

España | digital ²⁰₂₆

Executive Summary

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España | digital ²⁰₂₆ 



Digitalization has exponentially accelerated as a consequence of the pandemic

The digitalization process is undoubtedly one of the main pillars of technological innovation, business development, economic modernization, and social progress. In fact, the integration of new digital technologies in the different economic sectors, accelerated through the COVID-19 pandemic, is transforming the foundations of the global economic structure with significant geopolitical, economic and social implications.

Digitalization has exponentially accelerated as a consequence of the pandemic, leading to profound changes in business operations, labour relations, global balances and political systems, as well as the security and stability of our societies. Its effects have also been felt at an individual level, as the present and future of employment, commerce, relationships, training, personal health, and even leisure are and will be increasingly digital.

This intense technological change represents a major challenge, but also an opportunity for our country, which needs to be addressed using a strategic guidance in order to achieve an orderly transition process that reduces the associated risks and ensures that changes have a positive and lasting economic and social impact.

Spain is starting out from a good position in this digitalization process. We have excellent communication infrastructures, a digitalized public administration and large companies that are leaders in their sectors, with strong leverage on the productive structure. We have favorable regulations for foreign investment, a market with legal certainty and a broad system of incentives for research and development, knowledge transfer, and job creation. We also have extraordinary professionals in the information and communications technology (ICT) sector, an abundance of creative talent, an active start-up ecosystem, and an open, flexible, and dynamic society, with an appealing living environment for teleworking.

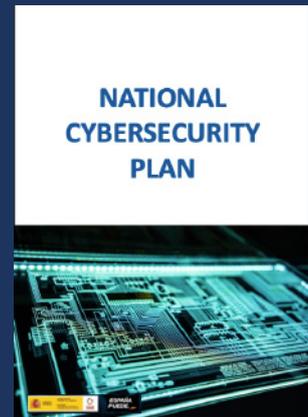
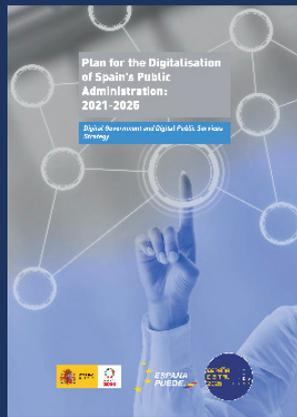
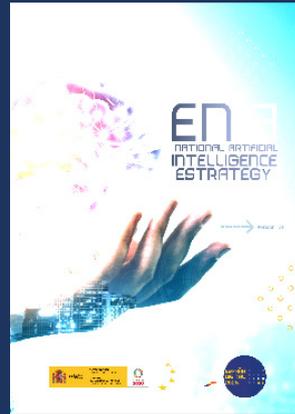
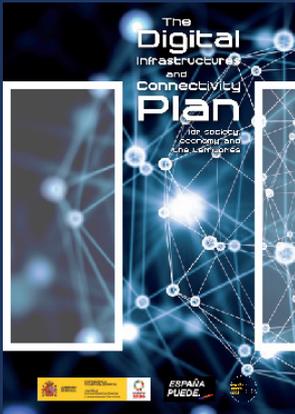


In order to respond to this unprecedented challenge, in July 2020 the Spanish Government launched the Digital Spain agenda as a roadmap for the country's digitalization process. This agenda was conceived as a strategic pillar for the recovery from the pandemic crisis, as well as a vector of modernization and prosperity in the medium term, acting on the triple dimension of: (i) infrastructure and technology, (ii) economy, and (iii) people.

In order to channel the digitalization process, eight specific digital plans have been adopted: (i) The Digital Infrastructures and Connectivity Plan for society, economy and territories, (ii) Strategy for the promotion of 5G Technology, (iii) ENIA, National Artificial Intelligence Strategy, (iv) National Plan for Digital Skills, (v) SME Digitalization Plan,

(vi) Public Administration Digitalization Plan, (vii) Spain Audiovisual Hub of Europe, (viii) National Cybersecurity Plan.

The digitalization process includes an ambitious agenda of structural reforms, which aims to update the regulatory environment and adapt it to new technologies. These reforms affect the modernization and digitalization of the Administration, the improvement of the business environment –with the Create and Grow Law and insolvency reform, in addition to the Start-Up Law, the telecommunications regulatory framework with the new Telecommunications Law and the 5G Cybersecurity Law, and the audiovisual sector with the new Audiovisual Communication Law.



The digitalization plan includes an ambitious reform agenda



All these reforms are steered by the Charter of Digital Rights, as a reference to ensure that digital environments are governed by constitutional values and respect fundamental rights. Spain has led this debate, actively contributing to the codification process in Europe and globally.

The twin green and digital transitions represent an extraordinary opportunity for the Spanish economy and society, and a major challenge in the public and private spheres. On the one hand, new technologies have an unprecedented potential for new sectors, services and industrial ecosystems, creating quality employment, increasing productivity and enabling access to public services. New technologies also drive internationalization of companies and contribute to

achieve a more sustainable and inclusive economic growth model that reaches all citizens throughout the country.

On the other hand, they require huge investments to modernize production processes and personalize relationships with customers, suppliers and citizens, to introduce disruptive technologies in SMEs and public administrations, and to ensure a secure and humanist digitalization process that respects democratic rights and values.

