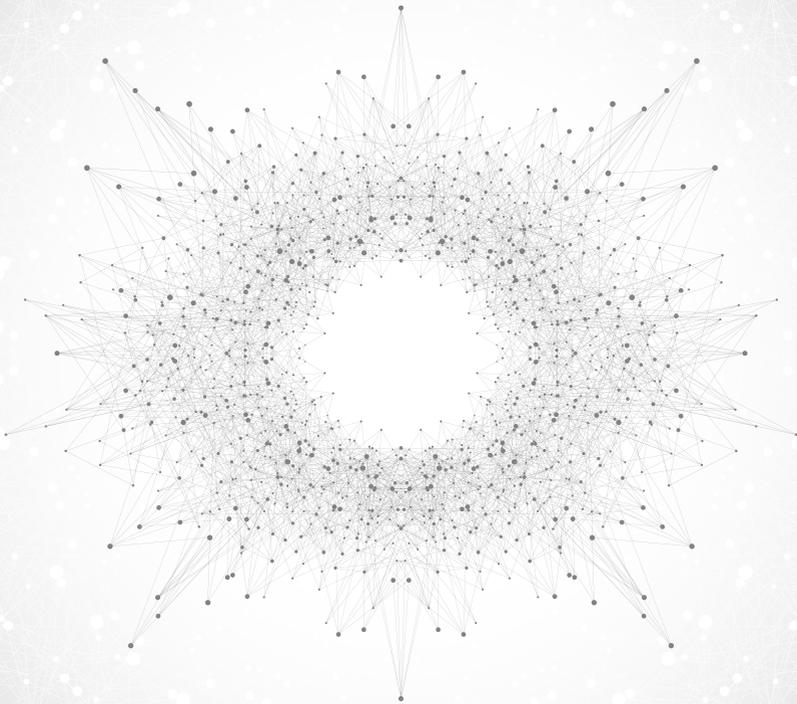


D9+ Declaration:

Leading the Way to Europe's Digital Decade



Ministry of Economic Affairs
and Employment of Finland

D9+ Declaration: Leading the Way to Europe's Digital Decade

Europe is embarking on a digital decade that holds a strong promise of digitally enabled sustainability and innovation-driven progress. As the digital frontrunners of Europe, the signatory D9+ countries seek to highlight with this Declaration, crucial elements required for the European digital transition and technological leadership in Europe's Digital Decade, ***and to contribute to the formulation of the roadmap and the 2030 goals for Europe.***

European technological leadership is mainly built on our digital advancements, rapid deployment of innovations as well as an open and competitive single market. This should lay the foundation for the twin transition to green and digital economy where the framework conditions promote innovation and do not create unnecessary burdens or barriers. As the overall shift towards data-driven global economy gains momentum, we stress the need to build Europe's competitiveness on efficient, trustworthy, transparent, safe and responsible use of data in accordance with our shared European values taking into account the socioeconomic impacts of the digital transition. In order to maintain the pace of digitalization, we must speed up the development and implementation of the proposed legal frameworks taking into account the rapid development of digital technologies. Trust and innovation are two sides of the same coin.

Time is of the essence in the development and deployment of innovative technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Computing and Future Connectivity. Together with a robust data economy, they will be major enablers for the digital transition and key assets for European productivity and competitiveness. We should leverage our global competitive advantage in these areas to ensure our technological leadership in the long term while maintaining an open single market, strengthening global cooperation and the external trade dimension.

The EU should make strategic efforts to create a strong European knowledge and competence base in advanced technologies, data, connected applications, solutions and services. Ensuring leading competences in the development and deployment of innovative technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Computing, and Future Connectivity will enable us to accelerate the digital transition as well as to achieve and maintain technological leadership in the Digital Decade.

The D9+ countries agree to:

- ▶ Continue discussions on the key accelerators of the digital transition and technological competitiveness and contribute to the formulation of the 2030 goals for Europe's Digital Decade.
- ▶ Accelerate the twin transition and aim for European success in the global competition by agreeing to have a comprehensive outlook on all the possibilities for strengthening the European competitive edge.
- ▶ Keeping in mind our shared European values based on fundamental rights, the importance of cybersecurity, privacy and trust of citizens in digital solutions, encourage innovation-driven digital transition, the development and deployment of disruptive technologies such as AI, Quantum technologies and Future connectivity, including through investments in these technologies as well as strengthening their cybersecurity.
- ▶ Acknowledge that industrial data-sharing platforms, intermediaries and federated cloud-edge ecosystems will have a strategic role in accelerating the development of future value networks. Cloud and edge computing infrastructures and services form the basis for the European data economy.
- ▶ Strengthen the European digital skills and competence base, and promote deployment of technologies particularly in SME's.
- ▶ Support technological and digital openness through regulatory cooperation with international partners and ambitious rules in trade agreements in order to secure our businesses' and citizens' fair and secure access to frontier technologies, services and new markets.
- ▶ Note that rapid technological progress calls for close monitoring and flexibility when determining concrete targets in the Roadmap 2030.

Entering the Digital Decade requires strategic efforts and a long-term outlook on digitalization. In our view, it is of utmost importance to strengthen the Single Market, avoid burdensome regulation, develop digital competence and invest in key enabling technologies that support European competitiveness, and accelerate digital transition.

Declaration signed on behalf of the participating countries by Mika Lintilä,
Minister of Economic Affairs of Finland

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Helsinki, 27 January 2021

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