Digital economy and digital society statistics at regional level

Statistics Explained

Data extracted in March 2019.
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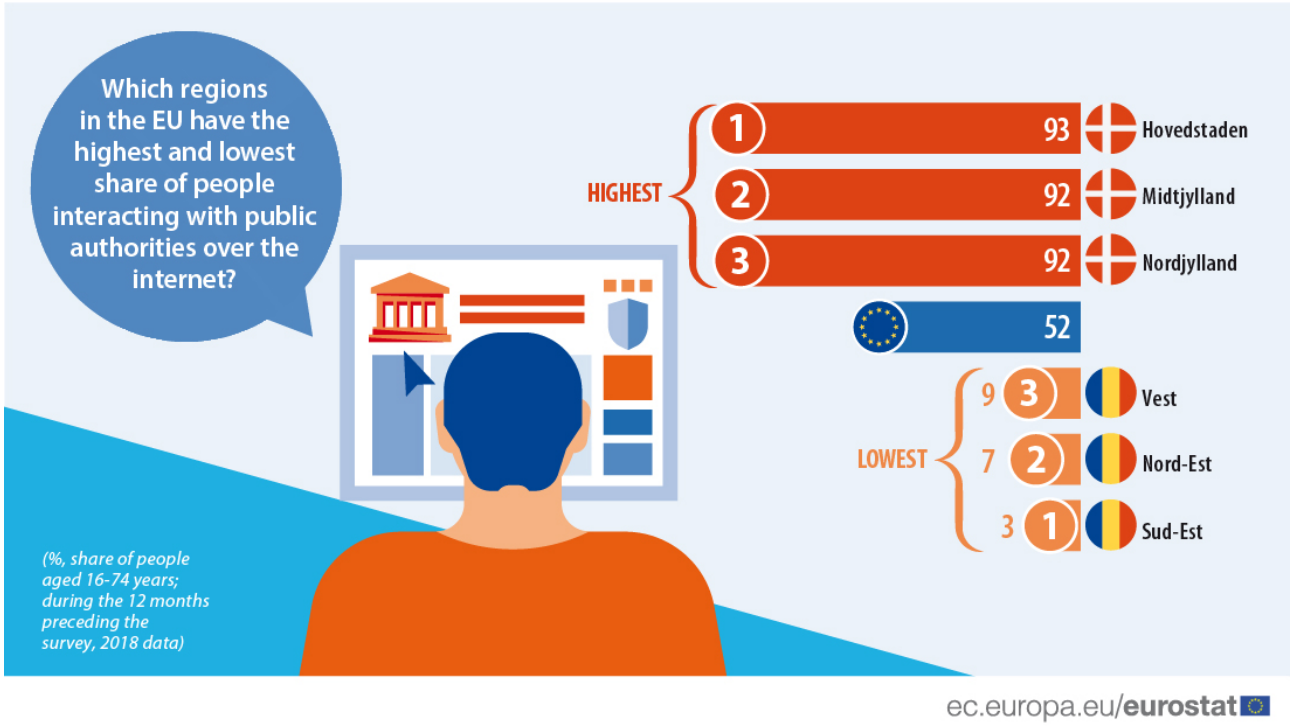


Source: Eurostat

Information and communication technology (ICTs) affect people's everyday lives in many ways, both at work and in the home, for example, when communicating, keeping abreast of the news, interacting with public authorities, buying goods online or being entertained. However, benefitting from these technological innovations depends to some extent on having a fast and reliable internet connection (whether fixed or mobile).

Access to ICTs is considered, by many, as fundamental for improving both productivity levels and the competitiveness of regions. ICTs are credited with delivering greater flexibility in work environments (for example, permitting people to work from home or from other remote locations), while offering a broad range of options for staying in contact with colleagues, family and friends. These developments have created new dimensions of not only economic, but also social and political participation, which make completely new ways of working, socialising and sharing information possible, irrespective of geographical location.