The Digital Spain agenda in the Recovery Plan



The Digital Spain agenda is, together with the green transition strategy, one of the pillars of Spain's Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan (hereinafter the Recovery Plan), with a first phase of public investment in digitalization of EUR 20 billion, and 2023 or 2025 horizon, depending on the projects. This represents approximately 30% of the investments of the Recovery Plan, an unprecedented volume of resources to invest in digitalization with a scope and magnitude that will allow for a truly transformative impact.

The digital and green transitions reinforce each other. A significant part of the actions to drive the green transition is based on the use of digital technologies, whose contribution to the reduction of emissions or rolling out the circular economy, as well as in other areas of the green transition, will be key. At the same time, measures included in Digital Spain respect the principle of not causing significant harm to the environment which, together with the climate/environmental tagging, ensures that digitalization progresses in a sustainable manner.

The State's investment in the 2021-2022 period to roll out Digital Spain will multiply the investment in digitalization in the 2019-2020 period by almost nine times, driving a true technological leap with a medium-term impact.



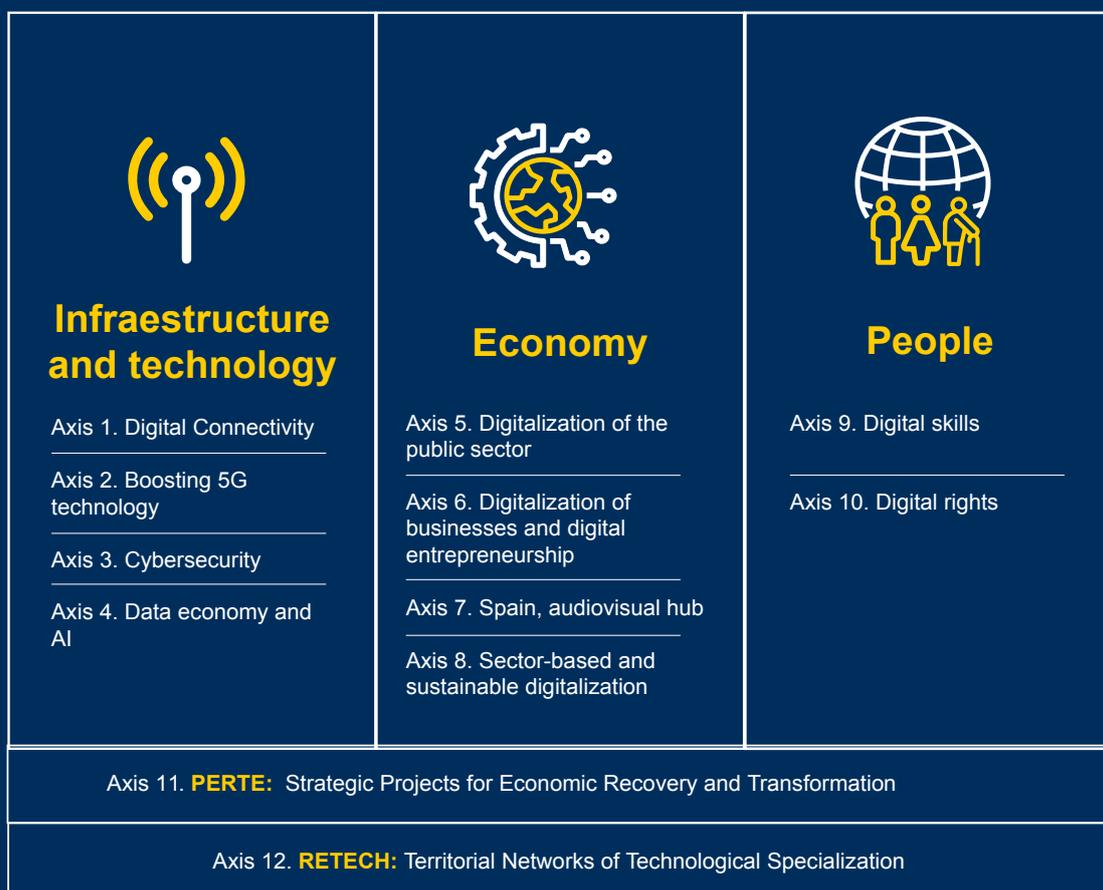
The budget for digitalization of public administrations is now twenty times larger, while the funds dedicated to digitalization of SMEs and the strengthening of digital skills have increased fourteenfold; finally, the budget allocated to boosting connectivity, cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence and data is three times higher than in the previous exercise. This is enhanced by the amounts allocated to promote 5G and the audiovisual sector, which were not contemplated in the 2019-2020 budgets.

The adoption in July 2021 of the Recovery Plan by the European institutions has provided a definitive boost to the digital agenda, thanks to the significant financial stimulus of Next Generation EU European funds for modernization of the productive structure, creation of quality employment, and increased productivity.

The Digital Spain agenda is the roadmap for the country's digitalization, an ambitious strategy to take advantage of the benefits of new technologies and achieve a stronger and more sustained economic

growth, with quality employment and higher productivity, that contributes to social and territorial cohesion and drives prosperity for all citizens. This agenda constitutes the digitalization axis of Spain's Recovery Plan, that mobilize Next Generation EU funds and articulates the national contribution to the 2030 Digital Compass and EU's Digital Decade policy programme. It is an ambitious and consistent strategy that operates across three dimensions:

- **Infrastructure and technology**, boosting connectivity, 5G, cybersecurity, AI and other disruptive technologies.
- **Economy**, driving digitalization of SMEs and public administrations, digital entrepreneurship, integration of technology in industrial value chains and in the audiovisual sector.
- **People**, promoting the acquisition of digital skills to secure the access to the jobs of the future and the digital inclusion of all citizens, and ensuring the protection of individual rights in the digital environment.



