

National Strategic Roadmap for the Digital Decade

2024 Update

Vienna, 2025

Legal notice

Media owner, publisher and editor:

Federal Chancellery Republic of Austria, Ballhausplatz 2, 1010 Vienna

Overall implementation: Directorate VII – Department VII/A/2 Legislation and Master Data

Register Authority, E Government Strategy and EU and International Affairs

Department VII/A/2a Digital and E-Government – International Affairs

Vienna, 2025. Last updated: 1 July 2025

Copyright and Liability:

Excerpts may only be reprinted if the source is acknowledged; all other rights are prohibited without the written consent of the media owner. It should be noted that, despite careful editing, all information in this publication is provided without guarantee and the Federal Chancellery and the author cannot accept any liability. Legal statements represent the non-binding opinion of the author and can in no way prejudice the jurisprudence of independent courts.

Feedback:

If you would like to share any feedback about this brochure, please contact post.vii-2@bka.gv.at.

Table of Contents

- 1 Introduction 5**
- 1.1 Path to the Digital Decade 5
- 1.2 Digital Austria – Vision and the Federal Government’s Digital Work Programme 6
- 2 Analysis of the current state of digital transformation in Austria..... 8**
- 2.1 Recent developments 8
- 2.2 Status of digital transformation in Austria 2024..... 9
- 3 National trajectories and target values contributing to the achievement of the EU’s digital goals12**
- 4 Strategies, measures, and actions to achieve the digital targets23**
- 4.1 KPI 1 – Basic Digital Skills 23
- 4.2 KPI 2 – ICT-specialists 39
- 4.3 KPI 3 – Connectivity (VHCN)..... 48
- 4.4 KPI 4 – Connectivity (5G)..... 51
- 4.5 KPI 5 – Semiconductors..... 54
- 4.6 KPI 6 – Edge Nodes..... 59
- 4.7 KPI 7 – Quantum Computing..... 60
- 4.8 KPI 8 – Cloud computing 61
- 4.9 KPI 9 + 10 – Artificial Intelligence and Data Analytics..... 63
- 4.10 KPI 11 –Basic digital intensity (SME) 73
- 4.11 KPI 12 – Unicorns 77
- 4.12 KPI 13 – Digitalisation of Public Services – Digital Services for Citizens 90
- 4.13 KPI 14 – Digitalisation of Public Services – Businesses 96
- 4.14 KPI 15 – Electronic health records 101
- 4.15 KPI 16 – Electronic Identification (eID) 103
- 5 Main strategies, measures and actions that contribute to achieving the general objectives .104**
- 5.1 Digital Austria Act..... 104
- 5.2 Digital Action Plan 104
- 5.3 E-Government Strategy 2023..... 107
- 5.4 Digital Skills Initiative 107
- 5.5 National AI Strategy 107
- 5.6 Data Strategy for Austria..... 108
- 5.7 eHealth Strategy Austria 108
- 5.8 5G Strategy & Broadband Strategy 2030 109
- 5.9 Austrian Cybersecurity Strategy (ÖSCS)..... 109
- 5.10 Open Source Software 110
- 5.11 Education – a central pillar of the digital transformation..... 111

5.12 Federal Government’s RTI Strategy 2030 for research, technology and innovation with reference to digitalisation	112
5.13 University Plan (HoP), University Development Plan (GUEP), and University of Applied Sciences Development and Financing Plan	115
5.14 Strengthen IT security in the higher education sector	117
5.15 Information Portal “Digital Accessibility” – Implementation 2023–2024	117
5.16 Digitalisation concept of the Austrian Communications Authority and “Digital Platform Austria”	118
5.17 Application-free reimbursement of the CO ₂ pricing (climate bonus)	119
5.18 SME Support “Cyber Security Check”	119
5.19 The national cybersecurity research funding programme K-PASS	120
6 Cooperation at EU level	122
6.1 Multi-country projects	122
7 Feedback from stakeholders	126
Umbrella organisation of the Austrian social insurance funds	126
Austrian Economic Chamber	127
The Federal Chamber of Labour (Bundesarbeiterkammer)	130
Start-up Council	131
Universities and colleges	131
Austrian Midwives Association	132
Austrian Bar	133
Austrian Medical Chamber	134
Austrian Chamber of Notaries	135
Federal Chamber of Civil Engineers	136
Austrian Chamber of Agriculture	138
Austrian Federal Association for Psychotherapy	139
The Austrian Regulatory Authority for Broadcasting and Telecommunications (RTR)	139
8 Overall impact and conclusion	142
Table of Tables	143
Abbreviations	144

1 Introduction

1.1 Path to the Digital Decade

The **EU's policy programme for the Digital Decade** (Decision [EU] 2022/2481¹) aims to accelerate the digital transformation throughout the European Union.

Key objectives of the EU policy programme include

- a digitally skilled population and highly qualified digital professionals (considering gender equality),
- secure and sustainable digital infrastructures,
- successful digital transformation of companies, and
- the digitalisation of public services.

In addition to the **general objectives** (resilience, bridging the digital divide, digital sovereignty, etc.), specific targets (“digital targets”) in the individual fields of action (as listed above) are addressed as well as a mechanisms for structured collaboration and monitoring.

Austria is strategically implementing the goals of the Digital Decade and has prepared key actions and trajectories, where available, for the submission of its first national roadmap in 2023. This roadmap details national measures, actions, and financial resources as Austria’s contribution to the EU’s digital transformation.

In its **second report on the state of the Digital Decade**², dated July 2, 2024, the European Commission provided an overview of EU-wide progress toward these goals, presented specific country reports, and, for the first time, analysed the national roadmaps submitted by member states. Based on the recommendations provided, member states were requested to revise their national roadmaps and report on new developments, such as new measures, initiatives, or strategies.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dec/2022/2481/oj/eng>

² https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_3602

1.2 Digital Austria – Vision and the Federal Government’s Digital Work Programme

Austria’s digitalisation policy follows a clear concept under the **umbrella brand “Digital Austria”**: Austria aims to become a **leading digital nation** and realize the vision of a “digitally responsible society”, where the best framework conditions for the successful and self-determined use of digitalisation in all areas of life will exist.

The areas where digitalisation is expected to create the greatest benefit include **society, the economy and digital administration**. In the societal domain, the focus is on new opportunities in business, employment and education through digital skills as a success factor for growth and new jobs. In the economic domain, modern digital infrastructure is emphasized to support the competitiveness of the location. In the area of digital administration, the goal is to digitalize and simplify administrative procedures for citizens and companies.

Through the **platform www.digitalaustria.gv.at**, Austria provides an information, service, and competence hub for the Republic’s initiatives and e-government services, which is continually being expanded. As an umbrella brand for trustworthy digitalisation in the sense of a “digitally responsible society”, Digital Austria will support digitalisation policy efforts at all administrative levels.

The **Federal Government’s strategic policy programme**, based on the Digital Austria -Vision, is rooted in the “Digital Austria Act”, adopted in 2023. This act sets clear guidelines for the use of modern digital technologies and solutions in federal administration, focusing on the principles of being “convenient, simple, and secure”. All federal applications and services must meet the requirements of modern, citizen-friendly, user-centred technology and align as much as possible with user preferences.

The **Digital Austria Act** combines **117 measures** and **36 digitalisation principles** to reshape digitalisation in Austria. Applicable data protection principles and barrier-free accessibility are taken into account. Due to the speed of the digital transformation and the many new application possibilities, there is an opportunity to update the federal government’s digitalisation programme and thus secure Austria’s prosperity in the future. To this end, we are focussing on the following areas; areas can be found on the website Digital Austria³ (attachment to the presentation by the Council of Ministers):

- Smart government of the future
- Digital connectivity
- Cybersecurity and cyber defence

³ <https://www.digitalaustria.gv.at/downloads.html> (German only)

- Digital transformation of the economy
- Digitalisation for climate protection
- Digital innovation
- Digital healthcare
- Digital expertise
- Digital media, art and culture
- Digital universities and colleges
- Technology assessment

One important aspect is the so-called “**digi.check**”, which evaluates whether laws are suitable for digitalisation during their review. Another focus is the continued development of the app “Digitales Amt” (Digital Office) into a smart government platform, enabling simple and mobile access to all federal administrative services.

2 Analysis of the current state of digital transformation in Austria

2.1 Recent developments

Currently, the volume of data produced doubles every two years, and there is no end in sight – quite the opposite: Technologies like the Internet of Things (IoT), artificial intelligence (AI), virtual and augmented reality, autonomous driving, and more will continue to drive this growth.

The Republic of Austria aims to ensure that all applications and services meet the requirements of modern, citizen-friendly, and user-centred technology. Through years of intensive **collaboration among the federal government, federal states, cities, and municipalities**, ongoing efforts are focused on establishing a standardized, networked, and coordinated approach to e-Government.

In terms of inclusion, the **e-Government Act establishes the fundamental freedom to choose communication methods with public institutions**. The legal amendment of July 2024 reinforced this freedom of choice, ensuring equal access to both digital and analog methods in administrative procedures.

Digitalisation has become a **key driver for growth and securing the future**. The digital transformation is not only changing the way we live and work, but is also having an overall positive impact on economic growth and new jobs. It makes it possible to completely rethink administration. Goal-oriented digitalisation can increase the efficiency and effectiveness of administration and significantly improve the interaction between the state, society, and the economy.

Digital services such as the central **e-Government portal oesterreich.gv.at**, the **portals of the federal states, cities, and municipalities**, the **“Digitales Amt” app** for mobile eGovernment, **FinanzOnline**, **GISA** as an inter-administrative service, and the **Business Service Portal (USP)** for entrepreneurs can be considered **best practices** in an international comparison.

Through faster processes and increased transparency, a modern digital administration can assist entrepreneurs in achieving their goals sooner, enhancing their productivity, and operating more successfully on an international level. Digital administration, characterized by close inter-administrative collaboration, is efficiently facilitated by the so-called **“Portalverbund”** (portal network). While the individual portals serve as a good foundation, there is a need for interoperability among

horizontal, vertical, and sectoral portals to establish **an inter-administrative one-stop shop**. Experiences from the COVID-19 crisis demonstrate that online administrative services are accepted and utilised when they are easily accessible, barrier-free, and intuitively operable.

Benchmarks in the digital sector, such as DESI, the eGovernment Benchmark, and the eGovernment Monitor, show that Austria consistently ranks among Europe's leaders in digital performance, particularly in digital services. These ongoing comparisons not only provide valuable feedback but also support the continuous development of digital capabilities. In the **eGovernment Benchmark 2024**, Austria achieved a perfect score (100) in mobile user-friendliness and digital post, and ranked highly in nearly all evaluated areas.

In terms of expanding **Mobile government (M-Government)** and **electronic delivery**, Austria is among the leaders in the EU. To maintain this standard in the future, it is essential to expand digital services from the perspective of citizens, businesses, and the administration while considering current technological requirements. Additionally, Austria is also at the forefront internationally in the early-stage funding of start-ups.

In the field of artificial intelligence, an **AI service desk** has been established to provide consulting services regarding legal frameworks and the associated skill development related to the deployment or commissioning of AI applications.

In the health sector, the **Electronic Health Records (ELGA)** has been available to citizens in Austria since 2012.

To support the use of online services, the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) has established **an information platform for digital barrier-free accessibility**.

Universities, colleges, and non-university research provide an essential basis for social development and the ongoing digital development, both through basic research and application-orientated research. In addition, the Institute of Digital Sciences Austria is a university with focus on digitalisation and digital transformation, which will significantly contribute to Austria's digital sovereignty and competitiveness.

2.2 Status of digital transformation in Austria 2024

The **2nd Digital Decade Country Report 2024** shows that Austria is above average in the EU in terms of **5G coverage** and **mobile-friendliness of digital public services**⁴, takes a leading role in **quantum**

⁴ With 99.7%, one of the best rates in the EU

research with the Quantum Austria initiative, and performs above average in **digital basic skills and ICT specialists** (however, there is still a shortage of skilled workers in the labour market). Austria also receives above-average points for **the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in businesses**, access to **electronic health records**, and plays a significant role in the **semiconductor industry**. The presence of **30 edge nodes in Austria** is regarded as a good outcome. In terms of availability of a **secure electronic identity**, Austria has already met its target with 100%.

Austria can rely on a **digitally skilled population** (Source: Country Report 2024). The share of the population with digital basic skills (64.7%; women with digital competencies: 60.7%) is significantly above the EU average (55.6%). However, more than one-third of the Austrian population lacks digital basic skills. Although Austria is well above the EU average, there is still room for improvement on the path to the goal for 2030, which aims for at least 80% of the population to possess digital basic skills.

Austria also performs above average in terms of **ICT specialists** (with a 5.3% share of the total population, Austria ranks 10th; of these, 19.5% are women). Nevertheless, there is a shortage of skilled workers in the labour market. The relatively low percentage of women among graduates in ICT training (0.9%) consequently leads to women being less frequently employed in the information and communication sector and thus participating less often in the design of digital technologies than men. Austria should strengthen the training and retraining of workers, particularly women, especially in advanced and new technologies. These steps are essential prerequisites for overcoming the digital divide in Austrian society and economy.

Digitalisation is a technological driver of our time, having a profound impact on many areas of life and changing the economy and society at a rapid pace. Universities are called upon to contribute responsibly to solving social and global challenges (including digital transformation, “twin transition”) and to deal with them scientifically in teaching, research and the third mission. In order to be able to actively and reflectively shape the digital transformation and to overcome social and global challenges, experts with critical and innovative approaches are needed, especially in the higher-qualified STEM⁵ focus area⁶ i.e. in technology and computer science. In the recent performance agreements with universities, a variety of measures and goals have been established to enhance and strengthen the STEM sector, especially in computer science and technology. To this end, a large number of measures and objectives were agreed with the universities in the last performance agreements to make STEM subjects more attractive and strengthen them, particularly in the fields of computer science and technology. STEM will also be a focal topic in the upcoming 2025–2027 performance agreement period.

⁵ STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) stands here as the equivalent of MINT (mathematics, informatics – computer science, natural science and technology) in German-speaking countries.

⁶ ISCED fields 06 and 07 excl. “Architecture and construction”

When it comes to the goals for the Digital Decade in terms of **connectivity**, the picture for Austria is mixed: the country achieves a 99.5% **5G coverage** for all populated areas but is still a long way from achieving fixed gigabit connectivity for all (72.8%). Austria should step up its efforts to **expand gigabit connections**, in particular the expansion of fibre to the premises (FTTP) in rural areas. This requires maintaining the general level of ambition of the measures in the Austrian Broadband Strategy 2030 to ensure targeted and efficient investments without market distortions and to improve conditions for private investments in rural areas. In addition, the existing obstacles to expansion within the framework of the Platform for Infrastructure Expansion (PIA2030) should be removed by identifying and implementing concrete measures to simplify and accelerate decentralised approval procedures.

With only two thirds of **small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)** achieving at least a basic level of **digital intensity**, Austria is still a long way from the Digital Decade target of 90%. Austria is slightly below the EU average for this important performance indicator. This means that there is untapped potential to improve productivity in certain sectors through greater digital intensity. At the same time, Austria supports SMEs via national and European digital innovation hubs and funding programmes.

The **take-up of artificial intelligence (AI), cloud services and data analytics** shows a mixed picture in Austria. The use of data analytics and cloud services in Austrian companies is below the EU average, while Austria performs slightly better than the EU average when it comes to AI. The distance to the associated ambitious goal of the digital decade is considerable. Austria should continue to support the development and use of advanced technologies, including data analytics, AI and cloud computing, especially in SMEs, including through capacity and knowledge building. At the same time, Austria is actively promoting these new technologies and is taking measures that do not yet appear to be bearing sufficient fruit. But important discussions about the risks of reproducing inequality through technologies that reinforce existing stereotypes or prejudices are also increasingly coming into focus.

Further steps to **improve the cross-border availability of digital services** for both businesses and citizens, including enhancing user support for users abroad, could not only help Austria achieve the goals of the Digital Decade 2030 in the area of digital public services. They would also serve as a driver for increasing Austria's attractiveness for foreigners and thus for overcoming Austria's skills shortage and boosting the Austrian economy as a whole.

3 National trajectories and target values contributing to the achievement of the EU’s digital goals

The following table presents the current performance indicators (KPIs) for measuring the target achievements of the Digital Decade 2030 in accordance with the Commission Implementing Decision of 30 June 2023⁷. Additionally, the Austrian national target values and associated trajectories are summarised. The table will also include the established EU target values for 2030.

Table 1 National target values and associated trajectories per performance indicator (KPI) 2023–2030, and EU target value 2030

KPI	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	EU target value 2030
Basic Digital Skills	64.7%	66.5%	68.3%	70%	72.5%	75%	77.5%	80%	80%
ICT specialists (share of total employment)	5.3%	5.6%	5.9%	6.5%	7%	8%	9%	10%	10%
Connectivity (VHCN)	69%	75%	75%	79%	84%	89%	94%	100%	100%
Connectivity (5G)	96%	99.5%	99.5%	99.5%	99.5%	99.5%	99.5%	100%	100%
Edge nodes	30								10.000
Cloud Computing									75%
Data Analytics	23.9%	31%	38.5%	46%	53%	60%	68%	75%	75%
Artificial intelligence	10.8%	20%	29%	38%	47.5%	57%	66%	75%	75%
Basic Digital Intensity (SMEs)	57.9%	73%	76%	79%	82%	85%	88%	90%	90%

⁷ [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=PI_COM:C\(2023\)4288](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=PI_COM:C(2023)4288)

KPI	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	EU target value 2030
Unicorns	5	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Increase the no. twofold at least
Digitalisation of Public Services – Citizens	80.7%	82%	85%	87%	90%	94%	97%	100%	100%
Digitalisation of Public Services – Businesses	82.9%	84%	85%	88%	91%	94%	96%	100%	100%
Electronic health records	88.2%	97.5%	97.5%	98.5%	98.5%	99.5%	99.5%	100%	100%
Digital identity verification (eID)	Target already met								100%
Semi-conductors	Currently, the digital goals “Semiconductors” and “Quantum Computing” are being monitored at the EU level; member states do not need to establish trajectories for these at this time.								At least 20% of global production
Quantum computing									3 Quantum computers

Trajectory for KPI 1 – Basic Digital Skills

EU target value 2030:	At least 80% of those aged 16-74 have at least basic digital skills
National Target Value 2030:	80%
National Baseline Value:	63% (DESI 2023)
Current National Value:	64.7%; Men: 68.7%, Women: 60.7% (DESI 2024)

Trajectory for KPI 2 – ICT Specialists

EU target value 2030:	At least 20 million ICT specialists are employed within the Union, while promoting the access of women to this field and increasing the number of ICT graduates.
National target value 2030:	10% of total employment in Austria
National baseline value:	5% of total employment in Austria (DESI 2023)
Current national value:	5.3% of total employment in Austria or 237,000 ICT specialists (of which: 19.5% are women) (DESI 2024)

In Austria, the proportion of individuals with basic digital skills is 64.7%. By 2026, this share is expected to increase to 70% and by 2030 to 80%, for both women and men. In total, 220,700 ICT specialists were employed in Austria in 2022, of which 42,700 were women. Compared to 2017, this represents an increase of 32,900 professionals, or a growth of 17.5%. Over time, there is a generally positive trend regarding the share of ICT specialists in total employment, the proportion of female ICT specialists, and the share of ICT graduates.

Key Measures:

- Workshop Programme “Digital Everywhere” as part of the Digital Skills Initiative
- IT Experts White Paper and funding programme to increase the number of IT professionals under the Digital Competence Initiative
- 8-Point Plan from the Federal Ministry of Education, Economy and Research for digitalisation in Austrian schools
- MINT Regions from the Federal Ministry of Education, Economy and Research for regional networking to make mathematics, computer science, natural sciences, and technology tangible
- Qualification Initiative from the Federal Ministry of Labour and Economy for the systematic development and enhancement of skills in companies and their employees in the areas of research, technology, development, innovation, and digitalisation

Trajectories for KPI 3 – Connectivity (Gigabit) and KPI 4 – Connectivity (5G)

Trajectory for KPI 3 – Connectivity (Gigabit):

EU target value 2030:	100% availability to all European households of fixed connections able to deliver very high-speed and reliable connectivity services (measured with the VHCN indicator)
National target value 2030:	100%
National baseline value:	54.8% (DESI 2023)
Current national value:	72.8% (projected value for broadband coverage in Europe 2024)

Trajectory for KPI4 – Connectivity (5G):

EU target value 2030:	100% availability in all populated areas of a 5G mobile network regardless of the spectrum band used.
National target value 2030:	100%
National baseline value:	91.7% (DESI 2023)
Current national value:	99.5% (projected value for broadband coverage in Europe 2024)

Austrian goals by the end of 2030 include nearly comprehensive outdoor availability of 5G and nearly comprehensive availability of gigabit-capable access networks. This development is primarily driven by the self-funded expansion of telecommunications providers. Additionally, the federal broadband initiatives will also expand in areas affected by market failures.

Gigabit: The development is primarily driven by the self-funded expansion of telecommunications providers. Furthermore, under the federal broadband initiatives, expansion will also occur in areas affected by market failures. The goal is to achieve nearly comprehensive availability of gigabit-capable access networks for households by the end of 2030.

5G: The development is solely driven by the self-funded expansion of telecommunications providers. The goal of achieving outdoor availability of 5G in all populated areas by the end of 2030 has already been met today, with 99.5% coverage.

Key measures:

- Initiative Broadband Austria 2030
- Supply obligations within the framework of the multi-band auction

Trajectory for KPI 5 – Semiconductors

- EU target value 2030:** Secure, resilient, performant and sustainable digital infrastructures where the production, in accordance with Union law on environmental sustainability, of cutting-edge semiconductors in the Union is at least 20% of world production in value.
- National target value 2030:** Member States are currently not required to set national targets

The federal government, in its programme for 2020 to 2024, has emphasized the critical importance of microelectronics for Austria’s industrial and economic policy. Austria possesses an unusually high concentration of internationally active and research-intensive companies operating along the semiconductor value chain, including suppliers and users, and is characterized by strong economic performance.

Pillar 1 of the Chips Act aims to promote the development of large-scale technological capacities and innovations within the EU semiconductor manufacturing ecosystem. Under the title “Chips for Europe”, it seeks to improve the transition from lab to production. Pillar 1 will be implemented through a Joint Undertaking, the Chips Joint Undertaking (JU-Chips). The JU’s budget will be funded with a total of EUR 3.3 billion from EU funds for the period 2023–2027 and will be further strengthened by additional national co-financing.

Pillar 2 creates a framework to improve the security of supply of chips in the EU by attracting domestic and foreign investment and supporting the development of new production capacity. The framework enables subsidies for new innovative production facilities. Pillar 2 is implemented from national funds and offers member states the opportunity to cover the financing gap for new production facilities of companies. In Austria, budget planning is carried out up to the year 2031.

IPCEI’s Microelectronics I and II are ahead of the Chips Act and the projects of the participating companies are already being realised. The focus is on bridging the R&D&I phase from strategically important investments in the semiconductor sector to the first commercial application. The IPCEI ME I runs until 2024 and the IPCEI ME II until 2026.

Key measure:

- Investment of three billion euros by 2031

Trajectory for KPI 6 – Edge Nodes

EU target value 2030:	Secure, resilient, performant and sustainable digital infrastructures where at least 10,000 climate-neutral highly secure edge nodes are deployed in the Union, distributed in a way that guarantees access to data services with low latency (i.e., a few milliseconds) wherever businesses are located.
National target value 2030:	Currently under discussion
National baseline value:	n/a
Current national value:	30 (DESI 2024)

The implementation and promotion of edge nodes in communication networks should also be supported through regulatory measures.

Key measure:

- Introduction of 5G, allocation of the frequency spectrum at 26 GHz, and definition of technical parameters in the frequency usage regulation.

Trajectory for KPI 7 – Quantum Computing

EU target value 2030:	Secure, resilient, performant and sustainable digital infrastructures where the Union has, by 2025, its first computer with quantum acceleration, paving the way for the Union to be at the cutting edge of quantum capabilities by 2030.
National target value 2030:	Member States are currently not required to set national targets

Austria's aim is to stimulate research, development, and innovation activities in the field of quantum research and technology, in alignment with the research, technology, and innovation policy goals of the Austrian federal government. This includes both fundamental research and the development of practical applications. Relevant areas include quantum communication, quantum sensing, quantum metrology, quantum simulation, quantum computing, and quantum information.

Key measure:

- Quantum Austria funding initiative

Trajectory for KPI 8 – Cloud Computing

EU target value 2030:	At least 75% of Union enterprises having taken up one or more of the following, in line with their business operations: i) cloud computing services, ii) data analytics (formerly Big Data), iii) artificial intelligence.
National target value 2030:	Currently under discussion
National baseline value:	28.8% (DESI 2023)
Current national value:	35.6% (DESI 2024)

In Austria, 35.6% of companies currently use cloud computing services (DESI 2024). Compared to the EU average, Austria still has potential to expand the use of data analytics and cloud services. Austria is focusing on supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in adopting and applying these technologies.

Key measure:

- Gaia-X-Hub AT

Trajectory for KPI 9 – Data Analytics (formerly Big Data)

EU target value 2030:	At least 75% of Union enterprises having taken up one or more of the following, in line with their business operations: i) cloud computing services, ii) data analytics (formerly Big Data), iii) artificial intelligence.
National target value 2030:	75%
National baseline value:	n/a
Current national value:	23.9% (DESI 2024)

Currently, 23.9% of Austrian companies utilise data analytics (DESI 2024). To support the digital transformation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), the government promotes direct access for businesses to partners from research and industry, including in the field of data analytics.

Key measures:

- Data Strategy for Austria
- National and European Digital Innovation Hubs

Trajectory for KPI 10 – Artificial Intelligence

EU target value 2030:	At least 75% of businesses in the Union have adopted one or more of the following techniques, depending on their activities: i) cloud computing services, ii) data analytics (formerly Big Data), iii) artificial intelligence.
National target value 2030:	75%
National baseline value:	8.8% (DESI 2023)
Current national value:	10.8% (DESI 2024)

Currently, only 10.8% of Austrian companies utilise AI applications (DESI 2024). To support SMEs in their digital transformation, the government facilitates direct access to research and business partners, including in the field of AI. Given the global interconnectedness in AI, Austria places significant emphasis on advocating for a human-rights-based approach within relevant normative processes at the United Nations and other multilateral organisations.

Key measures:

- AI service desk
- AI marketplace

Trajectory for KPI 11 – Basic Level of Digital Intensity (SMEs)

EU target value 2030:	The digital transformation of businesses, where more than 90% of the Union SMEs reach at least a basic level of digital intensity
National target value 2030:	90%
National baseline value:	64.4% (DESI 2023)
Current national value:	57.9% (DESI 2024)

With just under two-thirds of SMEs achieving at least a basic level of digital intensity (57.9% according to DESI 2024), Austria is significantly away from the Digital Decade goal and slightly below the EU average. To improve productivity in specific sectors through higher digital intensity, Austria is providing targeted support to SMEs in their digital transformation.

Key measures:

- SME.digital
- National and European Digital Innovation Hubs

Trajectory for KPI 12 – Unicorns

EU target value 2030:	The digital transformation of businesses, where the Union facilitates the growth of its innovative scale-ups and improves their access to finance, leading to at least doubling of the number of unicorns.
National target value 2030:	10
National baseline value:	6 (DESI 2023)
Current national value:	5 (DESI 2024)

Austria had five “unicorns” in 2023 (DESI 2024). The establishment of a new form of corporation that provides a particularly competitive international option for innovative start-ups and early-stage businesses significantly contributes to increasing the number of unicorns in Austria.

Key measures:

- Flexible Company
- aws Start-up Fund II
- aws Start-up Invest

Trajectory for KPI 13 – Digitalisation of Public Services – Citizens

EU target value 2030:	100% online accessible provision of key public services, and where relevant, it is possible for citizens in the Union to interact online with public administrations.
National target value 2030:	100%
National baseline value:	78.4% (DESI 2023)
Current national value:	80.7% (DESI 2024)

All local authorities in Austria have been working on the online provision of key public services for years. In addition to the central citizen service portal “oesterreich.gv.at”, a number of other services such as FinanzOnline, JustizOnline, regional and municipal portals, and “MeineSV” are already available to citizens. A study conducted in 2024, commissioned by the Federal Chancellery, will provide a decision-making basis for further expanding services in the coming years.

With the citizen service portal “oesterreich.gv.at” and the “Digitales Amt” app, Austria has attractive central entry points for digital services. With a single login using ID Austria, a range of existing electronic administrative services can be accessed without further login (single sign-on). Austria is already at a level of 80.7% for the online provision of public services (Source: DESI 2024).

Key measure:

- Expansion of Digital Services

Trajectory for KPI 14 – Digitalisation of Public Services – Businesses

EU target value 2030: 100% online accessible provision of key public services and, where relevant, it is possible for businesses in the Union to interact online with public administrations.

National target value 2030: 100%

National baseline value: 82.9% (DESI 2023)

Current national value: 82.9% (DESI 2024)

The Business Service Portal (USP) is the central information and service platform of the Austrian administration for businesses, allowing them to complete their regulatory tasks online at a single central location. With just one initial registration for the USP, numerous opportunities open up to process administrative matters online without long waiting times and in a secure manner. Austria has already achieved a share of 82.9% in the online provision of key services for businesses (DESI 2024).

Key Measures:

- Once Only
- eDelivery
- Further Development of the Business Service Portal (USP)

Trajectory for KPI 15 – Electronic Health Record

EU target value 2030: 100% of Union citizens have access to their electronic health records.

National target value 2030: 100%

National baseline value: 88.2% (DESI 2023)

Current national value: 88.2% (DESI 2024)

Approximately 97.5% of the Austrian population (all registered and insured individuals in Austria) already have access to their “Electronic Health Record” (“ELGA”) – either digitally or analogously through the ELGA Ombudsman Office. Since 2024, all registered individuals in Austria who are not insured (about 200,000 people) will also have access to their ELGA – however, without accounting for the expected population growth until then, this will result in approximately 99.75% access. Due

to the lack of active registration in Austria (about 20,000 people), around 0.0022% of the Austrian population will remain without ELGA access even after 2024 – again, without considering population growth.

Due to the opt-out system in ELGA, the digital target of 100% is already nearly achieved, as the central performance indicator according to Art. 2 Para. 1 No. 15 of the implementing decision does not depend on the actual accesses of citizens to their ELGA but only on the existing possibility for them to do so (arg. “nationwide availability of online access” or “percentage of persons able to access”).

As mentioned in Section 1 (Challenges), the results of the study commissioned by the European Commission showed some minor shortcomings in the realisation of the central performance indicator and the individual sub-indicators developed in the study. Although any measures to address these shortcomings would not increase the percentage of the Austrian population with ELGA access, they will nevertheless be presented in the following section.

Key Measure:

- Availability of medical imaging data for citizens in ELGA

Trajectory for KPI 16 – Electronic Identification (e-ID)

EU target value 2030: 100% of Union citizens have access to secure electronic identity (eID) that are recognised throughout the Union, enabling them to have full control over identity transactions and shared personal data.

