industry. Sweden is investing SEK 175 million in six projects in different parts of the country. Sweden expects in its roadmap to contribute to the EU target on semiconductors for 2030.

Edge nodes

Performance assessment

According to the Edge Node Observatory, Sweden is estimated to have deployed a total of 226 edge nodes by 2025. Due to a change in methodology, this number cannot be compared with previous estimations.

Policy context and assessment of recommendations

Sweden explains in its roadmap that the country will contribute to the EU target of 10 000 edge nodes. Center for Trustworthy Edge Computing Systems and Applications (TECoSA), a research centre hosted at KTH Royal Institute of Technology carries out research on reliable edge computing systems and applications. TECoSA includes 19 partners: KTH Royal Institute of Technology, 10 SMEs, and 8 large organisations. The Research Institutes of Sweden (RISE) also carries out testbeds on edge nodes at the Infrastructure and Cloud research & test Environment at the Technical University of Luleå.

Quantum technologies

Sweden expects to support the EU target on quantum technology through WACQT, its flagship project. WACQT started in 2018 and should finish in 2030. It has a budget of more than SEK 1 billion. WACQT has two goals: to develop a working 100-qubit quantum computer, and to build a broad base of quantum expertise within and for Swedish industry and academia. In the mid-term report presented at the end of 2024, WACQT concluded that it had made good progress. A team of researchers at Chalmers University of Technology has succeeded in developing a 25-qubit quantum computer. Much of WACQT's research is conducted at Chalmers University of Technology, where its central office is also located. The quantum computer has been developed at Chalmers University of Technology, and Chalmers is also responsible for the quantum simulation initiatives. However, KTH Royal Institute of Technology and the universities of Gothenburg, Linköping, Stockholm and Lund are also partners. KTH Royal Institute of Technology is leading WACQT's quantum communication initiative, Stockholm University is leading the development of ion traps, and Lund University is leading the work on quantum sensors. The participating universities and businesses together contribute some SEK 300 million (approximately EUR 30 million) to WACQT.

In addition to WACQT, Vinnova, Sweden's Innovation Authority, has provided a few tens of millions of Swedish kronor in funding to a small number of Swedish research projects. The EU also funds a considerable amount of Swedish research, including the quantum communication network EuroQCI8 and the quantum computer project EuroHPC LUMI-Q 9. Despite WACQT's major investment, there are many gaps in research funding for Swedish quantum technology. Indeed, the commitment for long-term research, for broadening quantum education and, not least, for building an ecosystem is not fully convincing. The Swedish industrial ecosystem surrounding quantum technology is still at an early stage, but it is growing rapidly and is characterised by highly skilled niche stakeholders, research-oriented businesses and a few large corporations with strategic interests. The Swedish quantum ecosystem is vulnerable, not least due to a limited inflow of new expertise and the high levels of mobility among international PhD students and postdocs. A separate ecosystem has been built up around WACQT which, in addition to the universities referred to above, also includes private partners. At Chalmers University of Technology, WACQT has also set up two testbeds for quantum technology. These testbeds – one for quantum algorithms and one for hardware – are open to both researchers and businesses. An initiative known as QSIP, Quantum Sweden Innovation Platform, is linked to the research community and was launched at the end of 2023 with a view to continuing for 10 years. QSIP aims to support the development of a competitive and attractive Swedish ecosystem for quantum innovation. QSIP is run by Chalmers Industriteknik and is funded by Vinnova as well as the participating members.

Supporting EU-wide digital ecosystems and scaling up innovative enterprises

SMEs with at least basic digital intensity

Performance assessment

In Sweden, 86.47% of SMEs have at least a basic level of digital intensity index after an increase of +4.0% annually between 2023 and 2025, placing the country above the EU average of 71.39%. In 2023, the figure for Sweden was 79.91%, which was also higher than the EU's 57.9%. The country is on track according to its trajectory presented in the Digital Decade national roadmap.

In Sweden, 15.45% of SMEs have a very high digital intensity index, surpassing the EU average of 9.07%. In 2023, Sweden's figure was 6.76%, which was already higher than the EU's 4.38%. Sweden's annual growth rate of 51.2% exceeds the EU's 43.9%, demonstrating that Sweden is not only ahead in terms of current digital intensity but is also outpacing the EU in its rate of advancement in this area.