The agenda maintains the ten strategic axes of its initial version, adding two new cross-cutting axes to promote high-impact strategic projects through public-private collaboration and joint governance of the Nation and Autonomous Regions.

During 2021 and the first half of 2022 there has been a significant boost to investments in the Recovery Plan in the digital area. With the Next Generation EU European funds, the main investment programmes managed by the central government have been kickstarted, ranging from connectivity to R&D, through digitalization of the administration and SMEs.

There has also been a significant transfer of European funds to the Autonomous Regions and Municipalities for the digitalization of the public sector and the promotion of citizens' digital skills. Two important strategic projects have been launched to boost the semiconductor industry (PERTE_Chip) and to fully exploit the potential of our languages in the new digital economy of knowledge (PERTE _Lengua).



	<i>Budget (€M)</i>
>>>> Digital Infrastructures and Connectivity Plan	1.960
>>>> Strategy for the promotion of 5G Technology	1.514
>>>> National Cybersecurity Plan	1.000
>>>> National Artificial Intelligence Strategy	600
>>>> Plan for the Digitalization of Spain's Public Administration	3.165
>>>> SME Digitalization Plan	5.000
>>>> Spain Audiovisual Hub of Europe	1.600
>>>> National Plan for Digital Skills	3.593

Table 1: Sectoral plans to boost digitalization

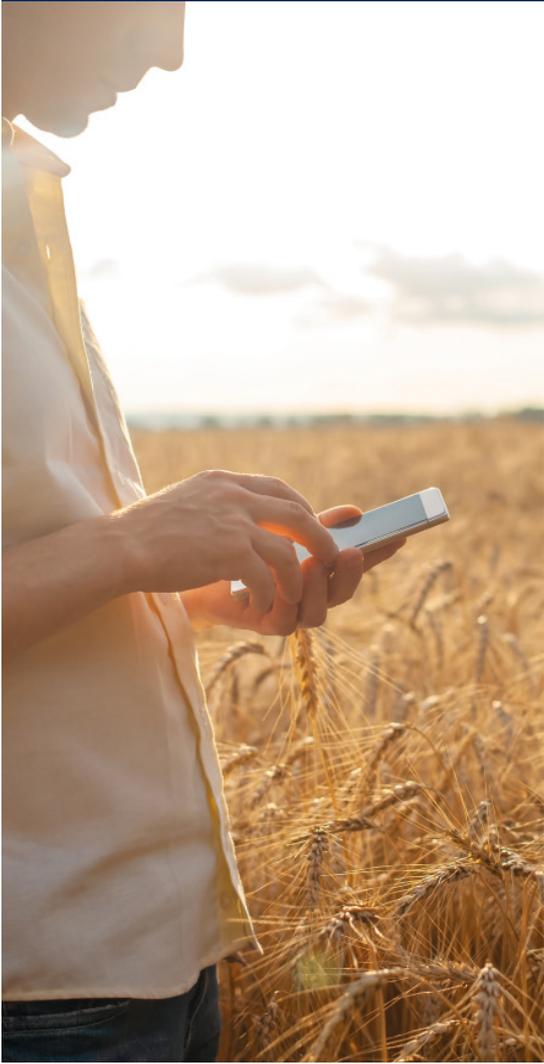


Firstly, the main investment programmes in infrastructure and technology have been launched in order to bring broadband connectivity throughout the territory (UNICO Broadband), to boost R&D in disruptive technologies (AI R&D, missions programme, advanced 5G and 6G R&D programme), and to integrate new technologies into economic sectors (aid for integration of AI into industrial value chains).

Secondly, two programs have been launched to promote the digitalization of the economy, with a special focus on SMEs (Digital Kit programme) and the Administration (creation of a Security Operations Centre – SOC-, digitalization of regional and local administrations, updating of the citizens’ folder and 060 helpline of the central government). In addition, programmes to boost start-ups in disruptive technologies have been launched (such as the ENISA programme to boost female digital entrepreneurship and the Next Tech fund managed by ICO-AXIS), and the inclusion of the digital dimension in all Strategic Projects for Economic Recovery and Transformation (PERTE) of the Recovery Plan, such as the new language economy, the electric and connected vehicle, or for digitalization of the water cycle. Investments have also been launched to boost Spain’s positioning as an audiovisual hub.

Thirdly, funds have been transferred to the Autonomous Regions to improve citizens’ digital skills and to digitalize education and vocational training, and the groundwork has been completed for launching the main programmes at national level during the course of 2022.

