

Czech Priorities for European Digital Policy 2024-2029¹

From legislative framework to implementation: Europe on the road to digital innovation and global competitiveness

We want to continue to be an active player in the European Union and to support the efforts of the EU27 to develop a secure and sustainable digital transformation. Our long-term goal is to promote **human rights and democratic values**, including defending the freedom and openness of the internet. We want to strengthen the **competitiveness and innovation of** the economy with a focus on an open strategic autonomy. Given the changing geopolitical situation and the rapid development of technology, we must also strengthen the **security of cyberspace** and digital infrastructure. In the current European Commission's term of office, a large amount of legislation has been approved in the area of digitalisation with implications for data economy, cybersecurity, or artificial intelligence. In the forthcoming term of office, it is important to shift the focus in particular towards effective, coordinated and uniform implementation and enforcement of these regulations, with a focus on the completion of the Digital Single Market. In order to remain competitive, it is necessary to strengthen a stable and predictable regulatory environment, with an effort to minimise the unnecessary administrative and financial burden on citizens, businesses and public administrations. The Czech Republic continues to support the implementation of the long-term objectives set out in the Digital Decade 2030 policy programme.

What specifically will the Czech Republic promote?

Knowledge-based digital transformation

The benefits of digitalisation must be accessible to the whole society, including the most vulnerable groups. The emphasis on **basic and advanced digital skills** must be accompanied by efforts to ensure equal opportunities for all. The EU must also seriously address the critical shortage of ICT experts, mainly in the fields of cyber security, artificial intelligence, or quantum technologies.

Examples of specific solutions:

- **Development of a common European framework**, including financial and non-financial instruments **for reskilling and upskilling**, with an emphasis on the development of micro-credentials.
- **Increased financial resources to support schools** focusing on the creation of new degree programmes in **cyber security and quantum technologies**.

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Europe leads the digital innovation

The innovation environment in the EU must be based on supporting the development of new technologies and critical sectors such as AI, semiconductors or quantum technologies through financial and non-financial measures with clear and predictable rules.

Examples of specific solutions:

- **Enhancing funding** from programmes such as Digital Europe and Horizon Europe for 2028+, ensuring that businesses have access to **infrastructure, consultancy and computing**, e.g. for training and running AI systems.

A comprehensive vision for telecommunications

The future of the telecommunications sector needs a comprehensive vision, and the Czech Republic positively views the possibility of further harmonisation of the internal market in the field of telecommunications.

Examples of specific solutions:

- **Long-term promotion of competition** that brings choice to customers and puts pressure on price and quality of service.
- **Prioritise investment in information infrastructure**, including high-speed internet access in structurally disadvantaged parts of the EU.

A safer and more resilient cyberspace and digital infrastructure

Cyberspace in the EU must be secure and resilient to protect citizens from cyber threats. We need to prepare for new risks including the development of artificial intelligence or quantum technologies.

Examples of specific solutions:

- Development of a **set of ICT supply chain security measures** to mitigate threats at each stage of the supply chain.

Greater collaboration and interoperability in the digitalisation of public services

Cross-border cooperation between Member States and institutions is key to more effective deployment of public online services.

Examples of specific solutions:

- **Sharing and reusing interoperable solutions**, e.g. in the implementation of the European Digital Identity Wallet.
- **Emphasis on innovation**, in particular the promotion of **open source solutions** and their sharing between Member States and EU institutions.

International cooperation

The EU's digital policies towards third countries must be based on sharing EU good practice and promoting democratic values. Digital diplomacy needs to be systematically embraced in a single place in the Council of the EU and trade needs to be facilitated by including digital aspects in EU trade agreements with third countries.