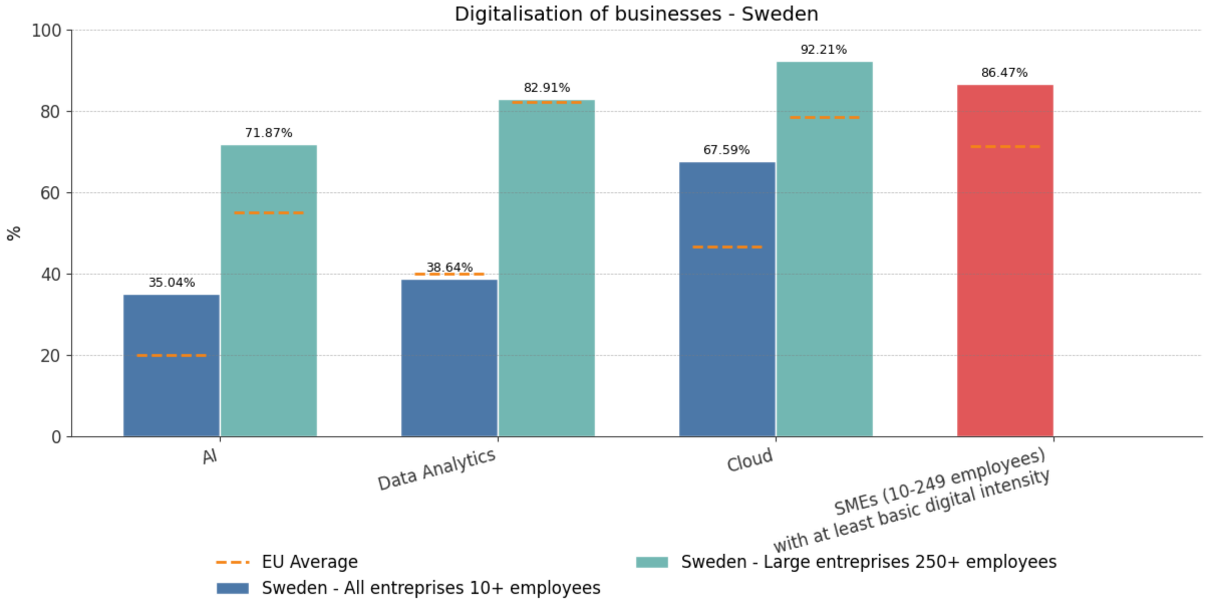
Policy context and assessment of recommendations

Sweden emphasises that businesses need to take the responsibility for their digitalisation. National authorities will, however, provide the framework for businesses in their digitalisation efforts. One example is Avancerad digitalisering, which Sweden continues to support.

Take-up of advanced technologies

Performance assessment

Sweden



In Sweden, 38.64% of enterprises have adopted data analytics after an increase of +5.1% annually since 2023, placing the country slightly below the EU average of 39.85%. In 2023, Sweden's figure was 34.96%, which was higher than the EU's 33.25%. However, Sweden's annual growth rate of 5.1% is lower than the EU's 9.5%, suggesting a slower adoption rate compared with the EU. For SMEs specifically, Sweden is at 36.95% after an increase of +5.1% annually, which is below the EU average of 38.59%. In 2023, Sweden's figure was 33.44%, which was higher than the EU's 32.09%. Large enterprises in Sweden are at 82.91% after an increase of +2.6% annually, surpassing the EU average of 82.03%. In 2023, Sweden's figure was 78.82%, higher than the EU's 71.81%

On the adoption of cloud technologies, Sweden has reached 67.59% after an increase of +1.2% annually since 2023, placing the country significantly higher than the EU average of 46.69%. In 2023, Sweden's figure was 66.0%, which was also higher than the EU's 38.97%. For SMEs, Sweden is at 66.64% after an increase of +1.0% annually, which is higher than the EU average of 45.74%. In 2023, Sweden's figure was 65.32%, surpassing the EU's 38.04%. Large enterprises in Sweden have reached 92.21% after an increase of +3.7% annually, placing the country well above the EU average of 78.32%. In 2023, Sweden's figure was 85.82%, higher than the EU's 69.72%.

On the adoption of artificial intelligence, Sweden has reached 35.04% after an increase of +39.7% annually since 2024, placing the country, significantly above than the EU average of 19.95%. In 2024, Sweden's figure was 25.09%, which was also higher than the EU's 13.48%. However, Sweden's annual growth rate of 39.7% is slightly lower than the EU's 48.0%. For SMEs, Sweden has reached 33.63% after an increase of +40.4% annually, placing the country higher than the EU average of 18.9%. In 2024, Sweden's figure was 23.96%, surpassing the EU's 12.64%. Large enterprises in Sweden are at 71.87% after an increase of +27.6% annually, placing the country well above the EU average of 55.03%. In 2024, Sweden's figure was 56.34%, which was higher than the EU's 41.17%.

On the adoption of AI, cloud computing, or data analytics technologies together, Sweden has reached 76.52% after an increase of +2.3% annually since 2023, placing the country above the EU average of 63.2%. In 2023, Sweden's figure was 73.06%, which was also higher than the EU's 54.7%. However, Sweden's annual growth rate of 2.3% is lower than the EU's 7.5%. For SMEs, Sweden has reached 75.71% after an increase of +2.3% annually, placing the country above the EU average of 62.32%. In 2023, Sweden's figure was 72.34%, surpassing the EU's 53.74%, but its growth rate is slower than the EU's 7.7%. Large enterprises in Sweden have reached 97.59% after an increase of +1.9% annually, which is well above the EU average of 92.78%. In 2023, Sweden's figure was 94.0%, higher than the EU's 86.71%.

Sweden consistently ranks above the EU average in nearly all digitalisation metrics, both in terms of current levels and growth rates.