As the internet and digital technologies transform the world, ICT innovations provide a stream of new business opportunities that are likely to underpin competitiveness, jobs and future economic growth. It is hoped that this new digital world, the*internet of things* — which is working its way into many aspects of society — will provide tools that may be applied to a range of European Union (EU) policy objectives in fields as diverse as health, security, climate, transport, energy, or modernisation of the public sector.

Although the internet is an almost constant part of the lives of many Europeans, some people are excluded, resulting from the so-called digital divide . As a growing share of day-to-day tasks are carried out exclusively online, digital skills and access to technology become increasingly important as a means of allowing everyone to participate in the digital society.

This chapter emphasises the geographic aspects of this digital divide, presenting statistics by NUTS level 2 region and by degree of urbanisation . The statistics that follow include: the proportion of households that have broadband access at home; the share of the population that makes daily use of the internet, participates in social networks or interacts with public authorities over the internet; the share of people possessing a range of digital skills.

For more information:

Eurostat's online publication, *Digital economy & society in the EU — a browse through our online world in figures* — 2018 edition

Broadband access

The most common types of broadband access to the internet are via a digital subscriber line (DSL) or cable: the first of these is almost universally available across the EU, whereas (high-speed) cable/fibre services are less widespread, often being restricted to more densely-populated areas — explaining, at least in part, why the use of the internet is often lower in rural areas . Indeed, the proportion of households with broadband access is closely linked to infrastructure investment and in some cases market forces do not always lead to socially desirable outcomes; public funding initiatives are sometimes needed to ensure that fast and ultra-fast broadband services are extended to rural and peripheral regions. The digital divide is likely to be further challenged in the next couple of years, as many city-dwellers in the EU will have the opportunity to move to the next generation of internet services, 5G (fifth generation cellular network technology that provides broadband access), offering faster speeds and more reliable wireless connections in the workplace, at home and on mobile devices.

The Digital Agenda for Europe set two targets for broadband access speeds, namely that:

- everybody in the EU should have a 30 megabits per second (Mbps) connection by 2020; while
- half of all households should be in a position to subscribe to a 100 Mbps service by the same date.

It was followed in September 2016 by a strategy on connectivity for a European gigabit society to stimulate the availability and take-up of very high capacity networks, which included three new objectives to be achieved by 2025:

- access to a 1 gigabits per second (Gbps) service for all schools, transport hubs and main providers of public services and digitally intensive enterprises;
- access to download speeds of at least 100 Mbps to be upgraded to 1 Gbps for all households; and,
- uninterrupted 5G wireless broadband coverage for all urban areas and major roads and railways.