Austria has already achieved this digital target. With ID Austria, 100% of citizens already have access to a secure digital proof of identity that is recognised throughout the European Union and enables unrestricted control over identity transactions and personal data transmitted. Efforts continue to improve and innovate the available services to achieve 100% online provision of key public services. Currently, implementation activities for the European Digital Identity Wallet as outlined in the Regulation on the European Digital Identity (EUID) are underway (revision of the eIDAS Regulation). Austria is already working intensively with the expert groups in the “Toolbox Process” and is actively involved in the large-scale pilot “POTENTIAL”.

4 Strategies, measures, and actions to achieve the digital targets

It should be noted at the outset that the strategies, measures and actions presented in sections 4 to 6 reflect the status as at January 2025. Due to the current government programme in Austria, there may be updates, adjustments or changes to individual measures and designations.

The following subchapters provide an overview in each case of the key performance indicators (KPI) / target paths and their individual measures, which are described according to the following categories:

Description	Brief description and content of the measure
Objective	Connection with the target
Schedule	Provisional schedule
Resources	Allocated or planned budget and, where appropriate, other resources, including human resources
Impact	Intended impact and related timing

4.1 KPI 1 – Basic Digital Skills

EU target for 2030: At least 80% of those aged 16–74 have at least basic digital skills.

Table 2 National trajectory by 2030 for KPI 1

2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
64.7%	66.5%	68.3%	70%	72.5%	75%	77.5%	80%

If the current growth rate of basic skills continues at 1.4%, by 2030, 74.5% of the Austrian population will have digital basic skills. Through the measures of the Austrian federal government, a slightly increased growth rate of 1.7% to 1.8% is targeted for digital basic skills by 2026. From 2026 onwards,

it is expected that the measures will have their broad impact and, with an annual growth rate of 2.5%, reach the target value of at least 80%.

Table 3 Overall timeline for KPI 1: Measures that contribute to achieving the target

Measure	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
1 – Establishment of a “Digital Skills Office” at the OeAD	Yes							
2 – Development and implementation of an overarching overall strategy to increase digital (basic) skills	Yes							
3 – Development of a 3-year programme and implementation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				
4 – Introduction and application of a National Reference Framework	Yes							
5 – Digital Skills for All pilot project: Low-threshold educational programmes to increase digital skills	Yes							
6 – Digital everywhere Low-threshold workshops and events in municipalities and cities		Yes						
7 – Digital Everywhere PLUS Educational institutions offering in-depth qualifications		Yes						
8 – Digital end devices for pupils and teachers	Yes							
9 – (Virtual) further education and training for teachers, in particular MOOCs	Yes							
10 – Digital (basic) education from primary school to upper secondary level	Yes							
11 – Education portal – Digital School Portal	Yes							
12 – Repository and Open Educational Resources – Eduthek	Yes							
13 – Digital competence measurement digi.check	Yes							
14 – Teaching programmes at universities to teach digital and AI skills and digital literacy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			
15 – Focus Programme AI Literacy & AI Competencies			Yes	Yes				
16 – Empowering girls and women in the digital space	Yes	Yes	Yes					

Measure	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
17 – Cross-University Project “Academix AI Services”			Yes	Yes	Yes			
18 – Digi-Cheque for Trainees 2023–24 Training-Related Courses for Trainees	Yes	Yes						
19 – Future Skills Future skills for public administration			Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

4.1.1 Measure 1 – Establishment of a “Digital Skills Office” at the OeAD

Description	<p>Improving the framework conditions for the strategic development and expansion of digital skills among the population</p> <p>To promote the scaling of digital skills in Austria, a coordination centre has been set up at the federal government. Among other tasks, it supports and coordinates the scaling of digital education programmes and represents Austria and the federal government in international and national committees.</p> <p>The main tasks of the coordination centre are to raise awareness of digital skills and to establish and implement incentive and support measures to increase the population’s level of digital competence.</p>
Objective	Citizens who want to improve their digital skills are at the centre of the measure.
Schedule	The DKO office („Digital Skills Initiative Office“) was established in 2023.
Resources	National: EUR 5,438,000 allocated (2023 to 2026 inclusive)
Impact	As part of the measure, the DKO office will provide operational support for the national goals of increasing digital skills in the years following its establishment.

4.1.2 Measure 2 – Development of an overarching overall strategy to increase (basic) digital skills

Description	<p>Creation of a nationwide standardised strategic orientation and coordination</p> <p>The “Digital Skills Austria” strategy was developed in a broad dialogue process with more than 500 experts and stakeholders in all federal states. This was adopted by the Council of Ministers in July 2023.</p> <p>A skills package with eight strategic priorities and implementation projects was derived from the strategy process to help promote digital skills in Austria. These focal points are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction and dissemination of a national reference framework for digital competences
--------------------	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target group-orientated development of low-threshold offers • Promotion of qualification through “train the trainer” concepts • Enabling the scaling of effective measures • Fulfilment of the public sector’s role model function • Development of IT experts • Addressing current developments such as artificial intelligence and cybersecurity • Taking on an international pioneering role
Objective	The focus of the measure is on citizens who want to improve their digital skills.
Schedule	The strategy was developed in 2023.
Resources	EUR 800,000
Impact	As part of the measure, the strategy represents the strategic direction of the overarching and national priorities in the years following its development.

4.1.3 Measure 3 – Development of a 3-year work programme

Description	<p>Joint overall strategy with a work programme for the federal government and other regional authorities</p> <p>A comprehensive concept/work programme was developed and implemented, including specific recommendations for further measures.</p> <p>Contents of the programme include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the Digital Skills Austria strategy • (Further) development and establishment of an Austria-wide concept for quality assurance, standardisation and certification of digital skills on the basis of existing initiatives and work • Establishment, further development and support of a digital skills network and networking of organisations, initiatives and projects with the broad involvement of various stakeholder groups and coordination of relevant public bodies and ministries
Objective	The focus of the measure is on citizens who want to improve their digital skills.
Schedule	The work programme is currently being drawn up.
Resources	The measure is to be seen as a task/part of the DKO office (budgetary) and cannot be explicitly recognised.
Impact	As part of the measure, the work programme sets out the measures and strategic cornerstones for the following 3 years from the time it is drawn up.

4.1.4 Measure 4 – Introduction of a National Reference Framework

Description	<p>Further development of the competency model for the National Reference Framework</p> <p>The National Reference Framework for Digital Skills is to be used as a standard in training and further education curricula in the fields of business, the labour market, education and public administration and is subsequently firmly anchored in the system.</p>
Objective	The focus of the measure is on citizens who want to improve their digital skills.
Schedule	The reference framework was developed in 2024.
Resources	The measure is to be seen as a task/part of the DKO office (budgetary) and cannot be explicitly recognised.
Impact	As part of the measure, the National Reference Framework forms the basis for the transparency and comparability of digital competences.

4.1.5 Measures 5 to 7 – Digital Skills for All / Digital Everywhere / Digital Everywhere PLUS

Description	<p>Measures 5–7 are intended to promote basic digital skills among the population. In order to meet the challenges of the digital age, we need a digitally empowered population. The EU’s target is for at least 80% of all people aged 16 to 74 to have basic digital skills. At 63%, Austria is above the EU average of 54%. Measures 5–7 contribute to achieving the stated objective.</p> <p>In 2023, the pilot project “Digital Skills for All” was implemented with 753 workshops, which were conducted and evaluated by the Digital Skills Office at OeAD. This is followed by the measures “Digital Everywhere” in 2024, offering 4,500 free workshops throughout Austria, and in 2025, the development programme “Digital Everywhere PLUS”.</p> <p>In these programmes, basic skills in the area of digitalisation are taught in collaboration with municipalities and federal states. The focus is on low-threshold skills transfer. The measure is intended to reach groups that have particular educational needs in basic digital education (older people, rural population, etc.)</p> <p>The development programme Digital Everywhere PLUS spreads the impact widely and includes the following key areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • modular workshops that build on the “Digital Everywhere” workshops, accompanying measures, and the promotion of projects to reach particularly marginalized target groups; • development and piloting of innovative teaching concepts;
--------------------	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train the Trainer offerings; • special and targeted offerings for digital interpreters in the municipalities; • implementation of online learning content on the platform.
Objective	The focus of the measure is on citizens who want to improve their digital skills.
Schedule	<p>In 2023, the pilot programme “Digital Skills for All” was completed. The evaluation showed that the target groups were effectively reached and that satisfaction with the workshops was very high.</p> <p>The programme “Digital Everywhere” is based on the findings of the pilot project, and the workshops have been expanded to 4,500, and implementation is currently underway. At the same time, work is progressing on the development of “Digital Everywhere PLUS” with aims to scale the transfer of digital skills.</p>
Resources	EUR 14.325 million
Impact	As part of the measures, workshops to enhance digital skills are developed and offered, as well as initiatives for scaling digital skills transfer are being devised.

4.1.6 Measure 8 – Digital devices for pupils and teachers

Description	<p>The “Digital Learning” device initiative equips pupils in year 5 at participating schools with a notebook or tablet.</p> <p>Access to the equipment initiative is low-threshold and pragmatic for any interested school. The registration of a school takes place via a declaration of intent. By signing this declaration, each participating school confirms its intention to develop into a digital school and to establish 4 quality areas step by step.</p> <p>The school decides on the operating system. A total of 5 device types are available.</p> <p>A one-off contribution of 25% of the price of the equipment to be paid by the federal government is to be paid by the parents/guardians. An application for exemption from the personal contribution can be made under certain conditions.</p> <p>The initiative is supported by the OeAD as an education agency with the involvement of education directorates, university colleges of teacher education and the competence centres based at these, the Virtual University College of Teacher Education and eEducation.</p>
Objective	The purpose of the initiative is to create the pedagogical and technical conditions for IT-supported teaching and to provide pupils with access to digital education under equal conditions. This includes teaching digital skills and

	learning how to use mobile devices correctly as well as how to optimise the use of these devices for better learning opportunities.
Schedule	The programme has been running since the 2021/22 school year with the delivery of the first devices to pupils. There are currently no plans to end the programme.
Resources	EUR 50 million per school year
Impact	80,000 students gain access to digital education under equal conditions each year. By the 2024/25 school year, over 400,000 students in lower secondary education will be equipped with a digital device.

4.1.7 Measure 9 – (Virtual) further education and training for teachers, in particular MOOCs

Description	<p>As part of so-called Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), educators are trained in various subject areas, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching in blended and distance learning settings using information and communication technologies • School development from the perspective of digitalisation • Digitally inclusive specialised didactics • New curricula for primary school and secondary level 1 • New compulsory subject of digital basic education • Safer Internet • Artificial Intelligence in educational settings <p>As a virtual format, a MOOC supplements and expands the extensive programmes offered at universities of teacher education. It is offered as a nationwide training event. The course takes place in a virtual learning environment where an unlimited number of people can participate. No special prior knowledge is required. The course can be completed at any time, at your own pace and from any location. Each of the units contains key learning videos, additional texts and links as well as reflection questions for practical transfer in order to achieve the learning objectives.</p>
Objective	The MOOCs listed are practice-orientated and use precisely the digital tools and methods that the training is about. The direct immersion in these digital technologies enables teachers not only to acquire theoretical knowledge, but also to gain practical experience at the same time. MOOCs also promote networking and exchange with colleagues from all over Austria. In such an environment, teachers can get to know different perspectives and learn from

	each other, which is particularly valuable when it comes to new and constantly evolving topics such as digitalisation.
Schedule	MOOCs at the Virtual University of Teacher Education have been offered since 2020 and their thematic scope is constantly being expanded, also with the involvement of cooperation partners. There are currently no plans to end these activities.
Resources	EUR 100,000 per year
Impact	A modern training programme is available to all teachers on demand.

4.1.8 Measure 10 – Basic digital education from primary school to upper secondary level

Description	<p>In primary schools, the anchoring of digital skills in the curriculum forms the starting point for digital education. As part of the “Learning to think, solving problems” initiative, the focus is on media education and a playful approach to computerised thinking and creative problem solving.</p> <p>In the 2022/23 school year, the compulsory subject “Digital Basic Education” was introduced at secondary schools and AHS lower secondary schools. This is taught for at least one lesson per week from class 5 to class 8. This increases the total number of lessons at lower secondary level by 4 hours. The subject-specific concept of the basic digital education curriculum is based on the Frankfurt Triangle, which illuminates the content from the technical perspective of digital technologies and media phenomena as well as their social interactions and the resulting options for action for the students. The content of basic digital education is divided into the 3 areas of IT education, media education and design skills. This curriculum also serves as a solid basis for computer science lessons in class 9 and the computer science-centred subjects in upper level academic secondary school (AHS).</p> <p>The revision of the curriculum, which is currently being implemented, will also make computer science lessons at upper level academic secondary school (AHS) fit for the future. In addition, this subject is to be expanded to one lesson per week from class 9 to 12 in the upper level academic secondary school (AHS).</p> <p>In the course of the new Intermediate/Higher Vocational Education (BMHS) curriculum generation, which is currently being developed, it will be necessary to expand digital education based on basic digital education – also in the context of an application-orientation. An increase in hours may also be necessary here.</p>
Objective	By introducing the teaching of digital skills in primary school, a solid foundation is laid for the understanding and use of digital technologies, which is essential for a modern society that is increasingly permeated by technology. Acquiring

	<p>problem-solving strategies not only promotes technical understanding, but also innovation and creative thinking – key competences for a successful digital transformation.</p> <p>This path is consistently continued in lower and upper secondary school to prepare students to become active, informed and competent members of a constantly changing digital society. The holistic approach to digital education ensures that young people are not just digital consumers, but are also actively involved in shaping the digital future.</p>
Schedule	<p>The projects described are being introduced gradually. The measures at primary and lower secondary level were launched in the 2018/19 school year. Since 2023/24, basic digital education has been compulsory at lower secondary level with at least one lesson per week per year. The continuation of the programme at upper secondary level is currently in preparation and, according to current planning, will start gradually from the 2024/25 school year. There are currently no plans to end these activities.</p>
Resources	<p>EUR 16 million per school year</p>

4.1.9 Measure 11 – Education portal – Digital school portal

Description	<p>The sub-project “Education Portal – Digital School Portal” acts as a central hub connecting the various applications at Austrian schools and bundles all important information from the various applications for pupils, teachers and parents/guardians. Between 2020 and 2023, the first version of this portal for federal schools was offered on www.pods.gv.at. In 2023, e-government services for schools were added and a redesign was carried out based on the experience gained. Since summer 2023, this expanded portal has been available to all schools at www.bildung.gv.at and is constantly being expanded with additional functions. The roll-out at the individual schools will take place step by step as soon as the master data recorded at the school is available in the school administration register in a quality-assured manner.</p>
Objective	<p>The portal is a central platform for teachers, learners and parents/guardians. It offers the possibility of accessing a variety of functions and applications that are useful for everyday school life through a Single sign-on (SSO). The platform strengthens collaboration between teachers, pupils and parents/guardians, making everyday school life easier for everyone involved.</p> <p>A personal dashboard offers users widgets for the applications used at the school. The specific applications are selected by the respective school. Widgets show important information from another application, for example the current timetable, open homework or messages from a message book. With one click,</p>

	<p>users are taken directly to the right place in the relevant application without having to log in or enter another password.</p> <p>To reduce the workload of the school administration, interfaces have been established via the education portal that ensure regulated, legally compliant and secure data exchange between applications. This Educational Technologies Hub (EdTech Hub) aims to maintain the diversity of applications and the associated innovative strength in the education sector, but to achieve compatibility between the applications by standardising and consolidating the exchange of data.</p> <p>The education portal also offers e-government functions for all schools. These include the electronic ID card for students (edu.digicard), which can be obtained via the portal, as well as an official signature and dual delivery service. This ensures that digitally signed documents (such as certificates) are delivered in a legally valid manner – either electronically or alternatively by post.</p>
Schedule	The first version of this portal was offered to federal schools between 2020 and 2023; In 2023, e-government services for schools were added and a redesign was carried out based on the experience gained. There are currently no plans to end these activities.
Resources	EUR 1 million per year

4.1.10 Measure 12 – Repository and Open Educational Resources – Eduthek

Description	As a digital content platform, the Eduthek provides in-depth practice materials for all types of schools and subjects. The Eduthek bundles content offerings using a standardized catalog system and makes them available to teachers and learners through a comprehensive metadata search and full-text search. It offers didactically structured, freely accessible educational resources.
Objective	As a central repository for open educational resources, the Eduthek fulfills an important key function as an interface between learning in and outside of school and between students, teachers, and guardians to consolidate and deepen what has been learned. Thanks to its close connection to the curricula and the link to the competence fields to be mastered ensure that the digital teaching and learning resources are not only up-to-date and relevant but also structured in a didactically meaningful way.
Schedule	The Eduthek has been available to pupils, teachers and parents/guardians since 2020 and was integrated into the education portal in September 2024 as part of a relaunch. There are currently no plans to end this activity.
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 FTE per year (co-use p93) • 2020–2024: EUR 400,000

- Planned for 2025 ongoing: EUR 100,000 annually

4.1.11 Measure 13 – Digital competence measurement digi.check

Description	<p>The digi.check, as part of the digi.komp initiative of the BMBWF (Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research), helps students and teachers gain an impression of their digital and IT competencies, as well as provides teachers with an understanding of the digital and IT competencies of their students or, for example, their colleagues in the context of school development processes.</p> <p>The digi.komp competency model defines target profiles for the digital and IT competencies that students and teachers should have acquired at specific points in their educational or professional careers. For each digi.komp level, the corresponding digi.check is offered to reflect on the competencies acquired and to plan further educational steps based on the results.</p>
Objective	<p>Pupils should have acquired their first digital and IT skills by the end of primary school. The digi.komp4 competency model defines the relevant areas. The digi.check4 encourages pupils to illustrate their own step-by-step development with stickers in a scrapbook and thus playfully document their own learning progress.</p> <p>The next milestone on the path to acquiring digital and IT skills is defined by the curriculum for the compulsory subject of basic digital education and is intended for class 8. The accompanying digi.check8 is carried out online or via the ITS R3 in-application test environment.</p> <p>Digital competences for teachers are presented in the digi.kompP competence model, which covers didactic competences as well as application and reflection competences. The associated digi.checkP, which also forms the basis for planned further training and personnel development measures, is also offered via the ITS R3 test environment.</p> <p>The “digi.check dashboard”, which is currently being developed and into which the results of the digi.check competence measurements will be anonymised, will provide teachers, school administrators and school supervisors with an overview of the digital competences of both pupils and teachers.</p>
Schedule	<p>As part of the evaluation of the mandatory digital basic education exercise, which was carried out in May/June 2023, new test items were created for digi.check8 and digi.checkP, which were scientifically evaluated and are now available for dissemination. Dissemination was realised and implemented for the 2023/24 school year, together with the “dashboard” for visualising the data.</p>
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020–2024: EUR 740,000 • EUR 100,000 per year

Impact

A modern training programme is available to all teachers on demand.

4.1.12 Measure 14 – Teaching programmes at universities to teach digital and AI skills and digital literacy

Description

Digital skills must be promoted along the entire education chain, including at universities. For this reason, the promotion of “Digital Skills and Data Literacy” has been anchored in the strategic documents of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) for the management of universities, such as the GUEP, HOP, and the strategic framework for digitalisation at universities, “Universities and Digital Transformation 2030”.

As part of the “Digital and Social Transformation in Higher Education” call for proposals, numerous university projects are being funded to improve the acquisition of digital skills by students, among other goals.

“Teaching Digital Thinking” is an Austria-wide concept by the University of Vienna for educating students in basic computer science and computational thinking. The main aim of the project is to impart digital skills to as broad a spectrum of students as possible, enabling them to understand, critically reflect on, and actively shape the digital transformation. To this end, an Austria-wide concept is being developed for training students in basic computer science knowledge and for the prototypical integration of digital skills into curricula, with a particular focus on teaching and teacher training projects.

The “CodeAbility Austria” project at the University of Innsbruck aims to create a national platform to teach foundational programming skills to both students and educators.

The “eInformatics@Austria” project at the Technical University of Vienna focuses on producing MOOCs to convey basic informatics knowledge to all students and other interested parties.

The “DigiFit4All” project at the University of Klagenfurt aims to impart digital skills to all citizens (including pupils, students, apprentices, and those with a general interest), develop learning resources, and provide personalised, competency-oriented knowledge transfer. It enables time- and location-independent, personalised learning activities, thereby facilitating access to key digital skills for groups of people with specific requirements.

The Institute of Digital Sciences Austria is a university seeking to break new ground in education, aiming to produce generalists with a deep understanding of digital transformation for an era characterised by AI, autonomous systems, and robotics.

Objective	<p>Universities already offer “extension modules”, i.e., flexible content for acquiring digital skills, or integrate digital skills into the standard curriculum or via MOOCs for students and lecturers. The focus is on establishing basic digital techniques and computational thinking as fundamental skills to be acquired by pupils, students, apprentices, and all other interested citizens, enabling them to play an active role in shaping the digital transformation. Such measures should be further promoted.</p> <p>The Institute of Digital Sciences Austria is dedicated to digitalisation and digital transformation. It will address this topic in all its dimensions, equipping students with both sound technological skills (including in AI) and transversal competences. The aim is to rethink education fundamentally.</p>
Schedule	<p>In the ongoing 2025–2027 performance agreement negotiations with universities, corresponding new projects and objectives will be agreed upon, and existing measures will be driven forward.</p> <p>The projects from the tender “Digital and Social Transformation in higher education” will be continued if the evaluation is positive and will transition to regular operations from 2024.</p> <p>The Institute of Digital Sciences Austria began developing regular study programmes in 2024 and will transition to full operations thereafter.</p>
Resources	<p>The projects under the call for proposals “Digital and social transformation in higher education” are to be continued using the university’s global funds.</p>
Impact	<p>Students from all types of higher education institutions and disciplines possess digital skills.</p> <p>New and innovative approaches and methods for acquiring digital and AI competencies are being developed. These initiatives aim not only to impart practical skills that enhance graduates’ employability but also to provide a comprehensive understanding of digital transformation and its societal impacts.</p>

4.1.13 Measure 15 – Focus programme AI literacy & AI skills

Description	<p>Based on Article 4 of the Regulation on Artificial Intelligence (AI Act) and the national AI strategy, targeted measures for AI literacy and AI competencies are being developed as part of the digital skills initiative. By involving relevant stakeholders and experts, it will be ensured that the developed measures are oriented towards the needs of citizens. The measures will be piloted and tested to consolidate them according to their effectiveness and to enable their broad dissemination.</p> <p>The starting point is a scientific report aimed at providing an initial assessment from experts in business, education, and public administration. Building on this,</p>
--------------------	--

	the local offerings for AI competencies will be analysed, and the needs will be identified. At the same time, further discussions with experts will take place.
Resources	EUR 100,000
Impact	The aim is to equip citizens through AI literacy measures to responsibly manage the risks of AI and to seize the opportunities AI has to offer.

4.1.14 Measure 16 – Empowering girls and women in the digital space

Description	<p>In the calls for proposals for 2023/24 and 2024/25 by the Division for Women’s Affairs and Equality, one of the goals is to strengthen women and girls in the digital space. Educational offerings and qualification measures are increasingly provided digitally, and knowledge of handling digital media in the professional world is often assumed. To promote sustainable societal and professional participation of girls and women, the imparting of digital skills is therefore central.</p> <p>Social media are important places for social interaction and communication. The digital space also offers the opportunity to break traditional role models and gender stereotypes. Nevertheless, especially young women are exposed to various forms of insults or harassment in the digital world. Hate speech, bullying, and body shaming particularly affect young women, who face unrealistic expectations due to digital image editing and filtering.</p>
Objective	<p>The current calls for proposals focus on strengthening women and girls in the digital space and the impact of an increasingly digitalised world on the actual equality of women and men. Comprehensive awareness-raising – such as media literacy and knowledge of protection and defence strategies – can contribute to enhancing the digital resilience of women and girls. At the same time, acquiring, further developing, and consolidating digital skills can increase the opportunities for women and girls in the labour market and economic life. The strengthening of girls and women occurs through the promotion of projects aimed at imparting digital skills in times of advancing digitalisation, for example, by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reinforcing a positive self-image and body image in the digital space, as well as raising awareness of traditional gender stereotypes online; • establishing equal access and a discrimination-free environment by reducing barriers and showcasing usage possibilities; • protecting against dangers on the internet, such as cyber grooming, cyber stalking, hate online, or other forms of cyber violence.
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call for proposals 2023/24: Funding for five related projects amounting to EUR 413,656.07

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call for proposals 2024/25: Funding for six related projects amounting to EUR 762,368.70
Impact	Empowering women and girls in the digital space to enable a discrimination-free equal access, particularly through imparting digital skills.

4.1.15 Measure 17 – Inter-university project “Academic AI Services”

Description	The inter-university project “Academic AI Services” aims to establish a secure environment for testing and using (generative) AI technology, taking into account data protection and information security, and to make this technology available to research, teaching and administration. The shared service offering will be developed by ACOmarket for all participating universities and made available where appropriate and possible. Another element of the project is the establishment of an experimental open source environment on the MUSICA server to enable the universities to train their own models and develop new services for teaching, research and administration. These services can in turn be imported into the cloud environment and made available to other universities.
Objective	Improving digital and AI skills of researchers, educators, and students through testing and use of various AI services.
Schedule	2025: Development of utilisation scenarios and university application areas by the universities. Clarification of the legal and financial framework and completion of a supplementary course. Implementation by the universities during the performance agreement period, including specification of different AI models; fine-tuning of selected AI models and evaluation of integration into the service landscape of universities.
Resources	<p>The project will be funded by the BMBWF through a supplement to the 2025–2027 performance agreement (expected in early 2025), as soon as the project framework and project governance between the universities, ACOmarket, MUSICA and the BMBWF have been clarified.</p> <p>The BMBWF has allocated special funds totalling EUR 6 million from the university budget for this purpose.</p>
Impact	The project aims to help universities identify and test the AI services that are most relevant to their teaching, research and, where appropriate, administrative needs, while ensuring data protection and information security. At the same time, the common project framework will promote dialogue between universities on these AI applications.

4.1.16 Measure 18 – Digi cheque for apprenticeships and vocational training 2023–24

Description	Apprentices with a valid apprenticeship contract for training in a vocational training establishment at the time of the educational measure will be funded. 100% of the participation costs will be covered up to a maximum limit of 500 euros per measure (gross price; more expensive measures can be funded, but any amount exceeding 500 euros must be borne by the participant), and up to 3 individual measures per calendar year in 2023 or 2024.
Resources	Cannot be explicitly specified.
Impact	To develop skills in digitalisation, climate change, sustainability and foreign languages relevant to the job.

4.1.17 Measure 19 – Future skills

Description	<p>The project “Future Skills for Public Administration” defines key competencies required for the digital transformation in the Austrian federal administration. Based on studies and competency models, technical, social, and cognitive skills are identified that go beyond mere digital skills and are integrated into a competency framework model. This model is designed to be flexible, allowing it to be adapted to job descriptions and the specific structures of the administration to fulfil current and future demands of the digital workplace.</p> <p>In its implementation, the focus is on aligning personnel development toward agile competency management, enabling upskilling and new teaching formats to promote the continuous development of employees. The next steps include specifying and adapting the competencies in close collaboration with human resources development and the technical implementation of the model to continuously respond to changes and create a future-proof working environment.</p>
Objective	The focus of the measure is the federal civil service and its employees. The competences and skills of all levels are described and developed.
Schedule	Pilot phase starting in mid/late 2025.
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EUR 150,000 annually, • 1 internal project organisation (FTE)
Impact	An overview of all the skills available/needed in the federal civil service is provided, enabling efficient, effective and sustainable management by the departments concerned (recruitment/training/assessment, etc.).

4.2 KPI 2 – ICT-specialists

EU target for 2030: At least 20 million ICT specialists are employed within the Union, while promoting the access of women to this field and increasing the number of ICT graduates.

Table 4 National trajectory by 2030 for KPI 2

2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
5.3%	5.6%	5.9%	6.5%	7%	8%	9%	10%

As part of the Digital Decade, the EU aims to increase the number of ICT specialists, targeting a goal of 20 million IT specialists by 2030. This represents approximately 10% of the employed population in the EU.

This aim nearly doubles the current rate of 5.3% of ICT specialists in the Austrian labour force, of which 19.5% are women. The Austrian federal government is implementing various measures to achieve this target. However, the success of these efforts is heavily influenced by economic developments. Given the current economic landscape, the Austrian federal government expects that a significant increase in the current growth rate of 6% will not occur until at least 2027, in order to reach the target of 10% by 2030.

Table 5 Overall timeline for KPI 2: Measures that contribute to achieving the target

Measure	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
1 – Support for capacity building – Support programmes for recruitment and training			Yes	Yes	Yes			
2 – Study on the topic of skilled labour as part of the digital skills campaign	Yes							
3 – Digital Innovation School for graduate education	Yes							
4 – Funding programme “IT Experts”			Yes	Yes				
5 – Study on the labour market situation in the field of cybersecurity		Yes	Yes	Yes				

Measure	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
6 – Dismantling gender stereotypes in educational and career choices as part of the activities of the Austrian Fund for the Empowerment of Women and Girls (Let's empower Austria – LEA)		Yes	Yes	Yes				
7 – MINT-Girls Challenge: Austria-wide STEM ideas competition for girls and young women		Yes	Yes	Yes				
8 – Girls' Day in the Federal Public Service Action day for girls and young women focussing on technical and scientific training and career opportunities		Yes	Yes	Yes				
9 – MINT action plan		Yes						
10 – Shared OER and MOOC services in higher education			Yes	Yes	Yes			
11 – Demand-oriented expansion of the university of applied sciences sector with a focus on STEM / digitalisation and sustainability	Yes	Yes	Yes					

4.2.1 Measure 1 – Support for capacity building

Description	<p>Support programmes for staff recruitment/search: The competition for digitally savvy specialists is intensifying in Austria and internationally. Many companies lack specialists who can implement digital transformation projects or do not have employees who can be trained for this. The Austrian Economic Chamber is therefore calling for the development of support measures for staff development in the area of digitalisation, e.g: Creation of a training programme to become a “digital change agent”. These are internally trained or externally recruited employees who temporarily support companies during the transformation process.</p> <p>Qualification campaign: Continuation and expansion of the qualification campaign (BMAW). Three formats will continue to be available for funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills cheques: Subsidy for qualification measures attended on the market in the areas of Green & Digital Transition • Qualification projects: Customised projects for companies, including the development of skills profiles and implementation of corresponding training measures • Training labs: Laboratories in which companies develop and test specific training formats for the transformation of Austrian companies together with research institutions and experts over a defined period of time
--------------------	--

	<p>Budget 2024–2026: approximately EUR 9.5 million annually</p> <p>Digital talents: To increase the availability of digital talent in the medium term, the following measures are essential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the basic understanding of coding in schools, apprenticeships, vocational training and at universities • Organising hackathons etc. to raise awareness • Funded coding initiatives for children during school holidays (e.g. Coding4kids)
Objective	The measure focuses on SMEs that are beginning their digitalisation process. Their fundamental need for digitalisation is supported. The biggest hurdle in digitalisation projects is a lack of human resources and a shortage of digital talent and specialists.
Schedule	The programme will start in July 2023 and a review of the programme terms and conditions will take place at the beginning of the fourth quarter of 2023 (revised terms and conditions are expected to be available from the end of the fourth quarter of 2023). The programme is expected to be available until at least the end of 2025.
Resources	Qualification Initiative 2024–2026: EUR 29,4 million
Impact	SMEs will receive support in developing their human resources, while larger companies will benefit from access to an expanded pool of digital talent.

