

InDiCo-Global Factsheet

Standardization and Sovereignty

In 2025 a sovereignty debate has exploded in the European Union, Member States, in technical working groups, in national governmental processes, especially in Cloud, and on professional and non professional social media.



Europe can have its own Silicon Valley, with digital SMEs at its heart, is the message of Henna Virkkunen, EU Commission Executive Vice-President, who announced the investment of €750 million in seven supercomputers to propel the AI capacity of European industry.

SMEs represent 99% of European businesses, which brings its own opportunities and problems in scaling good practices, fostering interoperability and building easy to use interfaces that work seamlessly across the continent. Sebastiano Toffaletti, Secretary-General of the European Digital SME Alliance, highlights "the pivotal role of these enterprises in driving innovation and delivering software and services essential to Europe's transformation."

Standardization and sovereignty are interconnected concepts, with standardization sometimes seen as a tool to enhance or even safeguard sovereignty, particularly in areas like technology and trade.





Rewarding European innovation and standardization in technology is key. The Digital Compass introduces a European preference in public procurement through a review of the Public Procurement Directive. This could be a first step to the realization of a Buy European Tech Act, which should prompt authorities to promote EU-made products and the strategic objectives of the twin transition within public procurement procedures.

In particular, Europe's technological sovereignty benefits from its leading position in mobile communication standardization, e.g., 5G, the Internet of Things, cloud technologies, and artificial intelligence (Theben et al., 2021), "to level the playing field in global markets. In addition, Madiega (2020) highlights the EU approach to the security of 5G networks supported by a toolbox on 5G cybersecurity based on European standards and certification schemes, which are eventually relevant for public procurement." (Knut Blind, 2025.)



In practice three policies enable the EU to pursue its digital sovereignty objectives: the Cyber Diplomacy Toolbox, external capacity building (CCB) assistance initiatives, and the 5G Toolbox. (Carver, J. (2024)



The EU toolbox for 5G security is a set of robust and comprehensive measures for an EU coordinated approach to secure 5G networks.

The objectives of this toolbox are to identify a possible common set of measures which are able to mitigate the main cybersecurity risks of 5G networks, and to provide guidance for the selection of measures which should be prioritized in mitigation plans at national and at Union level. (EU Digital Strategy)

In the near future we expect to see a further prioritization on standardization in the context of sovereignty and strategic autonomy.

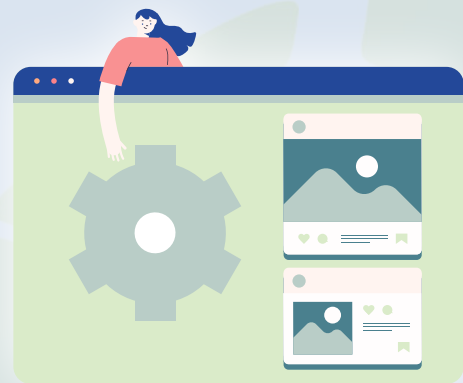
How InDiCo-Global Supports Your Engagement



InDiCo-Global is a Horizon Europe Coordination and Support Action that aims at establishing and strengthening bridges between Europe and partner geographies to coordinate and foster dialogues on digital policies and the standardization activities supporting them.

Visit the InDiCo-Global website to learn more about upcoming activities related to education and contact the project team to discuss a possible involvement.

<https://indico-global.eu/>



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Contact us if you are interested in the 5G Toolbox.

