

# Digital transformation and the European Health Union Strategy

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29 November 2023

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**A natural response to crises! The European Green Deal is the new Positive Agenda and narrative for the future of Europe**



Financial crisis



Economic and Social crisis



Migration crisis



Security crisis



Global crisis



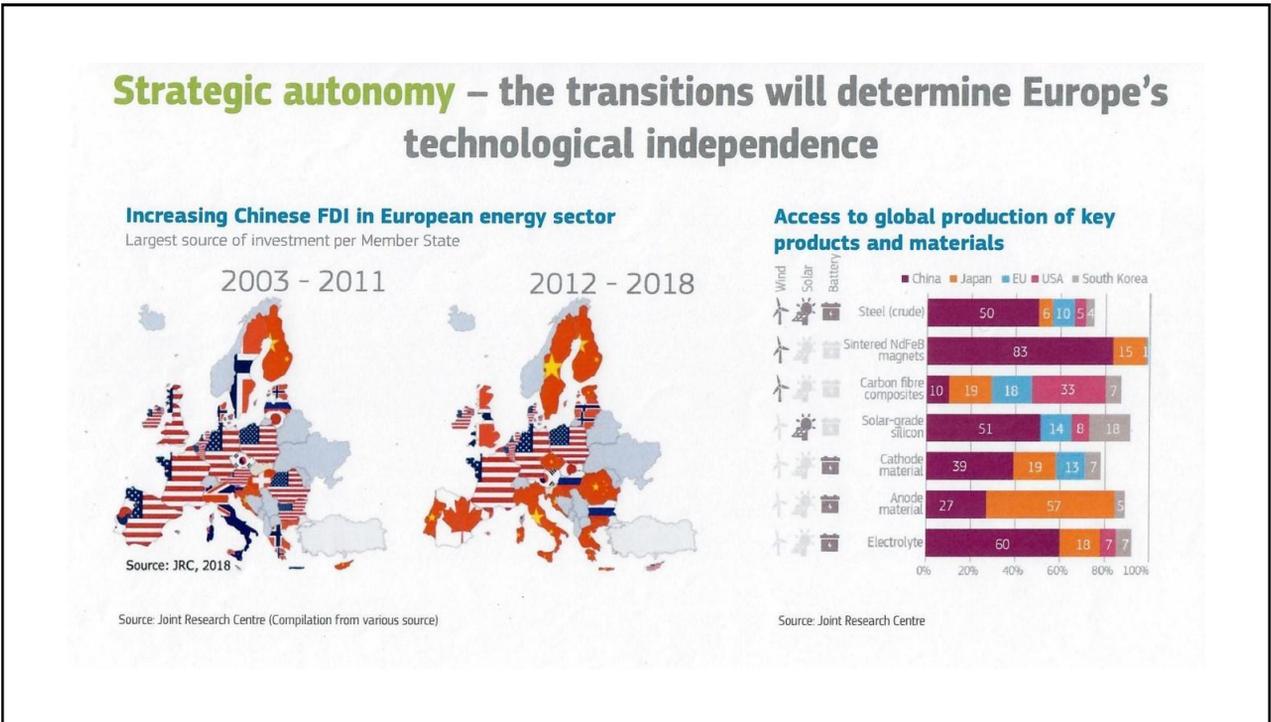
Brexit crisis

*"I want citizens to have their say at a Conference on the Future of Europe, to start in 2020 and run for two years."  
President-elect Ursula von der Leyen*

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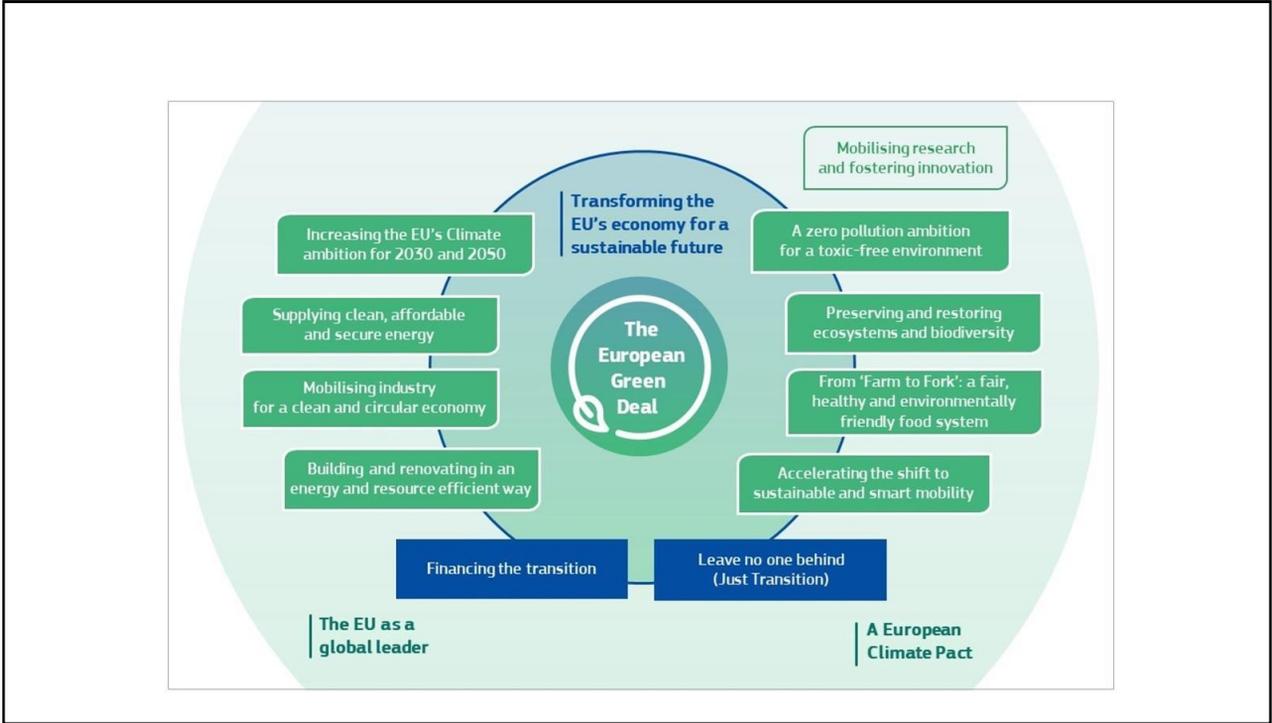
## Six political priorities



1. A European Green Deal
2. An economy that works for people
3. A Europe fit for the digital age
4. Promoting our European way of life
5. A stronger Europe in the world
6. A new push for European democracy

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## A European Green Deal

*What's in it for me?*

The European Green Deal will improve the well-being and health of citizens and future generations.

The illustration shows a family (a man, a woman, and a child) standing in front of a house. A wind turbine is visible in the background. Callouts point to various benefits:

- Cleaner air, water and soil
- Cleaner energy
- Renovated homes, schools and hospitals
- Better public transport alternatives
- Reusable or recyclable packaging, less waste
- Better health for current and future generations
- Healthier food
- More charging points for e-cars
- Less pesticides and fertilisers
- Better environmentally-friendly products in our shops


 European Commission

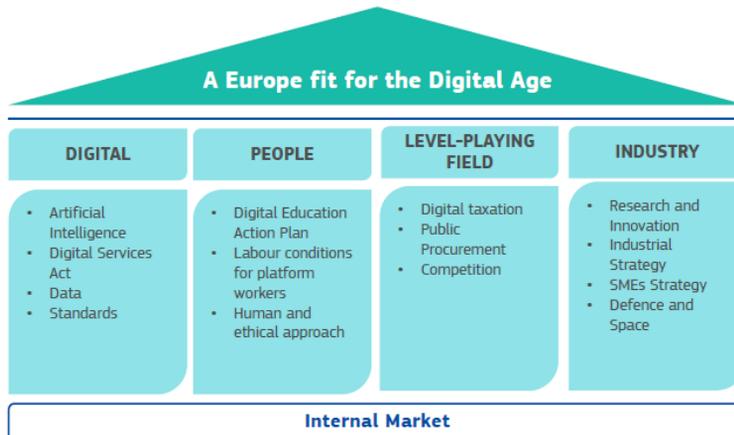
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## A European Green Deal