4.2.2 Measure 2 – Study on the topic of skilled labour

Description	As part of the Digital Skills Initiative (DKO), the KPI on skilled labour is of great importance and the topic of skilled labour has been defined as one of the DKO’s objectives. A study was commissioned to present the basics of the topic and define the fields of action to be addressed.
Objective	Increase the number of IT specialists: A total of 220,700 ICT specialists were employed in Austria in 2022. Compared to 2017, this is an increase of 32,900 skilled workers or 17.5%. Over time, there has been a positive trend in terms of the proportion of ICT specialists in total employment, the proportion of female ICT specialists and the proportion of ICT graduates. Guidelines were formulated for the development of measures in the field of action ICT experts.
Schedule	The study is available.
Resources	This will be dealt with as part of the DKO (comprehensive topic).
Impact	The proportion of ICT specialists has to increase through targeted measures.

4.2.3 Measure 3 – Digital Innovation School for graduate education

Description	The Digital Innovation School (DIS) at the Complexity Science Hub (CSH) is a PhD/doctoral programme aimed at preparing graduates to lead Austria’s digital transformation at an international level. Depending on the partner university, selected focus areas include “Digital Economic Sciences”, “Data-Driven Medicine”, “Artificial Intelligence”, “Computational Social Sciences”, and “Sustainability in Urban Systems”. Participating universities include MedUni Vienna, BOKU, Vetmeduni Vienna, TU Vienna, TU Graz, WU Vienna, and CEU.
Objective	The research of the CSH aims to generate knowledge from large data sets to develop solutions for complex societal problems, ranging from health and urban planning to equality of opportunity. For this research and the sustainable securing of Austria’s research location, interdisciplinary-trained early-career researchers are needed. The doctoral programme of the DIS was established as part of the Digital Skills Initiative (DKO), a joint initiative of the Federal Chancellery and the BMBWF to secure IT top talent for Austria.
Schedule	The programme is being developed in stages. In autumn 2023, a pilot phase was launched with 3 doctoral candidates. Since autumn 2024, the programme has been expanding annually, admitting a new cohort of 7 doctoral students each year. The duration of the CSH DIS is planned to span at least 10 years.
Resources	The federal funding amounts to a total of EUR 12.462 million, which will be allocated to MedUni Vienna, as the coordinating university, through a global budget.
Impact	The aim of the CSH DIS is to provide a standardised academic PhD programme for interdisciplinary IT leaders at the interface between business and research. At least 20–25 doctoral students will be trained over the course of the full programme, which is planned to last three3 years.

4.2.4 Measure 4 – „IT-Experts“ funding programme

Description	The results of a white paper titled “IT Experts”, developed by the Digital Skills Initiative in collaboration with stakeholders and experts, serve as the foundation for the “IT Experts” funding programme. The programme will promote innovative new approaches to increasing the number of IT experts and support the scaling of impactful projects. The key focus areas are “Closing the Gender Gap”, career orientation, and education and training.
Objective	Promote initiatives aimed at increasing the number of IT professionals.
Schedule	Work on the implementation is currently underway.

Resources	EUR 1.2 million allocated
Impact	Objectiveed measures to increase the proportion of ICT-specialists.

4.2.5 Measure 5 – Study on the labour market situation in the field of cybersecurity

Description	In 2024, work began on the study project “CyberSec-Kompetenz Austria (CSKA)”, which aims to strengthen cybersecurity capabilities in Austria by assessing the current and future labour market situation in the field of cybersecurity through surveys, interviews, and the analysis of training offerings in accordance with the European Cybersecurity Skills Framework (ECSF). The project will identify skill gaps and provide recommendations for action.
Schedule	Work on the implementation is currently underway.
Resources	The funding is provided by the national research programme for security, K-PASS.
Impact	Recurring concept for the continuous assessment of the labour market situation in Austria in the field of cybersecurity; identification of skill gaps and development of action recommendations.

4.2.6 Measure 6 – Promoting gender-neutral educational and career choices by dismantling stereotypes

Description	<p>The Austrian Fund for the Empowerment of Women and Girls – Let’s Empower Austria (abbreviated: LEA) is a central instrument for promoting gender equality in Austria. Its main goal is to overcome gender stereotypes and enable women to lead economically independent lives. Particular emphasis is placed on supporting women in future-oriented industries, especially in STEM fields.</p> <p>LEA offers workshops, online seminars, and discussion and event formats, including sessions with inspiring role models. Additionally, the fund creates a comprehensive knowledge base through educational materials and studies and provides funding for projects by external partners.</p> <p>Some examples from LEA’s area of work, including the ICT sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 124 role models, of which 73 are from the STEM sectors (as of 21 October 2024), are continuously involved in various activities. A mentoring programme with the Role Models has taken place for the first time in 2024 • Children’s book “Wer macht MI(N)T”: to be sent to all primary schools in Austria in 2023, including teaching materials and audio book version
--------------------	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender equality materials “[UN]TYPISCH”: developed for gender-sensitive primary education, to be presented in Krems on 2 February 2024 • LEA study “MINT the Gap!” published (March 2023) and introduced several times <p>An annual activity report provides an overview of all activities of the fund.</p>
Objective	Gender stereotypes in the educational and career choices of girls and women should be dismantled through the dissemination of information, educational and awareness raising initiatives. Their interest in STEM fields, including ICT should also be actively encouraged.
Schedule	LEA has been implementing measures in this area since 2022. There are currently no plans to end these activities.
Resources	<p>In the Budget proposal (BVA) 2024, EUR 2.8 million has been allocated for the Austrian Fund for the Empowerment of Women and Girls – Let’s Empower Austria (LEA). Of this amount, EUR 400,000 will be provided for project funding (call for proposals).</p> <p>The financing of the mentioned measures will come from the overall funding.</p>
Impact	<p>Through information dissemination, educational, and awareness-raising initiatives, gender-specific stereotypes in the educational and career choices of girls and women should be dismantled, and their interest in STEM fields (including ICT) should be increased.</p> <p>The benefits of the fund’s offerings are documented, among other things, in the context of performance orientation in the federal budget under Indicator UG 10, specifically under Indicator 10.3.4.</p>

4.2.7 Measure 7 – MINT-Girls Challenge

Description	<p>The “MINT-Girls Challenge” is a nationwide idea competition in Austria initiated by the Federal Minister for Women, Family, Integration, and Media, the Federal Minister for Labour and Economy, and the Federation of Austrian Industries, which was first held in 2021. As part of the MINT-Girls Challenge, girls and young women aged 3 to 19 are invited to develop ideas and solutions addressing the challenges of our world using STEM subjects (Mathematics, Informatics, Natural Sciences, and Technology – MINT). Through presentations and experiments, girls and young women can demonstrate how they would make the world more sustainable and liveable. Individual and group submissions are allowed in 4 age categories (up to 6 years, 6 to 10 years, 10 to 14 years, 14 to 19 years).</p> <p>The submission period for the MINT-Girls Challenge begins with a kick-off event. The competition is communicated and promoted through various channels.</p>
--------------------	---

	<p>During a jury session, an independent jury selects the winning projects. The winners of the MINT-Girls Challenge are finally awarded in a ceremony.</p> <p>Key figures of the MINT-Girls Challenge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2021/22: 100 participants; 77 submissions • 2022/23: 837 participants; 145 submissions • 2023/24: 909 participants; 153 submissions
Objective	The MINT-Girls Challenge aims to spark the interest of more girls and young women in Mathematics, Information Technology, Natural Sciences, and Engineering (STEM) and to address the skills shortage in the Austrian economic sector – including in the ICT field.
Schedule	<p>The fourth round of the MINT-Girls Challenge 2024/25 began with a kick-off event on 5 September 2024. The submission deadline for ideas is 23 February, 2025. The award ceremony with the winners will take place in April 2025.</p> <p>There are currently no plans to end the initiative.</p>
Resources	Since this initiative is a collaboration between the Federal Chancellery (BKA) and the Federal Ministry for Labour and Economy (BMAW) in partnership with the Federation of Austrian Industries (Industriellenvereinigung), and since personnel costs for these measures are not explicitly recorded, it is not possible to provide information on the total budgetary resources.
Impact	The MINT-Girls Challenge aims to introduce girls and young women to the STEM field and to highlight the opportunities available for education and career choices in STEM.

4.2.8 Measure 8 – Girls’ Day in the Federal Public Service

Description	<p>The “Girls’ Day” in Federal Public Service is an action day that has been held since 2006 based on a cabinet resolution in the federal ministries and subordinate agencies.</p> <p>During the Girls’ Day in Federal Public Service, girls aged 6 and older can gain insight into the everyday work of public service professions. The focus is on fields related to STEM. By having the opportunity to practically test their skills, the participants on this action day have the chance to explore career fields, including technology, natural sciences, crafts, and information technology, and to consider the presented professions in their future planning</p> <p>Since 2015, an additional programme for girls aged 4 and older has been established with the “Girls’ Day – MINI”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4,491 girls participated in the 60 Girls’ Day programmes offered by the Federal Administration on 25 April 2024.
--------------------	---

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total of 36,036 girls have taken part in Girls’ Day in the Federal Civil Service since the day was introduced in 2006 (based on the figures reported by the ministries).
Objective	The purpose of the Girls’ Day is to motivate girls and young women to pursue technical (including ICT) and scientific fields of study and professions, to break down stereotypes, and to raise awareness of the diversity of opportunities in STEM.
Schedule	The Girls’ Day in Federal Public Service was held for the first time in 2006. The next Girls’ Day in Federal Public Service is scheduled for 24 April 2025. Currently, there are no plans to end this initiative.
Resources	Since personnel costs for these cross-departmental initiatives are not explicitly recorded, it is not possible to provide information on the total budgetary resources.
Impact	Documentation on the Girls’ Day and Girls’ Day MINI in Federal Public Service summarises the results from the surveyed project coordinators and the offered programmes, thus providing an important foundation for identifying new optimisation potentials in the organisation and implementation of future initiatives.

4.2.9 Measure 9 – MINT action plan

Description	<p>The action plan “MI(N)Tmachen” represents the STEM workforce initiative of the BMBWF. It aims to strengthen “scientific and technological literacy” and highlight the significant opportunities that a career in STEM education and professions can provide. Its measures, organised into eight action lines, address the entire education chain—from early childhood education to university graduation. Young people are inspired to engage with STEM and are supported along their STEM educational journey. The action lines are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STEM regions to strengthen regional networking • Online platform for networking and visibility of STEM activities • Attractive and contemporary presentation and promotion of STEM jobs • Support for talents on their STEM educational journey • Learning STEM through well-trained teachers and curricula/study programmes • Experiencing and exploring STEM • Training STEM professionals in Austria • Everyone can engage with STEM.
Objective	The aim is to increase the number of STEM graduates at Austrian universities by 20% and to raise the proportion of female graduates in technical degree

	programmes by 5% (see FIT Strategy). This will provide the labour market with more IT professionals
Schedule	Work on the implementation is currently underway.
Resources	Cannot be explicitly specified.
Impact	Increasing the proportion of ICT specialists through targeted measures.

4.2.10 Measure 10 – Shared OER and MOOC services in higher education

Description	<p>OERhub.at is a search engine for Open Educational Resources (OER) from the Austrian higher education sector. Currently connected to OERhub are the OER repositories of the University of Vienna, University of Graz, University of Innsbruck, Graz University of Technology, as well as the Austrian MOOC platform iMooX and the archive system of the DigiFit4All project. iMooX offers freely accessible and openly licenced online courses (Massive Open Online Courses – MOOCs) on various topics, available to all interested individuals at no cost and independent of time and location.</p> <p>Expansion will take place in gradual steps. For the upcoming performance agreement period (2025–2027), an increase in the participation and involvement of Austrian universities in the OERhub.at project is planned, with the long-term goal of creating an open, trustworthy digital infrastructure for national shared services for Open Educational Resources/MOOCs and expanding the availability of interactive learning materials for self-study.</p> <p>With appropriate acceptance and impact, this infrastructure is to be expanded to the entire Austrian higher education sector.</p>
Objective	With the low-threshold accessibility and increased availability of open teaching and learning materials, these serve as bridging and preparatory courses for better academic success, helping to close existing knowledge gaps and prevent negative academic trajectories, including dropouts.
Schedule	Work on the implementation is currently underway.
Resources	EUR 1.5 million in global funding from the university.
Impact	Among other measures, the share of ICT specialists is to be increased through targeted initiatives.

4.2.11 Measure 11 – Demand-oriented expansion of the university of applied sciences sector with a focus on STEM / digitalisation and sustainability

Description	Continuous demand-oriented expansion of the university of applied sciences sector with a focus on the fields of STEM, digitalisation, and sustainability, in accordance with the quantitative and qualitative planning requirements of the university development and funding plan for 2023/24 – 2025/26. In the current planning period, a total of 1,054 additional federally funded entry places will be created in 3 expansion phases of 350 places each. By full expansion, a total of 2,625 additional university of applied sciences study places will be available by 2027.
Objective	Initiatives that promote the increase in the number of IT professionals.
Schedule	The expansion will take place in 3 stages, each with 350 places for beginners from the academic years 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26. The tendering and allocation of the new study places has already been completed and full expansion will be achieved in the academic year 2027/28.
Resources	For the financing of these 3 expansion phases, additional budget funds amounting to a total of EUR 167.2 million are planned for the years 2024 through 2030.
Impact	The share of ICT specialists is to be increased through targeted measures. The number of graduates in the fields of STEM, digitalisation, and sustainability is also to be increased.

4.3 KPI 3 – Connectivity (VHCN)

EU target for 2030: 100% availability to all European households of fixed connections able to deliver very high-speed and reliable connectivity services (measured with the VHCN indicator)

Table 6 National trajectory by 2030 for KPI 3

2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
69%	73%	75%	79%	84%	89%	94%	100%

Table 7 Overall timeline for KPI 3: Measures that contribute to achieving the target

Measure	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
1 – Broadband Austria 2030 initiative	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				

Funding for all measures that can be allocated to the objective:

- Public investments:
 - already allocated: EUR 1.446 million
 - of which from national sources:
 - already allocated: EUR 990 million
 - of which from EU-sources (RRF):
 - already allocated: EUR 456 million

Brief description:

One of the main priorities of the Broadband Austria 2030 initiative is to support the digital transformation through connectivity measures aimed in particular at bridging the digital divide between urban and rural areas and counteracting market failure with regard to the expansion of high-performance networks.

Challenge – Distortion of competition through state aid:

Competition policy, and in particular state aid rules, play an important role in realising the objectives of the digital strategy and developing a coordinated investment strategy for connectivity. State aid control in the broadband sector aims to ensure that state aid leads to higher broadband coverage and utilisation than would be the case without state intervention, while at the same time supporting higher quality and more affordable services and pro-competitive investment. State intervention should minimise the risk of crowding out private investment, impairing commercial investment incentives and thus ultimately the risk of distortions of competition that run counter to the common interest.

Estimated investment gap and possible measures to achieve the national targets:

The telecommunications sector in Austria has been liberalised since 1998. As a result, investments must be prioritised by the sector itself. In a study conducted in 2021, an overall assessment showed that investment costs of around EUR 5.2 billion would be required to develop subsidised areas with broadband infrastructure. Investment costs of around EUR 8.7 billion are required for the expansion of broadband infrastructure in subsidised areas and self-developed non-gigabit-capable areas. For information purposes, it was also calculated what investment costs would be necessary to re-lay

broadband infrastructure throughout Austria (greenfield expansion). Investments totalling around EUR 10 billion would be required here.⁸

4.3.1 Measure 1 – Broadband Austria 2030 initiative

<p>Description</p>	<p>One of the main priorities of the Broadband Austria 2030 initiative is to support the digital transformation through connectivity measures aimed in particular at bridging the digital divide between urban and rural areas and counteracting market failure with regard to the expansion of high-performance networks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The funding programme “BBA2030: Access” aims to ensure the availability of gigabit-capable communications infrastructure in those areas of Austria that are not or only insufficiently accessible through private-sector expansion due to market failure. • The funding programme “BBA2030: OpenNet” aims to ensure the availability of gigabit-capable open access networks in those areas of Austria that are not or only insufficiently covered by private-sector expansion due to market failure. • The funding programme “BBA2030: Connect” aims to provide the availability of symmetrical gigabit access in areas with a particular socio-economic focus throughout the entire country. • The funding programme “BBA2030: GigaApp” complements infrastructure funding by promoting innovative mobile and stationary applications that will characterise the gigabit society. The aim is the pre-competitive development of innovative, exemplary regional applications and services based on gigabit-capable networks.
<p>Objective</p>	<p>The measure focuses on those areas of Austria that are not or only inadequately covered by a private-sector expansion due to market failure (avoidance of a digital divide between urban and rural areas). The subsidised construction of gigabit access networks is intended to stimulate the wholesale market and ensure competition on the end customer market.</p>
<p>Schedule</p>	<p>The programmes “BBA2030: Access” and “BBA2030: OpenNet” were notified by the European Commission by the end of 2026. The first round of tenders as part of the Broadband Austria 2030 initiative started in March 2022. Based on market consultations, further funding calls were carried out in 2023 and 2024.</p> <p>An initial external interim evaluation must be carried out by the end of 2025. Subject to the recommendations of the external evaluation, a prolongation of the notification with the European Commission beyond 2026 is envisaged.</p>

⁸ KPMG, Study on the development and analysis of a model for accelerating broadband expansion in Austria, 2021, https://data.breitbandbuero.gv.at/PUB_KPMG-Studie-Breitbandausbau.pdf

Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National: EUR 990 million EU: EUR 456 million
Impact	As many households as possible in areas affected by market failure will have gigabit network access by the end of 2030.

4.4 KPI 4 – Connectivity (5G)

EU target for 2030: 100% availability in all populated areas of a 5G mobile network regardless of frequency band used.

Table 8 National trajectory by 2030 for KPI 4

2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
96%	99.5%	99.5%	99.5%	99.5%	99.5%	99.5%	100%

Table 9 Overall timeline for KPI 4: Measures that contribute to achieving the target

Measure	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
1 – Supply obligations as part of the multi-band auction	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			
2 – Anchoring in the 5G Broadcast in the digitalisation concept	Yes	Yes	Yes					

Funding for all measures that can be allocated to the objective:

- Public investments:
 - No public investments are planned.

Brief description:

Through the 700/1500/2100 MHz multi-band auction in September 2020, mobile operators acquired 5G frequencies that are particularly suitable for providing coverage in rural regions.

Challenge – supplying rural regions with 5G:

- In the run-up to the multi-band auction, the Telekom-Control Commission (TKK) identified 2,100 cadastral communities with inadequate mobile communications coverage. These must be addressed as part of the supply requirements of the multi-band auction.

- If coverage gaps relative to the digital targets remain following the network expansion induced by the coverage obligations of the 700/1500/2100 MHz multiband auction, additional coverage obligations may be included in future frequency allocations (e.g., during the reallocation of the 800 MHz band).

Estimated investment gap and possible measures to achieve the national targets:

No public funds are earmarked for the expansion of mobile phone coverage. Investments must therefore be made entirely by the sector.

4.4.1 Measure 1 – Supply obligations as part of the multi-band auction

Description	<p>The 5G strategy was published by the Federal Government as part of Council of Ministers presentation 15/11 of 25 April 2018. The aim of the 5G strategy is to accelerate the introduction of 5G mobile communications technology in Austria through optimised framework conditions.</p> <p>The first 5G frequency auction in the 3.4–3.8 GHz range was completed in March 2019⁹ This enabled all mobile network operators to acquire sufficient and homogeneous 5G frequency coverage for the whole of Austria (between 100 and 140 MHz, depending on the region). Thanks to the early allocation of frequencies, the 3 mobile network operators were able to start commercial operation of 5G at the beginning of 2020.</p> <p>Due to the coverage requirements, the 3 mobile mobile network operators were obliged to use the allocated frequencies at 303 mobile radio stations each by the end of 2020 and 1,000 each by the end of 2022.</p> <p>Through the 700/1500/2100 MHz multi-band auction in September 2020, mobile operators have already acquired 5G frequencies that are particularly suitable for providing coverage in rural regions.¹⁰ In order to incentivise additional availability, the Telekom-Control Commission (TKK) has created a bonus system: The bidders were able to bid at a discount on the previously submitted bids in exchange for the obligation of additional availability. This incentive system has ensured that a total of 1,702 cadastral communities will have nationwide 5G coverage in the future. That is around 80 % of all cadastral communities in Austria that have been poorly supplied or not supplied at all to date. In the meantime, the 26 GHz frequency range and frequencies from the 3.4–3.8 GHz range in individual regions that were not allocated in the 2019 auction were also allocated for mobile communications in April 2024.</p>
--------------------	---

⁹ https://www.rtr.at/TKP/was_wir_tun/telekommunikation/spectrum/procedures/Procedure_3600MHz_2019/Procedure_3600MHz_2019_en.html

¹⁰ https://www.rtr.at/TKP/was_wir_tun/telekommunikation/spectrum/procedures/Multibandauktion_700-1500-2100MHz_2020/FRO5G_2020.de.html

Objective	The measure focuses on those rural areas of Austria that previously had inadequate mobile phone coverage (avoiding a digital divide between urban and rural areas). The supply obligations are intended to improve supply and at the same time stimulate competition on the end customer market.
Schedule	The first 5G frequency auction in the 3.4–3.8 GHz range was completed in March 2019. ¹¹ The second 5G frequency auction in the 700/1500/2100 MHz range took place in September 2020. In April 2024, the 26 GHz frequency range for mobile communications was awarded as well as frequencies from the 3.4–3.8 GHz range in individual regions that were not awarded in the 2019 auction. In order to create planning certainty for market participants, the regulatory authority, together with the Federal Ministry of Finance, has published a rough schedule of future frequency allocations in the Spectrum Release Plan 2022 to 2026 ¹² . However, the Spectrum Release Plan is not legally binding and does not preclude the Telekom-Control Commission (TKK) from making decisions that may deviate from it.
Resources	No public funding provided.
Impact	5G availability for at least 1,702 cadastral communities, representing around 80% of all cadastral communities in Austria that have been poorly supplied or not supplied at all to date. Due to the supply requirements, 730 cadastral communities must be covered by the end of 2024.

4.4.2 Measure 2 – Anchoring in the 5G Broadcast in the digitalisation concept

Description	<p>Terrestrial broadcasting currently uses the DVB-T2 standard. 5G Broadcast is currently being tested as a transmission standard that could be used as a potential supplement or long-term successor to DVB-T2, and offers the advantage of being able to be processed as a “5G standard” by any mobile device that has a corresponding 5G Broadcast reception option.</p> <p>For this reason, the 5G Broadcast standard is already anchored in the 2021 digitalisation concept¹³ and the successor concepts as a precautionary measure in order to be able to continue to provide terrestrial broadcasting in the UHF range between around 470 MHz and 694 MHz in the future. During the reallocation of licences for multiplex platforms, conditions will need to be defined to enable a transition to 5G Broadcast (or alternative technologies), ensuring the most efficient transmission possible.</p>
--------------------	---

¹¹ https://www.rtr.at/TKP/was_wir_tun/telekommunikation/spectrum/procedures/Procedure_3600MHz_2019/Procedure_3600MHz_2019_en.html

¹² [Spectrum Release Plan | RTR](#)

¹³ https://www.rtr.at/medien/aktuelles/veroeffentlichungen/Veroeffentlichungen/Verordnungen/Digitalisierungskonzept_2021.de.html

Resources	none
Impact	Maintaining the possibility of broadcasting terrestrial television in Austria to ensure coverage of around 98% of the Austrian population with broadcasts under public law and securing transmission as part of the reallocation of the “MUX A/B” multiplex platforms in 2025.

4.5 KPI 5 – Semiconductors

EU target for 2030: Secure, resilient, performant, and sustainable digital infrastructures where the production, in accordance with Union law on environmental sustainability, of cutting-edge semiconductors in the Union is at least 20% of world production in value

Objective: Building up the strengths of the Austrian semiconductor sector. Austria is currently in fourth place in the EU in absolute terms (turnover). In relative terms (% of GDP), we are in first place. Against the backdrop of multiple crises and the enormous importance of semiconductors/chips (90% of the industry in Austria is dependent on chips; 50% of global GDP depends on semiconductors), Austria’s/Europe’s position needs to be strengthened here. No region or company in the world can produce all types of chips and encompass all stages of the value chain. Therefore, the aim must be to strengthen the strategic position of Austria/the EU in this sector to enhance its negotiating position on the global playing field. In addition to national measures (IPCEI ME I, IPCEI ME II, Lab2Fab, Microelectronics2Market, and horizontal instruments [research premium, etc.]), the implementation of the Chips Act is currently being prepared at the EU level, aiming to increase the EU’s share of international value chains from the current 9% to 20% by 2030.

National baseline value: EUR 7 million (for the year 2023); 0.2% global market share (total sales)

Table 10 Overall timeline for KPI 5: Measures that contribute to achieving the target

Measure	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
1 – Participation in the Joint Undertaking Key Digital Technologies (KDT) and the successor Chips Joint Undertaking to strengthen research and development in the field of microelectronics	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			
2 – Chips Act Pillar 1 + 2 – Implementation from 2024 ongoing	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				

Measure	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
3 – IPCEI ME I – Implementation 2021–2024	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			
4 – IPCEI ME II – Implementation 2024–2026	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			

Funding for all measures that can be allocated to the objective

- Public investments:
 - Electronic Components and Systems or ECS programme as part of the Key Digital Technologies or Chips Joint Undertaking: Public funding of EUR 48.666 million is available to strengthen the R&D&I system from 2023 to 2027. Of this, 8.666 million will be invested in 2023 as part of the Key Digital Technologies Joint Undertaking (KDT JU) and 40 million from 2024 to 2027 as part of the successor Chips Joint Undertaking (Chips JU).
 - Chips Act Pillar 1: Public funds totalling EUR 50 million (BMK) and a further EUR 17.1 million from the Future Austria Fund (i.e. a total of EUR 67.1 million) are earmarked to strengthen the R&D&I system by building up large-scale technological capacities in the ecosystem of EU semiconductor manufacturers.
 - Chips Act Pillar 2: the budget for this project has not yet been determined.
 - IPCEI ME 1: Public funds totalling EUR 145 million
 - IPCEI ME II: Public funds totalling EUR 225 million

Brief description:

Semiconductors (or chips) are not only the driving force of digital change, their availability and technical functionality are also essential prerequisites for a sustainable transformation of the economy. Against the backdrop of the global shortage of chips, intensifying geopolitical conflicts, increasing national protectionism and the global “subsidy race” in the world’s most important production regions, the European Chip Act was adopted by the EU Parliament and the Council of the EU in July 2023 and came into force on 21 September. The aim is to double the EU’s share of global chip production from the current level of less than 10% to 20% by 2030. Investments in first-of-a-kind production facilities will further building on strengths (power semiconductors, sensors, packaging, equipment) in AT via Pillar 2 of the Chips Act. Pillar 1 of the Chips Act is intended to strengthen the R&D&I ecosystem (incl. skills). IPCEI funds R&D&I projects beyond the Chips Act up to the first industrial application.

Challenge – strong global dependence on chips:

Multiple crises have revealed strong dependencies on semiconductors. When there is a shortage of chips, entire industries come to a standstill. Therefore, the demand for chips for the European industry in particular must be covered (i.e. not leading-edge).

4.5.1 Measure 1 – Participation in the Joint Undertaking Key Digital Technologies (KDT) and the successor Chips Joint Undertaking to strengthen research and development in the field of microelectronics

<p>Description</p>	<p>Participation in the Joint Undertaking Key Digital Technologies (KDT) and in the Electronic Components and Systems (ECS) part of the successor Chips Joint Undertaking (Chips JU) to strengthen research and development in the field of microelectronics. (Note: an additional part of the Chips JU to implement the Chips for Europe initiative in Pillar 1 of the Chips Act is described under Measure 2 – Chips Act Pillars 1 + 2).</p> <p>This was preceded by initiatives from the multi-annual research programmes: The Chips JU is the fifth consecutive large-scale European research programme in the hardware/electronics environment in the last 15 years. Following the establishment of the two JUs ARTEMIS and ENIAC (2009–2013), the merger of these two JUs into the integrated ECSEL (2014–2020) and the continuation with the KDT-JU (2021–2023), the Chips-JU (2023–2027) is now continuing with the doubling of its funding volume and the expansion of its portfolio.</p> <p>Austria, which is one of the founding members of these initiatives, has been actively involved in the activities of the Joint Undertakings (JUs) from the very beginning. Around 70 organisations from industry and research took part in the calls for proposals from 2009 to 2020. With 434 individual participations, Austria was one of the most active member countries during the duration of these programmes. The total Austrian project volume awarded from 2009 as part of the JU calls of the predecessor initiatives related to chips amounts to over 530 million euros (of which around 114 million was national funding, 110 million was European co-financing, and 308 million was industrial own funds). Several case studies have demonstrated a strong correlation between successful programme participation and prosperity and growth.</p>
<p>Resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National: EUR 8.666 million under the KDT JU (up to and including 2023) • Budget for the Electronic Components and Systems (ECS) part of the Chips Joint Undertaking (successor): EUR 40 million from 2024 to 2027
<p>Impact</p>	<p>Strengthening research and development in the field of microelectronics</p>

4.5.2 Measure 2 – Chips Act Pillar 1 + 2 – Implementation from 2024 ongoing

<p>Description</p>	<p>The European Chip Act was adopted by the EU Parliament and the Council of the EU in July 2023 and came into force on 21 September 2023. The aim is to double the EU’s share of global chip production from the current level of less than 10% to 20% by 2030. The legal act comprises several levels of intervention and is based on a three-pillar structure:</p>
---------------------------	---

	<p>Pillar 1: “Chips for Europe” Initiative – aims to support the development of large-scale technological capacity and innovation within the EU semiconductor manufacturing ecosystem and to improve the transition from lab to production under the title “Chips for Europe”. Pillar 1 will be implemented within the framework of a Joint Undertaking, the Chips Joint Undertaking (Chips-JU). The following activities are currently being carried out or planned until 2027 (partially utilising new instruments):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Austrian participation in 4 out of 5 transnational chip pilot lines, as well as in additional quantum chip pilot lines • An Austrian Chips Competence Centre (AT-C3) • Austrian participation in the development of the Chips Design Platform and promotion of its use by SMEs and start-ups • Additional activities, such as Chips Lab-to-Fab accelerators (currently still in the planning phase) <p>Pillar 2: creates a framework to improve the security of supply of chips in the EU by attracting domestic and foreign investment and supporting the development of new production capacity. The framework enables the promotion of new innovative production facilities. Pillar 2 is implemented from national funds and offers member states the opportunity to cover the financing gap for new production facilities of companies.</p> <p>Pillar 3: serves to establish a mechanism for monitoring and crisis response throughout the entire supply chain. In close dialogue with the relevant companies, the resilience of the value chain is monitored for crisis detection (“Phase 1”) based on early warning indicators. In the event of a crisis, a crisis response toolbox is established for crisis management (“Phase 2”).</p>
Resources	For Chips Act Pillar 1, EUR 50 million is available. With funding from the Fonds Zukunft Österreich (FZÖ), the total amounts to EUR 67.1 million (as of the current status).
Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chips Act Pillar 1: Strengthening the R&D&I system • Chips Act Pillar 2: Supporting company investments in production capacity until 2031

4.5.3 Measure 3 – IPCEI ME I – Implementation 2021–2024

Description	IPCEI Microelectronics: A total of 32 direct partners are involved in the European initiative IPCEI Microelectronics (including 30 companies and two research institutions); Austria participates with 3 companies from four EU member states. In addition to France, Italy, Germany, and now Austria, the United Kingdom is also involved. Alongside private investments totalling more than EUR 6.1 billion, the 5 participating states are authorized to distribute subsidies amounting to
--------------------	---

	<p>nearly EUR 1.9 billion. The overall project aims to promote research and develop innovative technologies and components that can be applied in various fields, such as electromobility and consumer devices. The focus is particularly on 5 technology areas: energy-efficient chips, power semiconductors, intelligent sensors, advanced optical devices, and composite materials.</p> <p>By the end of 2024, the IPCEI Microelectronics was completed at the European level and all individual projects have concluded their work. In Austria, only the final processing and evaluation of the Austrian projects will take place thereafter.</p>
Resources	Public funds totalling EUR 145 million
Impact	Promoting research and the development of innovative technologies and components that can be applied across various fields, such as electromobility or consumer appliances.