Sweden is a leader in digitalisation among Member States, with high levels of digital intensity and technology adoption across SMEs and large enterprises. However, the slower growth rates compared with the EU average highlight the need for targeted policies to accelerate digital transformation. This could include increased investment in digital infrastructure, incentives for technology adoption, and programmes to improve digital skills among the workforce. By addressing these areas, Sweden can ensure it remains at the forefront of digitalisation in the EU.

Policy context and assessment of recommendations

The uptake of advanced digital technologies (cloud computing, AI and data analytics) is a decisive factor for productivity growth, innovation capacity and competitiveness in Sweden. According to Sweden's roadmap, the target for cloud computing will be reached by 2030 but not the targets for AI and data analytics. Since Sweden published its roadmap, Sweden has made good progress on the uptake of AI. Sweden also adopted an AI strategy in February 2026 which was accompanied by a list of actions. Sweden has improved on data analytics and is now just below the EU average.

AI strategy. Sweden announced in its AI strategy that the country should have an environment favourable to developing AI tools that benefit private and public sectors. Sweden's digitalised and advanced industry forms a good basis for this. Sweden also seeks to set up clusters of excellence where researchers together can develop new AI tools. Space applications are mentioned as a relevant example of the use of AI for Sweden.

Sweden's SMEs and large businesses both demonstrate strong digital intensity and technology adoption, but the slower growth rates suggest a need to step up efforts to maintain competitiveness. Furthermore, the adoption of AI technologies remains uneven across different company sizes and sectors, with adoption rates ranging from 71.9% among large businesses to 30.7% among small businesses. Regarding sectors, while sectors such as IT (87.87%) and professional, scientific and technical activities (64.88%) have very high rates of AI uptake, other sectors such as manufacturing (32.86%) or accommodation and food services (23.74%) have much lower rates, although still higher than the averages for the EU.

Assessment of the 2025 recommendation

2025 recommendation on the adoption of advanced technologies: Continue to encourage the use of AI by enterprises.
Sweden made some efforts to address the recommendation through new policy actions in 2025. New policies were presented but their full implementation will still take some time. Sweden adopted its AI strategy and the accompanying action plan in February 2026. The report of Sweden's AI Commission from November 2024 provided input for the AI strategy.

Unicorns, scale-ups and start-ups

Performance assessment

At the beginning of 2026, Sweden had 48 unicorns, which is 7 more than in 2025 (41, figure revised). In its roadmap, Sweden aimed for 49 unicorns in 2025. The country is on track according to its trajectory presented in the Digital Decade national roadmap.

Policy context and assessment of recommendations

Sweden continues to attract start-ups in the digital field. Stockholm in particular has received media coverage on fundraising by start-ups.

Strengthening cybersecurity & resilience

On general digitalisation, Swedish enterprises are ahead of their EU peers in implementing cybersecurity measures. In 2024, 64.17% of enterprises applied at least 5 cybersecurity measures (out of 11 measures as measured by Eurostat), above the EU average of 56.85%. Sweden is above the average for 10 of the 11 measures. The only measure where Sweden is below the EU average is on ICT strong password authentication (78.05%, EU: 83.69%). Sweden is clearly above the EU average on periodically assessing the probability and consequences of ICT security incidents (51.49%, EU: 34.19%) and on ICT security tests (44.08%, EU: 34.64%).

Sweden presented a 2025-2029 national cybersecurity strategy on 20 March 2025. It replaced the previous strategy from 2017 and set out the direction for Swedish cybersecurity for 2025-2029. As digital technologies affect almost every aspect of society, incidents can have a significant impact on society. The strategy consists of three pillars that contain a number of objectives to address the threats and vulnerabilities outlined in the strategy: 1) systematic and effective cybersecurity efforts 2) the development of advanced knowledge and skills in cybersecurity; and 3) the ability to prevent and manage cybersecurity incidents. The National Cyber Security Centre plays an important role, including in supporting other authorities.

The Swedish National Cybersecurity Strategy highlights ‘inadequate incident management’ and ‘insufficient information sharing between the private and public sectors’ among the features of the cybersecurity landscape. One of the targets already set out in the strategy is ‘strengthened public-private management of cybersecurity incidents’.

None of the incidents involving subsea cables in 2025 were reported as incidents under EU law. The cable breaks that occurred in the Baltic Sea did not cause any incidents affecting electronic communications services at a level that would trigger incident reporting according to the thresholds set in legislation. However, PTS was kept up to date on the incidents that occurred and it cooperated with operators and authorities in the region to remedy the problems that had arisen.

Cybercampus Sweden at the KTH also conducts research, innovation and education in cybersecurity and cyber defence

In 2025, Sweden did not receive any recommendation under the Digital Decade on cybersecurity.

Protecting and empowering EU people and society

Empowering people and bringing the digital transformation closer to their needs

Equipping people with digital skills

Basic digital skills

Performance assessment

In Sweden, 69.99% of individuals aged 16-74 have at least basic digital skills after an increase of 2.6% annually since 2023, placing the country above the EU average of 60.39%. In 2023, Sweden's figure was 66.44%, compared with the EU's 55.56%. While Sweden's digital skills penetration is commendable, its annual growth rate lags behind the EU's 4.3%. The country is lagging behind compared to its trajectory presented in the Digital Decade national roadmap.

