



EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION

Brussels, 16.6.2025  
COM(2025) 290 final

ANNEX 24

## **ANNEX**

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**Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council and the  
European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions**

**State of the Digital Decade 2025: Keep building the EU's sovereignty and digital future**

{SWD(2025) 290 final} - {SWD(2025) 291 final} - {SWD(2025) 292 final} -  
{SWD(2025) 293 final} - {SWD(2025) 294 final} - {SWD(2025) 295 final}

# SHORT COUNTRY REPORTS 2025

Romania

## Executive summary

Romania can rely on a well-developed fixed connectivity infrastructure and is strengthening its role in critical technologies like semiconductors, but persistent R&D gaps, weak SME and start-up innovation and slow emerging tech uptake limit its competitiveness. While the country is advancing in digital public services, challenges remain in digital skills, inclusion, and integrating sustainability into its digital infrastructure. Romania shows a low level of ambition in its contribution to the Digital Decade having set 11 national targets, 36% of which are aligned with the EU 2030 targets. The country is fully following its trajectories (on the basis of the 2024 trajectories defined for 1 KPI out of 8 analysed). Romania addressed 40% of the 15 recommendations issued by the Commission in 2024 by making some changes through new measures.

Romania remains an EU leader when it comes to fixed connectivity, but more efforts are needed on 5G. Despite recent efforts, Romanians have very low levels of digital skills. Efforts have been made to strengthen Romania's position regarding semiconductor manufacturing. The country is also taking major steps to improve the digitalisation of public services, including a new Governmental cloud and the notification of an eID scheme. Romania struggles with integrating digital technology into business activities. AI and data analytics are not used to their full potential. Lack of access to capital both for start-ups and scale-ups remains an important issue hampering digital innovation.

Digital Decade KPI <sup>(1)</sup>	Romania				EU		Digital Decade target by 2030	
	DESI 2024 (year 2023)	DESI 2025 (year 2024)	Annual progress	National trajectory 2024 (3)	DESI 2025	Annual progress	RO	EU
Fixed Very High Capacity Network (VHCN) coverage	95.0%	95.9%	0.9%	-	82.5%	4.9%	99.0%	100%
Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) coverage	95.0%	95.7%	0.8%	-	69.2%	8.4%	99.0%	-
Overall 5G coverage	32.8%	46.8%	42.7%	33.0%	94.3%	5.9%	62.0%	100%
Edge Nodes (estimate)	5	11	120.0%	-	2257	90.5%	-	10000
SMEs with at least a basic level of digital intensity (2)	-	69.1%	14.7%	-	72.9%	2.8%	75.0%	90%
Cloud	15.5%	-	-	-	-	-	40.0%	75%
Artificial Intelligence	1.5%	3.1%	103.3%	-	13.5%	67.2%	10.0%	75%
Data analytics	21.9%	-	-	-	-	-	15.0%	75%
AI or Cloud or Data analytics	28.7%	-	-	-	-	-	-	75%
Unicorns	0	0		-	286	4.4%	-	500
At least basic digital skills	27.7%	-	-	-	-	-	50.0%	80%
ICT specialists	2.6%	2.8%	7.7%	-	5.0%	4.2%	4.0%	~10%
eID scheme notification		Yes						
Digital public services for citizens	52.2	62.7	20.2%	-	82.3	3.6%	100.0	100
Digital public services for businesses	50.0	55.1	10.2%	-	86.2	0.9%	100.0	100
Access to e-Health records	58.6	75.1	28.2%	-	82.7	4.5%	-	100

(1) See the methodological note for the description of the indicators and other metrics  
(2) DESI 2025 reports the version 4 of the Digital Intensity Index, which is comparable with the DII value from DESI 2023 (referring to year 2022) for the calculation of the annual progress. It is not comparable to the national trajectory, which is based on version 3 of the index.  
(3) National trajectory value if present in the national roadmap and if the indicator was measured in DESI2025 (year 2024).

**According to the 2025 special Eurobarometer on ‘the Digital Decade’**, 62% of Romanians consider that the digitalisation of daily public and private services is making their lives easier. 77% consider the action of the public authorities important to counter and mitigate the issue of fake news and disinformation online. 77% consider competitiveness important to ensure that European companies can grow and become ‘European Champions’ capable of competing globally.

## A competitive, sovereign, and resilient EU based on technological leadership

Romania remains an EU leader in connectivity, including in sparsely populated areas, has the highest take-up of high-speed Internet in the EU for >100 Mbps and ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in the EU for >1 Gbps connections. However, despite strong year-on-year growth, Romania continues to underperform on 5G, both in terms of coverage and spectrum assignment. Significant growth potential exists here and a lot more could be done to promote the benefits of 5G connectivity, particularly how it could support the country’s manufacturing and B2B sectors.

Romania is slowly strengthening its position in critical technologies. Recently, it has adopted its national quantum technology strategy and announced an initiative that will lead to an investment of EUR 420 million (NRRP) for auto industry semiconductor R&D and manufacturing. The approach, which involves European companies, universities and SMEs, has the potential to build a strong semiconductor ecosystem in the medium and long term.

Romania does not have unicorn companies in ICT and digital. Its start-up ecosystem would benefit from better conditions for access to capital, in particular risk, in order to develop further. Regarding cybersecurity, Romanians take fewer steps than the EU average to protect their data online. Romania has transposed the NIS2 Directive in its national legislation via an Emergency Ordinance.