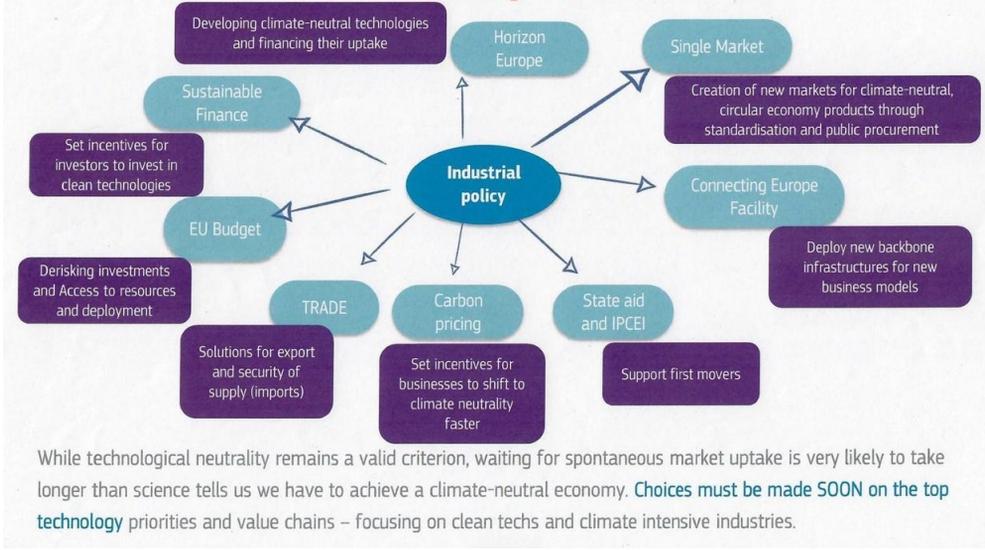
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## A Europe fit for the digital age



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**The European Green Deal and the industrial strategy are two sides of the same coin: building a Joint Master Plan**



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**A Whole of Government approach at the heart of the new Commission's working methods, based on strong Project Teams and co-creation at all levels of decision making**



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## 2 Long-term budget 2021-2027

The long-term EU budget will continue to play a key role to support the recovery and make sure traditional beneficiaries of EU funds receive the sufficient means to continue their work during very challenging times for all.

### MFF 2021-2027 total allocations per heading

|  | MFF            | NEXT<br>GENERATION EU | TOTAL          |
|--|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1. Single Market, Innovation and Digital | 132.8          | 10.6                  | 143.4          |
| 2. Cohesion, Resilience and Values       | 377.8          | 721.9                 | 1 099.7        |
| 3. Natural Resources and Environment     | 356.4          | 17.5                  | 373.9          |
| 4. Migration and Border Management       | 22.7           | -                     | 22.7           |
| 5. Security and Defence                  | 13.2           | -                     | 13.2           |
| 6. Neighbourhood and the World           | 98.4           | -                     | 98.4           |
| 7. European Public Administration        | 73.1           | -                     | 73.1           |
| <b>TOTAL MFF</b>                         | <b>1 074.3</b> | <b>750.0</b>          | <b>1 824.3</b> |

All amounts in EUR billion.  
Source: European Commission.

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### Key figures in the agreement:

- Long-term budget for 2021-2027 of **€1.074 trillion** combined with the temporary recovery instrument, NextGenerationEU, of **€750 billion**;
- More than **50%** of the amount will support modernisation through policies that include research and innovation, via **Horizon Europe**; fair climate and digital transitions, via the **Just Transition Fund** and the **Digital Europe programme**; preparedness, recovery and resilience, via the **Recovery and Resilience Facility**, **rescEU** and a new health programme, **EU4Health**;
- Traditional policies such as **cohesion and common agricultural policy** will be modernised and will continue to receive significant EU budget funds, with the objective to support the green and digital transitions;
- **30%** of the EU funds, under both NextGenerationEU and MFF, will be spent to fight climate change. The package also pays a specific attention to biodiversity protection and gender mainstreaming;
- Key programmes, including **Erasmus+**, **EU4Health** and **Horizon Europe**, will be reinforced compared to the agreement at the July 2020 special European Council, by a total of **€15 billion**.

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# 1 NextGenerationEU

To finance NextGenerationEU, the Commission will borrow on the markets. The funds raised will go to specific programmes and will be spent in a limited period of time in order to kick-start the recovery.

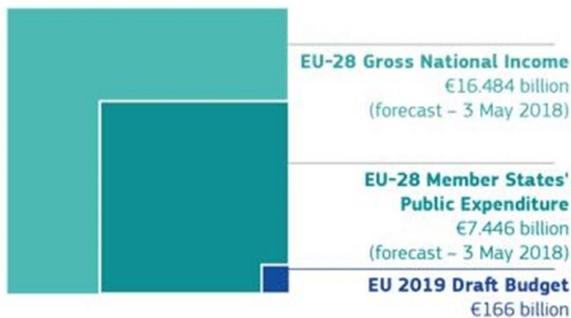
|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| <b>Grants</b>                               | <b>390.0</b> |
| <i>of which provisioning for guarantees</i> | <b>5.6</b>   |
| <b>Loans</b>                                | <b>360.0</b> |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                | <b>750.0</b> |

All amounts in EUR billion  
Source: European Commission.

|   | NGEU         | Total with MFF |
|---|--------------|----------------|
| <b>Recovery and Resilience Facility</b> | <b>672.5</b> | <b>673.3</b>   |
| <i>Of which GRANTS</i>                  | <b>312.5</b> | 313.3          |
| <i>Of which LOANS</i>                   | <b>360.0</b> | 360.0          |
| <b>REACT-EU</b>                         | <b>47.5</b>  | <b>47.5</b>    |
| <b>Rural development</b>                | <b>7.5</b>   | 85.4           |
| <b>Just Transition Fund</b>             | <b>10.0</b>  | 17.5           |
| <b>InvestEU</b>                         | <b>5.6</b>   | 9.4            |
| <b>rescEU</b>                           | <b>1.9</b>   | 3.0            |
| <b>Horizon Europe</b>                   | <b>5.0</b>   | 84.9           |

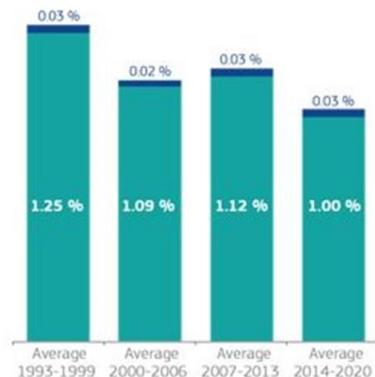
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The EU budget compared to overall EU income and public spending – 2019



Source: European Commission

The size of the EU budget as a percentage of gross national income (GNI)



Legend: ■ Commitments ceiling in % EU GNI ■ European Development Fund

Source: European Commission

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## Context, scope and purpose of the report

In the context of the EU's digital vision, this report provides an update on the EU's progress towards the Digital Decade targets, the status of the Recovery and Resilience Facility, and identifies policy enablers that alongside digital investment could help deliver the EU's digital ambitions.

### Context for the report

The EU's 2030 Digital Compass sets out the ambition for the digital transformation of the EU and Digital Decade targets to measure progress towards that ambition.<sup>1</sup> The Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) is a temporary instrument intended to mitigate the impact of the pandemic while supporting digital and green investments.

A report published by Deloitte in June 2021 found that<sup>2</sup>

- The Digital Decade targets are ambitious and will require Member States to make significant progress across each target area.
- The gap between current and target levels of digitalisation varies greatly across Member States, with each facing different challenges.
- Further private and public investment may be needed in certain areas to achieve targets, in particular Infrastructure, Digital Skills and Businesses.

### Scope of the report

A year on from the launch of the RRF in February 2021, this report builds on the previous report published by Deloitte in June 2021 by:

- Providing an overview of the current state of digitalisation in the EU27 and progress made towards the Digital Decade targets;
- Summarising the progress of the RRF and the digital investments that are being made by Member States from the RRF;
- Identifying key policy enablers, that could help make digital investments more effective and unlock the further investment that is needed to support the digital transformation.

### Purpose of the report

This report, commissioned by Vodafone, is intended to provide a basis for discussion of:

- Where action may be needed in order to achieve the EU's digital targets.
- What Member States have already achieved and how these achievements can inform future investments.
- How to unlock the potential of the RRF as an opportunity to stimulate digital and sustainable transformation.

<sup>1</sup> European Commission | Deloitte (2021)

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## Key findings

The EU's digital vision is ambitious, and while progress is being made towards digitalisation targets, the scale and complexity of the digital transformation means that digital investments and policy enablers are key to realising the vision.