4.5.4 Measure 4 – IPCEI ME II – Implementation 2024–2026

Description	<p>IPCEI Microelectronics and Communication Sciences: In June 2023, the European Commission approved a second large-scale project in the field of microelectronics, with total investments amounting to around EUR 22 billion. A total of 100 company projects from 20 European countries are involved in the microelectronics initiative, including 6 Austrian companies (5 direct partners and one associated partner). In Austria, EUR 125 million is available from the Austrian EU Recovery Plan, along with an additional EUR 100 million from the national budget. The IPCEI promotes research and development projects as well as their initial industrial application in the fields of microelectronics and communication technology. The project covers all steps of the value chain, from materials and tools to chip designs and manufacturing processes.</p> <p>The initiative aims to facilitate digital and green transformation. Innovative and competitive solutions are developed that simultaneously include energy-efficient and resource-saving electronic systems and manufacturing methods. Thus, the projects contribute to technological advancement across various sectors, including communication (5G and 6G), autonomous driving, artificial intelligence, and quantum computing. In addition, they support the transition of companies in energy generation, distribution, and utilisation towards sustainable practices.</p>
Resources	Public funds totalling EUR 225 million
Impact	Promotion of highly innovative projects in research and development, as well as the initial commercial use prior to the mass production phase.

4.6 KPI 6 – Edge Nodes

EU target for 2030: Secure, resilient, performant, and sustainable digital infrastructures where at least 10,000 climate-neutral, highly secure edge nodes are deployed in the Union, distributed in a way that guarantees access to data services with low latency (i.e., a few milliseconds) wherever business are located.

National baseline value: 30 (DESI 2024)

Overall timeline: In any case, the regulatory environment should promote the implementation and promotion of edge nodes in communication networks.

Description of measures:

- Edge nodes are small devices with limited resources and are designed to accelerate the processing and forwarding of data between end points, such as sensors. By outsourcing computing power to the ends of networks, the data throughput to and from the central logic and the latency time are reduced.
- The development and use of so-called edge nodes or edge computing fall under the responsibility of the installers or operators of communication networks. No administrative-level measures should be taken that could hinder implementation. The process is supported by the following measures:
 - The introduction of 5G, the allocation of the 26 GHz frequency spectrum, and the definition of technical parameters in the Frequency Utilisation Ordinance together establish the technical foundation for spatially limited, short-range communication with high data throughput (bandwidth) for IoT applications (edge nodes). This development fundamentally enables and promotes edge computing.
- An increasing number of network elements also increases the need for protective mechanisms in terms of security (incomplete list of examples: authentication, authorisation, encryption, access control, updating the operating system, etc.).
 - The increased requirements in terms of protection and cyber security (incomplete list of examples: authentication, authorisation, encryption, access control, operating system updates, etc.) must be implemented in accordance with the European legal framework, such as the NIS 2 Directive.
 - This also applies to radio products (wireless connection of edge nodes, e.g. via 5G), which must in any case comply with the Radio Equipment Directive (2014/53/EU).
 - Observation and participation in European standardisation committees promotes uniform national implementation.

4.7 KPI 7 – Quantum Computing

EU target for 2030: Secure, resilient, performant, and sustainable digital infrastructures where the Union has, by 2025, its first computer with quantum acceleration, paving the way for the Union to be at the cutting edge of quantum capabilities by 2030.

Table 11 Overall timeline for KPI 7: Measures that contribute to achieving the target

Measure	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
1 – Quantum Austria funding initiative	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				

Funding for all measures that can be attributed to the objective (overall, including regional aspects where applicable):

- Public investments:
 - of which from EU sources:
 - planned utilisation 107 million euros (2023: EUR 42 million; 2024: EUR 21 million; 2025: EUR 22 million; 2026: EUR 22 million)

4.7.1 Measure 1 – Quantum Austria funding initiative

Description

On behalf of the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) and funded by the European Union as part of the Next Generation EU recovery and resilience plan (2020–2026), the Austrian Research Promotion Agency FFG and the Austrian Science Fund FWF are implementing the Quantum Austria funding initiative in the years 2021–2026. Austria is investing 107 million euros in the expansion of quantum research and technologies with funds from the recovery and resilience plan. The aim is to stimulate research, development and innovation activities in the field of quantum research and technology in accordance with the research, technology and innovation policy objectives of the Austrian federal government, taking into account the targets set in the Austrian Recovery and Resilience Plan 2020–2026. The programme supports both basic research and the development of practical applications. The FFG and FWF agencies work closely together to award funding and utilise a selection of their respective funding instruments for personnel and infrastructure. Part of the funding is earmarked for research infrastructure in the highly innovative field of Next Generation High Performance Computing, quantum computing and their combination.

	<p>Funding is provided for projects that are clearly defined in terms of time, budget, objectives and methodology in accordance with the conditions of the respective funding agency. Thematically, applications must be in the field of quantum research and quantum technology. The scientific questions concern the following topics, among others:</p> <p>Developments and applications in the fields of quantum communication, quantum sensor technology, quantum metrology, quantum simulation, quantum computing and quantum information.</p>
Objective	<p>Researchers, universities, non-university research centres and companies in the field of quantum research and technologies can choose from existing offers from the FFG and FWF as part of the Quantum Austria funding initiative. The cooperation between the two funding organisations covers a wide range of funding requirements – from funding for researchers at universities and non-university research institutions to R&D activities by start-ups, companies, and industry.</p>
Impact	<p>Milestones, goals and timeline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment: Quantum Austria – Promotion of Quantum Sciences • Milestone/target 1: Q4/2021: Call for expressions of interest (BMBWF); Identification of a settlement agency • Milestone/target 2: Q4/2024: Interim report showing progress • Milestone/target 3: Q1/2026: Transfer to regular operations as part of the performance agreements with the universities.

4.8 KPI 8 – Cloud computing

EU target for 2030: At least 75% of Union enterprises having taken up one or more of the following, in line with their business operations: (i) cloud computing services, (ii) data analytics (formerly big data), (iii) artificial intelligence.

National baseline value: 35.6% (DESI 2024)

Table 12 Overall timeline for KPI 8: Measures that contribute to achieving the target

Measure	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
1 – Gaia-X Hub AT – Support for the establishment of a Gaia-X Hub in Austria	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				

Measure	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
2 – SME funding programme KMU.DIGITAL – Investments in the digitalisation of companies	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				

Funding for all measures that can be allocated to the objective (overall, taking into account the regional dimension where possible):

- Public investments:
 - already assigned: EUR 1.2 million
 - planned: EUR 1.2 million

4.8.1 Measure 1 – Gaia-X Hub AT – Support for the establishment of a Gaia-X Hub in Austria

Description	<p>Based on the national Ö-Cloud initiative, the Federal Chancellery (BKA) is supporting the establishment of a national Gaia-X Hub Austria (Gaia-X Hub AT) in cooperation with the Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK).</p> <p>The measure aims to establish a strong link between the Austrian economy (especially SMEs), science, research, society and public administration as well as the international Gaia-X initiative. This is a project that develops digital governance that can be applied to any existing cloud/edge technology stack to achieve transparency, controllability, portability, and interoperability for data and services.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic conception and implementation of organisational structures • Establishment of efficient and effective mechanisms for cooperation • Dissemination of information and networking • Supporting Austrian companies with their entry into data-based business models • Establishment of concrete implementation alliances • Connection to the international network of Gaia-X Hubs
Objective	Actively supporting the participation of Austrian public and private organisations in the international Gaia-X project could promote the adoption of cutting-edge (cloud) solutions and the development of innovative data-driven use cases in the continuously evolving European data economy.
Schedule	In 2020, a national cross-sector cooperation platform was set up as part of the Ö-Cloud initiative, which served as the core basis for the actual Gaia-X Hub AT,

	<p>which was officially inaugurated in March 2022. The initial setup/launch phase of the Gaia-X Hub AT lasted until the end of 2023.</p> <p>In 2024, roadshows were held to raise awareness about data management in Austria. Within the Gaia-X Hub Austria Advisory Board, data spaces are being explored through a broad discussion process. The EUProGigant lead project is laying the groundwork for Manufacturing X and Industry 4.0.</p>
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public funding for 2022 totalled around EUR 400,000 (BKA + BMK). • EUR 800,000 in public funding has been made available for 2023 (BKA + BMK).
Impact	<p>The Gaia-X Hub AT acts as a national contact point (single point of contact) for Gaia-X-related tasks and topics (dissemination of relevant knowledge); Dissemination, promotion and application of Gaia-X concepts in specific use cases).</p> <p>This will lower the entry barriers for interested Austrian public and private organisations to participate in the joint Gaia-X project, promote takeover by Austrian organisations and ensure that Austrian national interests are taken into account on a broad basis.</p> <p>A detailed list of current targets and non-targets can be found on the official website of the Gaia-X Hub AT.¹⁴</p>

4.8.2 Measure 2 – SME funding programme KMU.DIGITAL – Investments in the digitalisation of companies

See description in chapter 4.10.1.

4.9 KPI 9 + 10 – Artificial Intelligence and Data Analytics

EU target for 2030: At least 75% of Union enterprises having taken up one or more of the following, in line with their business operations: i) cloud computing services, ii) data analytics (formerly big data), iii) artificial intelligence.

Table 13 National trajectory by 2030 for KPI 4

	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Data Analytics	23.9%	31%	38.5%	46%	53%	60%	68%	75%

¹⁴ <https://www.gaia-x.at/en/gaia-x-austria/>

	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Artificial intelligence	10.8%	20%	29%	38%	47.5%	57%	66%	75%

Table 14 Overall timeline for KPI 4: Measures that contribute to achieving the target

Measure	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
1 – AI marketplace: Overview of the Austrian AI landscape and networking of AI providers with potential customers	Yes	Yes	Yes					
2 – AI strategy and funding initiative “Artificial Intelligence Mission Austria 2030” (AIM AT 2030): Comprehensive funding for basic research, applied research and entrepreneurial realisation. (Expanding strategic actions by implementing the 2024 AI Plan)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			
3 – Data Strategy for Austria: Comprehensive measures to strengthen the national data ecosystem in the areas of infrastructure, data processing and culture/skills		Yes	Yes	Yes				
4 – Establishment of the “AI Service Desk”		Yes						
5 – Establishment of the “Advisory Board for Artificial Intelligence” (AI Advisory Board)		Yes						
6a – Promotion of digital technologies in the field of data-driven innovations: Promotion of cooperative R&D in data-driven innovations	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				
6b – Promotion of digital technologies in the field of artificial intelligence: Promotion of cooperative R&D in the field of artificial intelligence	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				
7 – COMET centres and projects: Application-oriented cutting-edge research at the highest level	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				
8 – Data & AI funding programme: Investments to help companies take their first steps in working with data & AI				Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
9 – SME funding programme KMU.DIGITAL – Investments in the digitalisation of companies	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				

Measure	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
10 – National and European Digital Innovation Hubs – Supporting the digital transformation of companies	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				

4.9.1 Measure 1 – AI Marketplace

Description	<p>The aws AI Marketplace serves as a central platform for connecting over 240 AI providers with users from all sectors throughout Austria and is supported by a variety of services and initiatives. The platform currently has more than 60 registered users of AI solutions (registration for AI users has been possible since 2023). Since its foundation, the marketplace has organised around 5 networking events per year, which have facilitated hundreds of matches between companies from all sectors and suitable AI providers. Examples of success include collaborations between AI providers and AI users that have been created through matching, which can be found on the aws website. In addition, the marketplace offers the opportunity to submit AI challenges in order to connect solution seekers with suitable solution providers in a targeted manner.</p> <p>The aws AI Marketplace was founded with several core objectives. Firstly, the platform will act as a central point of contact for AI providers and AI users in Austria and support the digital transformation in business and society. Secondly, the marketplace aims to promote practical, cross-industry cooperation by registering over 240 providers and organising annual networking events. The aws also hosts weekly webinars to present application examples to participating SMEs. Thirdly, the platform serves as a spotlight for the innovative AI offerings in Austria by organising AI challenges and other initiatives to address specific AI-related problems and promote innovative solutions. By June 2024, 3 challenges have been launched, with a total of over 50 submissions. Fourthly, the marketplace acts as an advice centre for companies looking to implement AI and seeking the right methods and cooperation partners. In this role, the aws AI Marketplace actively contributes to increasing AI expertise and networking key players in Austria.</p>
Resources	National (assigned): EUR 1.1 million (2023–2025)
Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Networking of AI providers and AI users • Support for SMEs

4.9.2 Measure 2 – AI strategy and funding initiative „Artificial Intelligence Mission Austria 2030“ („AIM AT 2030“)

<p>Description</p>	<p>The AI strategy contains 64 measures in 13 fields of action, which are implemented by the respective ministries. Many of these have already been implemented or are in the process of being implemented.</p> <p>Core elements of our strategy are, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with ethical principles in accordance with the European ethical guidelines on AI • Creating legal clarity without hindering innovation, in line with European activities on AI (AI Act, AI Liability Directive, etc.) • Improving the use and availability of data • Strengthening AI in education and training (digital skills and cutting-edge AI research) • Facilitating the conversion of innovations into marketable products (transfer and takeover) • Modernisation of public administration through AI • Establishment of normative standards to promote trust in AI and legal certainty for developers • Improving access to capital and expanding and developing the necessary infrastructure <p>Concrete measures:</p> <p>AI focus of the Austrian Future Fund:</p> <p>In the coming years, the Austrian Future Fund’s AI focus will provide EUR 12 million per year not only for (applied) AI research, but also for improving the transfer of applied AI knowledge to the economy. The goal is to ensure that companies not only use AI technologies and products, but also develop them and integrate them into their business processes.</p> <p>The focus is on AI-specific support for SMEs when introducing AI into their business processes and on teaching data skills.</p>
<p>Schedule</p>	<p>Implementation Plan 2024:</p> <p>The AI strategy AIM AT 2030 is fundamentally designed as an agile framework, enabling continuous adaptation to fast-paced advancements. In this sense, the Implementation Plan 2024 serves as both a substantive addition and a refinement of AIM AT 2030. The implementation plan contains 47 measures and AI projects from all 12 federal ministries, which are either being implemented or planned for the short to medium term. Examples of some of the 47 measures in the 2024 implementation plan include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AI Focus in the 2025–27 Performance Agreement for Public Universities • Founding of an “Austrian Competence Centre for Digital Farming” • Preparing to establish an AI Hub Austria for research and innovation

- AI literacy focus of the Digital Skills Initiative
- Improvement of digital administrative services through AI-powered tools, such as testing an LLM chatbot for inquiries related to ID Austria.
- Establishing an appropriate legal framework for AI in healthcare.

The funding initiative “AI Mission Austria 2030” (AIM AT) forms a common umbrella under which the following modules are implemented:

- AI basic research (FWF),
- Anwendungsorientierte AI-Forschung (FFG),
- AI Enterprise & Growth (aws).

As a new key technology, AI has enormous potential to significantly develop the economy and society. In order to realise this potential and create added value for Austria as a business and research location, the three agencies aws, FFG and FWF have launched a joint funding initiative entitled "AI Mission Austria 2030 (AIM AT)". Through comprehensive funding for basic research, applied research and entrepreneurial implementation, a contribution is being made to building a sustainable ecosystem around the key technology of artificial intelligence. The funding is realised with funds from the “Fonds Zukunft Österreich” (Austrian Future Fund). In 2022, the Austrian Future Fund approved a total of EUR 12 million.

Resources	National (assigned): EUR 22 million
Impact	Promotion of AI along the entire value chain

4.9.3 Measure 3 – Data Strategy for Austria

Description	<p>The national data strategy (“Data Strategy for Austria”) was published in 2024 following an agile and participatory development process involving stakeholders from the data ecosystem. The strategy pursues a holistic vision (“Data usage for the benefit of society”) and sets three essential objectives, which will be achieved through the implementation of 45 measures. Some of these measures are already being implemented.</p> <p>The data strategy has the following 3 goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop sustainable data infrastructures and technical solutions for efficient data exchange • Activate potentials for responsible collaborative data sharing • Establish an innovative data culture and enhance data competence <p>In particular, the following measures (selected from 45) are intended to help businesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote projects and innovative technologies that enable collaborative data sharing and exchange
--------------------	---

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in trustworthy data infrastructure and cloud solutions • Improve the accessibility and re-use of public sector databases • Improve the skills and knowledge of the population and administration in the area of data utilisation • Facilitate data-based solutions to improve the traceability of supply chains for products and services • Establish a data stakeholder forum for an ongoing dialogue with players in the data ecosystem (e.g. on the development of data spaces and the design of framework conditions for the data economy). <p>The data strategy is defined as an adaptive strategy designed to respond to the dynamic developments of the market and technology.</p>
Impact	Strengthening the national data ecosystem and utilising data for the benefit of society.

4.9.4 Measure 4 – Establishment of the “AI Service Desk”

Description	<p>An „AI Service Desk“ has been established at the Austrian Regulatory Authority for Broadcasting and Telecommunications (RTR-GmbH). The „AI Service Desk“ serves as a central point of contact for citizens, organisations, and businesses regarding questions related to the implementation of the AI Act. Through a diverse range of information and advisory services (such as recurring workshops and the conduction of studies), the desk aims to support businesses in particular. Additionally, the „AI Service Desk“ provides support to the “Advisory Board for Artificial Intelligence” (see Measure 5: Establishment of the “Advisory Board for Artificial Intelligence”).</p> <p>This strengthens the „AI Service Desk’s“ capacity-building efforts in the design and use of applications in the field of artificial intelligence. Furthermore, the „AI Service Desk“ functions as a central service unit for AI projects and applications within the sectors of media, telecommunications, and postal services.</p>
Resources	National (allocated): EUR 700,000 per year
Impact	Provision of a low-threshold support service for companies related to the implementation of the AI Act

4.9.5 Measure 5 – Establishment of the “Advisory Board for Artificial Intelligence” (AI Advisory Board / “KI Beirat”)

Description	An Advisory Board for Artificial Intelligence (AI Advisory Board) has been established at the Austrian Regulatory Authority for Broadcasting and Telecommunications (RTR-GmbH). The board consists of 11 members who are
--------------------	--

esteemed experts in the fields of ethics, research, economics, law, and technology. The board is intended to advise policymakers on technical, societal, and ethical questions related to AI. For example, it contributed to the development of the AI Implementation Plan (see Measure 2: “AI Strategy and Funding Initiative Artificial Intelligence Mission Austria”).

The board’s tasks encompass 4 areas, aimed at creating added value for public administration, the economy, and society, as follows:

- Information and consultation for the members of the federal government and RTR-GmbH involved in AI matters regarding current developments in the field of AI. This includes both technical as well as ethical and societal aspects;
- Monitoring the technological development of AI both within and outside the European Union and evaluating the associated opportunities and challenges for Austria;
- Focusing on supporting the members of the federal government and RTR-GmbH involved in AI matters by prioritising the various aspects of AI and concentrating on the most important issues;
- Strategic planning and advising the Federal Government within the framework of the AI Policy Forum on the development and implementation of the Strategy for Artificial Intelligence, including the definition of objectives, priorities and measures.

Resources	See Measure 4: “Establishment of an AI Service Desk”
Impact	Advising the Federal Government on the topic of artificial intelligence

4.9.6 Measure 6a – Promotion of digital technologies in the field of data-driven innovations

Description	<p>Promotion of cooperative R&D in the field of data-driven innovations</p> <p>Derived from the objectives of the European and Austrian Data Strategy, projects are promoted that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce technological, legal and organisational barriers to the development of the data economy; • contribute to the achievement of sustainability goals in the energy transition, mobility transition, and circular economy. <p>At the same time, studies are being conducted on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data Space Maturity: Development of a basic toolkit for measuring the impact of data-driven innovations in the form of data spaces. • Technology Roadmap for Data-Driven Innovation: Recognising technological trends for planning future measures.
--------------------	---

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Data Space: Development of options for the reuse and accessibility of data from R&D projects. <p>Additionally, R&D projects are voluntarily accompanied by data stewards to ensure optimal use of the data management plan, which is mandatory for some calls at the submission stage.</p>
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National (allocated): approximately EUR 150 million (2023–2026) in total for digital and key technologies (no specific funds for data-driven innovations) • National (allocated): EUR 12 million for “AI for Green” (2023)
Impact	Promotion of digital technologies whose application contributes to achieving climate goals.

4.9.7 Measure 6b – Promotion of digital technologies in the field of artificial intelligence

Description	<p>Funding collaborative R&D in AI</p> <p>These funding initiatives are divided into various individual initiatives with different objectives, with technology developments always being a central component.</p> <p>Individual initiative “AI for Green”: The focus of the “AI for Green” call is on research-intensive technology developments in the field of AI that make a significant contribution to environmental and climate goals. This initiative was launched in 2021. Currently, 40 projects are being funded with a total of EUR 22.5 million, and a vibrant ecosystem has emerged in Austria. The fourth call took place in 2024.</p> <p>AI for Tech: AI for Tech, as a new initiative, focuses even more on technology development. The 2024 call has the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AI-Tech Hybrid AI: The focus of this call is on research-intensive technology development within the framework of cooperative R&D projects through the exploration, development, and testing of platforms, tools, and methods for AI systems that combine and utilise the advantages of symbolic AI and subsymbolic AI. • AI-Tech Edge AI: A flagship project has been announced here. Flagship projects are extensive cooperative research and development initiatives involving multiple consortium partners, with a significant impact on one or more economic sectors. The goal is to develop new technologies in the field of Edge AI (i.e. systems with limited resources), with a view to strengthening European technological sovereignty. <p>Call for proposals “With Regulation for Innovation” from November 2023 to March 2024: New and further development of digital technologies that address</p>
--------------------	--

regulations and create innovations. For companies, early engagement with new regulations or new technologies in the context of existing regulations, for example in the areas of sustainability, data & AI, and supply chains, can prove beneficial. This call also includes projects related to the AI Act.

Furthermore, **R&D services are being announced on various questions related to AI** or are already fulfilled. R&D services are defined by the fulfillment of a specified call content within a certain timeframe.

For 2024:

- R&D Services Green AI: Sustainability of AI applications
- R&D Services KI Trust: Increasing trust in AI
- R&D Services AI Hub: In the context of the fragmentation of the Austrian AI ecosystem, a contribution to the structured and institutional coordination of regionally distributed entities of all stakeholders will be developed.

Bilateral Call: Within the framework of the Eureka network, a call for market-oriented research and development projects with Canada is planned from 21 November 2024, to 30 May 2025, with a focus on AI.

Federal Competition for Artificial Intelligence (BWKI): The BWKI student competition is commissioned by the BMK and managed by the Austrian Society for Artificial Intelligence (ASAI). The initiative consists of an AI course and a competition for specific AI projects.

Digital Pioneers: Digital Pioneers enables young women to explore digital and technical professions. This aims to harness the untapped potential of young female talent for the digital transformation while offering young women career prospects in future-oriented industries.

Digital Humanism: Digital Humanism is an approach that describes, analyses, and seeks to influence the complex interplay between technology and humanity, aiming to forge a better society while respecting universal human rights, including in the context of AI. Both a networking platform for mobilisation and collaboration initiatives and a fellowship programme at the Institute for Human Sciences are being supported and funded.

Resources

- No separate budget for AI.
 - National (allocated): approximately EUR 150 million (2023–2026) in total for digital and key technologies
 - National (allocated): EUR 3.8 million for AI for Green (2024), EUR 4.8 million for AI for Tech (2024), EUR 6.9 million for With Regulation for Innovation (2023), and EUR 2 million for the bilateral call with Canada (2024–2025)
 - Fonds Zukunft Österreich (FZÖ) 2022 and 2023 and AIM AT: A total of EUR 22 million was approved by the Austrian Future Fund for the years 2022 and 2023.
-

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Pioneers: Approximately EUR 500,000 in 2024; no final figures available yet for 2025 • Digital Humanism: Approximately EUR 500,000 between 2023 and 2026. • From 2020 to 2023, the BMK has already allocated EUR 523 million in research funding related to AI through grants from the FFG
Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of digital technologies whose application contributes to achieving climate goals. • Further and new development of technologies

4.9.8 Measure 7 – COMET centres and projects

Description	<p>Long-term cooperative research between science and industry on AI and data</p> <p>COMET aims to promote internationally competitive cutting-edge research in specific thematic areas by supporting long-term cooperative research initiatives between companies and scientific institutions. COMET centres and projects generate sustainable research momentum and initiate new product, process, and service innovations. As a result, they enhance companies' innovative capacity and contribute to developing solutions for key future challenges.</p> <p>COMET is designed as a thematically open initiative, and the supported content spans various sectors, from industry and healthcare to mobility. Work on artificial intelligence and data utilisation can be an explicit focus of the research programmes, as demonstrated by the Know-Centre or the Software Competence Centre Hagenberg. The VRVis also deserves mention as Austria's largest and internationally renowned research institution in the field of visual computing.</p> <p>At the same time, these technologies can serve as enabling tools, for instance, in life science projects where AI and data analysis are used to improve patient care.</p>
Objective	Building expertise in central key technologies (including AI), initiating innovations and strengthening the innovative capacity of Austrian companies, creating highly qualified jobs.
Resources	National: EUR 157.7 million (2024–2026)
Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term networking of specific AI needs from industry with the latest scientific methods. • Strengthening the innovation capacity of companies

4.9.9 Measure 8 – Data & AI funding programme

Description	In order to support companies that have successfully taken the first steps towards digitalisation, follow-up funding should be provided for the application of Data & AI. The funding programme supports companies from all sectors of the
--------------------	--

	<p>economy that invest in improving their processes or changing their business models by using data and AI. The investments can be for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • digitalisation of products - e.g. use of predictive maintenance applications; • digitalisation in production - e.g. testing processes using digital twins; • digitalisation in procurement - Digital mapping of supply chains; • digitalisation of services - e.g. introduction of data-supported services (e.g. through the use of AI-supported applications); • introduction of a digital product passport.
Objective	<p>The programme focuses on companies that are starting to work with the data they have collected. Support is provided for their fundamental need for digitalisation and the adoption of AI tools etc.</p> <p>In 2025, the potential to place greater emphasis on data utilisation and AI within existing funding programmes (such as KMU.DIGITAL and the Innovation Voucher) will be evaluated.</p>

4.9.10 Measure 9 – SME funding programme “KMU.DIGITAL” – Investments in the digitalisation of companies

See description of the measure in chapter 4.10.1.

4.9.11 Measure 10 – National and European Digital Innovation Hubs – Supporting the digital transformation of companies

See description of the measure in chapter 4.10.2.

4.10 KPI 11 –Basic digital intensity (SME)

EU target for 2030: The digital transformation of businesses, where more than 90% of the Union SMEs reach at least a basic level of digital intensity

Table 15 National trajectory by 2030 for KPI 11

2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
57.9%	73%	76%	79%	82%	85%	88%	90%

Table 16 Overall timeline for KPI 11: Measures that contribute to achieving the target

Measure	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
1 – SME funding programme KMU.DIGITAL – Investments in the digitalisation of companies	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				
2 – National and European Digital Innovation Hubs – Supporting the digital transformation of companies	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				

Funding for all measures that can be allocated to the objective:

- Public investments :
 - already assigned : around EUR 30 million
 - planned : around EUR 57 million
 - of which from national sources:
 - already assigned: around EUR 22 million
 - planned: around EUR 46 million
 - of which from EU sources:
 - already assigned: EUR 8.39 million
 - planned use: around EUR 11 million

Brief description:

Challenge – lack of human and financial resources at SMEs for digital transformation:

- with measure 1 (SME funding programme KMU.DIGITAL) [Raising the level of digitalisation in 12,000 companies by the end of 2027]
- with measure 2 (National and European Digital Innovation Hubs) [raising awareness of digital change among SMEs, increasing expertise in digitalisation, promoting the use/implementation of digital solutions]

Estimated investment gap and possible measures to achieve the national targets:

According to DESI 2024, only two thirds of Austrian SMEs achieve a basic level of digital intensity (i.e. use of at least four out of twelve selected digital technologies). Due to the lack of human and financial resources in Austrian SMEs (challenge 1) to drive the digital transformation forward, comprehensive support measures are required. It is not possible to quantify the need for support due to insufficient data. The SME funding programme KMU.DIGITAL and the national and European Digital Innovation Hubs should in any case contribute to increasing the digital intensity of Austrian SMEs.

