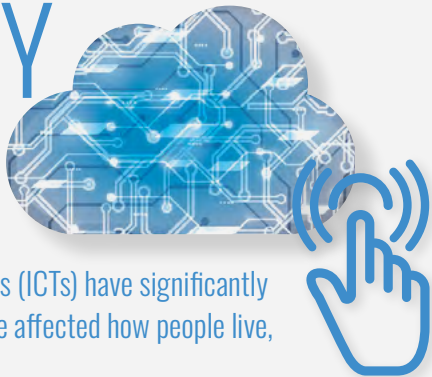


DIGITAL SUSTAINABILITY IN EUROPE



In recent years, digitalization and the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) have significantly transformed the connectivity of individuals, societies, and countries. These changes have affected how people live, work, access goods and services, and engage with the external environment.



The research team, including Andrea Ciacchi (Bocconi University, Milan), Enrico Ivaldi (IULM University, Milan), Lara Penco (University of Genoa), and Ginevra Testa (University of Genoa) has developed a project to measure digital sustainability across Europe. This research aims to investigate the effects of digital transformation on the economic and social spheres of European countries.

The development of strong digital systems has become a critical component of a country's development plan. At the same time, the issue of sustainable development – ensuring that the wealth generated meets the basic needs of the current population without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs – has become increasingly urgent.

The convergence of digitalization and sustainability has given rise to the digital sustainability paradigm, which involves the responsible deployment of digital technologies to achieve sustainable development goals, encompassing both economic

and social dimensions. The economic and social digitalization indices reflect the decision of the most digitally advanced countries to adopt *ad hoc* development strategies at the national level. These countries show a strong link between the economic and social dimensions, the result of coherent digital development strategies that stimulate cross-dimensional development cycles. In particular, the Netherlands ranks among the top European countries in terms of the level of digitalization of the economy and society, while Romania and Bulgaria rank at the bottom.



DIGITAL ECONOMY INDEX SCORES

Finland	6.34	Austria	4.21	Slovenia	2.68	Greece	1.68
Netherlands	5.61	Belgium	4.02	Slovakia	2.68	Hungary	1.66
Sweden	5.58	Germany	3.80	Croatia	2.04	Cyprus	1.41
Denmark	5.47	Estonia	3.13	Portugal	2.04	Latvia	1.16
Malta	4.56	Spain	2.94	Italy	1.99	Romania	0.75
Luxembourg	4.34	France	2.87	Lithuania	1.80	Bulgaria	0.00
Ireland	4.29	Czechia	2.80	Poland	1.76		

Netherlands	7.94	Sweden	5.02	Portugal	3.92	Croatia	2.51
Denmark	6.42	Belgium	4.86	Cyprus	3.91	Slovakia	2.16
Malta	6.30	Austria	4.76	Germany	3.79	Poland	1.68
Finland	5.80	Czechia	4.54	Italy	3.03	Greece	1.66
Ireland	5.56	France	4.12	Lithuania	3.02	Romania	1.15
Luxembourg	5.38	Hungary	4.11	Slovenia	2.87	Bulgaria	0.39
Spain	5.28	Estonia	3.96	Latvia	2.54		