100% of the population with broadband coverage in 2025



Axis | 01 Digital Connectivity



>>>> Programme

	>>>> Investment (€)
1. UNICO Broadband 2021 and 2022 calls	€ 500 M
2. Allocation to Autonomous Regions for the UNICO Autonomous Regions Demand programme	€ 360 M
3. Transfer to the Astrophysics Institute of the Canary Islands (IAC) for redundancy of underwater interconnection of the optical network	€ 27,7 M

Axis | 02 Promoting 5G technology



>>>> Programme

	>>>> Investment (€)
1. Advanced 5G & 6G R&D&I 2021 call	€ 95 M
2. UNICO 5G Networks (passive) call in 2022	€ 150 M
3. Transfer to ADIF for implementation of 5G at points on the high-speed railway network	€ 91 M

Axis | 03 Cybersecurity



>>>> Programme

	>>>> Investment (€)
1. Contract awarded for construction and implementation of the Central Government Cybersecurity Operations Centre	€ 46 M

Axis | 04 Data and AI economy



>>>> Programme

	>>>> Investment (€)
1. Call for grants for the R&D in AI Missions Programme 2021	€ 50 M
2. Initial grants for Quantum Spain project	€ 22 M
3. Call for 2021 grants for integration of AI in value chains	€ 105 M

Axis | 05 Digitalization of the public sector



>>>> Programme

	>>>> Investment (€)
1. Contracts awarded between February and December 2021 for the Smart Workstation in Central Government	€ 151 M
2. Contracts awarded between May and December 2021 for expansion and improvement of the Central Government's Private Cloud (SARA cloud)	€ 84 M
3. Territorial distribution of funding for digitalization and modernization of Autonomous Regions	€ 118 M
4. Call for grants for digitalization of Local Authorities	€ 93 M
5. Distribution of funding to Autonomous Regions for Justice 2030 projects	€ 84 M
6. Contracts awarded in December 2021 for the Consular Digitalization Plan	€ 72 M
7. Calls for digitalization of the Smart Tourist Destinations (DTI) programme	€ 11 M

Axis | 06 Digitalization of SMEs and digital entrepreneurship



>>>> Programme

1. First call for **Kit Digital** grants
2. First two participations of **Next Tech** ICO Fund
3. First annual calls for the ACTIVA funding programme
4. First agreement for **ENISA Digital Entrepreneurs** credit line
5. Call for grants for the Support for Innovative Joint Ventures programme
6. Call for grants for “last mile” digitalization projects in tourist sector companies
7. Distribution of funds to Autonomous Regions to boost competitiveness of the commercial sector.

>>>> Investment (€)

€ 500 M
€ 170 M
€ 235 M
€ 17 M
€ 20 M
€ 25 M
€ 50 M

Axis | 07 Spain, Audiovisual Hub



>>>> Programme

1. Transfer to ICEX for actions to promote internationalization of the audiovisual sector, attraction of investment, and creation of the **Spain AVS Bureau**
2. Transfer to RTVE to develop **RTVE Play**
3. Call for grants for audiovisual technology and video gaming R&D Projects
4. Call for grants to support creation of local digital ecosystems

>>>> Investment (€)

€ 20 M
€ 20 M
€ 30 M
€ 24,8 M

Axis | 08 Sector-based and sustainable digitalization



Axis | 09 Digital Skills



>>>> Programme

1. Allocation to Autonomous Regions for the **Education System Digitalization Programme**
2. Allocation to Autonomous Regions for the **Improvement Programme of Educational Digital Skills**
3. Allocation to Autonomous Regions for digital actions under the **Vocational Training Modernization Plan**
4. Allocation to Autonomous Regions for **qualification and requalification activities of the labour force**
5. Allocation to Autonomous Regions for training actions for digital citizenship
6. Awards of grants to universities - **UniDigital Plan**

>>>> Investment (€)

€ 989 M
€ 297 M
€ 135 M
€ 88 M
€ 140 M
€ 77 M

Axis | 10 Digital Rights



>>>> Programme

1. Charter of Digital Rights

Table 2: Primary programmes already underway

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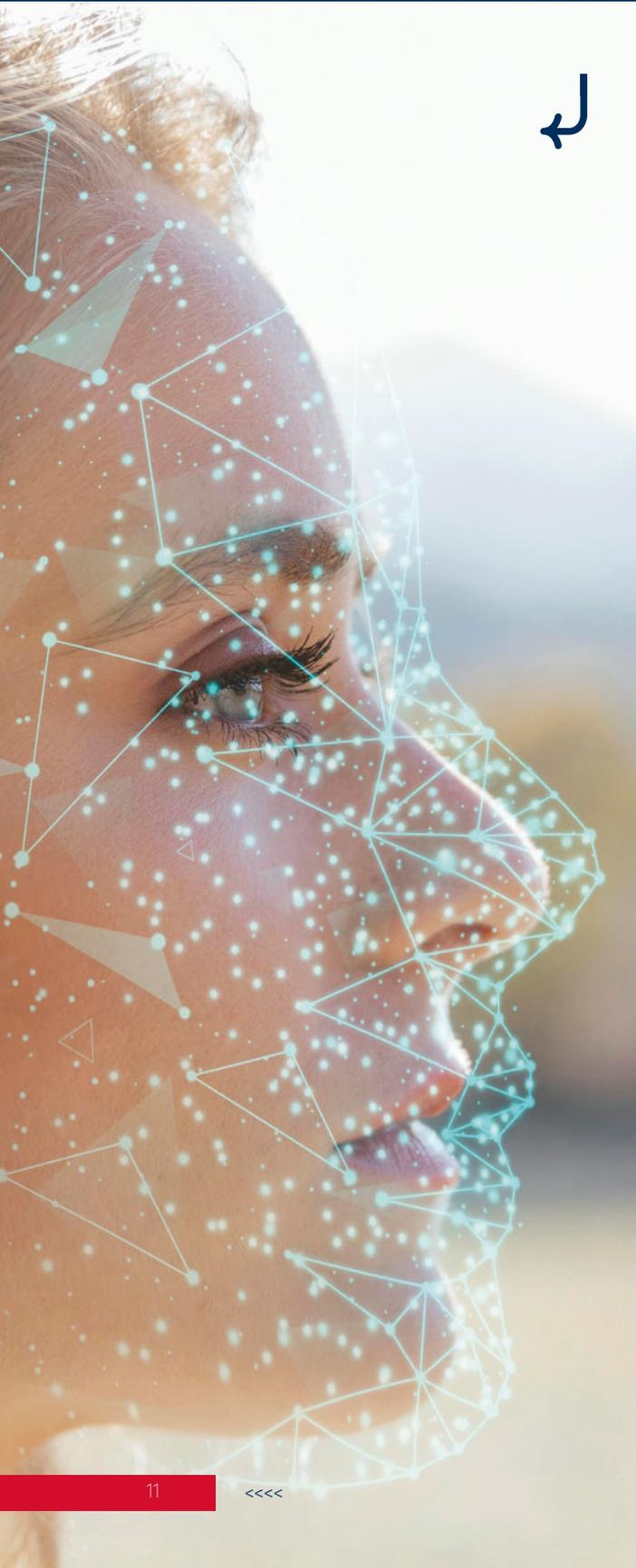
Banda ancha en cada rincón de España