4.10.1 Measure 1 – SME funding programme “KMU.DIGITAL”

<p>Description</p>	<p>The “KMU.DIGITAL” funding programme aims to promote the digital and green transformation of SMEs based or operating in Austria. SMEs receive support in various stages of digitalisation. They can choose from tools with different focuses (e.g. “business models and processes”, “e-commerce, online marketing & social media”, “IT and cybersecurity”).</p> <p>The “KMU.DIGITAL” funding programme aims to enable Austrian SMEs to exploit the huge potential of the opportunities offered by digitalisation. In connection with the increasing automation and digitalisation of all service and production areas, the challenges for Austrian SMEs are also increasing.</p> <p>The “KMU.DIGITAL” funding programme therefore creates an incentive for SMEs to design and implement digitalisation projects and bring them to market. The funding is also intended to help support the Austrian economy in its transformation to a sustainable, renewable energy-based and digitalised economy in the coming years. For this reason, “KMU-DIGITAL 4.0 & GREEN” is to be offered in addition to the standard “KMU.DIGITAL 4.0” funding programme. The aim is to promote digitalisation projects by SMEs that also contribute to the transformation of SMEs towards ecological sustainability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the consulting module, SMEs can take advantage of status and potential analyses as well as in- depth strategy consulting. The counselling sessions are carried out and promoted by suitably qualified experts on various focal points/topics and in various depths. By means of differentiated subsidy amounts for the various advisory formats, particular attention is paid to motivating companies that are not yet digitally savvy to start digitalisation and to show them the next steps. • In the implementation module, digitalisation projects are eligible for funding through new investments (subject to capitalisation under income tax law) and related services from external providers (e.g. programming activities, [cloud] software licences) that are implemented in a permanent establishment in Austria. The new investments must be directly related to the investment project.¹⁵
<p>Objective</p>	<p>The programme focuses on SMEs that want to drive forward their digital and sustainable transformation. It is therefore expected that this measure will contribute to the realisation of the objective for digital late adopters.</p>
<p>Schedule</p>	<p>The programme has been running since 2017 and was relaunched and expanded in May 2024, as planned, with a total budget of approximately EUR 35 million for the period 2024–2026. Since then, in addition to the standard “KMU.DIGITAL 4.0” funding, there has also been a “green” track “KMU.DIGITAL 4.0 & GREEN”,</p>

¹⁵ Further information on KMU.DIGITAL at: <http://www.kmudigital.at/>

	which supports digitalisation projects by SMEs that also contribute to the transformation of SMEs towards ecological sustainability.
Resources	National: around EUR 35 million 2024–2026 (planned)
Impact	12,000 companies to raise their level of digitalisation by the end of 2027.

4.10.2 Measure 2 – National and European Digital Innovation Hubs – Supporting the digital transformation of companies

Description	<p>Digital Innovation Hubs (DIH) have been set up in Austria to support companies – especially SMEs – in their digital transformation (expertise, infrastructure). This gives companies direct access to partners from research and industry on topics such as AI, IT and cyber security, blockchain, big data, Industry 4.0 and digital transformation in general.</p> <p>As part of the “Digital Europe” programme, 4 European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs) were established in Austria from Q4 2022. These complement the national DIHs to form a comprehensive network/ecosystem.</p> <p>The national Digital Innovation Hubs (DIHs) are regional points of contact for small and medium- sized enterprises from all sectors for questions relating to digitalisation. They are generally designed to be open to all sectors and offer the opportunity to find out about digitalisation on site, experience digitalisation, develop and test new ideas for digital projects and receive further training.</p> <p>The European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs) play a central role in the “Digital Europe” programme. The EDIHs complement the existing national DIHs and aim to promote the introduction of digital technologies in business and administration – by stimulating and disseminating artificial intelligence, implementing cybersecurity aspects and utilising high-performance computers and other current digital technologies.</p> <p>This comprehensive network of digital centres brings together a wide range of skills, disciplines, ideas, technologies and creativity.</p> <p>With its expertise and infrastructure, DIH supports Austrian SMEs in digitalisation and offers a wide range of services in the information, training and digital innovation modules.</p> <p>The range of services offered by EDIHs includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test before invest: Provision of technological expertise and services, including testing and experimental facilities, or guaranteeing access to them • Training/Skills Development: Support in the development of in-depth digitalisation skills, e.g. by coordinating with training providers to provide short-term vocational training and further education opportunities.
--------------------	---

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help with the search for investors: Support to become more competitive and improve business models through the use of new technologies funded by the Digital Europe programme • Innovation ecosystem and networking: Connecting companies in need of new technological solutions with providers, especially start-ups and SMEs, that offer market-ready solutions.¹⁶
Objective	The programme focuses on companies that want to drive forward their digital transformation. It is therefore expected that this measure will contribute to the realisation of the “Take-up of digital technologies” objective.
Schedule	The national DIHs have been running since 2020 and the EDIHs since the end of 2022, each with an initial duration of 3 years. An extension of the respective hubs for a further four years is planned (following a positive interim evaluation).
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National 2020–2030: around EUR 22 million (already assigned); around EUR 11 million (planned) • EU: EUR 8.39 million (EDIH co-financing; already assigned) ; around EUR 11 million (planned)
Impact	Raising awareness of digital change among SMEs, increasing expertise in digitalisation, promoting the use/implementation of digital solutions

4.11 KPI 12 – Unicorns

EU target for 2030: The digital transformation of businesses where the Union facilitating the growth of its innovative scale-ups and improving their access to finance, leading to at least doubling the number of unicorns.

Table 17 National trajectory by 2030 for KPI 12

2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
5	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

National baseline for start-ups (recorded with approximately a 2-year delay; source: Austrian Startup Monitor 2022, AIT Austrian Institute of Technology):

- in 2020 – 319 start-ups
- in 2021 – 352 start-ups
- in 2022 – 206 start-ups (The number is expected to rise due to subsequent data collection)

¹⁶ Further information on EDIH can be found at <https://www.ffg.at/europa/digitaleurope/edih>, information on DIH at <https://www.ffg.at/dih>.

- The number of start-ups in Austria is set to increase by at least 20% by 2024. This measure is also intended (among other things) to make a significant contribution to the realisation of the doubling of unicorns in the EU (Art. 4 para. no. 3 lit. c Decision [EU] 2022/2481).

Table 18 Overall timeline for KPI 12: Measures that contribute to achieving the target

Measure	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
1 – aws Start-up Fund II	Yes							
2 – aws Guarantees	Yes	Yes						
3 – Competitions	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				
4 – aws First Incubator	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				
5 – aws PreSeed – Deep Tech	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				
6 – aws Seedfinancing – Deep Tech	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				
7 – aws PreSeed – Innovative Solutions	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				
8 – aws Seedfinancing – Innovative Solutions	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				
9 – Global Incubator Network Austria (GIN)		Yes	Yes	Yes				
10 – aws connect		Yes	Yes	Yes				
11 – Start-up Council	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				
12 – Platform and consulting – EIC Accelerator	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			
13 – Flexible company		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			
14 – aws Start-up Invest		Yes						
15 – Start-up Navigator	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				
16 – Start-up Landscape Austria database	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				
17 – Spin-off Initiative	Yes							

Funding for all measures that can be allocated to the objective (overall, taking into account the regional dimension where possible):

- Public investments:
 - of which from national sources:
 - already planned or assigned: EUR 1,234.3 million
- Private investments:
 - Leverage of EUR 428 million expected in the course of measure 1
 - Investments of EUR 100 million expected as part of measure 14
 - Investments of EUR 100 million expected as part of measure 17

Brief description:

- **Challenge 1 – Venture Capital Expenditures: Austria needs to catch up in venture capital funding**
 - Measure 1 (aws Start-up Fund II) provides support through targeted venture capital investments not only from the state but also from the private sector and is intended to leverage at least EUR 500 million in venture capital and increase the share of international co-investors after the end of the fund term.
 - Additional venture capital for innovative start-ups in the form of co-investments with experienced investors.
 - In addition, the following measures (among others) contribute to overcoming this challenge: Measure 2 (aws guarantees), Measure 5 (aws PreSeed – Deep Tech), Measure 6 – (aws Seedfinancing – Deep Tech), Measure 12 (EIC funds) and Measure 7 (aws connect) through networking opportunities.
- **Challenge 2 – Further process simplifications for start-ups**
 - Measure 10 (Flexible company) includes, among other things, facilitations in formal requirements, decision-making processes, and employee recruitment. .
 - Additional contributions to this challenge are made through the following measures, among others: Measure 3 (Competitions) as part of the possible networking, Measure 5 (aws PreSeed – Deep Tech), and Measure 6 (aws Seed Financing – Deep Tech) as part of the consulting and coaching services offered.

4.11.1 Measure 1 – aws Start-up Fund II

Description	Supporting fast-growing small and medium-sized start-ups with seed and follow-on financing in the foundation and early growth phase, Venture capital funds
Objective	The aim of the measure is to mobilise venture capital for investments in Austrian innovative, technology-oriented companies in the start-up and growth phases. In addition, the aws Start-up Fund II aims to improve Austrian start-ups’ access to international investors. The measure is aimed at increasing the number of start-ups in Austria and thus also the goal of doubling the number of unicorns in the EU.
Schedule	The programme applies from 1.7.2023 to provisionally 2033 with the option to extend to 2037.
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• National (planned or assigned): up to EUR 72 million• Leverage from the private sector: around EUR 428 million
Impact	After 5 years, at least EUR 100 million in additional private funds should have been mobilised and at the end of the fund term at least EUR 500 million in risk capital via co-investors.

After 5 years, the share of international (non-Austrian) co-investors in the mobilisation of private capital should also be at least 30%.

4.11.2 Measure 2 – aws Guarantees

Description	<p>With guarantees, the aws offers securities that can be required by banks when granting a loan. The aim is to increase the chance of obtaining a loan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • aws Double Equity: This measure is a guarantee to double private equity for innovation/growth projects of SMEs. • aws guarantees for young companies: This is a guarantee of up to 80% of a loan of up to EUR 2.5 million per SME with the aim of facilitating the financing of economically independent, commercial small and medium-sized enterprises in the first 6 years after foundation or takeover.
Objective	<p>A sub-goal of the aws guarantees is the realisation of a guarantee capability for digitalisation projects. In Austria, projects on AI, quantum technology and cybersecurity infrastructure are to be implemented – also in support of the digital objectives of InvestEU.</p>
Schedule	<p>The aws guarantee guideline for SMEs came into force on 1 July 2022 and is valid until 30 June 2024.</p>
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National (assigned): EUR 1,000 million maximum liability limit pursuant to Section 7 (2) of the SME Promotion Act • EU: There are counter-guarantees with EIF and InvestEU.
Impact	<p>Increase in the number of start-ups founded by assuming guarantees</p>

4.11.3 Measure 3 – Competitions

Description	<p>Start-up competitions to win prizes, raise the company’s profile, attract investors and build networks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PHOENIX – The Austrian start-up prize: This measure is an award for female entrepreneurs, start-ups, spin-offs and the development of prototypes and shows how essential successful knowledge transfer is for Austria as a centre of innovation. • National award for Innovation: Award for companies that contribute significantly to the sustainable economic development of the country through their innovative solution expertise. In addition, there are the ECONOVIUS (for particularly innovative services) and VERENA (for innovative co-operation projects, e.g. with universities) awards. • aws Best of Biotech: International start-up competition in the field of life sciences with the aim of providing the industry with start-up impetus,
--------------------	---

	<p>identifying ideas with commercial potential and providing the best possible support for entrepreneurial talent in research. The programme offers the opportunity to develop viable business concepts and put them into competition with other projects in the sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Verified Social Enterprise” label (VSE label): In order to raise public awareness of social enterprises, all social enterprises that fulfil certain criteria can apply for the VSE label from the aws.
Objective	<p>Start-ups can not only win prizes through competitions, but also raise the profile of their company, convince investors and find networks. These effects should have a positive impact on the growth of the respective company. These measures will therefore help to double the number of unicorns in the EU.</p>
Schedule	<p>The measures have been running for several years, are partially being adapted and are expected to be available until at least the end of 2026.</p>
Resources	<p>National (planned or assigned): EUR 1.3 million per year.</p>
Impact	<p>Nominations for the individual competitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PHOENIX: Annually, 18 nominations and one winner in each of four categories • State Prize for Innovation: Annually, six nominations and one winner <p>Awards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VSE label: 15 companies, organisations and associations have already been awarded a VSE label.

4.11.4 Measure 4 – aws First Incubator

Description	<p>aws First Incubator supports the incubation of innovative business ideas from the initial concept phase through to the start-up phase, offering grants of up to EUR 55,000 per project. In addition, consultancy services worth either EUR 20,000 or EUR 1,700 are provided.</p> <p>Grants to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personnel costs • Costs for instruments and equipment • Travel costs • Costs associated with setting up, founding and growing a company
Objective	<p>The strategic objective of the funding programme is to support applied research and its impact on the economy and society. For example, the focus is on funding in the area of innovative technologies, new business models and digital skills.</p> <p>The funding programme is also intended to help achieve the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of technology and knowledge-intensive start-ups

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professionalisation of companies in innovation protection
Schedule	The programme is valid from 1 January 2022 until 31 December 2026.
Resources	National (planned or assigned): EUR 3 million per year (rounded)
Impact	<p>The aim is to achieve an increase in the following areas, among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of highly innovative start-up projects • Percentage of projects related to digitalisation

4.11.5 Measure 5 – aws PreSeed – Deep Tech

Description	<p>aws PreSeed – Deep Tech is a funding and support programme for deep tech companies in the pre-seed phase. Support is provided in the form of grants, advice, coaching and the development of funding sources. The amount of the grant is max. EUR 270,000. Consultancy services worth EUR 7,600 and EUR 3,400 respectively are also offered.</p> <p>Grants to (among others):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personnel costs • Travel costs • Other operating costs
Objective	The aim of the programme is to enable young, innovative deep-tech projects with outstanding ideas and a business model that is scalable to prepare, implement and validate the proof of concept. The international market provides the benchmark for evaluating innovation.
Schedule	The programme is valid from 1 January 2022 until 31 December 2026.
Resources	National (planned or assigned): A total of EUR 17 million: 14 million euros per year from the BMAW and 3 million euros from the BMK (rounded). (Measures 5 and 6 share the budget).
Impact	<p>The aim is to achieve an increase (among others) in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of highly innovative start-up projects • Percentage of companies with above-average growth • Percentage of projects related to digitalisation

4.11.6 Measure 6 – aws Seedfinancing – Deep Tech

Description	<p>aws Seedfinancing – Deep Tech is a financing and support programme for deep-tech start-ups, for example in the life sciences or quantum technology sectors. Support is provided in the form of grants, advisory services, coaching and the development of funding sources. The maximum grant amount is EUR 1 million.</p>
--------------------	--

	<p>Grants to (among others):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personnel costs • Tangible and intangible investments • Operating materials
Objective	The aim of the programme is to enable sustainable growth for young, innovative deep-tech companies with outstanding ideas and a business model based on a significant technological innovation leap that is scalable. The international market provides the benchmark for assessing the significant technological innovation leap.
Schedule	The programme is valid from 1 January 2022 until provisionally 31 December 2026.
Resources	National (planned or assigned): A total of EUR 17 million: 14 million euros per year from the BMAW and 3 million euros from the BMK (rounded). (Measures 5 and 6 share the budget).
Impact	<p>The aim is to achieve an increase (among others) in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of highly innovative start-up projects • Percentage of companies with above-average growth • Percentage of projects related to digitalisation

4.11.7 Measure 7 – aws PreSeed – Innovative Solutions

Description	<p>aws PreSeed – Innovative Solutions is a financing and support programme for companies in all sectors, from the creative industries to soft/low tech and social entrepreneurship in the pre-seed phase. Support is provided in the form of grants totalling a maximum of EUR 100,000 and advisory services totalling up to EUR 6,700.</p> <p>Grants may cover (among others):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personnel costs • Material costs • Third-party costs (e.g. IT services, project-specific consulting services)
Objective	The aim of the programme is to finance and support projects from all sectors with an innovative start-up idea that generates positive social added value (impact) beyond company boundaries and high market opportunities within the framework of scalable business models.
Schedule	The programme is valid from 1 January 2022 until provisionally 31 December 2026.

Resources	National (planned or assigned): EUR 8.9 million per year (shared between measures 7 and 8).
Impact	The aim is to achieve an increase (among others) in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of highly innovative start-up projects • Percentage of companies with above-average growth • Percentage of projects related to digitalisation

4.11.8 Measure 8 – aws Seedfinancing – Innovative Solutions

Description	aws Seedfinancing – Innovative Solutions is a funding and support programme for companies in all sectors, from the creative industries to soft/low tech and social entrepreneurship in the start-up phase. Support is provided in the form of grants totalling a maximum of EUR 400,000, as well as advice totalling a maximum of EUR 8,400. Grants may cover (among others): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personnel costs • Material costs • Third-party costs (e.g. IT services, project-specific consulting services, etc.)
Objective	The aim of the programme is to finance and support projects from all sectors in the further development of an innovative start-up idea that generates positive social added value (impact) beyond company boundaries as well as high market opportunities within the framework of scalable business models.
Schedule	The programme is valid from 1 January 2022 until provisionally 31 December 2026.
Resources	National (planned or assigned): EUR 8.9 million per year (measures 7 and 8 share the budget)
Impact	The aim is to achieve an increase in the following areas (among others): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of highly innovative start-up projects • Percentage of companies with above-average growth • Percentage of projects related to digitalisation

4.11.9 Measure 9 – Global Incubator Network Austria (GIN)

Description	As a network with the GO ASIA internationalisation programmes, GIN brings Austrian start-ups to the world’s most innovative start-up hubs and connects them with international strategic partners (corporates, investors, etc.). The programme also includes support in the form of know-how and grants.
--------------------	--

	<p>The Global Incubator Network (GIN) consists of 2 tracks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GO ASIA: Serves as a springboard for domestic start-ups to establish themselves in international markets. • GO AUSTRIA: Facilitates access for start-ups, incubators, and investors from around the world to the Austrian and European markets. <p>Support is provided for up to 80% of eligible costs or a maximum of EUR 15,000 for participation in GO ASIA programmes.</p> <p>Grants to (among others):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel and accommodation costs • Costs for renting, setting up, and operating a trade fair or exhibition stand • Costs for consulting services • Costs related to establishment and growth during the founding of a company
Objective	<p>The aim of the programme is to bring together numerous stakeholders from Austria and Asia at an international level. It facilitates cooperation, market entry, investment, networking, and knowledge transfer. These activities are intended to positively impact the growth of participating companies. In turn, the measures are expected to contribute to doubling the number of unicorns in the EU.</p>
Schedule	<p>The programme is valid from 1 January 2024 until provisionally 31 December 2026.</p>
Resources	<p>National (planned): EUR 1.2 million per year</p>
Impact	<p>The aim is to achieve an increase in the following areas (among others):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of companies with above-average growth • Percentage of projects related to digitalisation

4.11.10 Measure 10 – aws connect

Description	<p>This is an aws digital networking platform for start-ups, companies and investors with the aim of promoting cooperation, investment and internationalisation. The measure includes various sub-services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • aws AI marketplace • The aws AI marketplace is an online platform for the best providers of AI and for companies that want to integrate AI into their production processes. • aws Industry-Startup.Net • This measure is a neutral matching service for start-ups and established SMEs as well as large companies wishing to enter into a cooperation partnership. • aws i2 Business Angels
--------------------	---

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> aws i2 Business Angels is an independent, neutral Austrian platform for the structured and transparent matching of promising start-ups with financially strong and experienced investors.
Objective	Start-ups or innovative companies can use aws connect to quickly and easily find contacts with investors and SMEs and large companies willing to cooperate in the further development of their business. These sectors should have a positive impact on the growth of the respective company. These measures will therefore help to double the number of unicorns in the EU.
Schedule	The programmes are valid from 1 January 2024 until provisionally 31 December 2026.
Resources	National (planned or assigned): EUR 4.2 million per annum (for ISN, i2, EF)
Impact	The aim of aws i2 Business Angels is to achieve an increase in the following areas (among others): Number of highly innovative start-up projects

4.11.11 Measure 11 – Start-up Council

Description	The Start-up Council is a committee of experts from the start-up ecosystem with the aim of improving the framework conditions for start-ups and innovative growth companies in Austria. It advises the Federal Ministry of Labour and Economic Affairs on start-up matters and acts as a representative for the start-up community.
Objective	The programme focuses on content-related work in close dialogue with the entrepreneurial innovation ecosystem, stakeholders and political decision-makers. The involvement of the Start-up Council as an advisory body of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Economic Affairs provides a voice for the current requirements of the start-up community.
Schedule	The Start-up Council is appointed until 31 December 2026.
Resources	This is a voluntary activity.
Impact	The aim of the measure is to improve the framework conditions for start-ups in Austria. The focus is on content-related work in close dialogue with the entrepreneurial innovation ecosystem, stakeholders and political decision-makers. The Start-up Council's involvement in the funding system and its role as an advisory body to the Federal Ministry of Labour and Economic Affairs provides a voice for the start-up community's current requirements.

4.11.12 Measure 12 – Platform and consulting – EIC Accelerator

Description	Support and preparatory measures for Austrian start-ups as part of the EIC Accelerator: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• EIC Accelerator Platform• A regular exchange meeting to improve the networking of stakeholders in Austria• Consultancy activities for the preparation of suitable candidates
Impact	Successful participation of Austrian start-ups in the EIC Accelerator

4.11.13 Measure 13 – Flexible company

Description	On 1 January 2024, the Flexible Company Act (FlexKapGG) came into effect. Some of the most significant achievements of this measure for founders include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Easier formal requirements, for example for share transfers• Enabling flexible capital measures that were previously only possible with a stock corporation, such as conditional and authorised capital increases• Significantly simplified possibility of adopting circular resolutions• Creation of company value shares for employee share ownership programmes, which are to be seen in combination with planned tax relief for employee share ownership programmes (according to § 67a EStG).
Objective	The measure introduces a new form of corporation that offers a competitive option for innovative start-ups, particularly in an international context.
Schedule	The flexible company (FlexKapG) has been available as a new legal form since 1 January 2024.
Impact	This new company form is intended to build on international examples and provide an internationally competitive option, particularly for innovative start-ups and founders in the early stages

4.11.14 Measure 14 – aws Start-up Invest

Description	With aws Start-up Invest, aws provides additional risk capital for innovative start-ups in the form of co-investments with experienced investors (e.g. business angels, family offices, angel consortia).
Objective	The aim of the measure is to provide additional support for technology-driven start-ups with additional funding support. With the help of aws Start-up Invest thus offers a new equity capital instrument.

Schedule	Q3–Q4 2023: Conducting a call for investors, alongside informational and awareness events to reach the target audience (particularly female investors). Q4 2023 and Q1 2024: Selection of investors and conclusion of trust agreements. From Q1 2024, investments in companies will be possible. The programme will be run and monitored by aws until approximately the end of 2034.
Resources	National (allocated): EUR 10 million
Impact	Based on experience from other similar programmes, investments are expected in 40–60 start-ups, with a total mobilised venture capital volume of approximately EUR 100 million.

4.11.15 Measure 15 – Start-up Navigator

Description	The Start-up Navigator offers nationwide and state-specific information on all relevant contact points for the most important start-up topics, such as founding, financing, community, competitions and internationalisation.
Objective	The Start-up Navigator provides start-ups with clear information on topics relevant to them. The main focus is on information related to the start-up and initial phase, financing and funding, the community, and competitions. This measure presents the above information clearly on an online platform.
Schedule	This measure is designed to run for an indefinite period.
Impact	This measure presents clearly a wide range of information, including financing, support, and competition offers in Austria, on an online platform.

4.11.16 Measure 16 – Start-up Landscape Austria database

Description	Greater transparency for investors thanks to interactive dashboard Start-up Landscape Austria is the first Austria-wide database on the domestic start-up ecosystem. Interested parties can use simple search and filter functions to obtain information on start-ups, investors, incubators, accelerators and more. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint project with the BMAW and other stakeholders such as AIT, AustrianStartups, invest.austria, FFG, aws, ABA and more • Presentation of the prototype in December 2022¹⁷
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EUR 20,000 annual budget • External partner (AIT) for additional data collection

¹⁷ Further information: <https://austria.dealroom.co/>

Impact	<p>Interactive dashboard enables target group-orientated search; In 2023, an enhanced matchmaking function with international investors went online.</p> <p>Largest interactive start-up database in Austria with over 3,000 start-ups now online</p> <p>Database is now used as a database in numerous reports: Austrian Startup Monitor, EY Startup Barometer, 100 Startups to Watch in Austria, HealthTech Map</p>
---------------	---

4.11.17 Measure 17 – Spin-off Initiative

Description	<p>The aws Spin-off Initiative aims to establish a strong ecosystem for academic spin-offs and spin-ins in Austria that meets the demands of international venture capital investors. To achieve this, both seed funding to attract private investors and support for professional spin-off structures from universities are provided.</p> <p>The meta-goal is to provide potentially VC-capable spin-offs with easier access to private venture capital. This is achieved through a dual approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Push approach: Selected universities or collaborations between universities will be supported in establishing private sector structures (ideally with private partners experienced in venture capital) that enable the targeted identification and preparation of potentially venture-capital-worthy spin-offs and make them attractive and usable for private venture capital investors. • Pull approach: Academic spin-offs are supported by making more private venture capital available. On one hand, aws strengthens the confidence of private venture capital investors to invest in newly established private venture capital structures, and on the other hand, it enhances the investment opportunities for existing investors by doubling their commitment to investing in Austrian academic spin-offs. <p>Through the supported creation of attractive private venture capital structures and an increase in the venture capital supply, an environment is created in which more academic spin-offs receive the necessary structural and financial resources to grow successfully.</p>
Resources	EUR 8.5 million
Impact	<p>The initiative anticipates increased commercialisation of research results through academic spin-offs (as well as spin-ins), improved networking between academic research and industry, and a strengthening of innovation potential in Austria. Based on experiences from similar programmes, the implementation of the initiative in the coming years is expected to result in a higher number of spin-off formations through spin-off investment companies and investments in</p>

around 30 to 40 spin-offs, with a total mobilised venture capital volume of approximately EUR 100 million.

4.12 KPI 13 – Digitalisation of Public Services – Digital Services for Citizens

EU target for 2030: 100% online provision of key public services, including, where applicable, the ability for Union citizens to interact with public administrations online.

Table 19 National trajectory by 2030 for KPI 13

2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
80.7%	82%	85%	87%	90%	94%	97%	100%

To assess the online availability of public services, the eGovernment Benchmark evaluates two indicators: Online Availability and Cross-Border Online Availability. Since 2001, the eGovernment Benchmark has analysed digital administrative services (eGovernment) annually across nine life events relevant to citizens and businesses.

With the citizen service portal “oesterreich.gv.at” and the accompanying app “Digitales Amt”, Austria has provided completely revamped central access points for information and online services related to administrative procedures since 2019. Initial processes, such as primary residence registration, the digital baby point (services related to pregnancy and childbirth, e.g., initial issuance of certificates), passport reminder service, certificate service, and postal voting card application, were implemented on oesterreich.gv.at with a seamless user experience and offered as both app and web solutions. With a single login via ID Austria, numerous existing electronic government services can be used without additional login requirements (Single sign-on). Extract from previous target achievements:

- In Q1 2024, the residence registration service was expanded to include additional use cases (e.g., secondary residence registration). The feasibility of electronic marriage registration was evaluated; however, this initiative has been put on hold. Work has been put in to integrate electronic delivery and improve usability and technical architecture.
- Requests for birth, marriage, or partnership certificates can be made online: All certificates accessible from the Central Civil Status Register via ID Austria are free of charge for citizens.

Extracts and confirmations are provided in two languages (German/English) in accordance with the Single Digital Gateway Regulation (SDGR)¹⁸.

- Appeals against court decisions: Lawyers can submit appeal documents electronically through the electronic legal communication system, allowing for online filing.
- Vehicle registration: An online procedure for vehicle registration has been established by the Association of Insurance Companies of Austria on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation, and Technology (BMK) in accordance with the SDG regulation. The system covers registrations by both natural and legal persons. Special vehicles, such as ambulances, diplomatic vehicles, are excluded.

In addition, a study has been commissioned to identify the official channels most suitable for digitalisation and likely to deliver the greatest benefits, in order to establish an appropriate sequence for the further expansion of services.

Table 20 Overall timeline for KPI 7: Measures that contribute to achieving the target

Measure	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
1 – Expansion of services in accordance with current project committee decisions (marriage registration, additional residence registrations, integration of electronic delivery)	Yes							
2 – Study on official channels suitable for digitalisation with the greatest possible benefit	Yes	Yes						
3 – Implementation according to study results from measure 2 and available resources	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				
4 – Online application and admission to a degree programme and provision of a digital student ID card	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				
5 – Establishment of a jointly defined publicly accessible health record portal	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				
6 – Online appointment scheduling for health and social professions	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				
7 – Digitalisation of case management in the judiciary (“Justiz 3.0”)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				

¹⁸ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:02018R1724-20240629>

Funding for all measures that can be attributed to the objective (overall, preferably taking into account the regional dimension):

- public investments:
 - Already allocated: Total project budget for the citizen platform in 2023: EUR 13,476,405
 - planned: Total project budget for the citizen platform 2024: EUR 7,726,405; 2025: EUR 5,226,405; 2026: EUR 5,226,405; 2027: EUR 5,226,405
- of which from national sources:
 - all investments come from national sources

Challenge – Identifying suitable services:

The tried and tested approach of promoting the digitalisation of administrative processes and implementing them natively for the web on the central service platform “oesterreich.gv.at” and the app “Digitales Amt” will be continued. Long-term projects, such as services from the health and pension sectors, will be identified, evaluated, and subsequently implemented as part of a study.

Estimated investment gap and possible measures to achieve national targets:

A study will demonstrate the potential of administrative procedures suitable for digitalisation and, through a subsequent cost-benefit analysis, lead to an implementation plan. Only then will it be possible to estimate the total cost of providing essential public services 100% online.

4.12.1 Measure 1 – Expansion of services in accordance with current project committee decisions (marriage registration, additional residence registrations, integration of electronic delivery)

Description	Implementation of the new services (expansion of residence registrations, registration for marriage, integration of electronic delivery) for the web on oesterreich.gv.at and in the app “Digitales Amt”. Additionally, an online appointment reservation and an application for marriage registration using the e-ID function are planned.
Objective	Further services are bringing the goal of 100% online provision of essential public services closer.
Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration/De-registration/Change of Address: This sub-measure has been fully implemented. • Registration of Marriage: The analysis of the new functions began in 2023 and has been put on hold.
Resources	The implementation of the measures will be financed from the overall project budget for the citizen platform. The total costs for implementing the mentioned functions can only be estimated after a detailed analysis.

Impact	Utilisation of the new services by citizens through accompanying communication measures after implementation and thus relief for users and the administration.
---------------	--

4.12.2 Measure 2 – Study on official channels suitable for digitalisation with the greatest possible benefit

Description	<p>Commissioning a study to a research institution to identify those official channels that are suitable for digitalisation and whose implementation offers the greatest benefits for citizens and the administration.</p> <p>A survey and evaluation of potential implementation candidates is to be carried out for the 100% online provision of essential public services.</p>
Schedule	The study was commissioned in 2023 and completed at the end of 2024.
Resources	The implementation of the measures will be financed from the overall project budget for the platform for citizens. The total costs for implementing the new online services can only be estimated after a detailed analysis.
Impact	Utilisation of the new services by citizens will be supported through accompanying communication measures following implementation, thereby alleviating the burden for users and the administration.

4.12.3 Measure 3 – Implementation based on the study results from Measure 2 and available resources

Description	Implementation of further online services in the order of their benefit according to the results of the study from Measure 2.
Objective	Further services are bringing the goal of 100% online provision of essential public services closer.
Schedule	The Implementation of further online services will be realised in stages, depending on the availability of resources.
Resources	The implementation of the measures will be financed from the overall project budget for the platform for citizens. The total cost for the implementation of the new online services can only be estimated after a detailed analysis has been carried out.
Impact	Utilisation of the new services by citizens through accompanying communication measures after implementation, thus relieving the burden on users and the administration.