In terms of **gender**, Sweden exhibits a negligible gap of 0.05 percentage points (pps) in favour of women, with 70.01% of women and 69.96% of men possessing basic digital skills. This contrasts with the EU's gender gap of 2.74 pps in favour of men.

Education level significantly influences digital proficiency in Sweden. Individuals with no or low formal education have a digital skills attainment rate of 54.38%, which is higher than the EU average of 37.56% but 15.61 pps lower than Sweden's national average. This gap is smaller than the EU's average gap of 22.83 pps.

Regarding living areas, 75.11% of individuals in Swedish cities possess basic digital skills, compared with 62.59% in rural areas. While both figures exceed the EU averages of 66.49% for cities and 52.83% for rural areas, the urban-rural gap in Sweden is 12.52 pps, which is slightly smaller than the EU average gap of 13.66 pps.

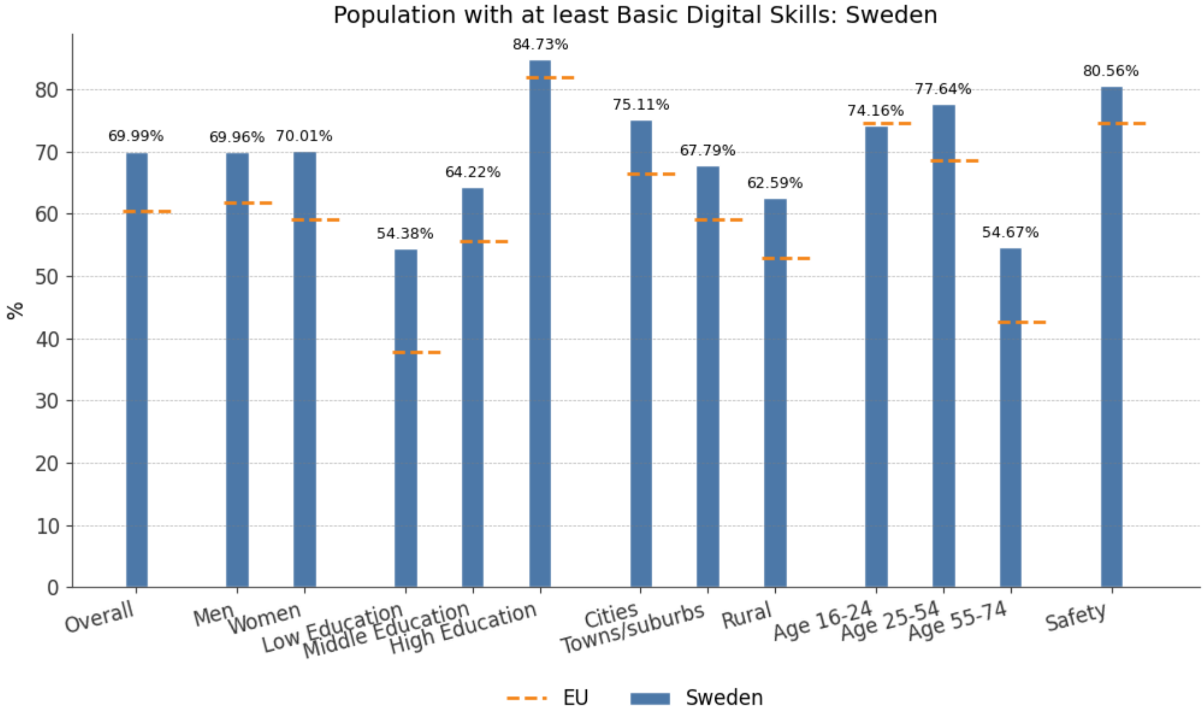
Age is another critical factor. Among individuals aged 25-54, 77.64% have basic digital skills, surpassing the EU average of 68.56%. For the 55-74 age group, 54.67% possess basic digital skills, which is higher than the EU average of 42.6%.

In the realm of **digital safety skills**, 80.56% of individuals in Sweden have at least basic proficiency, exceeding the EU average of 74.63%.

Regarding the **use of generative AI**, 42.01% of people in Sweden used it in 2025 for all purposes, which is higher than the EU average of 32.66%. For professional purposes, 20.99% of people in Sweden used generative AI, again surpassing the EU average of 15.36%.

Based on the results of the Digital Decade Eurobarometer 2026, Swedes consider that the biggest obstacles to using generative AI tools are concerns about accuracy and incorrect information (65%), concerns about ethical issues or misuse of generative AI tools (50%) and concerns about privacy or data protection (46%).

In summary, Sweden's digital skills profile is characterised by high overall attainment and minimal gender disparity. However, there is room for improvement in supporting individuals with low formal education and older adults, as well as in accelerating the growth rates across most dimensions. The strong performance in rural areas and the widespread adoption of generative AI are particularly noteworthy, highlighting Sweden's potential to further solidify its position as a digitally inclusive society.