## Protecting and empowering EU people and society

Romania is investing significantly in digitalising its public services and raising the overall level of digital skills. This is a long-term process that needs strong political will, a clear agenda and renewed commitment in terms of efforts and resources in order to achieve success.

Romania continues to rank last in basic digital skills, but it is taking significant steps to address this, with a higher budget for education and schemes in place to train teachers and optimise the education process. It is important that the concept of acquiring the necessary digital skills is integrated throughout the curricula and represents a key KPIs for investments throughout the entire learning cycle.

Regarding ICT specialists, Romania has a high number of graduates but is not able to retain this talent in the country. The number of ICT specialists appears to be stagnating, which could put the country’s 2030 target at risk.

Romania demonstrates a consistent pattern of robust growth for the digitalisation of public services, but the absolute scores for Romania remain below the EU average. Major projects are currently being announced or implemented and should transform how public services are delivered but will require the appropriate degree of development and maintenance over time. The public entities running these projects should be given the necessary resources (finance, project management, ICT specialists) to continue them after the original contract is finalised. Streamlining of the multiple existing projects that have been promoted as ‘single point of contact’ could also be envisaged.

# Romania

For eHealth, Romania has gradually improved its performance, but not all data types are available and less than 50% of the healthcare providers are connected and supplying data. A new strategy for the digitalisation of the health system is being prepared. A new health insurance platform, which should replace the current one, is expected for 2026.

## Leveraging digital transformation for a smart greening

Regarding progress in its twin transition, Romania is slowly advancing on an integrated approach to making digital infrastructure greener and tracking emission reductions.

## National Digital Decade strategic roadmap

Romania has not submitted an update to its national Digital Decade roadmap. Taking into account Romania's starting point, the roadmap puts forward ambitious objectives, particularly for the use of digital services and the number of ICT specialists.

Overall, the roadmap is a key document in ensuring ownership and oversight of the necessary steps to meet the national targets. It was formally adopted by the Romanian Government in October 2024.

The roadmap consists of 98 measures with a budget of EUR 3.6 billion (equivalent to 1.01% of GDP) of which a substantial share stems from the National Recovery and Reform Plan. The main focus is on the digitalisation of public services and increasing digital skills. A lower priority seems to be given to the digitalisation of businesses and advanced technologies (semiconductors, quantum, edge nodes). Similarly to 2023, Romania has not indicated targets for eHealth, quantum, edge nodes and semiconductors. None of the existing targets were revised.

## Funding & projects for digital

Romania allocates 22% of its total recovery and resilience plan to digital (EUR 5.8 billion)<sup>1</sup>. In addition, under cohesion policy, EUR 2.7 billion, representing 9% of the country's total cohesion policy funding, is dedicated to advancing Romania's digital transformation<sup>2</sup>. Romania is a member of the EUROPEUM EDIC. Romania is directly participating in the IPCEI on Microelectronics and Communication Technologies (IPCEI-ME/CT). Romania is also a participating state in the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking (JU) and in the Chips JU.

Romania has contributed to the Best Practice Accelerator<sup>3</sup> by sharing one best practice in the frame of the Digital Skills cluster (Skills in Advanced Technologies for SMEs).

## Digital Rights and Principles

According to a support study, Romania has been relatively active in implementing the [European Declaration on Digital Rights and Principles](#), with 62 initiatives overall and 2 new initiatives launched

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<sup>1</sup> 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: 16 May 2025.

<sup>2</sup> 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, the Cohesion Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, and the Just Transition Fund.

<sup>3</sup> The Best Practice Accelerator (BPA) is a platform that enables Member States to share successful measures and challenges encountered in their efforts to meet their Digital Decade targets and objectives. Best practices are made available to Member States via the BPA Repository and showcased in regular workshops, currently focused on three thematic clusters: Digital Skills, Green IT, and the Uptake of Digital Technologies.

in 2024. Romania is most active in the area of putting people at the centre of the digital transformation. Less activity has been identified with regards to a fair digital environment and sustainability. Measures in the area of putting people at the centre of the digital transformation appear to have most impact on the ground, in contrast to those addressing freedom of choice.

## Recommendations

- **Digital public services:** Continue to dedicate the necessary resources (finance, project management, ICT specialists) for the digitalisation of public services, including after the initial set-up (maintenance and support). Streamlining of the multiple existing projects that have been promoted as 'single point of contact' could also be envisaged.
- **Basic digital skills:** Continue to integrate basic digital skills as a core component of the education process, both for teachers and students. Make upskilling, particularly of employees in the private sector and older population, a priority.
- **eHealth:** Continue to expand the data sources available online. Adopt and implement the new strategy on the digitalisation of health system, taking into account user needs and ease of use.
- **ICT specialists and advanced skills:** boost SME digital skills by simplifying support measures and engaging stakeholders to identify market needs. Identify ways to attract and retain ICT talent.
- **Unicorns:** Building on existing programmes, Romania should identify ways to support company scale-up and diversify funding opportunities for innovative companies.
- **Advance technologies take-up** Continue efforts, including via EDIHs, to increase the uptake of cloud and AI services by companies of all sizes. Continue to increase the number of edge nodes deployed and ensure links with work done on semiconductors, quantum and the internet of things.
- **5G:** increase overall 5G coverage, including in the 3.4–3.8 GHz band, and spectrum assignment.
- **Twin digital-green transition:** Develop a comprehensive strategy to align digitalisation with environmental goals.