### The EU's digital vision

The EU's digital vision presents the ambition for a prosperous digital future

- The EU's vision is to become digitally sovereign and to develop the digital capabilities to empower people and businesses.<sup>1</sup>
- Through its vision, the EU could support the creation of new digital ecosystems (e.g. smart cities, smart grids, e-government, e-health) that could generate significant economic, environmental and social benefits.

### Digital Decade targets

Progress is being made towards the digital targets, but gaps remain

- The Digital Decade targets provide a framework to measure the EU's digital transformation. Reaching the targets will be an important foundation for the vision to be realised.
- Across the EU27, further progress has been made in reducing the gap between current and target levels of digitalisation.
  - In some areas progress towards targets appears to be slower.
  - In all areas the gap still exists, and the size of the gap varies across Member States.

### The RRF

The RRF is providing significant digital investment to help achieve the targets and realise the EU's vision

- RRF funding to support investments is being released, and could support progress towards the Digital Decade targets and the EU Vision.<sup>2</sup> Further public and private sector investment will also be needed to achieve this.
- 21 Member States have started to receive RRF funding, with 15% of total funding across Member States' RRFs having been disbursed.
  - Around €130bn of RRF funding is allocated to digital investments.
  - These investments will be phased and will both take time to be completed and take effect.

### Key policy enablers

Policy could enhance the impact of planned digital investments and unlock the further investment that is needed

- Key policy enablers to support digital investments and unlock the further digital investment that is needed to realise the EU's vision could include:
- Co-ordination across government to ensure digital investments are effectively targeted, synchronised, and timed.
  - Connecting digital ecosystems so that digital investments are more effective in enabling digital ecosystems to emerge.
  - Demonstrating digital value to help unlock further public and private sector digital investment.
  - Facilitating data sharing to enable innovation and value creation from digital investments and, in turn, unlock further digital investment.

<sup>1</sup> European Commission | European Commission

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## The EU's digital vision | Ambition for a prosperous digital future

The EU's vision is to help build the digital capabilities that empower people and businesses and create digital ecosystems that can generate significant economic, environmental and social benefits.

**The EU's vision for a digital future**

The EU has the vision to be **digitally sovereign** in an interconnected world by **building and deploying technical capabilities** that empower people and businesses to seize the potential of the digital transformation, and help build a **healthier and greener society**.<sup>1</sup>

### New and emerging digital ecosystems

Achieving the Digital Decade targets will provide the foundation for new digital ecosystems to develop in the future.

### Benefits of digital ecosystems

**Economic benefits:** Productivity gains and innovation that drive economic growth. The cumulative **additional GDP** contribution of new digital technologies could amount to **€2.2 trillion** in the EU by 2030.<sup>2</sup>

**Environmental benefits:** Energy efficiency and reduced emissions that support sustainability. Technologies could help reduce emissions by 7 times more than the amount created by the ICT sector and could reduce global emissions by up to 15%.<sup>3</sup>

**Social benefits:** Inclusion and better quality of life for all citizens. Usage-based insurance (UBI), coupled with Assisted driving technologies, which use real-time vehicle data, could help reduce the projected annual death toll of 2m from road accidents by 10% by 2025.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> European Commission, 2020 Digital Compass; <sup>2</sup> European Commission, Shaping the Digital Transformation in Europe; <sup>3</sup> European Commission, Supporting the Green Transition; <sup>4</sup> World Economic Forum

The progress towards the EU's Digital Decade ambition
Deloitte LLP
2022
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## The role of policy

Digital investments alongside policy enablers will be key to realising the EU's 2030 vision; policy can support the digital transition by enhancing and unlocking further digital investment

### Digital investment | Providing the necessary funding

### Key policy enablers | Enhancing and unlocking digital investment

**RRF funding:** €130bn of the €723.8bn RRF budget has been allocated to the digital transformation, including large investments in the digitalisation of businesses, digital skills, infrastructure, e-government and e-health.<sup>1</sup>

**Other public sector investment:** The EU provides additional funding such as the Digital Europe Programme, Horizon, EU4Health or the Connecting Europe Facility to support the digital transformation. Member States further provide national funding to digitalise their economy, including national broadband plans.<sup>2</sup>

**Private sector investment:** the industry will need to continue investing larger amounts in digital infrastructure (e.g. VHCN and 5G network rollout), as well as in research and development for emerging technologies such as AI, cloud-based services and super computing.

**Co-ordination across government:** Coordination and alignment of objectives, incentives and initiatives towards a common digital transformation across government (national, regional and local authorities) and digital funding programmes is key to ensuring that digital investments are effective.<sup>3</sup>

**Connecting digital ecosystems:** Bringing together a diverse ecosystem of players from a range of traditional value chains to form new digital value chains.

**Demonstrating digital value:** Providing and evidencing the value of digitalisation to inform the allocation of investments and unlock further digital investment.

**Data sharing:** Helping facilitate data sharing that is needed to support key digital use cases such as e-health, smart energy, and future mobility.

▶ Large investment has been allocated towards achieving the Digital Decade targets which will provide the foundation for new digital ecosystems and to drive digital innovation.

▶ Key enablers are informed by a review of the literature and interviews with policymakers and industry experts. The following pages set these out in more detail.

<sup>1</sup> European Commission; <sup>2</sup> Digital Europe Programme; Horizon; EU4Health; Connecting Europe Facility; <sup>3</sup> In Section 5.2 'Key policy enablers of Digital Europe 2030', government refers to each Member State's government rather than the EU government

The progress towards the EU's Digital Decade ambition
Deloitte LLP
2022
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## Key enablers | Overview of key policy enablers

Policy enablers identified include cross-government co-ordination, connecting digital ecosystems, facilitating data sharing, and highlighting the value of digitalisation.

### Key policy enablers | Enhancing the impact of planned digital investments and unlocking the further investment that is needed

Four key policy enablers have been identified based on a literature review and interviews with policymakers and industry experts. Member States have already undertaken initiatives in many of these areas, as illustrated in the case studies that are set out in the remainder of this section.

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  <p><b>Co-ordination across government</b> to ensure digital investments are effectively targeted, synchronised, and timed.</p> <p><b>Examples of policy measures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creating a whole-of-government coordinator to reconcile objectives, incentives, and actions across government.</li> <li>Using cross-government liaison offices and events for cross-government representatives to align objectives, incentives, and actions.</li> <li>Developing aligned cross-government Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to align objectives and incentives.</li> </ul>   |  <p><b>Connecting digital ecosystems</b> so that digital investments are more effective in enabling digital ecosystems to emerge.</p> <p><b>Examples of policy measures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creating forums to provide a platform for collaboration on the creation of new digital value chains.</li> <li>Trials and testing facilities to create opportunities for different players to develop relationships, work collaboratively, and innovate.</li> <li>Creating task forces to review and modernise legislation, regulations, and guidelines to support new digital value chains.</li> </ul>                                 |
|  <p><b>Demonstrating the value of digitalisation</b> to help unlock further public and private sector digital investment.</p> <p><b>Examples of policy measures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pilot schemes – proof of concept to test new technologies on a small-scale to gather data that can demonstrate the socio-economic value.</li> <li>Case studies – benchmarking to gather information on examples where similar technologies have been successfully implemented.</li> <li>Measurement frameworks to set out how to quantify the benefits of digital, including economic, social and environmental indicators.</li> </ul> |  <p><b>Facilitating data sharing</b> to enable innovation and value creation from digital investments and, in turn, unlock further digital investment.</p> <p><b>Examples of policy measures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced process complexity to ensure that data sharing principles and guidance are easy to understand for all.</li> <li>Safeguarding the sharing of data by developing appropriate frameworks that are fit for purpose and protect data privacy.</li> <li>Creating local data platforms to facilitate wide integration of data flows via open interoperable standards within and across Member States.</li> </ul> |

Each enabler is discussed in more detail on the following pages.