In Sweden, 71.46% of individuals were exposed to untrue or doubtful content online in 2025, following an annual increase of 5.1% since 2023, when the figure stood at 64.65%. This places Sweden above the EU average, which rose from 49.25% in 2023 to 55.90% in 2025, reflecting an annual growth rate of 6.5%. When examining age groups, younger individuals aged 16-24 in Sweden reported a slight decrease in exposure, from 74.41% in 2023 to 74.19% in 2025, a decline of 0.1% annually. This contrasts with the EU's growth of 3.7% for the same age group. Older adults aged 25-64 in Sweden experienced an increase from 68.49% in 2023 to 73.84% in 2025, an annual growth rate of 3.8%, which is lower than the EU's 6.4% growth for this demographic. The gap between the younger and older age groups in Sweden is minimal, at 0.35 pps, compared with the EU's 7.77 pps.

In Sweden, 44.61% of individuals verified the truthfulness of online content in 2025, following an annual increase of 8.2% since 2023, when the figure was 38.11%. This places Sweden above the EU average, which grew from 24.29% in 2023 to 29.16% in 2025, an annual growth rate of 9.6%. While Sweden's overall verification rate is higher, its growth rate is slightly slower than the EU average. Younger individuals aged 16-24 in Sweden reported an increase from 52.19% in 2023 to 55.11% in 2025, an annual growth rate of 2.8%, which is lower than the EU's 6.7% for the same age group. Older adults aged 25-64 in Sweden saw an increase from 39.66% in 2023 to 46.32% in 2025, an annual growth rate of 8.1%, which is slightly lower than the EU's 9.9%. The gap between the younger and older age groups in Sweden is 8.79 pps, slightly smaller than the EU's 9.09 pps.

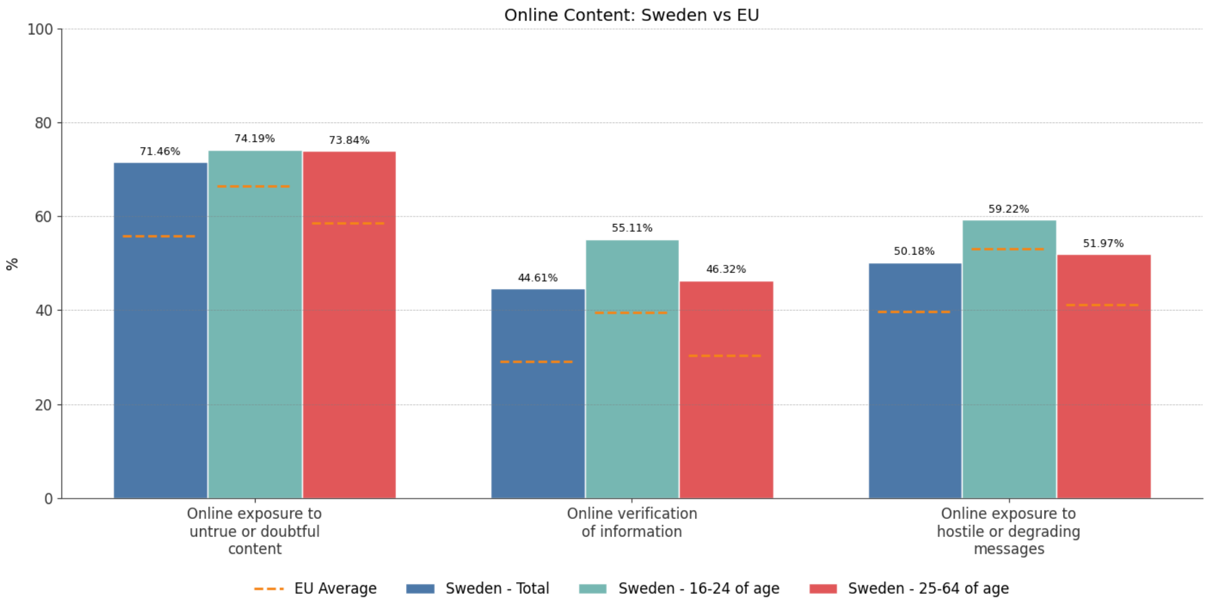
In Sweden, 50.18% of individuals were exposed to hostile or degrading messages online in 2025, following an annual increase of 5.1% since 2023, when the figure was 45.47%. This places Sweden above the EU average, which grew from 33.50% in 2023 to 39.72% in 2025, an annual growth rate of 8.9%. While Sweden's overall exposure is higher, its growth rate is slower than the EU average. Younger individuals aged 16-24 in Sweden reported an increase from 57.20% in 2023 to 59.22% in 2025, an annual growth rate of 1.8%, which is lower than the EU's 5.6% for the same age group. Older adults aged 25-64 in Sweden saw an increase from 47.50% in 2023 to 51.97% in 2025, an annual growth rate of 4.6%, which is lower than the EU's 9.2%. The gap between the younger and older age groups in Sweden is 7.25 pps, which is smaller than the EU's 11.85 pps.

According to the Digital Decade Eurobarometer 2026, 93% of Swedish people consider that the EU should prioritise further strengthening the protection of the children and young people online.

The public perception reflected on the Digital Decade Eurobarometer 2026 show that 96% believe that online manipulation (such as disinformation, foreign interference, AI-generated content) poses a threat to our democratic processes.