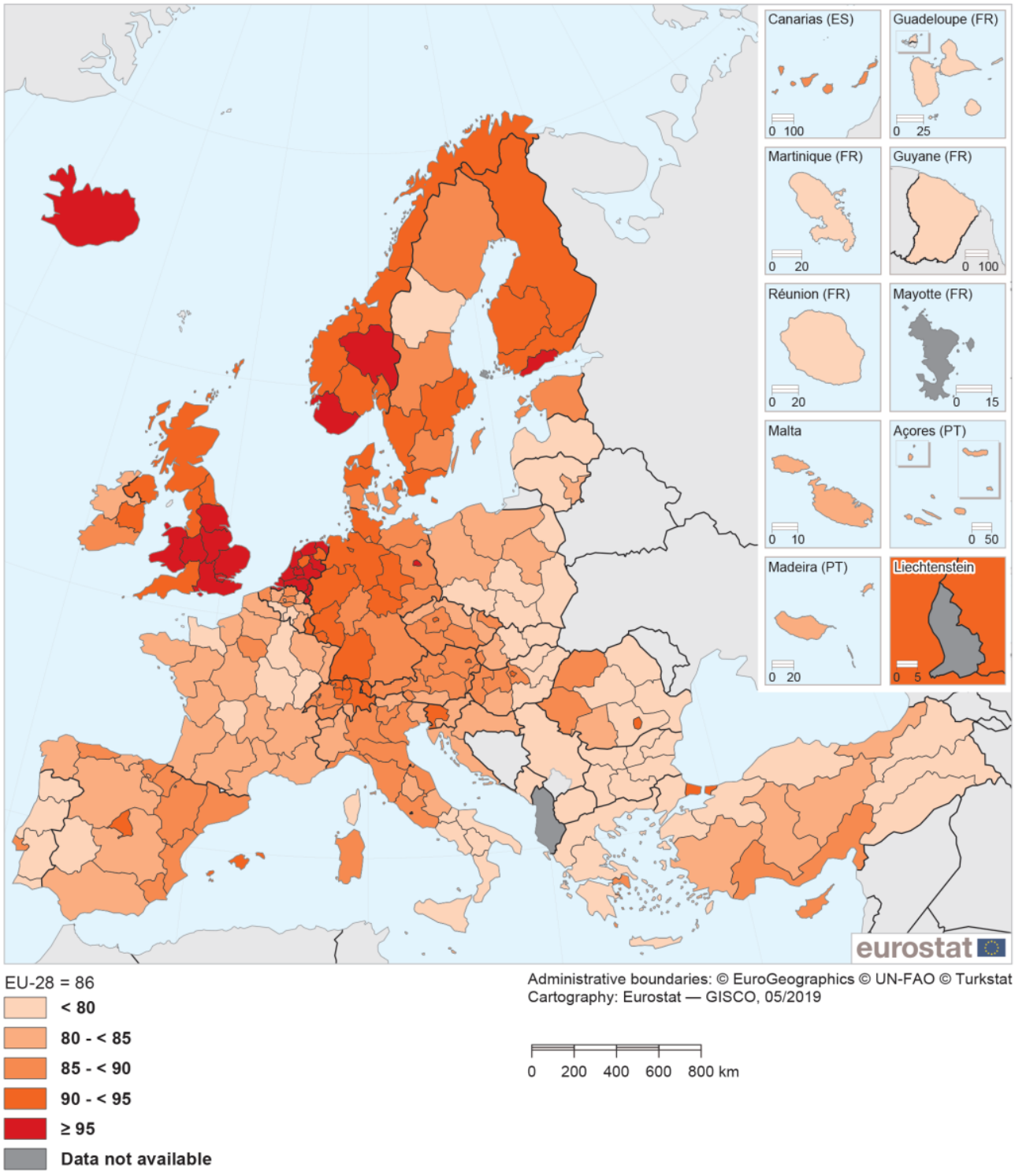
In every region of the EU, more than half of all households had broadband access at home

Map 1 shows the share of households with broadband access at home reached 86 % across the whole of the EU-28 in 2018. Every NUTS level 2 region in the EU reported that more than half of all households had broadband access at home, with the share ranging from 56 % to 99 % across the 209 regions for which data are available; note that statistics presented for Germany, Greece, Poland and the United Kingdom relate to NUTS level 1 regions.

In 2018, at least 95 % of households had broadband access at home in the vast majority of regions across the Netherlands and most of the southern half of the United Kingdom (NUTS level 1); there were also very high broadband connectivity rates in the German and Finnish capital city regions, Berlin and Helsinki-Uusimaa. In total, there were 19 regions across the EU where at least 95 % of households had broadband access at home (as shown by the darkest shade in Map 1). This share peaked in Groningen in the north of the Netherlands (99 %), followed by four more Dutch regions with a share of 98 % — Overijssel, Gelderland, Noord-Holland and Noord-Brabant.