## Healthcare in Transition

### Ongoing Healthcare system impacts

|  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
|  <p><b>92%</b><br/>Of patients expect any health institution to have full access to medical history</p> |  <p><b>4T GB</b><br/>Healthcare data generated annually, x2 every 2 years</p> |  <p><b>\$7.1B</b><br/>Loss per year to data breaches, amid growing pressures in security and compliance</p> |  <p><b>14 Million</b><br/>Projected shortage of Healthcare workers expected by 2030</p> |
|--|--|--|---|

**Gain a holistic view of the patient**  
with insights and actionable next steps for more informed, personalized care management

**Increase the number of patients served**  
with high-quality and high-touch interactions

**Visualize health trends and outcomes**  
for better patient care and resource planning

**Better serve the community**  
and coordinate outreach to those who need care the most

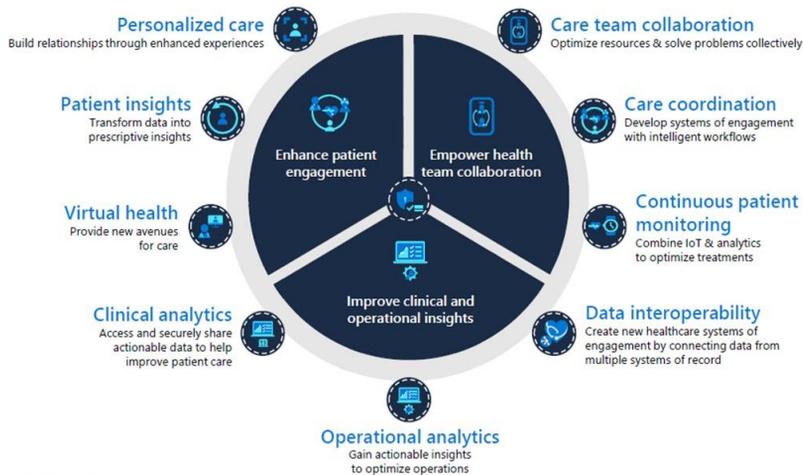
**Leverage a platform that can scale with you**  
as you grow and innovate into the future

**Improve both the patient and care team experience**  
with easy and quick access to vital health information

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# Cloud for Healthcare

Capabilities enabling better experiences, better insights, better care



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VTP in Greece is an end-to-end telemedicine care system to support monitoring and clinical care for chronic disease management (e.g. respiratory illnesses, diabetes) and post-acute monitoring and management (e.g. surgeries and other hospital treatments). The system includes a mix of technologies:

- Range of connected medical devices**, for use by doctors in clinics or house visits, and by patients outside hospital settings
- To allow remote patient monitoring** after hospital discharge, regardless of digital skills levels, thereby reducing patient stress
- Logistics and maintenance services** for hardware
- Software for aggregation of data and use by clinicians**, integrated to established clinical systems
- Communication software** for clinicians and patients to help manage conditions remotely

**Vodafone Telemedicine Programme in numbers:**

- Implemented in **100 remote mainland regions** and islands
- Covers a population of **500,000 people**
- More than **500 GPs** trained in use of programme equipment
- Since 2008, more than **51,000 examinations** carried out via the programme



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## Key enablers | Co-ordination across government

Successful alignment across each Member State's government and funding programmes will help ensure digital investments are targeted effectively, synchronised and timed.

**Co-ordination across government is key to the success of digital investments**

Effective co-ordination and collaboration across each Member State's government, including at a national, regional and local authority level, in relation to digital funding programmes could be essential. This is particularly important given:

- The scale and range of digital investments:** The Digital programmes of Member States are wide ranging, from digitalisation of schools and hospitals to investment in rural connectivity, and will therefore require authorities across government to be involved. This could create logistical and co-ordination challenges.
- The strong interdependencies between digital programmes:** the success of some digital programmes may depend on another programme meeting its objectives, e.g. the success of programmes that seek to incentivise SMEs to digitalise may depend on the extent to which a digital infrastructure programme provides the underlying connectivity for SMEs.
- The levels of decentralisation or devolution in some Member States:** the powers and responsibilities (political, administrative and financial) across different administrative areas in some Member States mean that co-ordination could be required for the digital transformation to succeed.

**Illustrative example: Making connected hospitals a reality will require co-ordination and collaboration across government and digital funding programmes**



**Key initiatives to support co-ordination**

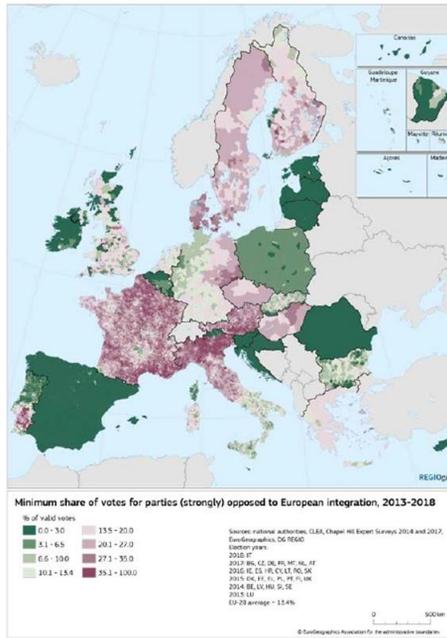
- Creating a whole-of-government coordinator:** This would be a central coordinating government body whose mandate is to bring together representatives from all government departments supporting the digital transformation. The coordinator's role may include reconciling objectives, incentives, and actions across government.<sup>1</sup>
- Using cross-government liaison offices and events:** National governments can create and make good use of cross-government liaison offices and events (e.g. awareness-raising events and policy roundtables) to support alignment with regional and local authorities on the digital transformation agenda, e.g. by identifying interdependencies between digital programmes, aligning incentives and sequencing initiatives or investments to ensure they support one another.<sup>2</sup>
- Developing aligned cross-government Key Performance Indicators (KPIs):** KPIs at different levels of granularity could be set to recognise their linkages and, in turn, support co-ordination, e.g. the timing of fund releases could be reconsidered if high speed connectivity penetration (a high-level KPI measured by one government department) is not capturing delays in rural areas (a more granular KPI measured by another department).

1 OECD Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development online toolkit: 7/84

The progress towards the EU's Digital Decade ambition | Deloitte LLP | 2022 | 51

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FIGURE 6. Share of the vote for parties opposed or strongly opposed to European integration (2013-2018)



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The 5 scenarios of the White Paper on the future of Europe

| SCENARIOS                                   | Carrying on   | Nothing but the Single Market  | Those who want more do more  | Doing less more efficiently   | Doing much more together  |
|---|---|--|--|---|---|
| WHAT DOES IT ENTAIL?                        | EU27 implements and upgrades current reform agenda. Priorities are regularly updated, problems are tackled as they arise and new legislation rolled out accordingly | EU27 only deepens key aspects of the single market   | EU27 allows willing Member States to do more together in specific policy areas. As a result, Member States agree to specific legal and budgetary arrangements to deepen their cooperation. Other Member states may join over time  | Consensus on the need to better tackle certain priorities together makes EU27 focus attention and resources on delivering more and faster in selected policy areas, while in other areas it stops acting or does less   | Member States share more power, resources and decision-making across all policy areas, the euro is strengthened, and decisions at EU level are rapidly enforced   |
| WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR THE SOCIAL DIMENSION? | Citizens' rights derived from EU law are upheld across the Union  | Citizens' rights derived from EU law may become restricted over time<br>Persistent differences in consumer, social and environmental standards, taxation and use of public subsidies<br>Risk of 'race to the bottom'<br>Free movement of workers is not guaranteed | Citizens' rights derived from EU law start to vary depending on whether or not they live in a country that has chosen to do more<br>A group of Member States choose to harmonise taxation or agree to common social standards thereby reducing compliance costs, limiting tax evasion, and contributing to improved working conditions<br>Progress is made at 27 to strengthen the Single Market and reinforce the four freedoms | Citizens' rights derived from EU law are strengthened in areas we choose to do more and reduced elsewhere<br>New standards for consumer protection, the environment and health and safety at work move away from detailed harmonisation to strict minimum<br>Salaries, social legislation and taxation levels vary significantly across the Union | Citizens have more rights derived directly from EU law<br>Greater coordination on fiscal, social and taxation matters among euro area members<br>Additional EU funding to boost economic development and respond to shocks, at regional, sectoral and national levels |

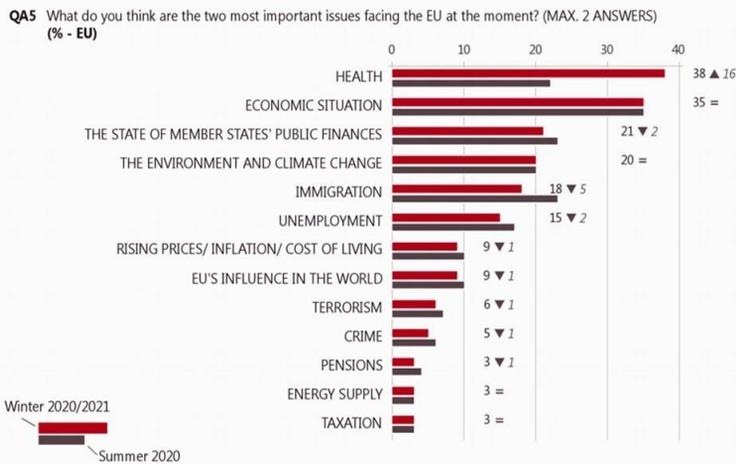
Source: European Commission

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## Public opinion in the European Union. Standard Eurobarometer 94 Winter 2020 - 2021



Source. Eurobarometer

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- Year 2017. EC White Paper on the Future of Europe. None of five scenarios was speaking about health as a priority for the block.
- Early Spring 2020. Few “dreamers” dared to call for the stronger representation of health in European Treaties. May 2020 EP started to discuss issues related to the EHU.
- September 2020. the European Commission President, Dr Ursula von der Leyen, has called for a European Health Union. “For me, it is crystal clear - we need to build a stronger European Health Union”
- October 2020 The Manifesto for a European Health Union and Explanatory Memorandum for a European Health Union.
- April 2021. German Chancellor Angela Merkel indicated that she does “not rule out a treaty change”, keeping in mind debates about the European Health Union in the Conference on the Future of Europe.

