



Excerpt of Digital Topics for the German Presidency of the European Council (01. July – 31. December 2020)

Digital Sovereignty constitutes the leitmotiv of the European digital policy within the [Programme for Germany's Presidency of the Council of the European Union](#), from the 01st of July until the 31st of December. Thereby, top priorities in this field are:

- The development and use of human-centric AI, especially AI in healthcare
- The creation of a transparent European Healthcare Data Space
- Promoting the use of data in the agricultural and transport sector as well as in the circular economy
- Strengthening entrepreneurship, the digital transformation and innovation through cross-border approaches
- The creation of a financial market union
- Installing a Digital Diplomacy Network that incorporates the foreign ministries of the Member States under the auspices of the European External Action Service
- Strengthening armed forces in terms of cyber security, digital competence and cyber defence capabilities

Complementing the Programme for the German Presidency, the national ministries have outlined their priorities:

The [Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy \(BMW\)](#) aims to:

- Further develop the project [GAIA-X](#) and include additional European partners
- Develop Europe as a global leader for the development and governance of AI
- Enhance the accessibility, usability and interoperability of data for research and further processing
- Strengthen fair competition to establish a level playing field in the area of internet platforms

The [Federal Ministry of Education and Research \(BMBWF\)](#) aims to:

- Establish the European AI Network “AI made in Europe”
- Strengthen national and binational research and innovation networks to mobilise and pool expertise within the European AI network
- Consolidate the [European Research Area](#) by strengthening the dialogue with stakeholders
- Initiate the establishment of a European Research and Investment Action on Electronics (IPCEI “trustworthy electronic”) as well as the launch of a Joint Undertaking on Artificial Intelligence



The [Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs \(BMAS\)](#) aims to:

- Strengthen fair working conditions by addressing continuing education, the conception of a regulatory framework on AI and regulation of work in the platform economy
- Foster initiatives, under the umbrella of the “Skills Agenda for Europe”, that sustain employability and create a culture of continuing education and training in Europe

The [Federal Ministry for Health \(BMG\)](#) aims to:

- Establish a European Health Data Space in close cooperation with the European Commission and national authorities
- Lay down the tracks for a Code-of-Conduct Process and therewith secure continuity in the governance of secondary health data usage on a European level

The [Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety \(BMU\)](#) aims to:

- Target the potentials of digitalisation for environment and climate protection
- Establish the European Union as a precursor for sustainable digitalisation

The [Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure \(BMVI\)](#) aims to:

- Strengthen the field of innovative mobility solutions by putting forward a “New Mobility Approach” and enhancing the exchange of mobility data on the EU level
- Further the challenges of the European Green Deal on data exchange, connectivity, autonomous driving and climate-friendly mobility
- Foster the infrastructure and acceptance of 5G networks

The [Federal Ministry of Finance \(BMF\)](#) aims to:

- Strengthen and transform the European financial markets to be modern, secure and innovative
- Foster tokenised financial services in support of the [Payments Services Directive](#)
- Increase the cybersecurity and cyber-resilience of the European financial markets
- Create a reliable framework for financial innovations, such as crypto assets

The [Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community \(BMI\)](#) aims to:

- Advocate for a homogenous minimum of IT security on all devices available on the market
- Promote the establishment of a European Centre for Cybersecurity and a network of national coordination centre

The [Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection \(BMJV\)](#) aims to:

- Strengthen access to justice, by implementing the [European e-justice strategy](#)
- Improve the protection of IP to support innovation and to secure fair access rights
- Discuss the [Intellectual Property Action Plan](#), proposed by the Commission
- Work on protecting fundamental rights while using AI, together with the [European Agency for Fundamental Rights](#)



The [Federal Ministry of Defence \(BMVg\)](#) aims to:

- Strengthen cyber and digital competence-building, as part of the [Common Security and Defence Policy \(CSDP\)](#)
- Extend the cooperation on matters of cybersecurity, as put forward by the [Cybersecurity Act](#)

The [Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development \(BMZ\)](#) aims to:

- Strengthen the cooperation between the EU and the African Union (AU) in the realms of digitalisation and green growth
- Support the use of digital tools to build up digital competences and foster data-driven market economies on the African continent as part of European developmental cooperation

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