

Digital Europe Programme

What is the Digital Europe Programme?

The Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL) is a new EU funding programme focused on bringing digital technology to businesses, citizens and public administrations. The Digital Europe Programme will provide in the period of 2021-2027 strategic funding to answer these challenges, supporting projects in 5 key capacity areas: supercomputing, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, advanced digital skills, and ensuring a wide use of digital technologies across the economy and society, including through Digital Innovation Hubs.

The Programme counts with € 7,5 billion (in current prices) and it aims to accelerate the economic recovery and shape the digital transformation of Europe's society and economy, bringing benefits to everyone, but in particular to small and medium-sized enterprises.

Who is eligible to participate in the Programme?

While the purpose of the Programme is first and foremost to strengthen the Union's digital capacities, it allows the possibility to have third countries associated to the Programme. Therefore, the funding will be available for entities from the EU Member States as well as other countries associated to the Programme.

The decision to associate a country (or not) is left to the Commission based on the scope and objectives of the Programme. At this time only EFTA countries that are members of the EEA are associated (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway).

Types of Actions and Funding:

The Digital Europe Programme uses among other the following actions to implement grants:

- **Simple Grants:** are a flexible type of action used by a large variety of topics and can cover most activities. The consortium will mostly use personnel costs to implement action tasks, activities with third parties (subcontracting, financial support, purchase) are possible but should be limited.

Funding Rate: 50%

- **SME Support Actions:** are a type of action primarily consisting of activities directly aiming to support SMEs involved in building up and the deployment of the digital capacities. This type of action can be used if SMEs need to be in the consortium and make investments to access the digital capacities.

Funding Rate: 50% except for SMEs where a rate of 75% applies

- **Lump Sum Grants:** reimburse a general lump sum for the entire project and the consortium as a whole. The lump sum is fixed ex-ante (at the latest at grant signature) on the basis of a methodology defined by the granting authority (either on the basis of a detailed project budget or other pre-defined parameters). The lump sum will cover all the beneficiaries' direct and

indirect costs for the project. The beneficiaries do not need to report actual costs, they just need to claim the lump sum once the work is done. If the action is not properly implemented only part of the lump sum will be paid.

Funding Rate: 100% and 75% for SMEs.

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Relevant Sources

- Website of the European Commission:
<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/activities/digital-programme>
- [Funding and Tender Portal](#)
- Call for proposals:
https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/digital/wp-call/2023/call-fiche_digital-2023-cloud-ai-04_en.pdf