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## MANIFESTO FOR A EUROPEAN HEALTH UNION

### *Preamble*

In 2020, an invisible virus swept through Europe, leaving hundreds of thousands dead and many others with severe disability. Economic activity has crashed, forcing governments to intervene in ways that would have been unimaginable.

<https://europeanhealthunion.eu/>



## Explanatory Memorandum to the MANIFESTO FOR A EUROPEAN HEALTH UNION

### **What is the Explanatory Memorandum about?**

The Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared in order to assist the reader of the Manifesto and contribute to informed debate on it. It does not form a part of the Manifesto.

It explains what the Manifesto is calling for and provides background information on the its development.

The paper is best be read alongside the Manifesto. It is not, and is not intended to be, a comprehensive description of the Manifesto.

### **Position paper “TREATY CHANGE FOR A EUROPEAN HEALTH UNION”**

Position paper provides all legal arguments and concrete proposals to amend the Lisbon Treaty.

<https://europeanhealthunion.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Treaty-Change-for-a-European-Health-Union.pdf>

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General Secretariat of the Council

Delegations

Conference on the Future of Europe

- Proposals and related specific measures contained in the report on the final outcome of the Conference on the Future of Europe: Preliminary technical assessment

II. HEALTH .....

- 7. Proposal - Healthy food and healthy lifestyle .....
- 8. Proposal – Reinforce the healthcare system .....
- 9. Proposal – A broader understanding of Health .....
- 10. Proposal – Equal access to health for all.....

VI. DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION .....

- 31. Proposal - Access to digital infrastructure.....
- 33.. Proposal - Safe and trustworthy digital society – cyber security and disinformation....
- 34. Proposal - Safe and trustworthy digital society – data protection.....
- 35. Proposal - Digital innovation to strengthen the social and sustainable economy.....

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**31. Proposal - Access to digital infrastructure<sup>89</sup>**

**Objective:** Equal access to the internet is a fundamental right of every European citizen. We propose that everyone in Europe should in practice have access to the internet and to digital services, and that the sovereignty of the EU's digital infrastructure is enhanced through:

**32. Proposal - Digital literacy and skills that empower people<sup>91</sup>**

**Objective:** We propose that the EU ensures that all European citizens can benefit from digitalisation, by empowering them with the necessary digital skills and opportunities, through:

**33. Proposal - Safe and trustworthy digital society – cyber security and disinformation<sup>92</sup>**

**Objective:** We propose that in order to have a safe, resilient and trustworthy digital society the EU should ensure effective and swift implementation of existing legislation and have more powers to enhance cyber security, deal with illegal content and cyber criminality, counter and recover from cyber threats from non-state actors and authoritarian states, and address disinformation through:

**34. Proposal - Safe and trustworthy digital society – data protection<sup>93</sup>**

**Objective:** : We promote data sovereignty of individuals, better awareness and more efficient implementation and enforcement of existing data protection rules (GDPR) to enhance personal control of own data and limit misuse of data through:

**35. Proposal - Digital innovation to strengthen the social and sustainable economy<sup>94</sup>**

**Objective:** We propose that the EU promotes digitalisation measures which strengthen the economy and the single market in a fair and sustainable way, increase European competitiveness in technology and innovation, enhance the digital single market for companies of all sizes and make Europe a world leader in digital transformation and in human centric digitalisation, through:

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## 7. Proposal - Healthy food and healthy lifestyle<sup>1</sup>

**Objective:** Ensure that all Europeans have access to education on healthy food and access to healthy and affordable food, as a building block of a healthy lifestyle, in particular by:

## 8. Proposal – Reinforce the healthcare system<sup>3</sup>

**Objective:** Reinforce the resilience and quality of our healthcare systems, in particular through:

## 9. Proposal – A broader understanding of Health<sup>5</sup>

**Objective:** Adopt a holistic approach to health, addressing, beyond diseases and cures, health literacy and prevention, and fostering a shared understanding of the challenges faced by those who are ill or disabled, in line with the "One Health Approach", which should be emphasized as a horizontal and fundamental principle encompassing all EU policies.

## 10. Proposal – Equal access to health for all<sup>6</sup>

**Objective:** Establish a "right to health" by guaranteeing all Europeans have equal and universal access to affordable, preventive, curative and quality health care:

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## 26. Proposal: Data Protection<sup>51</sup>

**Objective:** Guarantee a more protective and citizen-oriented data treatment policy, in particular by:

Measures:

1. Implementing in full the existing data privacy legislation and reviewing it to evaluate, if necessary, the establishment of stronger enforcement mechanisms for entities processing personal data, currently under competence of independent national data protection authorities respecting the principle of subsidiarity. Such entities should be sanctioned in a stricter way than in the current implementation of the regulation, in proportion to their annual turnover (up to 4%), also possibly through a ban on their activities, and be subject to annual independent audit;<sup>52 53</sup>
2. Giving more effect to the principle of privacy by design and default, e.g. by evaluating and introducing easily understandable, concise and user-friendly harmonised data processing consent forms that clearly indicate what is necessary and what not. Users must be able to give or withdraw their consent to data processing in an easy, fast and permanent manner;<sup>54 55</sup>
3. Evaluating and introducing clearer and more protective rules about the processing of minors' data, possibly in the EU GDPR, including through the creation of a special category for sensitive minors' data and the harmonization of age consent threshold within the EU Member States. While the bulk of privacy rules implementation and awareness raising should remain within Member States' remit, including through higher investment and further resources at national level, the EU should also have stronger role e.g. by creating EU competences on civic education concerning data protection;<sup>56</sup>
4. Better enforcing eligibility criteria for the European and national Data Protection Authorities, in terms of qualifications and suitability, to ensure the highest level of independence of their members.<sup>57 58</sup>

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### 31. Proposal: Access to digital infrastructure<sup>85</sup>

Objective: Equal access to the internet is a fundamental right of every European citizen. We propose that everyone in Europe should in practice have access to the internet and to digital services, and that the sovereignty of the EU's digital infrastructure is enhanced through:

### 32. Proposal: Digital literacy and skills that empower people<sup>87</sup>

Objective: We propose that the EU ensures that all European citizens can benefit from digitalisation, by empowering them with the necessary digital skills and opportunities, through:

### 33. Proposal: Safe and trustworthy digital society – cyber security and disinformation<sup>88</sup>

Objective: We propose that in order to have a safe, resilient and trustworthy digital society the EU should ensure effective and swift implementation of existing legislation and have more powers to enhance cyber security, deal with illegal content and cyber criminality, counter and recover from cyber threats from non-state actors and authoritarian states, and address disinformation through:

### 34. Proposal: Safe and trustworthy digital society – data protection<sup>89</sup>

Objective: We promote data sovereignty of individuals, better awareness and more efficient implementation and enforcement of existing data protection rules (GDPR) to enhance personal control of own data and limit misuse of data through:

### 35. Proposal: Digital innovation to strengthen the social and sustainable economy<sup>90</sup>

Objective: We propose that the EU promotes digitalisation measures which strengthen the economy and the single market in a fair and sustainable way, increase European competitiveness in technology and innovation, enhance the digital single market for companies of all sizes and make Europe a world leader in digital transformation and in human centric digitalisation, through:

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We all came a long way and now that our work in the Plenary is done, we can be proud of it. We see 8 cross-cutting topics that give a clear and strong mandate for the Future of Europe.