4.12.4 Measure 4 – Online application and admission to a degree programme and provision of a digital student ID card

Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • „Online onboarding“: Online application and admission to a degree programme at a post-secondary educational institution. • “Digital student ID card”: Provision of a legally binding ID card via the federal government’s ID card platform <p>The aim of the online application/admission is to provide admission-relevant data, such as personal data, school-leaving certificate data, photograph, etc., using ID-Austria authentication – also from other EU member states using eIDAS authentication (if this data is provided) – via the Register and System Network (RSV) to retrieve quality-assured data from the registers connected to the RSV (Central Register, driving licence register, EduRec, etc.) without applicants having to upload or present their documents. In the course of this, a student register will also be implemented on the basis of the existing data network of universities and colleges, including a connection to the RSV.</p> <p>At the end of the admission process is the digital student ID card, which is made available on smartphones via the federal government’s ID card platform, similar to a digital driving licence.</p>
Objective	<p>Further services are bringing the goal of 100% online provision of essential public services closer.</p>
Schedule	<p>The functionalities should be available for admissions/applications for the winter semester 2025. They can be used by anyone with the ID Austria or an European eID. These measures also correspond to the once-only principle and are already a further development of what the Single Digital Gateway Regulation currently provides for in the area of authorisation for studies.</p>
Impact	<p>Utilisation of the new services by citizens and thus relief for users and the administration</p>

4.12.5 Measure 5 – Establishment of a jointly defined publicly accessible health record portal

Description	<p>Establishment of a jointly defined publicly accessible health record portal as an evolution of the ELGA Citizen Portal, considering/coordinating gesundheits.gv.at, the ELGA Citizen Portal, MeineSV, and health consultation 1450, which ideally will be available as both a website and an app</p>
--------------------	--

4.12.6 Measure 6 – Online appointment scheduling for health and social professions

Description	Specification and definition of processes, as well as implementation of online appointment scheduling for health and social profession
--------------------	--

4.12.7 Measure 7 – Digitalisation of case management in the judiciary (“Justiz 3.0”)

Description	<p>The strategic “Justiz 3.0” initiative, which aims to achieve streamlined digital case management between courts and prosecutors’ offices, is expected to be finalised.</p> <p>In 2024, significant progress was made in the nationwide implementation of digital case management in the justice system. In addition to transitioning the appellate procedure in civil cases at the regional and higher regional court levels, as well as in criminal cases at the regional court level and the judicial administration procedure at the higher regional court level, the rollout of the digital dunning procedure was also successfully completed.</p> <p>To achieve fully digital case management across all types of proceedings, the next steps will involve digitalising the appellate procedure in criminal cases at the higher regional court level, insolvency proceedings, and non-contentious proceedings.</p>
Objective	Digital file management in the judiciary enables electronic access to files and seamless digital communication without media disruption.
Schedule	<p>Digitalisation of appellate procedures in criminal cases at the higher regional court level, as well as insolvency and non-contentious proceedings, is to be completed by the end of 2025.</p> <p>In 2026, the strategic initiative “Justiz 3.0” is set to conclude with the implementation of digital file management at the Supreme Court, the General Prosecutor’s Office, the Legal Protection Officer, the Federal Administrative Court, and the Family and Youth Court Assistance Services.</p>
Resources	The implementation of the measure must be financed from the ICT budget of the judiciary.
Impact	The digital file and case management allows for the redesign and optimisation of long-standing internal processes within courts and public prosecutors’ offices. Additionally, it enables the provision of new digital services. This gives citizens and businesses the opportunity for digital access to ongoing cases and the associated files through electronic file access. Furthermore, seamless

communication in judicial proceedings is facilitated through electronic legal communication or the JustizOnline platform.

4.13 KPI 14 – Digitalisation of Public Services – Businesses

EU target for 2030: EU target for 2030: 100% online accessible provision of key public services and, where relevant, it is possible for businesses in the Union to interact online with public administrations.

Table 21 National trajectory by 2030 for KPI 14

2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
82.9%	84%	85%	88%	91%	94%	96%	100%

To assess the online availability of public services, two indicators—Online Availability and Cross-Border Online Availability—from the eGovernment Benchmark are being used. Since 2001, the eGovernment Benchmark has annually examined digital administrative services (e-Government) across 9 different life events relevant to citizens and businesses.

The online provision of essential public services for businesses (such as company formation and the conduct of regular business activities) is also available through the [Business Service Portal \(USP\)](#), JustizOnline portal or via electronic legal transactions (ERV).

The aim is to maximise electronic processing of notifications by reusing already existing information.

Table 22 Overall timeline for KPI 14: Measures that contribute to achieving the target

Measure	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
1 – Once Only	Yes							
2 – eDelivery	Yes	Yes	Yes					
3 – Business Service Portal – USP	Yes							

Brief description:

- **Once Only:** Information obligations under federal law generate high costs for both companies and the administration, for example due to personnel expenses, increased infrastructure costs

and costs for professional party representatives, etc. The aim of this project is to reduce the burden on companies and the administration by creating appropriate measures to implement the “once only” principle. As a result, companies should only report information to the authorities that is not yet available to them as part of the fulfilment of information obligations. For their part, the authorities are to take measures within the framework of the law to exchange the information they already have with other authorities. The infrastructure created by the Federal Ministry of Finance will be made available to the public authorities so that it can be used as a basis for administrative reform projects. Furthermore, the infrastructure will also serve public authorities to handle cross-border use cases within the meaning of Article 14 SDGR.

- **eDelivery:** Electronic delivery (eDelivery) has already been implemented with the electronic mailbox “Mein Postkorb” as a central and secure mailbox for official messages. After a one-off registration, documents from public authorities (e.g. criminal record extract, registration confirmation, etc.) are received securely via this free electronic mailbox. Companies are legally obliged to accept official electronic deliveries. Citizens have the right to electronic communication with authorities in accordance with Section 1a of the E-Government Act. That means: All federal authorities and authorities that implement federal laws (e.g. as part of the registration system) send electronic deliveries of federal authority documents to citizens and companies in “Mein Postkorb”. “Mein Postkorb” can be accessed at “oesterreich.gv.at” and in the “Digitales Amt” app. Companies can use “Mein Postkorb” in the Business Service Portal (usp.gv.at).
- **Business Service Portal – usp.gv.at:** The Business Service Portal (USP) is the Austrian administration’s central information and service platform for companies to complete their official tasks efficiently and safely at a single centralised location. With just a single registration on the USP, users can securely and efficiently access a wide range of online services for interacting with authorities, eliminating long waiting times. In addition, the USP provides entrepreneurs with legally secure information from the federal ministries on all areas of business life – at any time and from a trustworthy source. The services and information are available to businesspeople around the clock and, of course, also via mobile devices.
 - The USP consists of 4 core areas:
 - **Information area:** Freely accessible information at usp.gv.at without registration; over 3,000 pages of information on all aspects of everyday business life for entrepreneurs
 - **Service area “My USP”:** Businesses can access over 100 government services via mein.usp.gv.at, all connected to the USP through single sign-on. This means that users log in to the USP for their business and can then use services such as FinanzOnline, social insurance services, and many other applications without needing to log in again. A one-time registration on the USP is required.
 - **USP’s own services:** These services provide digital channels for companies to interact with public authorities (ideally end-to-end, meaning the entire process is mapped

directly from the company to the authority. Examples include electronic company formation, searching for public tenders, and granting or exercising powers of attorney. The basis for this includes the Federal Procurement Act 2018, the State Regulation on Core Data, the State Regulation on E-Invoicing, the Social Security Supplementary Act, the State Regulation on Simplified Limited Liability Company Formation, and the Beneficial Ownership Register Act.

- **Identity Provision:** The USP currently has over 570,000 registered participants, who are identified through a strictly controlled registration process. In addition, each participant’s authorisation to represent the respective company is carefully verified. The USP now makes these verified identities (both individuals and companies) and the associated representation relationships available to over 100 official applications. This significantly simplifies administrative process and enhances data quality and security across a wide range of digital government services for companies in Austria.
- Through modernisation of the platform by 2025, the existing range of information and services will be expanded and improved to meet the current needs of authorities and companies. This will establish a modern foundation for further digitalisation of interfaces between companies and authorities.

4.13.1 Measure 1 – Once Only

Description

This will significantly reduce the burden on companies in fulfilling their information obligations. The systematic reduction (master data and annexes) and the implementation of a register link for the reuse of data will significantly reduce the burden on companies when submitting notifications. As a result, companies will need to devote less time to meeting these obligations.

Part 1: Creation of an information obligation database

- Target Part 1: Reduction of duplicate and multiple submissions with a focus on authorities
- Description Part 1: Based on the automation-supported information obligation database, the data stored by the authorities is analysed at metadata level. This means that no personal data is processed, only general, abstract information regarding information obligations, their recipients, the technical transmission methods, and the content details to be reported. Potential areas for relief are identified through this analysis and subsequently implemented at the level of individual use cases. Just as companies are affected by duplicate or multiple reporting obligations, public authorities also incur additional costs when processing such reports. The objective is to ease the burden on public authorities by streamlining reporting procedures, reducing duplicate processing, improving data quality, and minimising processing errors.

	<p>Part 2: Creation of a register and system network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target Part 2: to enable the use of data already available to public authorities in fulfilling information obligations. • Description Part 2: To ensure standardised and efficient national and cross-border data exchange between the public authorities, the register and system network, serving as a core component of the Once-Only platform is being expanded as a standardised communication infrastructure for inter-authority information exchange. Authorities will be able to obtain and transmit data via this infrastructure in accordance with legal requirements. This communication infrastructure will primarily be support the systematic reduction of information obligations and implementation of the impulse projects. The long-term aim is to establish nationwide, efficient and standardised data exchange via the register and system network. Furthermore, the register and system network must fulfil the technical requirements of the European Commission in order to meet the requirements of the SDG Regulation as a national node of the Once-Only-Technical-System.
Schedule	The programme is currently scheduled to run until December 2025.
Resources	Nationally, EUR 17.8 million has been allocated for the period from 2023 to 2025.
Impact	Companies will be freed of their information obligations by a calculated EUR 144 million

4.13.2 Measure 2 – eDelivery

Description	<p>Advantages of electronic delivery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure delivery of letters from authorities • Guaranteed SPAM-free • Secure and confidential • Open 7 days – 24 hours • No notification slips on paper • accessible worldwide
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associated projects 2025 with EUR 7.7 million per year, rising linearly until 2029 to around EUR 9.5 million • Operations 2025 with EUR 5.4 million, rising linearly until 2029 to around EUR 7 million
Impact	Cost reduction of paper deliveries by 97% with eDeliveries

4.13.3 Measure 3 – Business Service Portal – USP

<p>Description</p>	<p>Modernisation of the Business Service Portal: By modernising the range of digital services and information, further official channels at the USP can be digitalised and made more efficient. The replacement of obsolete technological components guarantees that the stable operation of the USP can be maintained and that the legal requirements (national and EU-wide) can be met. The use of new technologies also reduces the effort involved in implementing projects, while at the same time increasing security when using the service for authorities and companies. Access to and use of the Business Service Portal is simplified and improved for companies. This allows services to be implemented and made available in a more user-friendly and efficient manner.</p> <p>New and further development of digital government channels for companies: Existing official channels that companies can process online at the USP, such as electronic incorporation or the electronic granting of a power of attorney to company representatives, will be expanded and supplemented with additional functions. Other relevant government processes, such as the automated review of companies' eligibility for funding, are being further developed in order to expand the range of digitalised government channels for companies and thus also reduce costs (travel costs, multiple contacts, enquiries) on both the government side and the company side. The provision of USP data and developments to other public service providers opens up further potential for the digitalisation of government channels for companies across all levels of administration.</p> <p>Internationalisation of the Business Service Portal: National and European laws and regulations are implemented to extend access to the Business Service Portal for companies in EU Member States. The multilingual presentation of information and services facilitates use by these companies. In addition, the exchange of company data between the USP and corresponding data sources in selected EU Member States enables the identification and authentication of companies from these countries when accessing the USP.</p> <p>Information is provided in both German and English wherever possible.</p>
<p>Resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the years 2023–2025, a total of around EUR 10 million is currently planned for the realisation of projects. • Around EUR 3.4 million is currently budgeted for the operation of the USP in 2023 and will continue to be budgeted until 2025 with an annual increase of 5% per year.
<p>Impact</p>	<p>Based on an analysis of the years 2012–2020, it is estimated that the USP generates a direct benefit of approximately EUR 100 million per year and an additional indirect economic benefit of around EUR 300 million annually.</p>

4.14 KPI 15 – Electronic health records

EU target for 2030: 100% of Union citizens have access to their electronic health records.

Table 23 National trajectory by 2030 for KPI 14

2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
88.2%	97.5%	97.5%	98.5%	98.5%	99.5%	99.5%	100%

Between 2025 and 2030, the foundations for achieving 100% coverage of access to the electronic health record for citizens need to be established. As noted in the 2023 report, the current coverage rate in Austria is 97.5%. The remaining 2.5% consists of individuals who are not insured through state insurance in Austria. A solution is already being developed and is expected to be implemented before 2030.

The budgetary coverage for the measures and associated projects described below will be provided through the ELGA and eHealth annual work programme. This programme has been coordinated with system partners, approved by the eHealth specialist group, and adopted by the BZK. The overarching cost framework is formed by the funds allocated for digitalisation through the financial equalisation negotiations (EUR 51 million annually).

Table 24 Overall timeline for KPI 14: Measures that contribute to achieving the target

Measure	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
1 – Access for citizens to all (ELGA) health records	Yes							
2 – Integration of all healthcare providers in the GDA-I	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
3 – Access for all healthcare providers (GDA)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
4 – Medical image data	Yes							
5 – Data on medical devices and implants	Yes	Yes	Yes					

4.14.1 Measure 1 – Access for citizens to all (ELGA) health records

Description

The strategic objective S1 “Enable digital access to the healthcare system” with the operational objective O1.1 “All citizens and healthcare providers have open access to the Austrian public GTI in accordance with the legal provisions (EU and national)” of the Austrian eHealth Strategy is to be taken into account with the present measure.

At its core, this measure includes a redesign of the ELGA Citizen Portal and the Health Portal (gesundheits.gv.at), integrating and linking existing regional portals. Additionally, appropriate access through a mobile application is being considered and enabled.

4.14.2 Measure 2 – Integration of all healthcare providers in the GDA-I

Description

In order to access ELGA services, healthcare providers must meet two requirements: first, they must hold a role as an ELGA healthcare provider pursuant to Section 2 Z 10 GTelG 2012 (e.g., as a physician), and second, they must be registered in the Healthcare Provider Index (GDA-I). Measure 2 initiates the technical, organisational, professional, and legal steps required for its implementation.

4.14.3 Measure 3 – Access for all healthcare providers (GDA)

Description

According to the operational objective O1.2, “All GDAs involved in the digitally supported supply process are connected to the Austrian public GTI”, GDAs must be enabled to easily and centrally access ELGA services.

This measure therefore includes (among other things) the expansion of the GDA platform (gda.gesundheits.gv.at) and the provision of applications for the use of ELGA services.

4.14.4 Measure 4 – Medical image data

Description

Radiological findings (e.g., X-ray reports or MRI reports) are already available in ELGA and can be accessed by citizens through the ELGA access portal.

Additionally, it is now technically possible to retrieve the corresponding image data via ELGA. Initially, this applies only to the radiological sites participating in the pilot project; in a second phase, citizens will also be granted access.

Starting in 2024, the nationwide, gradual rollout of medical image data will begin in Austria. The prerequisite for this is that citizens have not opted out of ELGA

either entirely or partially for the ELGA function “e-report” (“e-Befund”). No separate registration is required for this new service.

4.14.5 Measure 5 – Data on medical devices and implants

Description	Data on medical devices and implants (e.g., device ID, implantation/explantation date) in ELGA
--------------------	--

4.14.6 Next steps

Further goals and projects for the health sector can be found in the finalised and approved eHealth Strategy for 2024, which was agreed upon by the system partners (federal government, states, and social insurance). They are also detailed in parts 1–3 of the ELGA and eHealth annual work programme for 2024. Goals and projects for the year 2025 are currently being defined through negotiations among the system partners as part of the ELGA and eHealth Annual Work Programme for 2025.

4.15 KPI 16 – Electronic Identification (eID)

EU target for 2030: 100% of Union citizens have access to secure electronic identity (eID) that are recognised throughout the Union, enabling them to have full control over identity transactions and shared personal data.

This target has already been achieved in full (100%). Currently, implementation activities for the European Digital Identity Wallet, as outlined in the regulation on the European Digital Identity (EUID), are taking place (revision of the eIDAS regulation). Austria is already working intensively with the expert groups in the “Toolbox Process” and is actively involved in the large-scale pilot “POTENTIAL”.

5 Main strategies, measures and actions that contribute to achieving the general objectives

5.1 Digital Austria Act

The Digital Austria Act combines 117 measures and 36 digitalisation principles to reshape digitalisation in Austria. The priorities of the Digital Austria Act are cross-departmental and affect all members of the Federal Government and all areas of people's lives. Applicable data protection principles and barrier-free accessibility are taken into account.

5.2 Digital Action Plan

In order to achieve the goals set out in the government programme and make substantial progress in individual policy areas using digitalisation as a lever, the “Digital Action Plan” has been in place since 2019 to coordinate cross-departmental digitalisation measures in a targeted manner. The foundation is a shared vision of a “digitally responsible society”, along with guidelines and principles that provide orientation for all topic-specific action plans. These elements form the framework for defining targeted measures within each action plan, in collaboration with the respective specialist departments. Due to its responsibility for the cross-cutting issue of digitalisation, the Federal Ministry of Finance coordinates all of this work, while the respective specialist departments define the topic-specific content and are subsequently also responsible for implementing the measures developed in each case. Other important building blocks in the project team are scientific partners to research the relevant technical background and the broad involvement of relevant stakeholders and experts.

Among others, the following topic-specific action plans have been developed, or are currently being developed, based on this approach:

Crisis resistance

Against the backdrop of the coronavirus pandemic, the strategy was expanded to include the chapter “Crisis resilience”, which addresses how digitalisation can strengthen Austria's resilience and increase the country's attractiveness as a business location for current and future stakeholders. To

this end, measures have been developed in a total of seven fields of action, such as the promotion of one-stop e-government and m-government, the establishment of the “Alliance for Digital Skills and Professions” to develop and expand digital skills, and the digitalisation campaign in the healthcare sector, which is currently being further developed in a separate action plan.

Digital economic transformation

To fully leverage the opportunities of digitalisation for growth, employment, and prosperity, 2 dimensions of transformation are crucial:

- On one hand, it is essential to consistently support our businesses in their digital transformation. In Austria’s SME-dominated economic landscape, digitalisation does not happen automatically; it requires incentives and services.
- On the other hand, the state is also called upon to shape digital transformation alongside the economy. This includes everything from administrative services to new digital infrastructures necessary for a successful data economy.

In order to support Austrian companies in the digital transformation in a targeted and needs-oriented manner, measures need to be taken in regards to innovation in business and working models, digital communication between companies and the administration and between companies/internal companies, infrastructure and a vibrant start-up culture.

Austria’s attractiveness as a digital and innovation location should be secured by creating optimal framework conditions for start-ups, fostering links between the economy and research, training highly skilled professionals, and expanding international networks. This also requires an efficient national industrial and technology base, with companies and organisations that are closely interconnected.

The future of digital universities

Universities have a particularly important role to play in the process of digital transformation and in shaping digitalisation towards a “digital responsible society”, as these institutions apply digitalisation and reflect on it scientifically.

The action plan aims to further develop the “digital” universities. It is also intended to reflect the interim status of the current debate on the digital transformation of universities. This facilitates a structured approach and focussing on objectives and measures.

The central areas of the “Digital Future of Universities” action plan are strategy, research, teaching and organisation. The guiding document for its implementation is the strategic framework “Universities and Digital Transformation 2030” (see section 5.13).

Tourism

This action plan includes the creation of an Austrian data space for tourism. The aim is to improve value creation through data utilisation.

The second field of action is the “Digital Competence in Tourism” initiative, which aims to strengthen digital skills in the industry.

Digital official channels, digital guest information, promotion of infrastructure and projects is the third pillar of the Digital Action Plan for Tourism. In this context, the aim is to optimise digital administrative services and infrastructures.

Future competences for a learning administration

This chapter has not yet been published (it is still under review by the responsible department).

The future of digital cultural institutions

Development of a strategy paper outlining a vision for advancing the cultural sector through digitalisation. This includes support for the sustainable digital transformation of Austria’s cultural heritage institutions, the expansion of resources for ongoing digital transformation and innovation, development of a new sector of digital cultural mediation with international scientific, tourism, and economic sectors.

Digital sovereignty

Includes an analysis of the security and technology policy framework in the digital context, provides a framework for an assessment model for digital dependencies (“Digital Sovereignty Compass”) and includes recommendations for action to reduce digital dependencies and improve the use of digital options for action.

2023: Smart Farming

Building on a digitalisation vision strategy for agriculture developed in 2022, this chapter outlines proposals for concrete implementation measures across various fields of action, such as funding,

administration, education, and training. These measures were defined with broad expert and stakeholder involvement and aim to advance digitalisation in the agricultural sector.

5.3 E-Government Strategy 2023

Many years of intensive cooperation between the federal government, federal states, cities and municipalities are aimed at establishing a standardised, networked and coordinated approach to e-government. Currently, more than 80 representatives from the federal government, federal states, cities and municipalities have jointly developed this e-government strategy as guiding framework for the development for the Austria's public administration. This document summarises the results of this strategy process and thus represents the joint e-Government Strategy 2023.

5.4 Digital Skills Initiative

With the "Digital Skills Initiative", Austria pooled all forces to enhance digital skills and established, for the first time, a comprehensive stakeholder initiative supported by 4 ministries (BKA, BMKOES, BMAW, BMBWF). The "Digital Skills Austria" strategy was developed through a nationwide dialogue process involving over 500 experts and stakeholders from 80 institutions. Around 350 measures and initiatives were identified, clustered, and consolidated. Based on this, the "Digital Skills Austria" strategy sets eight strategic priorities within a competence package with specific measures for the further development of digital skills.

5.5 National AI Strategy

The Federal Government published its strategy for Artificial Intelligence (AI) on September 14, 2021. This sets the framework for the prosperous and responsible use of AI in all areas of life. AI should be used in Austria on the basis of European fundamental values, with respect for privacy and the principle of equality for the greatest benefit of all. AI should contribute to Austria's positioning as a centre of research and innovation and as a competitive technology and industrial location. To this end, AI is also to be used on a broad basis by Austria's small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and in public administration.

In order to achieve the strategic goals of the AI strategy, 13 fields of action were defined for trustworthy AI and an AI ecosystem. The 64 (horizontal) measures listed therein help Austria to create optimal and agile framework conditions for a human-centred use of AI that is geared towards the common good and to help shape the future of AI and its use in Austria. In addition, a further 27 measures were proposed in 13 specific fields of application.

5.6 Data Strategy for Austria

The Data Strategy actively supports the targeted use of data to promote evidence-based decision-making, especially in public administration, and to enable data usage for the benefit of society. It is based on the European legal framework, specifically the European Data Strategy and the provisions of the Data Governance Act (DGA) and the Data Act (DA).

In connection with the Data Governance Act (DGA), the Data Access Act (DZG) was also developed, providing the basis for a national governance framework to enable the secure and anonymised sharing and reuse of protected data from the public sector. Furthermore, the implementation of the DZG will establish an authority responsible for the registration of data brokerage services and data altruistic organisations to strengthen European data stakeholders. The strategy aims to improve the framework conditions for the data economy and promote the secure exchange and widespread use of data. Therefore, great emphasis is placed on maximum data protection and the highest security standards within the 3 strategic objectives:

1. Development of sustainable data infrastructures,
2. Activating potentials for responsible data use, and
3. Establishment of an innovative data culture and upskilling of data competencies.

A total of 45 measures have been formulated, which will now be further detailed and implemented in collaboration with the relevant departments and stakeholders. The Data Strategy for Austria aligns with the European vision of an internal data marketplace and the overarching goals of the European Data Strategy.

5.7 eHealth Strategy Austria

The first eHealth Strategy Austria was adopted and published in the summer of 2024 by the stakeholders in health target management – the federal government, federal states and social insurance organisations. It aims to define a common vision for eHealth and digitalisation in the healthcare and nursing sectors in Austria, focusing on the needs of patients and citizens, while considering various target groups (citizens, patients/clients, healthcare providers, research, and system management) and subsequently further developing this vision. The eHealth Strategy is to be understood as a living document, implemented in close coordination with the outcomes of the 2023 healthcare reform and the Federal Target Management Contract 2024.

The following vision serves as the foundation of the Austrian eHealth Strategy: By 2030, the public healthcare system in Austria will be designed according to the principle of “digital before outpatient before inpatient”, encompassing everything from prevention to aftercare. The digital offerings will

enhance accessibility, improve the quality of care, and provide better information delivery. Every healthcare professional involved in the care of a patient has access to healthcare-relevant health data, made possible by seamless standardised recording along the entire care pathway. The improved use of health data strengthens the relationship between healthcare providers and patients and increases the quality of treatment as well as the possibilities for research and system control.

The vision sets the foundation for the following strategic objectives outlined in this strategy:

- S1. Provide digital access to the healthcare system
- S2. Enable telehealth prevention and care services
- S3. Further develop the public health telematics infrastructure (GTI)
- S4. Provide central eHealth services and components
- S5. Establish registries relevant to healthcare and governance
- S6. Strengthen the secondary use of health data
- S7. Make innovation accessible
- S8. Strengthen digital skills

5.8 5G Strategy & Broadband Strategy 2030

The goal of the 5G Strategy, published in April 2018,¹⁹ was to accelerate the rollout of 5G mobile technology in Austria by optimising regulatory conditions. With the Broadband Strategy 2030, published in August 2019,²⁰ Austria commits to the European objectives. The goal for 2030 is clear: Austria aims to achieve nationwide coverage with symmetrical gigabit-capable access networks. A dense fiber-optic network, combined with universally available mobile coverage, will enable all citizens, businesses, and public institutions to harness the opportunities and technological possibilities of digitalisation under equal conditions throughout the country.

In this context, the federal government pledges to pursue an integrated approach to planning the expansion of fixed and mobile communication infrastructure toward gigabit-capable networks, leveraging public funds in regions impacted by market failure.

5.9 Austrian Cybersecurity Strategy (ÖSCS)

Digitalisation and cybersecurity are closely intertwined, with opportunities and risks often going hand in hand. Addressing this, the Austrian Cybersecurity Strategy (ÖSCS) from 2021 serves as the

¹⁹ https://data.breitbandbuero.gv.at/PUB_5G-Strategie.pdf

²⁰ https://data.breitbandbuero.gv.at/PUB_Breitbandstrategie-2030.pdf

strategic framework for enhancing Austria's digital resilience and ensuring cybersecurity in the digital world as a whole. It thus supports the establishment of fundamental conditions for secure and value-driven digitalisation. The main development pathways defined in the strategy include decentralised resource allocation, sustainable capability development, and the adoption of a cooperative, whole-of-government, and internationally oriented approach. Proven structures such as the Operational Coordination Structure (OpKoord), the Inner Circle of the Operational Coordination Structure (IKDOK), the Cybersecurity Steering Group (CSS), and the Cybersecurity Platform (CSP) are being strengthened and further developed as part of the strategy. This aims to create a secure environment while ensuring effective and efficient responses to crises in cyberspace. Additionally, the ÖSCS emphasises Austria's commitment to international cooperation to enhance cybersecurity. Austria actively engages in cyber diplomacy at both bilateral and multilateral levels, advocating for respect for international law, the strengthening of voluntary norms, rules, and principles of responsible state behaviour, as well as confidence-building measures in cyberspace. Cybersecurity considerations must always be included in the evaluation of measures within the scope of digitalisation.

5.10 Open Source Software

One of Austria's strategic guidelines is to promote the use of open source software, as it can make a significant contribution to strengthening the digital sovereignty of both Austria and the Union in an open and transparent manner.

Due to its characteristics, open source software offers the opportunity to carry out further technological developments in the EU with fewer dependencies and to strengthen the competitiveness of the European economy. The openness and free availability of the source code can also improve IT security, interoperability, collaboration in the research sector and the resilience of value chains. In the "Digital Austria Act" adopted by the federal government, open source software is a building block for the smart government of the future.

The importance of open-source software was also discussed in the parliamentary committee "Research, Innovation and Digitalisation" leading to the resolution "Strengthening digital sovereignty through more flexible and increased use of open-source products" of the National Council on 7 July 2023.

To leverage synergies at the European level, cooperation with Germany has been intensified. On 14 June, Austria and Germany signed the Joint Declaration of Intent titled "Strengthening Digital Sovereignty and Joint Development of the Sovereign Workplace". At the federal administration level, the "Chief Digital Officer Taskforce" established the "Open Source Software" working group to coordinate activities in this area.

5.11 Education – a central pillar of the digital transformation

The digital transformation is having a profound impact on the education system; It has not only changed the way content is delivered, but has also created new opportunities for personalised learning, new forms of collaboration and conditions for access to global resources.

A central guideline for Austria's activities is the 8-point plan for digitalisation in education; It addresses measures for 3 key areas of action:

- Pedagogy as well as the teaching and learning content. The aim is to reflect a comprehensive understanding of how to address new content in the curricula and to methodically and didactically integrate digitalisation across all subjects in line with modern teaching practices.
- Infrastructure, flanked by modern IT management and up-to-date school administration. The aim is to create the conditions for digital instruments and tools to be used in schools across the board. School administration is to be simplified by modern applications.
- Initial and continuing training of teachers. Digitalisation, along with new methods of conveying and acquiring content, is systematically integrated into the education and professional development of educators.

In advancing digitalisation, there are also challenges to overcome, many of which are not purely technical in nature, including the following:

- Development and implementation of new teaching and learning methods that meet the demands of the 21st century. This also includes the so-called “21st century skills”, such as critical thinking and creativity. All of this has direct implications for the methodological design of teaching and learning processes, thereby affecting the core competencies and responsibilities of educators. Furthermore, the digital transformation also influences educators' understanding of their profession. The shortage of skilled professionals in the education sector is further exacerbated by the additional demands of digitalisation.
- To address this challenge, the close-knit continuing education and training provided by pedagogical universities and the “Virtual PH” ensures that educators remain continuously up to date. This not only means integrating the latest technical tools and platforms but also adopting didactic methods that have proven effective in the digital space. The combination of face-to-face and online courses, known as blended learning, offers learners the flexibility to study comfortably from home while also benefiting from direct interaction in in-person events. Recently, increased attention has been given to so-called MOOCs, online courses designed to be offered at scale, regardless of the number of participants.

Digitalisation offers many new opportunities in STEM professions. However, traditional gender roles and stereotypes still discourage many girls and young women from entering these fields. STEM subjects are often perceived as “masculine”. To promote STEM education across all levels of the education system, the “MI(N)Tmachen” action plan was launched. It aims to promote STEM skills and increase the number of professionals in these areas.