In terms of the digital divide, it can be more revealing to analyse those regions with relatively low levels of broadband connectivity: in 2018, there were 48 regions across the EU that reported less than four out of every five households (less than 80 %) with broadband access at home. These were principally located in eastern and southern parts of the EU, although there were also relatively low rates in two southern regions of Belgium, 10 regions of France (five rural regions of mainland France, the island of Corse, four of the five outermost regions; no data available for Mayotte), Latvia (a single region at this level of detail), and single, sparsely-populated regions in Lithuania and Sweden. The lowest shares of households with broadband access at home were recorded in two outermost regions of France, Guyane (56 %) and Guadeloupe (58 %). The next lowest shares — higher than 60 % but lower than 70 % — were recorded in Limousin in central France, Severozapaden and Severen tsentralen in northern Bulgaria, Alentejo in southern Portugal, Nisia Aigaiou, Kriti (NUTS level 1) in Greece, Nord-Est and Sud-Est in eastern Romania.

Households with broadband access at home, 2018
(%, share of private households, by NUTS 2 regions)



Note: Germany, Greece, Poland, the United Kingdom and Turkey, NUTS/statistical regions level 1. Serbia: national data. Switzerland: 2017. Corse (FRM0) and Mellersta Norrland (SE32): low reliability.
Source: Eurostat (online data codes: isoc_r_broad_h and isoc_ci_it_h)

Map 1: Households with broadband access at home, 2018(%, share of private households, by NUTS 2 regions)Source: Eurostat (isoc_r_broad_h) and (isoc_ci_it_h)

Internet use and activities

At the outset, internet access was largely confined to people who worked with or owned a desktop computer. However, subsequent technological (and commercial) developments resulted in a much broader range of devices having the capability to go online, with mobile internet access becoming ubiquitous.

An internet user is defined as a person (aged 16-74 years) making use of the internet in whatever way: whether at home, at work, or anywhere else; whether for private or professional purposes; regardless of the device (desktop computer, laptop, netbook or tablet, smartphone, games console or e-book reader) or type of connection being used.

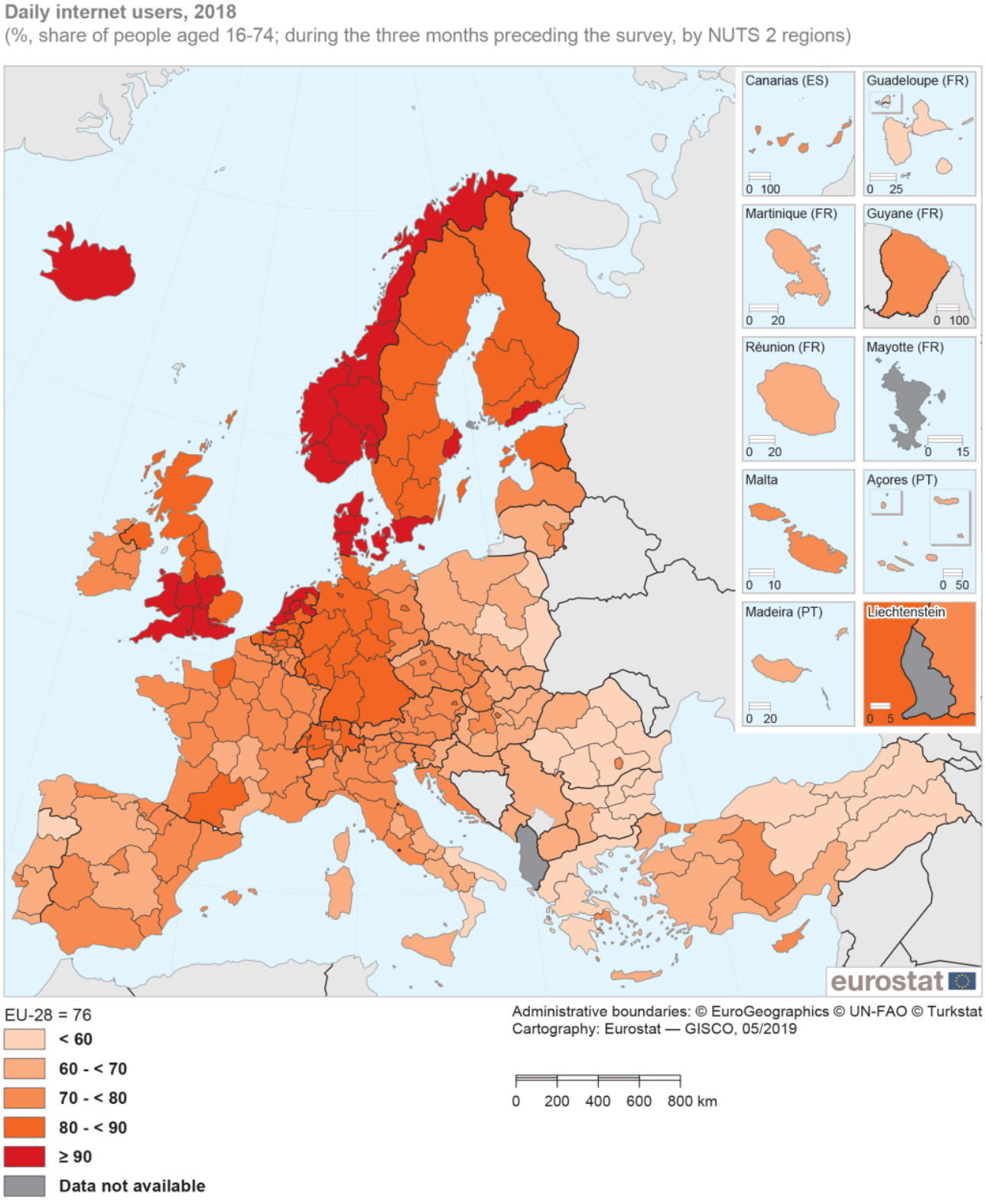
At least 9 out of every 10 adults made daily use of the internet in several regions across the Netherlands, the Nordic Member States and the southern half of the United Kingdom