Progress in 2021

In 2021, investment has mainly focused on infrastructure. In the field of connectivity, the first call for the UNICO Broadband Programme was launched, with a budget of 250 million euros, the largest ever for connectivity programmes in our country. Funds have also been transferred to the Autonomous Regions and Municipalities to improve network infrastructure in the territory: strengthening connectivity in reference public centres (such as health centres, schools, or social centres), industrial estates and logistics hubs, issuance of connectivity vouchers to vulnerable collectives, and improvement of telecommunications facilities in buildings.

Regarding the deployment of 5G, its implementation at logistics terminals and transport corridors has been boosted with grants for the Railway Infrastructure Administrator (ADIF) to improve the infrastructure and radio access network for 5G rollout, and grants have been awarded to public research organizations for R&D&I projects in advanced 5G and 6G technologies, which will allow the building of technological capabilities for new generations of mobile telephony.





In the field of cybersecurity, programmes have been designed and launched to strengthen the capabilities of citizens and businesses, to boost industry, R&D&I and talent in cybersecurity, and to kickstart the national node of the European network of centres of industrial competence and research on cybersecurity. For instance, *Tu Ayuda en Ciberseguridad* (Your Help in Cybersecurity) was launched in 2020, a free and confidential public service designed to help citizens and businesses through the 017 speed dial number. The creation of a Security Operations Center (SOC) of the central government has also been kickstarted, to provide horizontal cybersecurity services that increase capacity for monitoring, detection, and response in day-to-day operations of information and communication systems.

In AI, the first programmes of the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy have been implemented, with the launch of grants for research and development (R&D) Missions in artificial intelligence and projects to integrate this technology into industrial value chains. The network to develop the first quantum computing system in southern Europe, Quantum Spain, has also been launched, with the involvement of public research centres from all over Spain coordinated by the National Supercomputing Center (Barcelona Supercomputing Center).

Furthermore, the Spanish hub of the European GAIA-X initiative has been set up, for the national development of sectoral data spaces, and to lead the creation of secure data management standards and systems in the field of tourism.

As for the digitalization of the public sector, investments have been made in several strategic lines, such as the procurement of 30,000 computers to provide public employees with a digital workplace with collaborative tools, or the implementation of a common task automation service that will allow the automation of administrative procedures, and thus optimise resources and processing times.



In order to boost the digitalization of industry, commerce, and tourism, different calls were published under the ACTIVA Industria 4.0 Programme, as well as the call for grants to intensify digitalization of the tourism sector (“last mile”), and the Programme to Support the Competitiveness of Retail Trade.

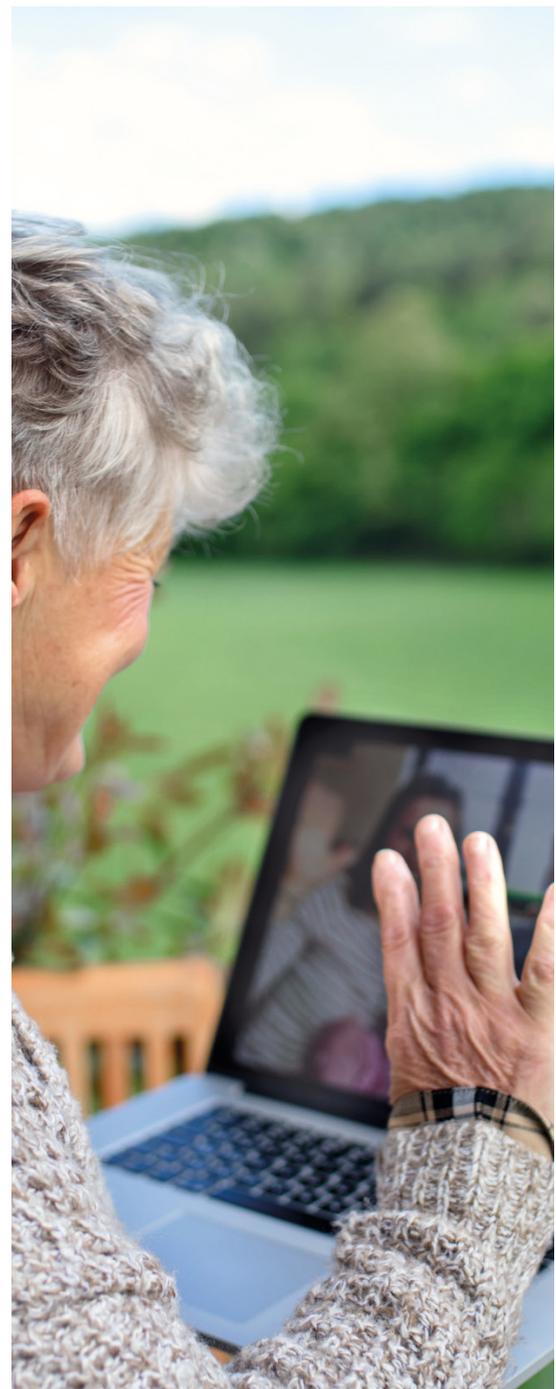
In order to promote the audiovisual sector, the Law on Audiovisual Communication has been approved and the Spain Audiovisual Hub Plan has been presented, two key actions to increase competitiveness of the audiovisual content production industry in Spain and its internationalization.