5.12 Federal Government’s RTI Strategy 2030 for research, technology and innovation with reference to digitalisation

The RTI Strategy 2030 is based on a clear commitment to efficiency and increased output within the system. The work on the RTI Strategy 2030 is largely based on the detailed analysis “OECD Reviews of Innovation Policy: Austria 2018”. The European Commission’s Smart Specialisation concept was also used as a frame of reference for the development of the RTI Strategy 2030. In addition, cross-cutting topics (Sustainable Development Goals, digitalisation, strengthening gender equality in RTI, responsible science, open science and open innovation) as well as initial anchor points of the Excellence Initiative, the Location Strategy and the Technology Campaign formed the basis for developing of the strategy.

Goals (selection):

- Catching up with the international leaders and strengthening Austria as an RTI location
 - Ranking improvement in international indices:
 - European Innovation Scoreboard (EIS): from top 8 to top 5
 - Digital Economy & Society Index (DESI): from top 13 to top 5
 - Global Innovation Index (GII): from top 19 to top 10
 - Recruit 5 to 10 new RTI-intensive leading companies and support the expansion of existing ones
 - Increase the number of companies constantly conducting R&D by 20%
 - Stronger positioning of Austria in the European value chains through participation in at least three further “Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEI)” (currently participation in two IPCEIs)
 - Seizing the opportunities of digitalisation for society, the economy, climate protection and public administration in Austria, while driving forward the digital transformation forward with determination
- Focus on knowledge, talents and skills
 - Increase the proportion of graduates in mathematics, information technology, natural sciences and technology (STEM) by 20%; increase in the proportion of women graduates in technical subjects by 5%

- 2 Austrian universities among the top 100 (currently one university among the top 200 according to the Times Higher Education World University Ranking)
- Increase the proportion of academic and research staff recruited from abroad, especially at universities, to 45%
- 100% more Austrian STEM students who complete a degree or semester abroad via funding programmes

Central fields of action (selection):

- Catching up with the international leaders and strengthening Austria as an RTI location
 - Increase participation in EU missions, EU partnerships and IPCEIs
 - Targeted activation of stakeholders and promotion and support of Austrian participation in EU missions and partnerships
 - Clear definition of national areas of strength and future topics (e.g. digitalisation, “Tech for Green”, production, energy, health and mobility) and reinforcement of these at European level
 - Establishment of evidence-based monitoring and a flexible mechanism for readjusting the content of participations
 - Strengthening Austria’s position in strategically important value chains through participation in IPCEIs
- Focus on effectiveness and excellence
 - Supporting applied research and its impact on the economy and society
 - Establishment of a technology initiative encompassing research, innovation, and digitalisation projects, as well as company start-ups and relocations. The aim is to strengthen the RTI foundation of innovation-driven companies and expand Austria’s role as a production location (focus on crisis resilience, system-relevant production and technological leadership, digital transformation of the economy, positioning Austria as a champion of digitalisation and “Tech for Green”, as well as a centre for life sciences).
 - Increasing long-term planning and funding security for applied research and optimising the framework conditions (simplification of the funding system, advice for small and medium-sized enterprises [SMEs] and involvement of key players, creation of larger programme lines, strengthening of risk financing, promotion of innovation-promoting public procurement)
 - Strengthening open and technology-neutral corporate research; Cooperation between science and industry as well as improvement of knowledge and technology transfer (including further development of utilisation management)
 - Improving the innovative capacity and output of small and medium-sized enterprises
 - Raising awareness of the value of research and innovation in the public interest

- Strengthen R&D of (key) technologies in the field of digitalisation, in particular to contribute to the development of new digital products and services and to support the digital transformation of the economy
- RTI to achieve the climate targets
 - Strengthening open and technology-neutral research in the areas of influencing factors, effects and mitigation of the climate crisis as well as in the areas of climate change adaptation and resource efficiency (e.g. by stimulating private funding and participation in EU programmes)
 - Development of key technologies to improve climate protection, promotion of cross-sector cooperation and implementation of holistic solutions (e.g. construction and energy sector, mobility, etc.) while maintaining technological neutrality
 - Development of model regions and large-scale experimental spaces
 - Expansion of relevant data collection and use of digitalisation and networking of stakeholders
- Focus on knowledge, talents and skills
 - Develop and promote human resources
 - Consideration of creativity, critical spirit of research and environmental awareness at all levels of education
 - Strengthening education and training – especially in the STEM sector
 - Ensuring permeability between educational institutions and between educational institutions and companies
 - Strengthening gender equality and diversity in R&D and making research careers more attractive and promoting them, especially for women
 - Supporting international perspectives of researchers and students
 - Active participation in international mobility programmes (especially ERASMUS)
 - “Internationalisation at Home” at all levels of the education system
 - Participation in European research programmes (Horizon Europe) and increased participation of universities in international study programmes (Joint Study Programmes, European Universities, Fulbright)
 - Increase the visibility of the research centre and create attractive framework conditions to attract international talent

An external mid-term evaluation of the progress made based on the goals and indicators of the RTI Strategy 2030 is currently being conducted.

5.13 University Plan (HoP), University Development Plan (GUEP), and University of Applied Sciences Development and Financing Plan

The Higher Education Plan (HoP) of the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF)²¹ addresses all four higher education sectors and thus the 76 (as of January 2023) higher education institutions in Austria as a centre of science and higher education. It is therefore to be understood as an “umbrella strategy” that guides the strategic documents and plans of the respective higher education sectors (above all the Austrian University Development Plan, FH development and funding plans, PH development plan, performance agreements, target and performance plans).

The particular challenge of university teaching lies in enabling students to reflect on, critically examine, and actively shape the digital transformation based on both knowledge and skills. On the one hand, this requires the transfer of the necessary breadth of specialised knowledge and its simultaneous connection with the current state of research (state-of-the-art knowledge). On the other hand, this requires enabling students to develop an understanding of how they can deal with digital technologies in a critical, creative and creative way, change them, develop them further independently and actively shape innovation processes themselves.

Universities already offer a wide range of programmes to expand their students’ digital skills, such as extension curricula or specific compulsory courses.

The teaching of digital skills and digital literacy has long been a focus of university and college governance. This is reflected in the Austrian University Development Plan 2025–2030²² (GUEP), particularly in the implementation objective “Promotion of future skills”, which emphasises the acquisition of basic digital techniques and computational thinking – i.e. digital skills and data literacy – across all study programmes.

The strategic framework “Universities and Digital Transformation 2030” is embedded in the GUEP as an accompanying document. This was developed – based on the Digital Action Plan Austria (DAA), chapter Digital Universities (see chapter 5.2) – together with the universities. Digitalisation is seen as a cross-cutting issue that permeates all areas. On the one hand, it is interdisciplinary research and teaching content; on the other hand, it itself acts as a transformation process for the institution, its students, researchers and employees. Cooperation is a prerequisite for actively shaping the digital transformation.

²¹ <https://www.bmfwf.gv.at/wissenschaft/hochschulgovernance/steuerungsinstrumente/hochschulplan.html>

²² <https://www.bmfwf.gv.at/wissenschaft/hochschulgovernance/steuerungsinstrumente/guep.html>

The University of Applied Sciences Development and Funding Plan 2023/24–2025/26²³ is the federal government’s strategic planning document for the qualitative and quantitative development of the Austrian university of applied sciences sector. For the current planning period, a further expansion of federally funded study places in the STEM field is planned with a focus on the cross-cutting topic of digital and ecological transformation. With its practice-oriented range of courses, the UAS sector makes a significant contribution to supplying the labour market with urgently needed academically qualified specialists. In the previous planning period 2018/19 to 2022/23, 1,450 places were already created in the STEM/digitalisation field, 773 of which were in computer science alone.

In the current planning period, a total of 1,050 additional places for first-year students are to be created in three expansion stages. In the first stage, 350 new places in STEM subjects, focusing on digitalisation and sustainability, have already been allocated starting from the 2023/24 academic year. This includes 238 additional places in computer science bachelor’s programmes in Vienna, Lower Austria and Tyrol. The extensive expansion stage took effect from the winter semester 2024/25 and created 353 additional first-year study places in future-oriented fields. These include new programmes in computer science, interdisciplinary programmes combining computer science with other disciplines, as well as biotechnology, data science, sustainable chemistry and digital processing²⁴, digital media management, and more. Starting from the 2025/26 academic year, the third and final expansion step of this planning period will create an additional 350 entry places in the fields of STEM/digitalisation and sustainability. In the anniversary year 2024, an additional 449 places in fields with a particular demand for skilled workers will also be allocated starting from the 2025/26 academic year. This will result in a record expansion phase at the end of the planning period, with a total of 800 additional entry places in the university of applied sciences sector. Overall, the current planning period 2023/24 – 2025/26 will create 1,054 additional beginner study places in STEM fields focused on digitalisation and sustainability, bringing the total number of new study places in universities of applied sciences to 2,625 by the time full expansion is reached in 2027.

This will continue the demand-oriented expansion of the UAS sector, systematically increase training capacities, particularly in STEM, digitalisation and sustainability, and increase the number of graduates in those fields of education where there is a high shortage of qualified workers. Due to the specific strengths of the university of applied sciences sector, it makes sense to further expand this training segment in particular. The high graduation rate within the standard period of study ensures that the required number of graduates enter the labour market within a certain period of time. The high practical orientation, close cooperation with employers, and regional anchoring of universities of applied sciences ensure the immediate employability of graduates, particularly within the regional labour markets surrounding the university locations. The strengths of universities in

²³ <https://www.bmfwf.gv.at/wissenschaft/hochschulgovernance/steuerungsinstrumente/fh-entwicklungsplan.html>

²⁴ Start in the winter semester 2025/26.

offering part-time study programmes also enable universities of applied sciences to meet the specific needs of an increasingly diverse student population, especially by providing opportunities for further and higher qualifications in the field of digitalisation. The regular and structured updating of curricula and competence profiles in the university of applied sciences (UAS) sector ensures that evolving requirements and competence profiles, particularly those driven by digitalisation, are integrated into all UAS degree programmes.

5.14 Strengthen IT security in the higher education sector

Through a synergistic collaboration between universities, ACOmarket, and ACONET, where appropriate and feasible, modern technical and organisational measures will be implemented to detect and prevent cyberattacks. These efforts build on an inter-university preliminary project, a KIRAS project, and existing security measures. These measures will be based on recognised standards and insights from the current threat landscape and will be implemented in a collaborative project. This project includes, depending on needs and the level of development of the organisation, not only strengthening the internal security organisation but also measures related to security awareness, organisational (information) security, identity management, network security, patch management, directory services, networking, endpoint protection, security updates, backup/recovery, and security operations centres. The long-term goal of this initiative is to establish an IT security solution supported by all universities at both the technical and organisational levels as a shared service.

5.15 Information Portal “Digital Accessibility” – Implementation 2023–2024

Based on the Web Accessibility Act (WZG), the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) serves as the monitoring, service, and complaints office for the digital accessibility of websites and apps of federal public authorities. To raise awareness about the topic of “digital accessibility” and fulfil its mandate for awareness and training, the FFG has created a digital information platform. The website offers a wide range of information, helpful tips, checklists, and an overview of relevant contact points.²⁵

The aim of the platform is to provide useful information on digital accessibility for public authorities, their service providers, and users of the digital offerings of public authorities in a compact and easily accessible manner. The platform and its content are accessible and available in both German and English.

²⁵ <https://www.digitalbarrierefrei.at/en/>

Target group:

Web editors, web and design agencies, public contracting authorities, and users of digital offerings.

Intended effect:

- Raise awareness of the topic of “digital accessibility”
- Provide training materials and relevant information on the various aspects of digital accessibility
- Publication of contact points and advice centres
- Ensure clarity about the monitoring process for digital accessibility
- Indirectly, as a contribution to the protection against discrimination on the grounds of disability in relation to information and communication technology or digital accessibility – according to current disability law, (digital) barriers can lead to discrimination against people with disabilities.

5.16 Digitalisation concept of the Austrian Communications Authority and “Digital Platform Austria”

The Austrian Communications Authority (KommAustria), in accordance with Section 21 of the KommAustria Act, is developing a digitalisation concept for the introduction, expansion, and further development of digital broadcasting (television and radio) and other media services in Austria, with the support of the “Digital Platform Austria” and in collaboration with the Federal Chancellor. In doing so, it specifically establishes the timeline and technical framework for the planning and tendering of multiplex platforms and coverage areas, taking into account the available transmission capacities and considering European developments. It also considers the demand for digital broadcasting and media services from users and providers, the objectives of maximising diversity of opinion, cost-effectiveness, and frequency economy, as well as the technical advancement of transmission technologies, including user-friendly transition scenarios. The digitalisation concept includes a forecast covering a period of at least 2 years.

The role of the “Digital Platform Austria” is to assist KommAustria in developing scenarios for the introduction, expansion, and further development of digital broadcasting (radio and television) and future multimedia services, involving broadcasters, service providers, network operators, industry, trade, academia, regional authorities, and consumers.

KommAustria regularly produces a report on the status and development of digital broadcasting. In this report, the “Digital Platform Austria” may issue recommendations for the further approach to the introduction, expansion, and development of digital broadcasting. These recommendations

should particularly consider a technology-neutral introduction, expansion, and development of digital broadcasting across all transmission platforms.

5.17 Application-free reimbursement of the CO₂ pricing (climate bonus)

As part of the eco-social tax reform, CO₂ pricing was introduced in October 2022, assigning a cost to harmful CO₂ emissions. To offset this, the regional climate bonus is designed to reimburse citizens for the total revenue generated.

The payment of the climate bonus is made automatically, and approximately 9 million people receive their compensation annually without ever having to submit an application, either directly via bank transfer or by postal delivery. Thus, a system has been established for the disbursement of the climate bonus that queries and links necessary data, including registration, residency, and account information, as well as data on limited mobility for people with disabilities, directly from the relevant data sources.

In 90% of the 9 million cases, the process can be carried out without any necessary interaction from the citizens.

The Climate Bonus has been disbursed since 2022, with data quality improving annually. In 2024, the proportion of payments made via bank transfer increased to over 90% of total deliveries. The stated goal is to continuously optimise the disbursement system, which includes a steady increase in the share of bank transfers, improvements in data quality, and a reduction in the payment processing time. The application-free process, based on existing administrative data (Smart Government), provides relief for users as well as the administration and results in cost savings for administration.

5.18 SME Support “Cyber Security Check”

The “Cyber Security Check” is an initiative of the National Cyber Security Coordination Centre (NCC-AT) as part of an EU co-funded project, aimed at assisting Austrian small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in implementing technical security measures to enhance cyber security. The goal is to make companies’ networks and information systems more resilient to security incidents and to sustainably strengthen their ability to defend against cyberattacks. The funding covers both the costs for technologies and for consulting services necessary to effectively integrate technical security

measures into everyday business operations. This includes the purchase and implementation of fire-walls, backup systems, encryption technologies, or multi-factor authentication solutions, as well as strategic consulting for designing and optimising security architectures.

The maximum funding amount is EUR 10,000 per company, with a funding rate of 40% of the eligible total costs. The funds are awarded as de minimis aid, and each company may apply for only one cyber security voucher. The programme has a total budget of EUR 2 million, equally provided by The Future Austria Fund (FZÖ) and the Digital Europe Programme (DEP):

- Nationally: EUR 1 million comes from the Fund for the Future of Austria (FZÖ),
- EU: EUR 1 million – Digital Europe Programme (DEP).

Up to 200 SMEs will receive funding of up to EUR 10,000 to improve the security of their networks and information systems against security incidents and to integrate the necessary technologies in accordance with the NIS2 Directive into their businesses.

5.19 The national cybersecurity research funding programme K-PASS

The national cybersecurity research programme Kybernet-Pass (K-PASS), launched in 2023, marks the first establishment of a research funding instrument fully dedicated to cybersecurity in Austria. The K-PASS, under the responsibility of the Federal Ministry of Finance, primarily supports Austrian companies and research institutions in developing new technologies and acquiring the necessary knowledge to enhance Austria’s digital security and generate value creation. The aim is to create market-oriented research results on digital security for all security users and stakeholders (e.g., police, fire department, as well as security-relevant companies like Verbund or Vienna Airport). The first call for proposals successfully funded 10 projects with EUR 4.9 million.

Data and facts-box:

Budget	EUR 5 million for annual calls for proposals
Legal basis	Administrative Agreement between the Federal Chancellery and the Federal Ministry of Finance
Programme owner	BMF (Federal Ministry of Finance)
Programme implementation	FFG (Austrian Research Promotion Agency)
Current (2nd) call for proposals	23 October 2024 – 13 February 2025

Research period	Ø 2 Years
TRL & Funding Intensity	Up to Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 6; funding up to 85% (except for the R&D services instrument: funding up to 100%)
Target audience	Federal ministries and other authorities, operators of critical infrastructures, companies, research institutions, and universities

6 Cooperation at EU level

6.1 Multi-country projects

Multi-country projects in accordance with the list of activity areas set out in the annex to the EU's Policy Programme for the Digital Decade (Decision [EU] 2022/2481), to which the Member State is committed or intends to commit in the future.

Cybersecurity Skills Academy

In April 2023, the European Commission published a communication outlining potential measures to address the gap in ICT specialists in the field of cybersecurity within the EU. The Commission called on member states to submit concrete ideas for implementing the established goals and measures through a consortium for a European Digital Infrastructure (EDIC) in accordance with Article 10 and Annex lit. k of Decision (EU) 2022/2481. This EDIC aims to increase the number of available ICT specialists in cybersecurity, particularly the proportion of women, in the EU. In 2023, Austria (Federal Chancellery) joined a pre-registration to express interest in joining an EDIC with this goal.

Expected Impact: Contribution to supporting the goals of the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council "Closing the cybersecurity talent gap to boost the EU's competitiveness, growth and resilience ('The Cybersecurity Skills Academy')" (COM[2023] 207 final)

ESNA (EU Startup Nations Alliance)

Its members are the national start-up agencies; In Austria, this is the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG). Ministries are involved as part of the "Extended Team".

The tasks of ESNA are (among others):

- Creating excellent conditions to accelerate European entrepreneurship overall (especially for start-ups and accelerators)
- Support and monitoring of members in implementing of the Start-up Declaration
- Supporting members in harmonizing their national legislation with regard to the Start-up Declaration
- Monitoring and analysing national data on the start-up ecosystem through a digital platform
- Promoting concrete measures to attract skilled labour to the EU

- Non-partisan bridge between members and other participants in the start-up ecosystem for the development of new best practice examples

These measures contribute to the realisation of the doubling of unicorns in the EU (Art. 4 para. 1 no. 3 lit. c Decision [EU] 2022/2481).

The EU and Portugal currently fund the multi-country project.

The aim of the Startup Nations Standard (SNS) Declaration is to create a centre for the support of best practices in the member states and a data platform for the exchange of information. In this way, the member states are to develop into "EU Startup Nations". ESNA is this centre and the SNS scoreboard is one of the implementation and review mechanisms.

The measures described above are intended to improve the conditions for start-ups in general and make them more favourable in order to achieve the goal of doubling the number of unicorns in the EU.

Other member states involved are: Bulgaria, Romania, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain.

MyHealth@EU

with reference to Common European Data Infrastructures and Services referred to in point (a) of the Annex to the Decision

Within the framework of MyHealth@EU as a cross-border infrastructure for the primary use of electronic health data, various cross-border services can be used both by Austrian citizens for treatment abroad and by EU citizens for treatment in Austria (at doctors' surgeries or pharmacies). This serves the realisation of the digital goal "100% of EU citizens have access to their electronic health records" in accordance with Art. 4 para. 1 no. 4 lit. b of the decision.

As a first step, Austria has made a contractual commitment via the EU funding programme EU4Health to implement electronic prescriptions (i.e. electronic health data constituting a prescription for a medicinal product within the meaning of Art. 3(k) of Directive 2011/24/EU) and electronic dispensing (i.e. information on the dispensing of a medicinal product to an individual by a pharmacy on the basis of an electronic prescription) as the first cross-border services from 2025. Project costs of EUR 3.26 million have been budgeted for the initial establishment of MyHealth@EU through the end of 2024, of which EUR 1.8 million will be co-financed by EU funds.

In addition, from 2026, citizens will also be able to use laboratory results (i.e. electronic health data representing the results of examinations carried out in particular in vitro diagnostically, including in the fields of clinical biochemistry, haematology, transfusion medicine, microbiology, immunology, etc., including reports supporting the evaluation of the results, if applicable) across borders. The relevant funding agreement with the European Commission is to be signed by the end of 2023.

This is to be followed by further offers for cross-border healthcare services, such as discharge letters from hospitals, medical images and image findings as well as the patient summary.

Over the past decade, the eHealth Network has established itself as the implementation mechanism of MyHealth@EU in accordance with Art. 14 of Directive 2011/24/EU. When the EU regulation on the European health data space, which is currently being negotiated, comes into force, the eHealth Network will be abolished and replaced by a new governance structure.

With the implementation of these services, Austrian citizens will be able to access their ELGA applications in other EU or EEA Member States (which also applies mutatis mutandis to citizens of other EU or EEA Member States in Austria). EEA Member States in Austria) in order to ensure the continuity of healthcare treatments and patient safety across borders with the help of ELGA applications, which not least serves to achieve the general objective set out in Art. 3 para. 1 lit. a of the policy programme (“[...] accessible to all throughout the Union”). When the EU regulation on the European health data space, which is currently being negotiated, comes into force, the implementation of MyHealth@EU will become mandatory for all EU and EEA member states.

A large number of EU and EEA member states are already connected to MyHealth@EU; This cross-border infrastructure is currently being expanded to include additional participating countries as well as further cross-border services.²⁶

IPCEI Microelectronics

A total of 32 direct partners (including 30 companies and two research institutions) from four European Union member states are involved in the overall European IPCEI Microelectronics project. In addition to France, Italy, Germany and now Austria, the UK is also involved. In addition to private investments totalling more than EUR 6.1 billion, the five participating countries are authorised to distribute subsidies amounting to almost EUR 1.9 billion. The overall project aims to promote research and the development of innovative technologies and components that can be used in numerous fields, such as electromobility or consumer appliances. The focus here is particularly on the

²⁶ An overview of the EU and EEA Member States participating in MyHealth@EU can be found on the EU Commission's website at https://health.ec.europa.eu/ehealth-digital-health-and-care/digital-health-and-care/electronic-cross-border-health-services_en.

five technology fields of energy-efficient chips, power semiconductors, intelligent sensors, advanced optical devices and composite materials.

IPCEI Microelectronics and Communication Sciences

EC approves the second major project in the field of microelectronics with a total investment of around 22 billion euros – 100 company projects from 20 European countries involved, 6 Austrian companies are participating in the microelectronics initiative. In addition to private investments amounting to approximately EUR 13.7 billion, EUR 8.1 billion in funding will be provided, resulting in a total investment volume of nearly EUR 22 billion. The microelectronics initiative aims to significantly increase the energy-efficient production of chips in Europe, thereby driving forward the digital and “green” transformation and strengthening Europe’s resilience and sovereignty. Among other things, the IPCEI places the promotion of highly innovative projects in research and development as well as the first commercial use before the mass production phase at the centre of the initiative.

7 Feedback from stakeholders

Stakeholders were widely involved from the beginning of the development process to the finalisation of the roadmap. The distribution list used for commenting on legislation during the parliamentary process can also be regarded as representative of stakeholder involvement in the national roadmap. The comments received were made available to the federal ministries involved and were taken into account as far as possible during the drafting of this roadmap.

The following is an overview of the feedback received from stakeholders:

Umbrella organisation of the Austrian social insurance funds

Social insurance has been driving forward the expansion of its digital service offering from the outset. General reference should be made to the service portal of the Austrian social insurance institutions “MeineSV”. Current data on the following topics, for example, can be accessed online via “MeineSV”: Insurance periods and data, doctor’s visits and treatments, prescription fees paid, benefits utilised, personal pension account. Applications and notifications can also be made online: Apply for self-insurance, report health after sick leave, change address, submit invoices from elective doctors.²⁷

In addition, the digital service of the Social Insurance Institution for the Self-Employed (SVS) “svsGO2” should be mentioned. SVS customers can use it to view personal data, submit applications, make enquiries, keep an eye on contribution advances and balances, adjust social insurance contributions to current income, conclude instalment agreements, transparently check medical services and cost shares, download confirmations, view pension and contribution accounts, submit invoices for reimbursement and obtain approvals for prescriptions. Since 2022, messages and documents can also be transmitted directly, efficiently and securely. E-prescriptions can now also be retrieved. The range of services is constantly being expanded and adapted to the needs of customers.²⁸

²⁷ Further information can be found at “MeineSV”: <https://www.meinesv.at>.

²⁸ Further information can be found at svs.at/go.

The corresponding offer of the Austrian Health Insurance Fund (ÖGK) can be found at “Meine ÖGK” (meineoegk.at). The Insurance Institution for Public Employees, Railways and Mining (BVAEB) has set up a corresponding service under “MeineBVAEB” (meinebvaeb.at).

The following points should also be noted in this context:

- The mobile phone signature / ID Austria is the key to the digital services of social insurance. The opportunity for the social insurance institutions and the umbrella organisation to act as a registration office and as such actively support their insured persons and customers was gladly taken up. It is therefore regrettable that this option will no longer exist in the future – with the final replacement of the mobile phone signature by ID Austria.
- There are currently attractive and numerous potential applications for digital services in the area of social insurance. The social insurance institutions and the umbrella organisation will therefore continue to enable their insured persons and customers to access their digital services directly by issuing the mobile phone signature / ID Austria. As part of the public administration, they would thus continue to actively contribute to the highest possible penetration of the mobile phone signature / ID Austria.

Ad Electronic patient records trajectory

The ELGA or eHealth JAP should, in any case, be coordinated with ELGA GmbH. It is generally recommended to include a demonstrative list of healthcare service providers.

Austrian Economic Chamber

From the point of view of the Innovation & Digitalisation department, the measures submitted by the Austrian Economic Chamber are very well represented in terms of content, and we consider the roadmap to be a good first step towards a sustainable digital ecosystem. We are happy to continue supporting the implementation of the relevant measures and initiatives.

Ad Trajectory for basic digital skills:

The “Digital Skills Initiative” should aim to expand relevant digital skills (for example: handling data & AI as well as cybersecurity) within companies, for instance, through workshops for employees. Additionally, the continuing education support for employees in the area of digital skills is to be expanded by the AMS (Public Employment Service). For companies, the impulse consulting for businesses with regard to the improvement of employees’ digital skills will also be expanded.

Ad Trajectory for artificial intelligence and data analytics

AI focus programme

The visibility and networking of the Austrian AI ecosystem will be increased through an AI focus programme based on the example of the federal-state cooperation on LISA (Life Science Austria). The programme aims to establish a cluster platform for artificial intelligence. The programme will build on the proven model of federal-state cooperation, following the successful example of LISAvienna. LISAvienna has helped Vienna establish itself as a leading life sciences hub, attracting numerous companies and fostering local value creation.

The focus programme is intended to support innovative AI companies that develop new products, services and processes and launch them on the international market. This programme aims to connect companies with development partners and key customers. As a central knowledge hub, this initiative is intended to provide a basis for decision-making to strengthen artificial intelligence in Vienna and help position the city of Vienna as one of Europe's leading innovation centres.

Even if the local focus is on Vienna as a hub for AI, the focus programme is intended to support existing local hubs in other federal states as an umbrella brand through supra-regional marketing.

Service-oriented AI authority

Following the establishment of an AI Service Desk in 2024, it is planned to further develop it into a dedicated AI authority. The focus will be on service and support measures to help companies, particularly SMEs, comply with the requirements of the AI Act, for example, through free advisory services, guidelines, and manuals. In addition, networking with national AI authorities from other Member States is essential, as AI is often introduced to the market across borders. For SMEs, these requirements present a particular challenge, as they are often at a disadvantage in the competitive race for IT experts, while establishing and maintaining a digital business model remains a key priority.

Through the provision of guidelines and checklists, companies can gain clearer orientation, simplifying the implementation of AI regulations. This approach would strengthen the effectiveness of the legal framework while ensuring that businesses in the internal market can fully capitalise on the opportunities of AI, without neglecting ethical and legal considerations. Additionally, a national AI living lab should be integrated into the authority's implementation plan.

KI-Showrooms

A lack of knowledge about AI and its applications prevents broad societal participation in shaping human-centred AI, particularly among the target group of employees. The AI showroom initiative aims to inform employees and their representatives across all industries in Austria about the possibilities, limitations, and areas of application of AI, while raising awareness of its positive potential as well as its specific risks and challenges. To this end, a nationwide network of stationary and mobile “AI experience workshops” is to be established, offering interactive demonstrators, accessible information resources, and hosting target group-oriented and co-creative events. As a first step, a total of 250 events should be organised and 2,300 companies reached. To effectively reach the target audiences, a multimodal communication concept will be implemented. Provisional timeline: Duration 05/25 – 12/26. By the end of 2026, over 2,300 companies are expected to be reached through more than 250 events.

AI endowed professorships

Artificial intelligence can provide a decisive advantage for value creation when applied in a practical and solution-oriented manner. For this reason, applied research should be supported through new initiatives. One proven measure, successfully implemented internationally (e.g., in Canada through the “CIFAR Chairs” programme or in Germany), is the establishment of endowed professorships. These are characterised by high dynamism, enabling research activities to commence quickly while also providing an established network of corporate partners from the outset (Evaluation Report BMVIT Endowed Professorships, SME Research, 2020). This approach can make a significant contribution to translating research results into tangible economic applications.

AI Monitor

With the STI-Monitor, FORWIT uses 244 indicators to analyse Austria’s performance in science, technology and innovation (STI) in comparison to the Innovation Leaders of the European Innovation Scoreboard, the EU average and the sector-specific Top 3. Visualisations of the development of indicators over time and their long-term contributions to change as well as trends, input/output performance and the degree to which the objectives of the RTI Strategy 2030 have been achieved provide stakeholders and political decision-makers with a basis for strategically and systemically effective decisions and actions and make interdependencies visible. In the RTI Strategy 2030, the Austrian federal government has set the goal of becoming an Innovation Leader by 2030. Innovation leaders are EU countries that achieve at least 125% of the EU average performance. The current Innovation Leaders are Denmark, Sweden, Finland, the Netherlands and Belgium. At around 119%, Austria currently ranks in the runner-up group of Strong Innovators, i.e. those countries that achieve between 100% and 125%.

The FORWIT STI Monitor has to get expanded to include the key technology of AI, as there is a lack of both a database and concrete, measurable objectives within the AI strategy. The experience gained from the overarching STI topic provides an ideal foundation for presenting facts, figures, and data for Austria as an AI hub.

Ad Trajectory for unicorns

Aws Spin-Off Initiative – Austria Wirtschaftsservice (Austria Business Service)

The aws Spin-Off Initiative aims to establish a strong ecosystem for academic spin-offs and spin-ins in Austria that meets the requirements of international venture capital investors. To achieve this, it provides both seed funding to attract private investors and support for professional spin-off structures from universities.

