

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, INNOVATION AND DIGITALISATION



### IMPORTANCE

Science, technology and innovation play a central role in achieving the SDGs to address pressing societal and economic challenges, accelerate green transition, create new jobs and businesses, and help reduce poverty.

In the post-COVID-19 world, strong digital connections have become even more essential.

Digital technologies and services are powerful enablers for sustainable, inclusive development and growth.

The access and use of Internet and digital technologies is not equally distributed around the world, and nearly 40% of the world's population remains unconnected, most of them in LDCs. Tackling the digital divide is essential.

The EU and its Member States are the second largest provider of ODA for science, technology and innovation to developing countries reaching almost EUR 1 billion for STI in 2019.

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The EU and the African Union have established the African-European Innovation Bridge (AEDIB) as a pan-African network of digital innovation hubs.

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The Digital4Development (D4D) approach is the European Commission's comprehensive framework for its digital development policy since 2017.

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The EU-AU Data Flagship aims to strengthen the African data economy, facilitating investments in African data infrastructure and data technologies and services that can accelerate the digital transformation of the continent.

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The Digital4Development Hub, launched at the end of 2020 gathers key stakeholders from EU Member States, private sector, civil society and financial institutions in a Team Europe spirit notably to scale up investments in the digital transformation of partner countries.



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In 2021, the European Commission published its Communication 2030 Digital Compass: the European way for the Digital Decade, which presents the vision and strategy of Europe's digital transformation through 2030.

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