**First**, a European Union based on solidarity, social justice and equality. Indeed, a great concern for the citizens is to find equal conditions and rights in different areas: healthcare, social services, education and life-long learning, equal opportunities for inhabitants of rural and urban areas, to take account of demographic considerations. In the future, Europeans, across Member States and regions, should no longer face discrimination due to their age, residency, nationality, gender, religion, or political preferences. They should be offered decent living standards, wages and working conditions. The EU needs to be more than an economic union. Member States need to show more solidarity towards one another. We are a family and should behave as such in situations of crisis.

**Second**, the EU needs to be bold and act fast to become an environment and climate leader, by making the transition to green energy faster, improving its railway network, encourage sustainable transport and a truly circular economy. There is no time to lose. The EU needs to lead the change in many policy areas: agriculture, biodiversity, economy, energy, transport, education, health, digital transformation and climate diplomacy. We have research capacities, economic strength and geopolitical leverage to do it. If we make climate a priority, we can look forward to a prosperous future.

**Fourth**, the EU needs more harmonisation in some fields, and to grow closer together as a Union. War is knocking on our Eastern doors, and this calls on us to be more unified than ever, and to grant the EU more competence on foreign affairs. This Conference can be the foundation for the creation of a more united and politically cohesive Europe. It all boils down to this word: Union. We cannot describe ourselves as such if we do not achieve the collaboration that this Conference exemplified.

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**Fifth**, the EU needs to grow in autonomy and secure its global competitiveness. Throughout this process, we talked about reaching this goal in key strategic sectors: agriculture, energy, industry, health. We need to avoid being dependent on third countries for many sensitive products. We need to bet on the talent of our labour force, prevent brain drain and provide training in the right skills to citizens at all stages of their lives, and no matter where they live in the EU. We cannot have huge disparities within the EU and young people with no prospect in one country, forced to move to another.

**Seventh**, in the Future, citizens should feel more European and know more about the EU. This was a transversal issue that underpinned the work of all panels. Digital transformation, education, mobility, and exchanges can give substance to this European identity, which complements, without challenging, our national identities. Many of us did not feel European before this Conference: it emerged here, slowly, by exchanging with one another. We were lucky to have this opportunity, but many do not. Therefore information, communication and awareness raising are so important.

Finally, an **eighth** cross-cutting topic that is extremely important for us is education and the empowerment of citizens overall. For this Conference, you decided to invite citizens as young as 16. We are grateful because, more than ever, it is necessary to empower young people. The high youth abstention rate shows us that the link between youth and politics needs to be reunited. Empower them economically and socially too: it is still too hard to enter the job market, to claim their social rights. During the - Covid-19 pandemic, they felt abandoned and many still suffer the consequences on their mental health. But all Europeans need to be empowered, not only young people: through mobility programmes and life-long learning, we need to open the horizons of all Europeans. We need also to educate citizens in democracy, civic participation and media literacy. We need a truly holistic approach.

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**MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION  
on proposals of the European Parliament for the amendment of the Treaties  
(2022/2051(INL))**

- B. whereas amending the Treaties is necessary, not as an end in itself, but in the interest of all Union citizens, as these amendments aim to reshape the Union in a way that will enhance its capacity to act, as well as its democratic legitimacy and accountability;
- C. whereas amending the Treaties should enable the Union to more effectively tackle geopolitical challenges;
- E. whereas on 9 May 2022 the Conference on the Future of Europe finished its work and presented its conclusions; whereas those conclusions contain 49 proposals and 326 measures, many of which are only possible to implement if there are changes to the Treaties;
13. Proposes to establish shared competences on public health matters and the protection and improvement of human health, especially cross-border health threats, civil protection, industry, and education especially when transnational issues such as mutual recognition of degrees, grades, competences and qualifications are concerned;
14. Proposes to further develop Union shared competences in the areas of energy, foreign affairs, external security and defence, external border policy in the area of freedom, security and justice, and cross-border-infrastructure;

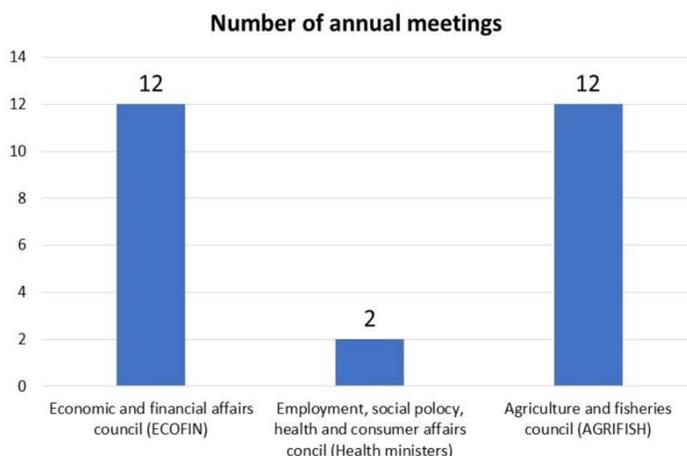
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## European Treaties are very weak on health

- Health is not on the Preamble of the TEU.
- The aim and all main objectives of the EU are enforced by Article 3 of the TEU. Health is not part of Article 3 of the TEU.
- Following the logic of the TEU, the TFEU is prioritizing the articles devoted to the development of internal market against the articles dealing with other activities of the EU.
- Development of health is considered necessary to the Union in so far as it serves better functioning of the internal market. Current Health Union related initiatives are not talking about health as a specific objective of the EU. The talk is about a well-functioning internal market.

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## Health is marginal issue in the European semester



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## The European Treaty

**Health Union is not an aim of the Treaty, but only ancillary issue.**

**The EU has the powers that its founding Member States allocate to it – and no more.** Its named as an enumerated powers of the EU.

Public health article in the Treaty by contrast emphasizes limited EU actions.

The EU **can only support, coordinate and supplement MS actions** in health if MS express the willingness in public health domain. Health care and cure is sovereign competence of MS. It is no longer good enough.

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## Europe needs more shared competences and more cooperation for health

- **Proper management of pandemics is unthinkable within national borders.** Public procurement of vaccines as common public goods is impossible **without stronger role of the EC.**
- Fight against cancer is impossible **without pan-European solutions.**
- European patients need the development of pan-European standards of quality of care and cure.
- The Member States need stronger cooperation to tackle national failures in dealing with labour migration and risk management.
- Rare diseases are affecting up to 30 million Europeans. Without well-functioning pan-European infrastructure it is mission impossible to deliver on the pledge to leave no one affected by rare diseases behind. In area of rare disease no one country can deliver proper treatment at its level. Subsidiarity principle doesn't work in this situation.
- **European health science and health industry has no chance to compete with the US and China without proper support of fundamental research and an opportunity to count on a region with 450 million population.** Big data in health require big actors, and only European Health Data Space can help to solve problems related to personal treatment of rare cancers or rare diseases.

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**A European Health Union:  
A Blueprint for Generations.**

Why doesn't a European Health Union exist yet?

As the global health crises put the world to a halt, European citizens might question the lack of advancement of official European cooperation on health policy. Indeed, neither the overall objectives and goals of reformed European health policy, nor the actions and instruments, are yet to be agreed upon, and opinions regarding the future of the EHU are far from unanimous.

With this compilation of essays from world-renowned experts, we first explore the origins and legal background of the concept of a European Health Union. Then, we recognise that there has been development and a strengthening of relations between European members, carried out by progressive decision-makers, and look into the strong backing of citizens for investment in health at a European level. Finally, as the path towards a Union will be challenging, we look into the most promising avenues of cooperation for the health and well-being of European citizens.

This book delves into the connections with other European policies, explores the potential institutional and treaty changes, and, discerns what the most urgent steps are on the road towards an inclusive and social EHU. Extend your perspective beyond the context of preparedness and crisis management and discover what a progressive European Health Union could mean for generations to come.

Issam Alsamara, Vytenis Andriukaitis, Richard Bergstrom, Helmut Brand, Gediminas Černiauskas, Thibaud Deruelle, Corinne Hinlopen, Ilona Kickbusch, Mihály Kökény, Dominique Polton, Maurizio Scarpa, Markus Schneider, Annette Schrauven and Birutė Tumienė

**A European Health Union:  
A Blueprint for Generations.**



A EUROPEAN HEALTH UNION: A BLUEPRINT FOR GENERATIONS

FEPS  
FEDERATION FOR EUROPEAN  
PROGRESSIVE EXPERTS



EHU  
EUROPEAN HEALTH UNION





Edited by:  
Vytenis Povilas Andriukaitis  
and Gediminas Černiauskas

ISBN

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## Health is an integral part of European transformation

Developments in human health are critical for employment, industrial, social policies.

