



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
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Bundeskanzlei BK  
Chancellerie fédérale ChF  
Cancelleria federale CaF  
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Swiss Confederation

# Digital Switzerland Strategy 2023



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## 1 PURPOSE

The Digital Switzerland Strategy sets the guidelines for Switzerland's digital transformation<sup>1</sup>. It is binding for the Federal Administration<sup>2</sup> and serves as an orientation for all other actors involved in digitalisation. The aim is for the population as a whole to benefit from a sustainable and responsible digital transformation. This is being driven forward jointly by the authorities at all federal levels, as well as by actors from civil society, business, academia and politics.

Under focus themes, the Federal Council identifies two to three priorities each year as a way of launching digital transformation themes. This focus is complemented by the action plan, which provides an overview of activities in the area of digital transformation for the general public. In contrast to the annually changing focus themes, the vision and domains remain stable over several years.

The Digital Switzerland Strategy provides a framework in the sense of an umbrella strategy for the Federal Digitalisation Strategy, the Swiss eGovernment Strategy and various other sectoral strategies. It also helps Switzerland to achieve its climate and environmental goals and the Sustainable Development Goals set out in the United Nations 2030 Agenda.

## 2 VISION

**Switzerland consistently prioritises digital offerings for the benefit of the people (digital first)<sup>3</sup>. It makes targeted use of the opportunities offered by digital transformation so that everyone benefits in the long run. Switzerland is one of the most digitally competitive and innovative countries in Europe.**

## 3 DOMAINS WITH INDICATORS

The Digital Switzerland Strategy 2023 is structured around five longterm domains. These domains are based on the EU's Digital Compass<sup>4</sup>. Focus themes and measures are each assigned to a domain. This structure is intended to create a clear overview of sovereign activities that are important for a digital Switzerland. The Federal Council measures progress in each domain according to two indicators\*. As far as possible, the values are compared against international benchmarks.



### Education and skills

People, businesses and public authorities have sufficient skills to make the most of new technologies and are able to question them. Indicators:

Share of the population with advanced digital skills	41 per cent	2021*
Share of ICT specialists on the Swiss labour market (excl. apprentices)	5.1 per cent	2021*



### Security and trust

People in Switzerland can move around safely in the digital environment; privacy is protected. Indicators:

Threat situation in cyberspace: no. of cyber incidents reported to the National Cyber Security Centre	21 714	2021*
Cybercrime, identification of crimes with a cyber element	30 351 cases	2021*



### Framework

Businesses and society can rely on a reliable and advantageous framework for the digital environment. Indicators:

Digital competitiveness, Switzerland's place in the IMD World Digital Competitiveness Rankings	5	2022*
Share of new firms in the ICT sector as a percentage of the total number of start-ups	5.8 per cent	2019*

<sup>1</sup> See Ordinance of 25 November 2020 on the Coordination of the Digital Transformation and ICT Steering in the Federal Administration; SR 172.010.58.

<sup>2</sup> The scope of application complies with Art. 2 of the Government and Administration Organisation Act of 21 March 1997. SR 172.010.

<sup>3</sup> Under 'digital first', digital solutions are prioritised whenever possible and wherever practical. If necessary, non-digital solutions are also

offered. A distinction is therefore made between 'digital first' and the 'digital only' principle, which relies exclusively on digital solutions.

<sup>4</sup> See Europe's Digital Decade: digital targets for 2030 | European Commission (europa.eu).

\* The 10 indicators were initially defined. They are reviewed on an ongoing basis and adjusted if necessary. For details see [www.digital.swiss](http://www.digital.swiss)



## Infrastructure

Public authorities promote and operate reliable and resilient physical as well as digital infrastructure.

### Indicators:

5G coverage as % of the national surface area	74 per cent	2021*
vailability of Open Government Data, no. of data sets on <a href="https://opendata.swiss">opendata.swiss</a>	7541	August 2022*



## Digital public services

Public authorities offer their services digitally as standard (digital first). Indicators:

Availability of online services for the public	63 per cent	2022*
Digital public services for businesses	62 per cent	2022*

## 4 FOCUS THEMES

The focus themes form the starting point for new measures and Federal Council mandates, insofar as they fall under federal remit. They are the subject of the meetings of the Digital Switzerland Advisory Committee, in which experts chaired by a member of the Federal Council discuss the topic in depth. The Federal Council determines the focus themes annually. The lead departments are responsible for their implementation. In 2023, the three focus themes are:



### Digitalisation in the healthcare sector

**Lead: Federal Office of Public Health (in close cooperation with the Federal Statistical Office).** Healthcare institutions and professionals are better connected; the emphasis is on the multiple use of data. In order to promote an interoperable healthcare system based on a transparent data ecosystem, and to implement specific measures and projects, a programme is to be developed to promote digital transformation in the healthcare sector.



### Digitalisation-friendly legislation

**Lead: Federal Office of Justice.** Laws are designed in such a way that they encourage digitalisation instead of inhibiting it. Authorities at all federal levels conduct their business digitally whenever possible and wherever practical. If necessary, non-digital solutions are also offered.



### Digital sovereignty

**Lead: Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Directorate of International Law.** Switzerland examines which political, legal, economic and individual dependencies can be reduced in the digital world. These are weighed against the advantages of international openness and networking.

## ACTION PLAN

The action plan forms part of the Digital Switzerland Strategy. It defines the relevant measures and provides an overview of the status of their implementation. Measures are specific, time-limited programmes, projects or initiatives taken by internal or external actors. They make a significant contribution to Switzerland's digital transformation. The progress of individual measures is continuously updated by the lead actors and published as an overview on [www.digital.swiss](https://www.digital.swiss).

## RESPONSIBILITIES AND IMPLEMENTATION

The Federal Chancellery's Digital Transformation and ICT Steering Division (DTI) is responsible for the ongoing development, coordination, communication and monitoring of the Digital Switzerland strategy. It reports annually to the Federal Council on the progress of the strategy and draws up proposals for new focus themes in close cooperation with the departments. The respective lead actors are responsible for implementing the individual measures and provide the DTI Division with regular progress reports.



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## **Digital Switzerland Strategy 2023**

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digitale-schweiz@bk.admin.ch

+41 (0)58 462 39 00

[www.digital.swiss](http://www.digital.swiss)