In 2018, just over three quarters (76 %) of the EU-28 adult population (aged 16-74 years) used the internet on a daily basis (during the three months prior to being surveyed). The proportion of the adult population that made daily use of the internet ranged from a low of 45 % up to a high of 95 % across the 209 NUTS level 2 regions of the EU for which data are available; note again that statistics presented for Germany, Greece, Poland and the United Kingdom relate to NUTS level 1 regions.

There were widespread disparities between the EU Member States in terms of their share of individuals that made daily use of the internet. These differences were often along broad geographical lines with northern and western Member States generally recording higher levels of daily internet use than southern or eastern regions of the EU — thereby reaffirming the patterns already observed for broadband access at home. That said, the share of adults making use of the internet on a daily basis was particularly high (compared with broadband connectivity rates) across the Nordic Member States ; this pattern was also apparent in Iceland and Norway.

There were 22 regions in the EU where at least 9 out of every 10 adults were daily internet users in 2018. The highest proportion of daily internet users (95 %) was recorded in the South West region of the United Kingdom (NUTS level 1), followed by East Midlands (also in the United Kingdom; NUTS level 1) and Friesland (in the Netherlands) — both of which recorded shares of 94 %. The remaining 19 regions — where daily internet use covered at least 90 % of the adult population — were located in northern and western regions: all five regions in Denmark; 7 out of the remaining 11 regions in the Netherlands, including the capital city region, Noord-Holland; the capital city region of Finland (Helsinki-Uusimaa); two regions in Sweden, including the capital city region of Stockholm; four additional regions from the south of the United Kingdom, including the capital city region, London (NUTS level 1).

At the other end of the range, there were 19 regions in the EU where fewer than 60 % of adults made daily use of the internet in 2018 (as shown by the lightest shade in Map 2). These regions were predominantly located in Bulgaria (five out of six regions) and Romania (six out of eight regions), with low shares also recorded in central and northern Greece (NUTS level 1), one outermost region of France, two of the southernmost regions of Italy (2017 data), central and eastern Poland (NUTS level 1) and northern Portugal. Less than half of the adult population made daily use of the internet in six regions, with the lowest shares recorded in Nord-Est (45 %) and Sud-Est (46 %) Romania.