Ad Trajectory of Digitalisation of Public Services – Businesses

A seamless, transparent, and digital business registration process for all legal forms is necessary to enhance the attractiveness of entrepreneurship, the economic location, and to promote the start-up landscape. The entry into self-employment should be made as simple and accessible as possible. This can be achieved through further digitalisation and the reduction of bureaucratic hurdles in individual steps of the registration process. Currently, the digitalisation of the start-up process is fragmented—the level of digitalisation depends on the respective legal and trade form of the future business. To further advance digital business registration, a founder-centred, innovative process on a technical platform is needed—a one-stop shop for digital business registration. It is essential to ensure that all key stakeholders (including the Austrian Economic Chamber) are involved.

The Federal Chamber of Labour (Bundesarbeiterkammer)

The Federal Chamber of Labour recommends complementing the national strategic roadmap for Austria's Digital Decade with comprehensive measures of active labour market policy. Moreover, the purely quantitative focus of the target values for individual measures often lacks significance. For instance, increasing the number of start-up registrations is not a meaningful impact objective and is not necessarily causally related to the EU goal of increasing the number of “unicorns”, which alone does not guarantee better jobs and working conditions. Regarding digital services for businesses, digital administrative processes, and taxes and levies, it should be noted that the ongoing digitalisation of administrative procedures for companies is to be welcomed. However, with the mentioned measures, no improvements for taxpayers are anticipated, except for the planned multilingualism of corporate tax returns. This goal should be set as a central focus in any forthcoming

measures. Regarding digital technologies, such as AI for Green, it is important to note that digital infrastructures also have a high energy demand, which is why there needs to be a focus on energy-efficient applications.

From an employee's perspective, the employee assessment (ANV) via Finanzonline should also be mentioned. While it is fully digitalised, many allowances or deductions must still be calculated or applied for manually. The following measures would facilitate the digital tax adjustment for citizens:

- Improve data exchange between authorities/social security institutions
- Notification on self-paid social security contributions
- Notification of receipt of care allowance and degree of disability in order to apply for disability-related allowances
- Notification of data transfer from foreign tax authorities
- Integration of the commuter calculator into the ANV
- Automatic application for or optimisation of tax benefits (e.g. Family Bonus Plus, additional child allowance, multi-child supplement)

Start-up Council

The Start-up Council is a committee of experts from the start-up ecosystem aimed at improving the framework conditions for start-ups and innovative growth companies in Austria. It advises the Federal Ministry of Labour and Economic Affairs on start-up matters and serves as a voice for the start-up community. The focus is on substantive work in close cooperation with the entrepreneurial innovation ecosystem, interest groups, and political decision-makers.

Universities and colleges

Universities and colleges are actively shaping the digitalisation process. The focus is always on people and their needs as well as the resulting requirements for the digitalisation process. Universities offer space for a critical and reflective examination of digital transformation processes. They also create and promote scope for new, innovative and unconventional research. By contributing to the development of their students and graduates into digitally responsible citizens and multipliers, universities play a significant role in fostering a digitally responsible society.

Education will still be a public good in 2030. "Science and its teaching are free", just as artistic creation, the communication of art and its teaching are free. This, as well as the fundamental and personal rights of people as a whole, provides the framework for digitalisation.

The opportunities opened up by digitalisation include possibilities for the low-threshold transfer of knowledge and skills, which are actively used by universities to reach the public. This also enables universities to respond better to people's individual requirements and needs and to become effective in society in terms of lifelong learning.

Digitalisation is not an end in itself. Through their research and teaching, Austrian universities contribute to the value foundation of the Digital Action Plan Austria.

Austrian Midwives Association

The Austrian Midwives Association (ÖHG) is a public corporation and, as a chamber of midwives, represents their interests in all professional, social and economic matters. One of its tasks is to maintain a register of midwives in which all midwives authorised to practise the profession are listed. The midwives listed in the register of midwives have already been included in the Health Service Provider Index, or GDAI for short.

The midwifery profession comprises the counselling, care and nursing of pregnant women, women in labour and women who have recently given birth, the provision of assistance during childbirth and participation in maternity and infant care (Section 2 HebG). Midwives work in both intramural and extramural settings. Both midwives with health insurance contracts and elective midwives work in private practice. They work autonomously and on their own responsibility as long as no irregularities occur with the mother or child. Midwives are the only non-medical healthcare profession authorised to administer certain medications and vaccinations without a doctor's order (Section 5 HebG). This is particularly important for midwives in private practice, for example to be able to administer painkillers during home births or necessary immunisations during the postnatal period. After discharge and in the event of premature discharge from hospital following the birth, as well as in the case of a planned outpatient birth, postnatal care is provided by registered midwives.

There are three reasons why they need both active and passive access to ELGA:

- **Midwife discharge letter:** Hospitals with public access rights are obliged to prepare a discharge letter (Section 24 (2) Austrian Hospitals and Health Resorts Act = Section C: Public hospitals). As a rule, women are also given a medical discharge letter when they are discharged after the birth. However, midwives are often not aware of certain obstetric information that they would need for the care of mother and child. The ÖHG is therefore in favour of implementing a midwife discharge letter in ELGA similar to the nursing discharge letter.
- **Referral to the hospital and other GDAs:** Communication with other GDAs, in particular with gynaecologists and paediatricians, should be possible and findings should be exchanged. In

the event of a referral back to the hospital by the midwife, it should also be possible for the midwife to transfer data and findings to the ELGA file.

- **Vaccinations in the puerperium:** Vaccination against pertussis, MMR or varicella vaccination and rhesus prophylaxis can be carried out in the postpartum period. Midwives can also be considered for the administration of the vaccinations to be carried out as soon as possible after the birth (see vaccination plan 2023/2024). It should therefore be possible for midwives in private practice to access and enter the vaccination carried out in the electronic vaccination record using a mobile app (similar to the e- Impfdoc).

The Austrian Midwives Association is therefore in favour of connecting midwives to ELGA by means of clearly defined access rights for the reasons mentioned above.

Austrian Bar

The Austrian Bar (ÖRAK) would first like to emphasise the pioneering role that the Austrian judiciary plays in digitalisation efforts throughout Europe. This is due in particular to the intensive efforts of the Federal Ministry of Justice, the Federal Computing Centre and all stakeholders who have been supporting and promoting the digital path for years. We must continue along this path. Electronic legal transactions are a best-practice example of digital communication with the ordinary courts and can be extended to all administrative authorities. The electronic file is currently in the final implementation phase and will lead to the complete digitalisation of court proceedings.

However, the ÖRAK is also convinced that the liberal professions in general and independent lawyers in particular can make a significant contribution to realising the goals of the Digital Decade. The following use cases are mentioned as examples:

- In land register and company register proceedings, those documents that are entered into the lawyer's or notary's document archive by the respective professionals and transmitted to the courts via electronic legal transactions are accepted by the courts as originals. This system could be extended to other use cases and the existing document archives could be used for evidence purposes or for submitting evidence to courts. Electronic document archives offer numerous advantages over paper archives, such as redundant storage, time stamps, irrefutable proof of the signatory's identity by using the eID, etc.
- Business life is increasingly taking place online. Lawyers have the expertise to provide professional advice on company formations and reorganisations or day-to-day contract negotiations, while the use of the eID can provide irrevocable proof of the signatory's identity. It is already possible to sign a contract online with a trusted lawyer using the signature tool developed by the ÖRAK, as well as to set up a company using the eID.

- Together with several project partners, the ÖRAK has developed the communication platform “context”, which enables a confidential dialogue between lawyers and their clients in an uncomplicated manner. In contrast to correspondence by email, context fulfils the high requirements of the GDPR and professional law with regard to data security. In this way, context combines the advantages of electronic communication (speed) with the guaranteed confidentiality known from analogue communication (secrecy of correspondence). “context” is not limited to communication with and from lawyers, but can and should be used wherever confidentiality and data protection must be observed.

Austrian Medical Chamber

The Federal Curia of Employed Physicians and the Federal Curia of Registered Physicians have submitted a joint statement on the trajectories defined in the document and refer in this regard to the present working paper EHDS of the ÖG Telemed.²⁹

Ad Trajectory for electronic health records

- Mandatory implementation of the existing ELGA implementation guidelines as well as eHealth applications in patient and hospital information systems and continuous financing of the same
- Expansion and obligation to maintain a complete electronic health record (ELGA) to avoid duplication and additional bureaucracy
- Mandatory semantic interoperability of the health record with regard to the establishment of the patient summary
- Abolition of the situational opt-outs, particularly with regard to the implementation of a qualitative patient summary

Ad Trajectory for artificial intelligence

- Creation of a mandatory AI regulation for the handling of sensitive data in the healthcare sector, including clarification of liability regulations for the use of AI programmes

Ad Trajectory of digitalisation of public services – Citizens

- Expansion of the mobile e-card infrastructure with regard to low-threshold access and use (e-card on mobile phones)

²⁹ <https://www.oegtelemed.at/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/20230507-positionspapier-ehds-v1.0-1.pdf>

- Expansion and extension of 1450 as a tool for patient guidance; Mandatory connection to ELGA. Transparent design of organisational structures and binding involvement of the medical profession

Ad Digitalisation projects in the healthcare sector

- Reduce the burden of medical documentation by expanding digital, semantically interoperable documentation tools (doctors should be able to concentrate on core competences); Programmes must be designed to be user-friendly and intuitive and adapted to medical procedures)
- End-to-end financing for the implementation of new healthcare services (apps, functionalities, ASW, HIS)
- Promotion of digitalisation projects in the healthcare sector (AI, cloud computing, big data) by the public sector
- Involvement of the medical profession (= users) in all digitalisation projects in the healthcare system – as in the best practice example of the e-vaccination passport/vaccination register

Ad Multi-country projects – MyHealth@EU

- Creation of an Austrian Health Data Space, an Austrian Data Access Body and a corresponding authority (e.g. GÖG, Statistics Austria)
- Patient Summary – Clear definition of responsibilities and consideration of the additional administrative and economic workload
- The introduction of e-prescriptions must not mean additional work and costs for the medical profession.

Austrian Chamber of Notaries

Against the background that the Austrian notary’s office has a pioneering position at European level in the area of digitalisation of the notary’s office, general objectives and examples of possible contributions by the member states were defined and prepared in tabular form.

	General objectives	Contributions
Digital citizenship	Promote a people-centred, fundamental rights-based, inclusive, transparent and open digital environment in which the principles, rights and values of the Union are upheld and strengthened through secure and interoperable digital	Expansion of a digitalised Austrian notary’s office, which, as a digital pioneer in Europe, can offer all services, such as the creation of public deeds and the certification of signatures, completely digitally and with the usual high standard

	General objectives	Contributions
	technologies and services that are accessible to all across the Union.	of legal certainty. By guaranteeing nationwide coverage throughout Austria, the notary's office is an important partner for the state, for example by taking on tasks as an issuing centre for eIDs and e-wallets in the sense of a regional citizen service.
Digital citizenship	Ensure that (...) public services (...) are also accessible to all, in particular to disadvantaged groups, including persons with disabilities, and in rural and remote areas, in a trusted and secure online environment, providing inclusive, efficient, interoperable and personalised services and tools with high standards of security and data protection.	Digitalisation of non-contentious proceedings, in particular in probate proceedings, and electronic linking of notaries as court commissioners with the electronic systems of the judiciary, also in implementation of the EU Regulation on the digitalisation of cross-border court proceedings. Access to digital assets by the court commissioner should also play a role here. Furthermore, Austrian notaries as court commissioners are to implement the electronic procedures under this EU regulation for the notary's office because of a transfer of competence for the cross-border taking of evidence in probate proceedings (Regulation [EU] 2020/1783) and notification as "courts".
Promotion of companies	Promote a digital regulatory environment in the Union to enable businesses, especially SMEs, to compete fairly in global value chains.	Digital procedure for company formation, including the fully digital creation of the articles of association in the form of a notarial deed by notaries, as a one-stop shop or central legal contact point for companies, using all existing digital tools (e.g. USP, FinanzOnline, etc.) by Austrian notaries.

Federal Chamber of Civil Engineers

The Federal Chamber of Civil Engineers emphasises the role that civil engineers in the relevant field, especially those specialising in information technology, can play in supporting the implementation of measures from the roadmap for ministries, authorities and other stakeholders.

She also mentions the digitalisation of the construction industry via digital building submission as an important measure for achieving the goals of the Digital Decade. The province of Carinthia serves as an example of efficient implementation: civil engineers can submit digital applications to the authorities via their "electronic file" (ELAK) through a direct interface with the "zt:Archiv der

Ziviltechniker:innen". The required data is transmitted in the appropriate format directly to the ELAK system of the relevant authority for land and forest division procedures.

The zt:Archiv enables the secure processing of data and the safe exchange of documents with courts and authorities.³⁰ It offers a fast and cost-effective electronic archiving service for official documents with original legal quality. The authenticity and immutability of the data are ensured, among other measures, through a qualified electronic signature. The Chamber of Civil Engineers aims to make this service available to all authorities, thereby accelerating the digital processing of construction procedures.

Furthermore, the Federal Chamber of Civil Engineers emphasises that a permanent guarantee of non-discriminatory and general access to electronic planning software and the establishment of open and manufacturer-independent, standardised interfaces would create fair competition among the planning professions and at the same time promote SMEs.

The civil engineers also see the future in a digital professional licence.

The following measures are therefore proposed:

	General objectives	Contributions
Digital civil engineering offices	Promotion of a human-centred, rights-based, inclusive, transparent, and open digital environment in which the principles, rights, and values of the Union are upheld and strengthened through secure and interoperable digital technologies and services accessible to all throughout the Union.	Expansion of digitalised Austrian civil engineering offices, which, as digital pioneers in Europe, can offer all services, such as the preparation of public deeds or the preparation of expert opinions, completely digitally and with the usual high standard of legal certainty.
Digital civil engineer professional licence		The civil engineer licence is to be one of the first to be converted into a digital professional card.

³⁰ www.zt-archiv.at

Austrian Chamber of Agriculture

The Austrian Chamber of Agriculture is involved in the digital transformation of agriculture and forestry at various levels, serving as an advocacy organisation as well as an educational and advisory institution.

In the field of agricultural policy and administration, a range of digitalisation activities at the federal level has been significantly restructured, with the aim of implementing these digital initiatives and interventions as simply, efficiently, and purposefully as possible:

- **Land Monitoring within the Framework of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and AMA MFA Photos App:** The EU requires Member States by regulation to conduct compliance checks for area-based CAP payments through land monitoring starting in 2023. The data basis for this monitoring consists of Sentinel satellite data from the EU, which captures images of Austria every three to five days with a resolution of 10 m x 10 m per pixel. These images are then compared with data from the multi-application (MFA). If discrepancies arise between the monitoring findings and the application data, the applicant is issued a correction request. The Chambers of Agriculture contribute to increasing the usage rate of this mobile solution among farmers through education and information efforts. As of October 2024, approximately 30,000 farmers are using the AMA MFA Photos App.
- **AMA RinderNET Mobile:** Since 2024, this app enables farmers to quickly and easily report changes in their cattle stock directly via smartphone. Additionally, it allows users to check cattle inventory or reorder ear tags directly from the barn or pasture. The alpine/pasture reporting function is not yet available, but there are plans to continuously expand the app's features.
- **INSPIRE Agricultural Atlas & Agricultural Geodata Portal:** The INSPIRE Agricultural Atlas and the INSPIRE Agricultural Geodata Portal serve as a central resource for farmers, providing easy access to geodata. The available map layers support forward-looking planning for cultivation, land management, and participation in ÖPUL (The Austrian Agricultural Environmental Programme) measures. Notably, the designation of registered organically farmed areas stands out as a positive example of using digital technologies to simplify administrative processes

This is complemented by a range of initiatives supported by various public authorities and funding programs that promote the adoption of new digital technologies on agricultural enterprises, including:

- **APOS-RTK for Agriculture:** With free access to the official RTK correction data service, 6,000 agricultural machines on more than 5,000 farms navigate and operate automatically with centimetre-level precision. This reduces ongoing costs for implementing new technologies and promotes environmentally friendly farming practices.

- **Innovation Farm – Farming for Future:** The competence network tests, validates, and demonstrates smart farming technologies. The goal is a provider-neutral and independent knowledge transfer on the advantages and disadvantages of individual techniques for practical agricultural use.
- **lkdigital.at:** The blog lkdigital.at consolidates expert articles, farm reports, and explanatory videos on a variety of trends and digital topics in and around agriculture and forestry.

The Austrian Chamber of Agriculture welcomes the increasing number of digital offerings aimed at simplifying and enhancing efficiency in administration and production.

However, it is explicitly noted that significant differences still exist within the (agricultural and forestry) population regarding digital skills. Therefore, analog access to administrative and funding services should remain in place for the time being.

Austrian Federal Association for Psychotherapy

The Austrian Federal Association for Psychotherapy highlights the sensitivity of patient data and the sometimes-excessive collection of digital information. Therefore, analogue alternatives should remain available, particularly in approval process for long-term authorisations and in patient care.

The Austrian Regulatory Authority for Broadcasting and Telecommunications (RTR)

Ad Trajectory of basic digital skills

Study “Digital Skills Austria”

The study “Digital Skills Austria” was conducted for the first time in 2022 on behalf of RTR-GmbH, under the direction of Thomas Steinmaurer (Paris Lodron University of Salzburg), and was continued in 2023 and 2024. The study explores the extent to which Austrians are equipped to navigate, orient themselves within, and actively shape the digital space. Digital Skills Austria examines how well individuals are empowered to engage with the digital environment. Based on the long-term study results, RTR-GmbH can set targeted priorities for promoting media literacy within Austria’s media landscape.

Establishment of a service desk for initiatives and information offerings in the area of media literacy at RTR-GmbH

RTR-GmbH is responsible for providing a diverse range of information on media literacy in the digital age and for serving as a service centre for initiatives in this field. In addition to informational materials, RTR-GmbH should present media literacy tools, enabling video-sharing platforms and media service providers to offer measures for acquiring media literacy and to contribute to raising awareness among media consumers.

Media Literacy Atlas

The RTR-GmbH operates an information portal in accordance with Section 20a para. 2 of the KommAustria Act, showcasing projects and initiatives aimed at imparting and promoting media literacy, particularly those funded by public resources. For a successful and, above all, targeted strategy in the field of media literacy, it is essential to conduct an inventory of which institutions and organisations are already active in what areas and what activities they are undertaking. Given the abundance of existing information and initiatives on media literacy, there is a clear need for a central guidance resource. Although relevant offerings can be found via search engines, a dedicated portal should be developed, following an evaluation of existing materials, to collect and present credible and useful information and educational resources in a well-structured manner. The goal is to establish a central point of contact for citizens, educational institutions, and funding bodies, enabling them to easily access an overview of available resources for promoting media literacy. However, the portal should not only focus on government-funded projects but also allow space for other commendable initiatives.

Promotion of media literacy in the area of private broadcasting

At RTR-GmbH, both a fund for the promotion of private broadcasting and a fund for the promotion of non-commercial broadcasting have been established. One of the goals of these two funding initiatives is to support private and non-commercial broadcasting in providing a diverse and high-quality programme offering that contributes to promoting media literacy among the population. The measure aims to promote the mass media function of broadcasting and the unique role of radio in disseminating offerings that improve media literacy, serving as a foundation for understanding democratic opinion formation processes.

Promotion of media literacy in quality journalism in print and online media

The Communications Authority Austria is responsible for granting funding for quality journalism in print and online media. One of the goals of this funding is to promote institutions for training and further education in accordance with Section 9 QJF-G (Quality Journalism Subsidies Act), as well as to support self-regulatory bodies in the print and online sectors in accordance with Section 14 QJF-

G. These funding areas are essential for positively contributing to the strengthening and preservation of information and media diversity, freedom of expression, journalistic quality, and media literacy among students. They thus play a vital role in the functioning of democracy. This initiative aims to support the activities of media education institutions and provide free subscriptions for students.

Ad Trajectory ICT specialists

Promotion of digital journalism

The aim is to strengthen journalistic activities in the increasingly digitised media landscape, particularly through the provision of funding for the appropriate training and continuing education of journalistic staff, as well as the promotion of teaching editorial offices and internships in the field of digital journalism. To maintain the diversity of providers and to promote the development and expansion of digital offerings in the media landscape, private media companies that tailor their media content to the Austrian audience through their distributed periodical media will be supported with financial contributions, with a total of EUR 20 million allocated. The specific distribution of funding for the goals of digital transformation (Section 33c KOG – KommAustria Act), digital journalism (Section 33d KOG), and youth protection and accessibility (Section 33e KOG) will be determined by guidelines from RTR-GmbH. This will support the training and continuing education that is essential for journalistic work.

8 Overall impact and conclusion

The world is changing – faster than ever before. The digital transformation is advancing globally, unstopably, and at an unprecedented pace. In 2020, the Austrian federal government committed to the programme “Out of responsibility for Austria. Government programme 2020–2024”. Much has happened since then.

The Covid-19 pandemic served as a significant driver of innovation, research and development – particularly in the field of digitalisation. Contact restrictions prompted the general population to adopt digital digital solutions, ranging from home-schooling and remote work, including video conferencing, to the use of “Green Pass” app. The applications, opportunities and technologies enabled by digitalisation have since evolved rapidly. By consistently integrating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) into all plans and projects, the aim is to ensure that no one is left behind and that everyone benefits from digitalisation – regardless of age, gender, disability, origin, place of residence, social or economic circumstances. The potential of digitalisation should be harnessed to promote ecological, economic, social and equality-based sustainability, while at the same time minimising negative impacts and emerging risks.

Austria is shaping the digital transformation and the necessary framework conditions based on comprehensive strategic principles developed through participatory expert and stakeholder processes. Section 5 provides a comprehensive overview of the key strategies, addressing both cross-cutting digitalisation issues and specific thematic areas.

Particular attention is paid to the Digital Austria Act (see Section 1) with 36 digitalisation principles and 117 specific measures. Through this Act, the federal government defines the goals and guiding principles of digitalisation in Austria. Its priorities are cross-departmental, involvindh all members of the Federal Government and impacting all areas of daily life. The Digital Austria Act represents a commitment to greater prosperity, security, and new opportunities through innovation.

Table of Tables

Table 1 National target values and associated trajectories per performance indicator (KPI) 2023–2030, and EU target value 2023 12

Table 2 National trajectory by 2030 for KPI 1 23

Table 3 Overall timeline for KPI 1: Measures that contribute to achieving the target..... 24

Table 4 National trajectory by 2030 for KPI 2 39

Table 5 Overall timeline for KPI 2: Measures that contribute to achieving the target..... 39

Table 6 National trajectory by 2030 for KPI 3 48

Table 7 Overall timeline for KPI 3: Measures that contribute to achieving the target 49

Table 8 National trajectory by 2030 for KPI 4 51

Table 9 Overall timeline for KPI 4: Measures that contribute to achieving the target 51

Table 10 Overall timeline for KPI 5: Measures that contribute to achieving the target..... 54

Table 11 Overall timeline for KPI 7: Measures that contribute to achieving the target..... 60

Table 12 Overall timeline for KPI 8: Measures that contribute to achieving the target..... 61

Table 13 National trajectory by 2030 for KPI 4 63

Table 14 Overall timeline for KPI 4: Measures that contribute to achieving the target..... 64

Table 15 National trajectory by 2030 for KPI 11 73

Table 15 Overall timeline for KPI 11: Measures that contribute to achieving the target..... 74

Table 17 National trajectory by 2030 for KPI 12 77

Table 18 Overall timeline for KPI 12: Measures that contribute to achieving the target..... 78

Table 19 National trajectory by 2030 for KPI 13 90

Table 20 Overall timeline for KPI 7: Measures that contribute to achieving the target..... 91

Table 21 National trajectory by 2030 for KPI 14 96

Table 22 Overall timeline for KPI 14: Measures that contribute to achieving the target..... 96

Table 21 National trajectory by 2030 for KPI 14 101

Table 22 Overall timeline for KPI 14: Measures that contribute to achieving the target..... 101

Abbreviations

ABA	Austrian Business Agency
AHS	Upper level academic secondary school
AI	Artificial intelligence
AIT	Austrian Institute of Technology
AMA	Agrarmarkt Austria
ANV	Employee (tax) assessment (Arbeitnehmerveranlagung)
Art.	Article
ARTEMIS	JU Public Private Partnerships
ASAI	Austrian Society for Artificial Intelligence
ASW	Arbeitgebervereinigung für Organisationen im Bereich der Gesundheits-, Sozial- und Betreuungsdienstleistungen
AT	2-digit country code for Austria
AT-C ³	Austrian Chips Competence Center
aws	Austria Wirtschaftsservice Gesellschaft mbH
BKA	Federal Chancellery (Bundeskanzleramt)
BMAW	Federal Ministry of Labour and Economy (Bundesministerium für Arbeit und Wirtschaft) <i>since 1 April 2025: Federal Ministry of Economy, Energy and Tourism (Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft, Energie und Tourismus – BMWET)</i>
BMBWF	Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (für Bundesministerium für Bildung, Wissenschaft und Forschung) <i>since 1 April 2025: Federal Ministry of Education (Bundesministerium für Bildung – BMB) and Federal Ministry of Women, Science and Research (Bundesministerium für Frauen, Wissenschaft und Forschung – BMFWF)</i>
BMF	Federal Ministry of Finance (Bundesministerium für Finanzen) <i>since 1 April 2025: integrated as Directorate General III Telecommunications and Post into the Federal Ministry of Housing, Arts, Culture, Media and Sport (Bundesministerium für Wohnen, Kunst, Kultur, Medien und Sport – BMWKMS)</i>
BMHS	Intermediate/Higher vocational education
BMK	Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (Bundesministerium für Klimaschutz, Umwelt, Energie, Mobilität, Innovation und Technologie) <i>since 1 April 2025: Federal Ministry of Innovation, Mobility and Infrastructure (Bundesministerium für Innovation, Mobilität und Infrastruktur – BMIMI)</i>
BMKÖS	Federal Ministry of Arts, Culture, Public Services and Sport (Bundesministerium für Kunst, Kultur, öffentlichen Dienst und Sport) <i>since 1 April 2025: integrated into the Federal Chancellery (BKA)</i>

BOKU	BOKU University (Universität für Bodenkultur)
BVA	Federal Budget (Bundesvoranschlag)
CEU	Central European University
COMET	Competence Centers for Excellent Technologies
CSH	Complexity Science Hub
CSKA	CyberSec-Kompetenz Austria
CSP	Cyber Security Platform
CSS	Cybersecurity Steering Group
DA	Data Act
DAA	Digital Action Plan Austria
DEP	Digital Europe Programme
DESI	The Digital Economy and Society Index
DGA	Data Governance Act
DHI	Digital Innovation Hub
DIS	Digital Innovation School
DKO	Digital Skills Initiative Office (Digitale Kompetenzen Geschäftsstelle)
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
DVB-T2	Digital Video Broadcasting – Terrestrial, 2nd generation
DGA	Data Governance Act
DZG	Data Access Act
EAA	European Economic Area (Europäischer Wirtschaftsraum)
ECS	Electronic Components and Systems
ECSF	European Cybersecurity Skills Framework
EDHI	European Digital Innovation Hub
EDIC	European Digital Infrastructure Consortium
EF	Emerging Fields
e. g.	exempli gratia (for example)
EHDS	European Health Data Space Regulation
EIC	European Innovation Council
eID	Electronic Identification
eIDAS	Electronic Identification, Authentication and trust Services

eIDAS Regulation	Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market
EIS	European Innovation Scoreboard
ELAK	Electronic File (Elektronischer Akt)
ELGA	Electronic Health Records
ENIAC	JU Public-Private-Partnerships
ERV	Electronic legal transactions
ESNA	Europe Startup Nations Alliance
EstG	Income Tax Act
etc.	et cetera
EUID	European Digital Identity
R&D	Research and Development
R&D&I	Research, Development and Innovation
FFG	Austrian Research Promotion Agency (Österreichische Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft mbH)
FH	Universities of applied sciences
FlexKapGG	Flexible Company Act
FTE	Full Time Equivalent
FWF	Austrian Science Fund
FZÖ	Fonds Zukunft Europa
GDA	Healthcare Provider Index
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHz	Gigahertz
GII	Global Innovation Index
GIN	Global Incubator Network Austria
GISA	Austrian Business Licence Information System
GÖG	Austrian National Public Health Institute
GTelG	Gesundheitstelematikgesetz
GTI	Gesundheitstelematik-Infrastruktur
GUEP	Gesamtösterreichischer Universitätsentwicklungsplan
HebG	Hebammengesetz
HIS	Hospital information system

HoP	Hochschulplan
IKDOK	Inner Circle of the Operational Coordination Structure
ICT	Information and Communications Technologies
IOT	Internet of Things
IPCEI	Important Project of Common European Interest
ISCED	International Standard Classification of Education
IT	Information Technology
JU	Joint Undertaking
KDT JU	Key Digital Technologies Joint Undertaking
KOG	KommAustria Act (KommAustria-Gesetz)
K-PASS	Austrian cybersecurity research funding programme Kybernet-Pass
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
KPMG	KPMG Austria GmbH: Wirtschaftsprüfungs- und Beratungsunternehmen
LEA	Austrian Fund for the Empowerment of Women and Girls – Let’s empower Austria
lit.	littera
LLM	Large Language Model
MHz	Megahertz
MINT	Mathematics, informatics, natural science, technology
STEM	Science, technology, engineering and mathematics
MOOCs	Massive Open Online Courses
NCC-AT	National Cybersecurity Coordination Centre Austria
NIS	Security of Network and Information Systems (Netz- und Informationssystemssicherheit)
No.	Number
OeAD	Austria’s Agency for Education and Internationalisation (OeAD-GmbH – Agentur für Bildung und Internationalisierung)
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OER	Open educational resources
ÖG Telemed	Österreichische Gesellschaft für Telemedizin
OpKoord	Operational Coordination Structure
ÖRAK	Austrian Bar (Österreichische Rechtsanwaltskammertag)
ÖSCS	Austrian Cybersecurity Strategy

Para.	Paragraph
PhD	Doctor of Philosophy
QJF-G	Quality Journalism Subsidies Act (Qualitäts-Journalismus-Förderungs-Gesetz)
RRF	Recovery and Resilience Facility (Aufbau- und Resilienzfazilität)
RTI	Research, Technology and Innovation
RSV	Register and System Network
RTR	Austrian Regulatory Authority for Broadcasting and Telecommunications
SDGR	Single Digital Gateway Regulation
SME	Small and medium-sized enterprises
SSO	Single sign-on
TKK	Telekom Control Commission
TRL	Technology Readiness Level
TU	Technical University
UHF	Ultra-High Frequency
USP	Business Service Portal (Unternehmensserviceportal)
VHCN	Very High Capacity Network
Virtuelle PH	Virtual Pedagogical college
VSE-Label	Verified Social Enterprise Label
WKO	Austrian Economic Chambers (Wirtschaftskammer Österreich)
WU	University of Economics and Business
WZG	Web Accessibility Act (Web-Zugänglichkeits-Gesetz)