Based on the results of the Digital Decade Eurobarometer 2026, Swedes consider that in the context of enforcing the EU regulation on online platforms the following issues had the biggest personal impact: fake news and disinformation (72%), insufficient protection for minors (46%) and misuse of personal data (37%).

Sweden consistently reports higher levels of exposure to untrue or doubtful content, hostile or degrading messages, and verification of online information compared with the EU average. However, the annual growth rates for these indicators in Sweden are generally slower than those observed across the EU. This trend is particularly evident among younger individuals aged 16-24, where Sweden's growth rates lag behind the EU average. The gaps between age groups in Sweden are also smaller than those at the EU level, suggesting a more uniform behaviour across age demographics in Sweden. These findings highlight the need for targeted measures to address the slower growth in awareness and verification behaviours, particularly among younger individuals, to ensure that Sweden continues to lead in digital literacy and online safety.



Sweden

Policy context and assessment of the recommendations

Sweden performs well on basic digital skills. The STEM strategy covers schools as well as higher education. It will therefore also increase basic digital skills. The Swedish Research Council has also been tasked to map the possibilities and needs to promote the use of AI in research.

Sweden underlined in its AI strategy that schools and higher education institutions shall ensure that individuals are adequately prepared for a labour market and a society in which digitalization and AI are included. Schools shall further provide pupils in the upper grades with the knowledge and understanding necessary to recognize both the risks and the opportunities associated with AI. Students shall be able to critically assess AI-generated outputs and make informed ethical considerations when using AI. In the lower grades, however, the point of departure shall remain analogue activities conducted in analogue environments. Regardless of the level of education, teachers should receive continuous professional development within digitalisation and AI.

ICT specialists

Performance assessment

Sweden continues to have the highest proportion of ICT specialists. In 2025, Sweden's proportion of ICT specialists in total employment was 8.90%, up from 8.60% in 2024. The EU average was 5.00% in 2025 and 4.90% in 2024. However, Sweden has high ambitions, and the country is lagging behind compared to its trajectory presented in the Digital Decade national roadmap.

Policy context and assessment of the recommendations

The number of ICT specialists in Sweden continues to increase. In February 2025, Sweden presented a STEM strategy in response to industry's high demand for ICT specialists. Although Sweden has many specialists in ICT, the lack of cutting-edge expertise is a challenge both for businesses and the public sector. The strategy also addresses the gender imbalance and promotes more women in the sector.

2025 recommendation on ICT specialists: Continue the work to increase the number of STEM graduates.
Sweden fully addressed the recommendation by putting significant policy actions in place in 2025. In 2025, Sweden adopted a STEM strategy. This is expected to further improve the current positive trend in the increase of STEM graduates.

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

Performance assessment

According to the Digital Decade Eurobarometer 2026, 86% of Swedish people believe digitalisation is making life easier.

In 2025, Sweden's total digital public services score for citizens (which covers both national and cross-border users) reached 84.15/100 points. This represents a 2.1% decrease compared with 2024. As such, Sweden is below the EU average of 84.64/100 points.

When looking specifically at digital public services for national citizens, Sweden reached 93.42/100 points in 2025. This marks a 0.2% increase from 2024 but is below the EU average of 94.01/100 points.

For cross-border digital public services for citizens, Sweden's 2025 score was 74.87/100 points, which is below the EU average of 75.28/100 points. Compared with 2024, this reflects a 4.8% decrease.

Citizen-related life events that score particularly well include Moving (99.86), Studying (97.50), and Transport (93.51). Conversely, starting a small claims procedure (64.58), Health (76.25), and Career (76.77) show the most room for improvement. For national citizens' digital public services, the results across the different levels of government were 86.51/100 points for central government services, 79.17/100 points for regional government services, and 98.33/100 points for local government services.

Sweden's total digital public services score for businesses (covering both national and cross-border businesses) was 90.43/100 points in 2025, standing above the EU average of 88.59/100 points. This represents no change from 2024. The business-related life event scoring particularly well is Business Start-Up (90.62), whereas Regular Business Operations (90.20) shows the most room for improvement.

Notably, Sweden's cross-border digital public services score for businesses reached 83.12/100 points in 2025, reflecting no change compared with 2024. These results are above the EU average of 78.37/100 points. However, Sweden has suffered difficulties and delays with deploying the necessary decentralised IT systems that form the basis for the Justice Digital EXchange system, a key reform for the digitalisation of cross-border public judicial services.

On the other hand, digital public services for businesses available to national users in Sweden scored 97.73/100 points. This represents no change since 2024 and places the country below the EU average of 98.81/100 points.

Across the two Digital Decade KPIs, Sweden's Digital Public Services for Businesses indicator performs better than its counterpart for citizens.

This stronger performance is underpinned by digital public services for businesses available to national users, which forms the most mature component of the KPI, whereas cross-border digital public services for businesses remains less developed. Recent progress has been driven primarily by improvements in digital public services for businesses available to national users, reflecting mixed momentum across the KPI.

