POLICY IN ACTION

European Union Accelerates Economic Recovery and Digitalisation

Market context

In 2018, the European Union determined that ambitious funding and investment were needed to increase the EU's international competitiveness and to develop and reinforce Europe's strategic digital capacities. Covid-19 further highlighted not only the reliance of EU businesses, citizens and public administrations on technology, but also the importance of digital technology to European strategic autonomy.

Policy or regulatory action

Established in 2021 with a planned budget of €7.5 billion, the Digital Europe Programme is focused on bringing digital technology to businesses, citizens and public administrations by funding projects in supercomputing, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and advanced digital skills to ensure the wide use of digital technologies across the economy and society. The programme complements the funding available through other EU programmes, such as the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) for digital infrastructure and the recovery funds provided to EU Member States.

Why this is good practice

The programme is designed to bridge the gap between the research of digital technologies and their deployment, helping to ensure that the EU is fit for future challenges.

It is one of the key tools to make sure that the digital sector propels the post-pandemic recovery in the EU.