In the field of digital skills, public investment for the digitalization of education and vocational training has been accelerated in 2021. In addition to completing the investment in laptops for students under the Educa en Digital (Educate in Digital) Programme, launched shortly after the outbreak of the pandemic, the entire catalogue of vocational training specializations has been modernized and over 100 million euros have been transferred to the Autonomous Regions for the digitalization of school and vocational training centre infrastructures.

Furthermore, the UniDigital Programme has been launched for the digitalization of universities.

As a basis of the different programmes, 14 expressions of interest linked to digitalization initiatives have been launched, to incorporate a broader and plural vision, based on information provided by companies and social actors, and to ensure that the instruments for implementing the different investments are aligned with the needs of businesses and citizens. The responses received have been extremely useful for targeting the calls at those areas where there are more mature projects with a greater probability of achieving results, as well as accelerating initiatives, ideas, and partnerships resulting in the submission of proposals.

In 2021, actions were set in motion on all of the axes of Digital Spain



Progress in the first half of 2022



In 2022, Digital Spain will focus its investments in the digitalization of the economic structure and the enhancement of digital skills. In the first half of the year, significant progress has been made in reforms to ensure Spain has a more advanced regulatory framework to boost activity, investment, and talent in this area.

In the area of reforms, the parliamentary processing of the Telecommunications Law and the Audiovisual Communication Law has been completed, while the Start-Up Law is still in Congress. The 5G Cybersecurity Royal Decree-Law has been ratified, the auctioning of the 700 MHz band has been completed, and a more favourable framework for the rollout of this technology has been created with the establishment of a temporary reduction in spectrum taxation.

In terms of investments, the first call of the Kit Digital programme has already been launched, which will allocate 500 million euros to the implementation of digital solutions in thousands of SMEs with between 10 to 49 employees throughout Spain. This will be followed by calls for micro SMEs and self-employed workers, as well as specific programmes for larger companies or those operating in certain strategic sectors.



In 2022, Digital Spain will focus its investments in the digitalization of the economic structure and the enhancement of digital skills.

The screenshot shows the 'Acelera pyme' website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the 'red.es' logo and 'Acelera pyme' branding. Below this, the main content area features the 'KIT DIGITAL' logo and the heading 'Conoce el programa'. Underneath, there is a section titled '¿Qué es?' followed by a paragraph describing the program as a government initiative to subsidize digital solutions. A list of links is provided, including 'Bases reguladoras de la concesión de ayudas para la digitalización', 'Anuncio de adhesión para digitalizadores', and 'Convocatoria pymes'. A video player is embedded on the right side of the page, showing a large red and orange circular graphic with a play button in the center. The video player also includes a 'Ver en YouTube' button.



The funding rules and the first call of the UNICO 5G Networks Passive Programme have been published. This programme, with a total funding of 150 million euros, is aimed at boosting and accelerating the rollout of 5G technology on roads and railways (national and cross-border) and in rural areas that meet certain requirements.

The first call to promote the network of clusters or Innovative Joint Ventures has also been resolved, with a highly positive result that will allow investment in 150 projects submitted by 69 clusters across the country, which are key for supporting synergies and cooperation networks between companies and for digitalization to drive productivity of SMEs.

In 2022, several projects for the digitalization of public administrations launched in 2021, are expected to start that will improve service quality and bring administration closer to people and businesses, favouring inclusion, and enabling access to public services. This includes a new version of Mi Carpeta Ciudadana (My Citizen's Folder) which will also be available as a mobile application, the robotization of processes, the strengthening of digital infrastructures of the Justice Administration, and the evolution of the electronic judicial file, the improvement of guidance and intermediation services for employment of the Public Employment Service (SEPE), or the launch of the Consular Digitalization Plan.



The boost to the audiovisual hub has taken a significant leap forward in 2022, with the entry into force of the tax support and visa facilitation measures, the website that centralizes relevant information, the support for the presence of Spanish productions at the most relevant festivals, and the attraction of filming and production investments from key international players, as well as the AV Bureau, as a centralized and personalized accompanying point that supports the internationalization of the sector.