Sweden's access to e-Health records reached a score of 86.46, just below the EU average of 86.51. Similarly, in 2024, Sweden had a score of 77.94, just below the EU average of 82.70. The country is on track according to its trajectory presented in the Digital Decade national roadmap.

While life events such as Moving, Studying, and Transport perform best, lower-scoring areas such as starting a small claims procedure, Health, and Career do not yet exhibit the same level of maturity.

Overall, Sweden's alignment with EU levels varies across the two Digital Decade KPIs, with strengths concentrated in national services and weaker performance in cross-border delivery. A similar pattern appears across government tiers, where regional administrations are showing the greatest need for improvement. Taken together, these signals indicate the need for additional progress and stronger alignment with European best practices as Sweden moves toward its 2030 digitalisation goals.

Policy context and assessment of the recommendations

On electronic identity, Sweden has acted on the recommendations made in previous Digital Decade reports, to ensure accessibility to all. Several initiatives are ongoing. Sweden is expected to have a government electronic identity by .December 2026 According to the 2025 survey by Internetstiftelsen, 95% of Swedes use an electronic identity. Those who do not use an eID are almost exclusively 65 years or older.

Sweden

EUDI Wallet. Sweden is progressing in the development of the EUDI Wallet, building on a mature digital identity ecosystem. The country is advancing the development of a government-issued wallet. Institutional responsibilities have largely been established, with key authorities involved in wallet development, supervision, and accreditation. Sweden has also been engaged in multiple large-scale pilots and is cooperating closely with other Nordic and Baltic countries.

Digital infrastructure. The Swedish administration is characterised by independent government agencies. Sweden is therefore developing central digital solutions through the launch in the spring of 2024 of Ena, Sweden's digital infrastructure. Sweden has initiated work on sector specific digital infrastructure, as for example in health care that will relate to Ena.

AI for the public sector. Sweden announced in the AI strategy that a workshop is being prepared. The workshop will support different parts of the public sector in their use of AI and will be fully up and running by 2030.

Electronic access to judgments. Sweden has a generally high level of digitalisation of its justice system but online access to judgments is poor compared with other Member States. Today, case law is available through access-to-document requests, which are lengthier processes than direct digital availability.

2025 recommendation on digital public services: Continue efforts to increase the availability of electronic health records.
Sweden made some efforts to address the recommendation through new policy actions in 2025. The country continued implementing the government electronic identification scheme, but it is not yet available to the public.

Leveraging digital transformation for a smart greening

In Sweden, the ICT sector's air emissions are low, but the recycling of electronic equipment could be improved. Recently published sectoral data on the air emissions show that the ICT sector in Sweden emitted 10.4 kg CO_2 eq per capita, which is below the EU average of 22.8 kg CO_2 eq (data from 2022). The ICT sector, however, represented only 0.26% of air emissions in the total economy, which is comparable with the EU average (0.35%).

Environmental impact of AI. Sweden mentioned in the AI strategy that the increased energy consumption from AI will have environmental impacts. It concluded that it is necessary to follow up on this.

The replies to the Digital Decade Eurobarometer 2026 show that 61% of Swedes believe that green digital technologies (e.g. energy-saving tech) will have a positive impact in the next 10 years.

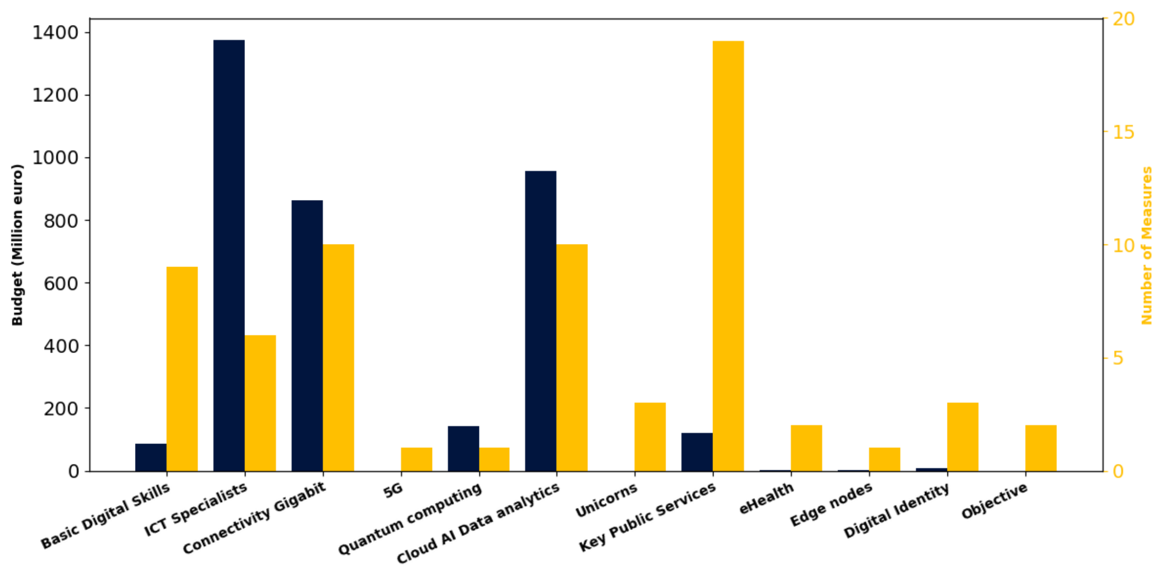
2025 recommendation on greening: Monitor and quantify the emission reductions of the digital solutions deployed.
Sweden made some efforts to address the recommendation through new policy actions in 2025. Sweden has started to work on this and is developing indicators for sustainability under the national digitalisation strategy. A broad scope may be necessary to also cover actors other than the traditional telecom operators.