As it was indicated in the recently published book **“A European Health Union: A Blueprint for Generations”**, edited by Vytenis Povilas Andriukaitis and Gediminas Černiauskas, the notion of a European Health Union is a part of the European Economic and Social Model for Ecological, Digital and Post-Covid Challengers. Health also is an indispensable element of EU external Action.

If Europe will deliver on the promise to develop a genuine European Health Union, we will see more saved lives, more solidarity, higher level of competitiveness of Europe, but, of course, these results will not come without a struggle.

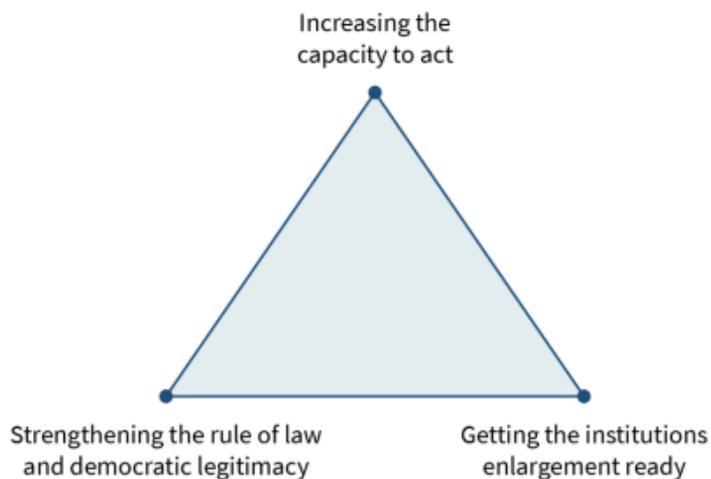
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## We need to elaborate a concept of an EU Health Union going beyond a narrow proposal focused on crisis preparedness and response

- Strengthen the role of health policy in the European Treaties. The objectives to keep in mind are more proactive and preventive health, **more solidarity in public health shifting paradigm towards solidarity based governance and instruments.**
- **For safeguarding the EU solidarity the European Treaties should be upgraded by including public health into a domain of shared competencies.**
- The challenge is not to make the EU responsible for all matters in health, that would be a great mistake. We need the EU to share some responsibilities in public health and in the areas of rare cancers and rare diseases while preserving subsidiarity as a core principle.

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### The triangle of aims for EU institutional reform



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## A EHU is not about limiting, but about strengthening powers of:

1. Member States through more effective co-operation at intergovernmental level.
2. European Commission through more effective co-ordinated and integrated response.
3. European Parliament through more effective representation of people concerns in public health.
4. National Parliaments through more effective control of principles of subsidiarity and proportionality in public health.

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## Pan European cooperation can create added value in Pan European goods in health

Public goods in both humane and public health have local, regional, national, and the EU dimensions.

Most actions in health are require involvement of governance on national level. The EU should take decisions and action when the objective of an action cannot be sufficiently achieved by the MS, but can be better achieved at EU level, by reason of the scale and effects of the proposed action have.

The MS and the EU have stakes in development of European and global public goods in health.

**Shared competences between EU and MS are providing an opportunity to enhance health of Europeans by targeting policies MS are failing to perform alone.**

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## Health is a multidimensional issue with different actors best suited to play different roles. Pan European cooperation based on shared competences has its roles

- The evidence already generated by the European Reference Networks (ERNs) for rare diseases shows that pan European cooperation can achieve much better results if it would be strengthened by shared solidarity instruments for more than 30 million EU residents suffering from rare diseases and rare cancers. Most of the EU Member States are simply too small to develop needed infrastructure.
- Markets are not fit to produce orphan drugs without public support. Because so few individuals are affected by any one rare disease or condition, a pharmaceutical company which develops an orphan drug may reasonably expect the drug to generate relatively small sales in comparison to the cost of developing the drug and consequently to incur a financial loss. **Successful strategic purchasing of COVID-19 vaccines is an indication that the EU has a role in mass production of vital medical goods. Economy of scale in public procurement can allow the MS and EU to pull and share financial resources and guaranty much equal access to treatment of rare diseases.**
- Pan –European cooperation in training and retention of healthcare labor force is needed for preventing “medical deserts” created by short-term policies of “brain drain”.

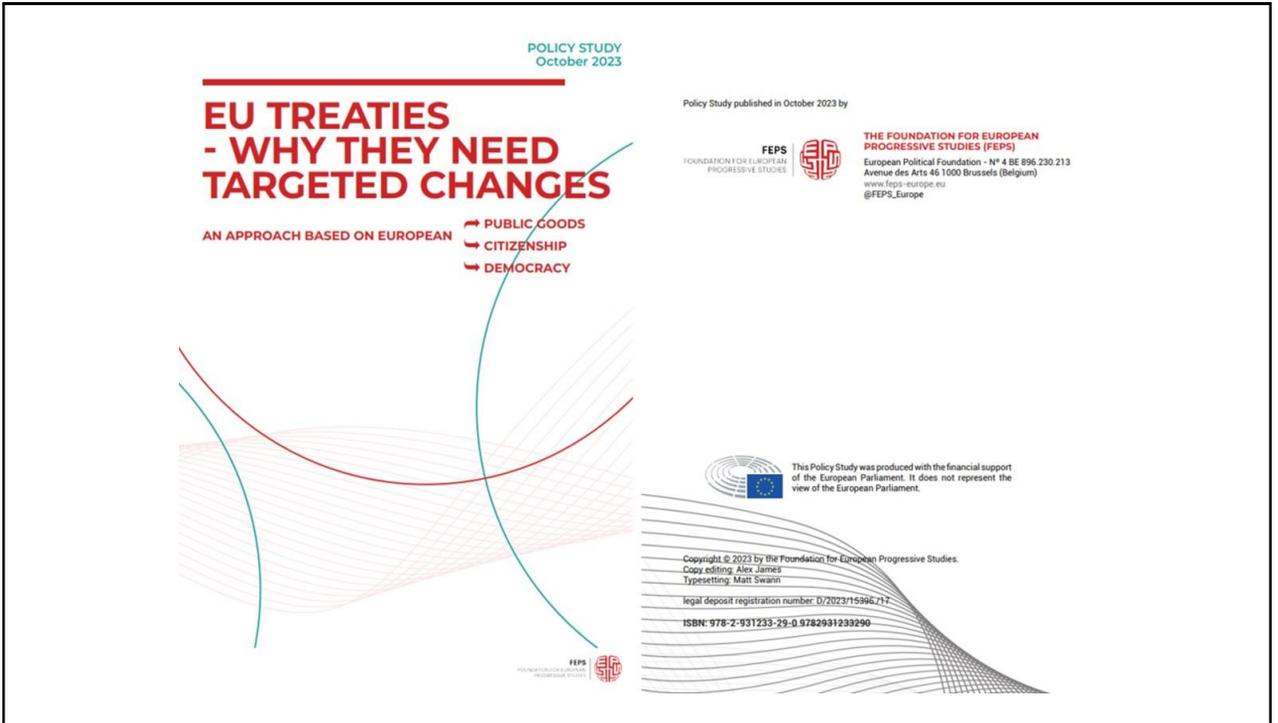
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## How to act if we agree that Europe is not just the market place?

- **Health should appear on the Preamble of the Treaty on EU in parallel to internal market and an economic and monetary union.** Let us insert into paragraph 10 of the Preamble words “health” and “social”.
- **Let us amend part 3 of Article 3 of the TEU:** Let us insert into article 3 part 3 “human health”.
- And then let us amend part 2 of Article 4 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU by explicitly indicating **shared competence between the EU and MS establishing European Health Union.** And to adjust article 6 of the TFEU.
- **Article 168 of the TFEU** should be well tuned according to the above mentioned amendments.

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This Report on “EU treaties – why they need targeted changes” is organised in three major parts:

Part 1: focusing on the **key challenges** ahead and making the case for **new European public goods** and the way to deliver in security, external action, climate change, digital transformation, education, social cohesion, gender equality and health;

Part 2: developing the **means to deliver** these European public goods: citizenship, democracy but also economic governance;

Part 3: **how far are treaty changes needed?** Let us be precise and identify what can be done with the current EU treaties and what cannot be done. Detailed proposals are made all over the Report and a summary is presented in the final chapter. The possible methods to change the EU treaties are then identified.