The most innovative programmes for the development of citizens' digital skills will be launched in the course of 2022. Based on the investments already made by the State and the Autonomous Regions in the digitalization of the education system, the creation of Aulas Mentor and the specific digital skills programmes for the most vulnerable groups, the training of teachers in digital skills and the development of the necessary digital skills for employment will be addressed, promoting the requalification of workers and employers with special attention on SMEs

and a focus on programming and digitalization specialists profiles, to accompany businesses in their change process. In addition, nationwide programmes will be launched in partnership with third sector entities, foundations, companies, and other institutions, relying on RTVE to bring training in digital skills closer to all citizens.

As for the most advanced and specialized digital skills, required by professionals involved in creating digital infrastructures and services, grants will be launched to incorporate technology experts into digital innovation projects in businesses and research centres, and to train specialists in artificial intelligence and cybersecurity.

The digital chapter of the main PERTEs has also been initiated, which includes launching programmes for the creation of large, shared data spaces (*data lakes*) in strategic sectors such as health, tourism, agri-food, the care economy, or electric mobility.

Strategic Projects for Recovery and Economic Transformation (PERTE)



PERTE VEC

- Leading the development of the electric and connected vehicle
- Approved by the Council of Ministers on 13 July 2021
- Approved by the European Commission on 9 December 2021

TOTAL PUBLIC INVESTMENT **€ 4.3 B**



PERTE VANGUARD HEALTH

- Incorporate personalized precision technologies and medications into the national health system
- Approved by the Council of Ministers on 30 November 2021

TOTAL PUBLIC INVESTMENT **€ 982 M**



PERTE ERHA

- Accelerate the green transition and strengthen strategic autonomy.
- Approved by the Council of Ministers on 14 December 2021

TOTAL PUBLIC INVESTMENT **€ 6.92 B**



PERTE AGRI-FOOD CHAIN

- Promote transformation of the agri-food chain with a green and digital approach, and ensure access to healthy, safe, and sustainable food.
- Approved by the Council of Ministers on 8 February 2022

TOTAL PUBLIC INVESTMENT **€ 1.8 B**



PERTE NEW ECONOMY OF LANGUAGE

- Maximize the value of Spanish and co-official languages in the new digital economy and artificial intelligence
- Approved by the Council of Ministers on 1 March 2022

TOTAL PUBLIC INVESTMENT **€ 1.1 B**



PERTE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

- Move towards a circular economy that guarantees sustainability, efficiency, and competitiveness of production sectors.
- Approved by the Council of Ministers on 8 March 2022

TOTAL PUBLIC INVESTMENT **€ 492 M**



PERTE NAVAL

- Support diversification, modernization, and productivity of the shipbuilding sector
- Approved by the Council of Ministers on 15 March 2022

TOTAL PUBLIC INVESTMENT **€ 310 M**



PERTE DIGITALIZATION OF THE WATER CYCLE

- Improve management of water resources through digitalization and innovation.
- Approved by the Council of Ministers on 22 March 2022

TOTAL PUBLIC INVESTMENT **€ 1.94 B**



PERTE AEROSPACE

- Strengthen the industrial and technological capability of the aerospace sector
- Approved by the Council of Ministers on 22 March 2022

TOTAL PUBLIC INVESTMENT **€ 2.193 B**



PERTE CHIP

- Develop design and production capabilities of the microelectronic and semiconductor industry.
- Approved by the Council of Ministers on 24 May 2022

TOTAL PUBLIC INVESTMENT **€ 12.25 B**



PERTE SOCIAL AND CARE ECONOMY

- Intensify the potential for growth, the generation of quality jobs, and economic and social resilience
- Approved by the Council of Ministers on 31 May 2022

TOTAL PUBLIC INVESTMENT **€ 808 M**

**+30
BILLION
PUBLIC
INVESTMENT**



It is worth highlighting the launch in 2022 of two key strategic projects in the digital field, to enhance the public and private ecosystem in Spain of the new economy of the language and the semiconductor and microprocessors industry.

The PERTE Chip is the most ambitious PERTE of the Recovery Plan: due to the public investment that has been mobilized (12.25 billion euros) and due to its impact on the strategic autonomy of Spain and Europe. It arises from the need to meet the growing demand for semiconductors in key sectors such as automotive, telecommunications, machine tools, or household appliances, along with the need to accelerate autonomy in chip design and manufacture. Therefore, the aim of this PERTE is to reinforce the design and production capabilities of the microelectronic and semiconductor industry in Spain from a comprehensive perspective, and to favour national and EU strategic autonomy in this sector, in line with the provisions of the European Chips Act.

The PERTE New Economy of Language has a strategic role considering the potential of Spanish language in the global arena in the context of the new knowledge-based digital economy. It is seen as an opportunity to harness the potential of Spanish and co-official languages as a factor for economic growth and international competitiveness in areas such as artificial intelligence, translation, learning, cultural dissemination, audiovisual production, research, and science. It involves the enhancement, capture, and amplification of the economic value of Spanish within the new digital context.

A humanist digitalization



The digitalization process must be humanist and inclusive, putting the people at its core

While digitalization is opening up unprecedented opportunities, it also poses new challenges: the general and affordable access for individuals and companies to new digital tools, their readiness to make the most of them, training in skills that enable them to conduct themselves in digital environments and to discern the quality of the multiple contents hosted, the loss of privacy or the risk to which protection of individual and collective rights of people in the online environment are exposed.