Annex I: National roadmap analysis

Sweden's national Digital Decade strategic roadmap

Sweden submitted an adjustment to its national Digital Decade roadmap on 24 February 2026. The adjusted roadmap includes a total of **68 measures** with a budget of **EUR 3.55 billion**, comprising EUR 2.9 billion from public budgets (equivalent to approximately 0.49% of Sweden's GDP in 2025). The new measures cover a number of targets, including the digitalisation of public services, basic digital skills, uptake of digital technologies by businesses, digital identity, as well as objectives like cybersecurity.

Measures and budget in the national roadmap[1]



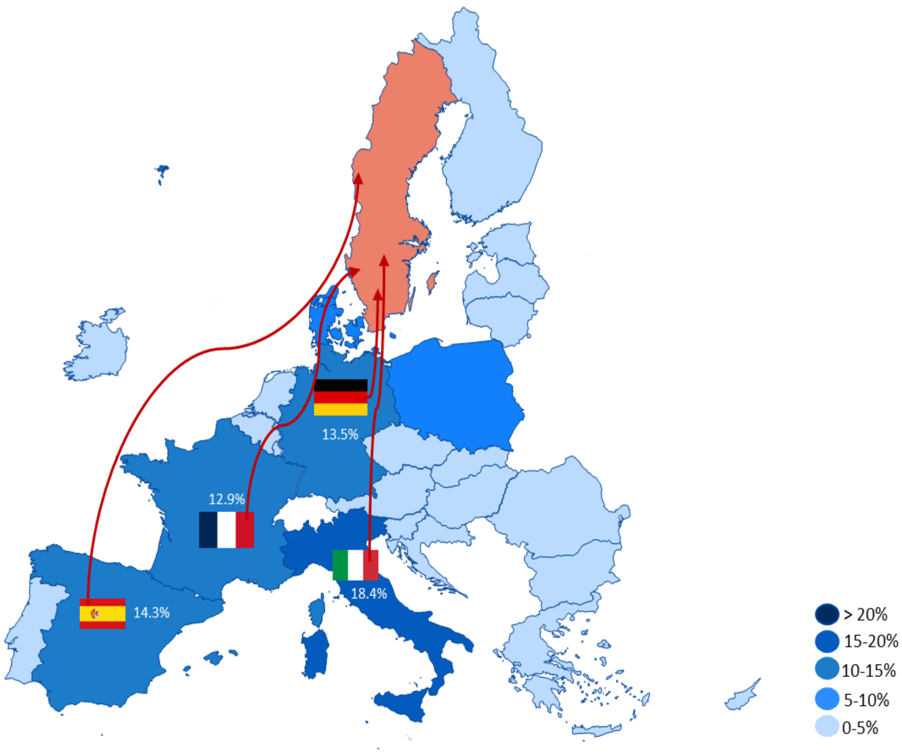
[1] When referring to national roadmaps, data used in this report are those declared by the Member States in their national roadmaps, on the basis of the Commission's guidance (C(2023) 4025 final). Data might reflect possible variations in reporting practices and methodological choices across Member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

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

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

A modelling study conducted by the European Commission services, with the FIDELIO model, assesses the economic impact of the digital component of the RRF. As of November 2025, the digital part of the Recovery and Resilience Plan of Sweden was evaluated to EUR 674 million with EUR 464 million for digital infrastructures, EUR 165 million for digital skills, EUR 21 million for the digitalisation of public services, and EUR 24 million for other digital priorities.

The total economic impact of RRF digital measures is estimated to EUR 4.52 billion for the national economy. Of this, approximately EUR 2.7 billion stem from the direct effects of Sweden's own RRP and EUR 1.82 billion correspond to spillover effects from the implementation of other EU Member States' plans. Sweden benefited the most from spillover effects from RRPs of Italy (EUR 334 million), Spain (EUR 260 million), Germany (EUR 246 million). The most impacted sectors are Manufacturing (EUR 949 million), Professional Services (EUR 837 million), and Construction (EUR 766 million).



RRF spillover effects to Sweden

Sweden

Funding from the RRF & Cohesion Policy

Sweden allocates 21% of its total recovery and resilience plan to digital objectives (EUR 0.6 billion)[2]. In addition, under cohesion policy, EUR 0.2 billion, representing 13% of the country's total cohesion policy funding, is dedicated to advancing Sweden's digital transformation[3].

Multi-Country Projects

Sweden is an observer to the Alliance for Language Technologies EDIC. Sweden is a participating state of the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking (JU) and of the Chips JU.

[2] The proportion 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.
[3] 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.