Note: Germany, Greece, Poland, the United Kingdom and Turkey, NUTS/statistical regions level 1. Serbia: national data. Italy and Switzerland: 2017. Corse (FRM0) and Mellersta Norrland (SE32): low reliability.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: isoc_r_iuse_i and isoc_ci_ifp_fu)

Map 2: Daily internet users, 2018(%, share of people aged 16-74; during the three months preceding the survey, by NUTS 2 regions)Source: Eurostat (isoc_r_iuse_i) and (isoc_ci_ifp_fu)

More than four out of every five adults in the Danish capital participated in social networks

With the prolific use of mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets in modern society, the frequency with which people use the internet has grown exponentially, while the ways in which they use the internet have also changed profoundly; it is only slightly more than a decade since commercially successful app stores were launched on the internet.

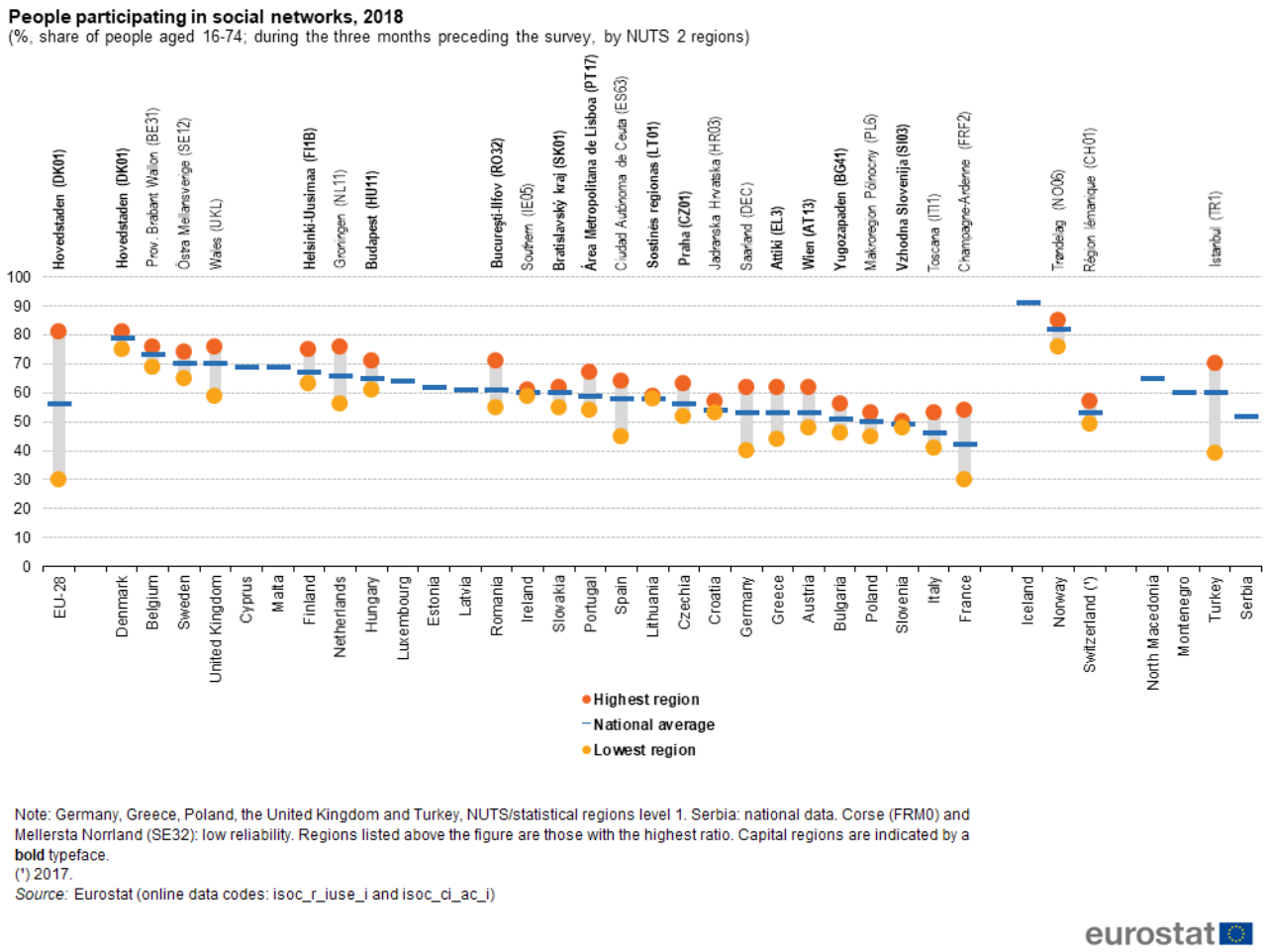
One of the most popular internet activities is to participate in social networks, for example by using Instagram, Facebook or Twitter. The propensity to make use of such services is closely linked to age, with a much higher proportion of younger people using social media on a regular basis. Younger people are also more prone to adopt new apps/services as together with their peers they seek alternative ways of exchanging text, images, sound, video and other information (for example, Vero or Musical.ly); it is important to remember that the statistics presented below cover only persons aged 16-74 years.