Along with advances and revolutionary technical solutions, digitalization also raises new issues and conflicts, with the ultimate risk of eroding fundamental rights.

We cannot allow technological disruption to create new gaps or result in backsteps in our rule of law.

Accordingly, this digitalization process must be humanist and inclusive, putting the people at its core, in order to ensure that nobody is left behind, and to guarantee the principles, values, and rights that represent the society we have built.

This is the spirit in which the Charter of Digital Rights was drawn up, a pioneering initiative launched by the Spanish government to provide society with certainty about the new digital

reality and to increase the public confidence in the face of disruptions caused by technology. The Charter intends to be a compass that guides the legal proposals of the future and ensures that the rights and freedoms enjoyed by people living in Spain are equal in the online and offline world. In line with this commitment to humanist digitalization, the Chair of Artificial Intelligence and Democracy has also been created, in partnership with the European University Institute, and numerous works and debates on the social and political challenges resulting from new technologies have been promoted, among which the initiatives of the Digital Future Society programme stand out.

This ambition of undertaking a humanist digitalization is fully aligned with the European Union's Digital Compass, the reference framework that should guide the EU's digitalization until 2030, and which is articulated around four cardinal points: Skills, Digital Infrastructures, Enterprises, and Governments. The Compass provides an inter-institutional solemn declaration of digital rights and principles for the Digital Decade, which will guide the application of existing rights in digital environments, on which work is already underway and where Spain's contribution with its Charter of Digital Rights has been a key input.

Programme for the future



The Digital Spain agenda is the roadmap for boosting the digitalization of the Spanish economy, making use of Next-Generation EU funds, and with a clear strategic vision for the future. The progress made since the adoption of the agenda in July 2020 is a clear demonstration of a clear vision and significant public investment to mobilize private investment and achieve real change on the ground.

Thanks to the Recovery Plan and Digital Spain agenda, public investment has already been multiplied by nine and important technological research and innovation projects in Spain have been announced. From the programmes for the development of the electric and connected vehicle to the establishment of R&D centres in different Spanish cities in key areas for the future such as the Internet of things or cybersecurity, to investment projects in chip design. The financing of start-ups has also multiplied and is starting to show signs of a growth process to boost a solid base of technology companies in our country. Spain has risen to ninth place in the EU's digitalization index (DESI), and is showing significant progress in the creation of quality employment in the technology and science sectors.





Looking ahead, the investments foreseen in the Digital Spain agenda during the first phase of the Recovery Plan will be strengthened by additional transfers and credits allocated from Next Generation EU funds. In the addendum to the Plan, digital components of the PERTEs will be strengthened, and in particular those programmes with a greater impact on the transformation of the economy, such as the Kit Digital programme or the Audiovisual Hub, and the strategic projects of the New Economy of Language and the microelectronic and semiconductor PERTE (PERTE Chip). In addition, a new programme (RETECH) will be launched to promote a network of technological projects driven by the Autonomous Regions, which will enable to cover all transformative and high-impact initiatives and achieve a digital transformation in the territory.



Two years after the publication of Digital Spain, and with new challenges arising from the geopolitical situation, it is appropriate to take stock of the ground covered so far, update the strategy with the 2026 horizon, and identify priorities for the coming months.

Axes and Measures

Axis 01 | Digital Conectivity

1. UNICO Broadband
2. UNICO Demand
3. UNICO R&D
4. UNICO Data



Axis 02 | Boosting 5G technology

5. 5G roadmap
6. 112 public alert system
7. UNICO 5G
8. UNICO-Advanced 5G & 6G R&D



Axis 03 | Cybersecurity

9. Strengthening of cybersecurity for the citizens, SMEs and professionals
10. Cybersecurity business ecosystem
11. Spain as international cybersecurity node
12. Cybersecurity operations centre



Axis 04 | Data economy and AI

13. AI regulatory and ethical framework
14. Driving R&D&I in AI
15. Attracting national and international talent
16. Data infrastructures and support technologies
17. Integration of AI in value chains



Axis 05 | Digitalization of the public sector

18. Citizen-oriented administration
19. Smart operations and data governance
20. Modernization of digital infrastructures
21. Projects with high impact in public sector digitalization
22. Digitalization of ministries and territorial administrations



Axis 06 | Digitalization of businesses and digital entrepreneurship



- 23. SME Digitalization Plan
- 24. Digital Kit programme
- 25. Promoting digital entrepreneurship and start-up
- 26. Modernization of financial architecture supporting digital entrepreneurship

Axis 07 | Spain, Audiovisual Hub



- 27. Spain Audiovisual Hub Plan

Axis 08 | Sector-based and sustainable digitalization



- 28. Digitalization of the agri-food sector
- 29. Digital health
- 30. Sustainable digital mobility
- 31. Smart tourism
- 32. Digital commerce
- 33. Digital boost to green transition
- 34. Digital boost to the science, technology and innovation system
- 35. Digitalization of culture
- 36. Digitalization of sport

Axis 09 | Digital Skills



- 37. Development of digital skills and closing of gaps
- 38. Digitalization of education
- 39. Digital skills for employment
- 40. Boosting digital specialists

Axis 10 | Digital Rights



- 41. Protection of Digital Rights
- 42. Promotion of technological humanism

Axis 11 | PERTE: Strategic Projects for Economic Recovery and Transformation



Axis 12 | RETECH: Territorial Networks of Technological Specialisation





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