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In the report, **five major reasons are identified to justify targeted treaty changes:**

- More security and strategic autonomy regarding **peace, energy, food, critical materials and digital transformation**
- Stronger European drive to conduct the **green transition and the digital transformation** while tackling new social inequalities
- A larger scale investment capacity at the EU and national levels backed by sources of taxation
- A more attractive **EU democracy** in its representative and participatory components based on European citizenship
- Enlargement** as a new geo-political imperative

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**First of all**, there is the democratic imperative: the experience of the Conference on the Future of Europe and the „WeEuropeans“ consultation carried out in the run-up to the 2019 European elections have shown that European citizens have a powerful desire to contribute directly to the future of the European project. Europeans, who for centuries have been at the forefront of democratic innovation, must integrate this participatory dimension into their local, national and European institutions, otherwise there is a risk that democratic dissonance will increase.

**The second imperative is the need to produce common goods that no Member State is capable of producing individually.**

Study after study has shown that the citizens of the Union want a Europe that does more than just produce rules; **they want a Europe that is capable of taking action not just on security and defence, but also on sustainable development, digital transformation, the fight against pandemics and, more generally, health and solidarity... all subjects that today go beyond the borders of the European Union. These are all issues that today go well beyond the national framework and call for massive European action that is not limited to regulation, but requires a capacity for implementation on the part of the European Union that is not currently part of the DNA of the European project. This enforcement capacity is not provided for in the Treaties.** While the Commission was able, during the Covid crisis or the war in Ukraine, to help produce common goods such as vaccines for half a billion Europeans, this was an exception that was only made possible by the exceptional gravity of the situation and which required extremely complex and laborious institutional engineering and put great pressure on European and national administrations, which found themselves in permanent danger of overheating.

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**The third imperative is technological acceleration. The current technological revolution that will shape the coming century is based on both the platformisation of our economies and the rise of artificial intelligence. In both cases, the advantage goes to powers with a vast, standardised domestic market, a powerful army and defence industry, and a powerful, continental investment capacity.** Today, democratic sovereignty and strategic autonomy depend essentially on the ability to have its own sovereign infrastructures, which in particular determine the ability to protect the data of our fellow citizens and our businesses. **Today, only the United States, China and India are in this situation, not the European Union,** due to the lack of a genuine technological market and insufficient investment in technological infrastructures, particularly in the cloud.

**The final imperative is a geopolitical one, which justifies the need to enlarge the European Union to include European states that share our values and our commitment to the rule of law. At the Granada Summit in October, the Heads of State and Government made this explicit for the first time: "Enlargement is a geopolitical investment in peace, security and prosperity (...) At the same time, the Union must lay the foundations for the necessary internal reforms".**

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**A2. The second reform of the European architecture concerns the need to strengthen the EU's capacity to act regarding:**

- **the foreign, security and defence policies**, which will require much closer cooperation among EU member states. **The veto power of individual countries in foreign affairs should be removed and super-qualified majority** should become the decision-making rule in this domain. The objectives of EU external action should be updated to fit a new and highly competitive international context. The implementation of the principles of solidarity and loyal cooperation by member states in CFSP should be more closely monitored. In the defence domain, much closer coordination of military spending should be achieved, and much stronger integrated operational capabilities established, alongside greater incentives for joint investment and joint action;
- **the ecological transition**, which will require a general EU coordination of major changes in a large range of sectors (from agriculture and industry to transport, housing, and energy), all of which count on Trans-European Networks (TENs) and production chains. Furthermore, as the current war in Ukraine demonstrates, moving towards a **European Energy Union** is also a matter of urgency to ensure stronger security and autonomy;
- **the digital transition**, which will require not only swift regulation of the European markets according to European values, but also determined action to develop European capacities in many new areas (from broadband and skills to semi-conductors, computing, cloud services, search engines and artificial intelligence). It is important to underline that the **current Lisbon Treaty does not reflect the digital age** and that there is not a single reference even to the word *digital*. The digital dimension must therefore urgently be mainstreamed and enshrined in a new chapter in the EU treaties;
- **the social dimension of the European integration, which has moved to another stage with the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR)**. This progress should be better reflected in the main body of EU treaties, including the introduction of a Social Protocol. In the previous stage, this social dimension was based on labour regulations of the common market plus a softer coordination of employment policies and an even softer coordination on education, social protection, and social exclusion; the main reference groups were workers and European citizens moving in the single market. **In this new stage, all European citizens and all these policies are included in the European Social Pillar.**

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## C. This report is proposing a short list of essential treaty changes.

### Energy security

- Add to the objectives: advancing the Union's strategic autonomy.
- This aspect would be an exclusive competence of the Union.
- Generalisation of the ordinary legislative procedure.

### Single market regulation and competition policy

- Exclusive competence to establish the rules necessary for the regulation of the single market, including competition rules.

### Financial stability

- New area of competence exclusive or shared.
- Ordinary legislative procedure.

### Public health

- Shared competence with a reservation of national competence for the definition of their health policy and the organisation and delivery of health services and medical care.
- Ordinary legislative procedure.

### Digital policies and cybersecurity

- New shared competence.
- Include among the objectives: advancing the Union's strategic autonomy.
- This aspect would be an exclusive competence of the Union.
- Ordinary legislative procedure.

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# How to leverage digital transformation to build up new European public goods?

## 1. Regulation of the digital sphere as a first but insufficient approach to provide public goods

As sustainable and social issues are henceforth at the centre of all European policies, digital transformation is both a transversal challenge concerning nearly all European policies. But contrary to the two previous topics, there is no legal basis in the Lisbon Treaty and the previous treaties concerning the digital transformation. Digital was consequently ignored. There is consequently a need to update the treaty.

Up to now, the European institutions have mainly focused their efforts in regulating the digital sphere rather than reflecting on how to leverage the potentialities offered by the digital technologies to provide public goods. The legal basis was limited: it was mainly the part of the treaty related to the internal market.

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## 2. The specificities of digital pleads for developing a specific chapter on it in a potential new treaty

The specificity with digital transformation is that in most cases the traditional geographic frontiers don't make sense.

In addition, three remarkable considerations need to be pointed out.

- First, digital transformation concerns all the activities of our societies which can be transformed in depth by the digital evolution.
- Second, there is a need of a critical mass of data and size to fully leverage the potential of digital technologies and artificial intelligence more specifically.
- Third, their implementation can be significantly different according to the *civilisational* priorities: for instance, China prioritises the digital transformation to develop a society of surveillance, the United States favours the maximisation of economic value and extra-territorial influence. The EU and its member states tend to prioritise the human centric dimension. In other words, to which extent the potential of digital can serve European societies, European values and more generally the dignity of the body, its freedom and the idea of equality?

**These different considerations plead to develop a new chapter in an updated European Treaty.**

**Digital should be recognised as a shared competency between the EU and the member states. Due to the fact that it concerns potentially all the dimensions of the social, political and economic life, the possibility of *Passerelle clauses* need to be considered for Digital. Besides, the external dimension of digital policies poses also the question of qualified majority for the external policy of the European Union as far as the digital dimension is concerned.**

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## 4. A yet rich toolbox to be implemented

As far as the digital transformation is concerned, the toolbox to implement it is very rich. It includes:

- General principles such as AI ethics principles;
- Regulatory instruments: regulation, directive, recommendation;
- Funding instruments: DIGITALEUROPE, structural funds, R&D funds;
- Provision of services of public interest concerning different topics such as the digital passport in the health field, support to develop skills in the education field, support to digital production in the cultural and media field;
- Industrial strategies.

**This toolbox could be reinforced with the possibility to develop joint public procurement for digital services at least for EU and member state administrations but also for organisations, be it public or private, with public service missions such as public service media, health organisations. This is particularly important for high quality content distribution infrastructure, cyber security infrastructure and services, digital health services in the field of diagnostics or human virtual twin, digital multilingual democratic infrastructures.**

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## What are benefits provided by a EHU to general public?

The explicit stance for universal health coverage and EHU is needed for health but not limited by health matters:

- EU citizens expect more than just deliverables related to contemporary two main pillars - **single market** or **economic and monetary union**.
- Europeans are looking for the new stage of development of the EU. Based on humanist inheritance of Europe, on the values, on respect for human dignity
- it is time to include a new pillar – **Digital, Health and Well-being Union**.

Some of us would prefer slow development, but without being ambitious there is a risk to miss a window of opportunity for the European Union evolving beyond internal market, beyond a traditional paradigm which does not fit the realities of the 21st century

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# THANK YOU

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