In 2018, some 56 % of the EU-28 adult population participated in social networks during the three months prior to the latest survey. There were sizeable differences in this share by age, as 88 % of people aged 16-24 years participated in social networks, compared with just 19 % for those aged 65-74 years.

At least half of the adult population participated in social networks in 150 out of the 209 NUTS level 2 regions for which data are available in 2018; note again that statistics presented for Germany, Greece, Poland and the United Kingdom relate to NUTS level 1 regions. Participation in social networks peaked at 81 % in Hovedstaden, the Danish capital city region. There were nine regions across the EU where at least three quarters of the adult population participated in social networks in 2018: all five regions in Denmark; Prov. Brabant Wallon in Belgium; Groningen in the Netherlands; Helsinki-Uusimaa in Finland; Wales in the United Kingdom (NUTS level 1).

Looking in more detail, it is interesting to note that aside from the Nordic Member States, Belgium and the United Kingdom — where most of the highest participation rates were recorded — there were also several regions in eastern and southern parts of the EU where a relatively high share of the adult population participated in social networks, for example, the Hungarian and Romanian capital city regions (Budapest and Bucureşti-Ilfov, both 71 %), or the island regions of Cyprus and Malta (both 69 %; single regions at this level of detail).

By contrast, in 2018 less than half of the adult population participated in social networks in Slovenia (49 %), Italy (46 %) and France (42 %). Regional participation rates were particularly low in rural and outermost regions of France as all 10 regions in the EU where fewer than 40 % of the adult population participated in social networks were in France. The lowest rates of all were in Auvergne and Martinique (both 30 %).



Note: Germany, Greece, Poland, the United Kingdom and Turkey, NUTS/statistical regions level 1. Serbia: national data. Corse (FRM0) and Mellersta Norrland (SE32): low reliability. Regions listed above the figure are those with the highest ratio. Capital regions are indicated by a **bold** typeface.
(*) 2017.
Source: Eurostat (online data codes: isoc_r_iuse_i and isoc_ci_ac_i)

eurostat

Figure 1: People participating in social networks, 2018(%, share of people aged 16-74; during the three months preceding the survey, by NUTS 2 regions)Source: Eurostat (isoc_r_iuse_i) and (isoc_ci_ac_i)

Each of the five regions from Denmark had a very high share — within the range of 89 %-93 % — of adults interacting with public authorities over the internet

E-government may be defined as the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) to improve the delivery of services by public authorities. In most of the EU Member States it is possible for private individuals to carry out a broad range of operations by interacting online with their public authorities, for example: making a tax return, requesting a birth certificate, downloading forms, or looking for information about the local transport network; note that contacts with public authorities by manually typed e-mails are excluded from the statistics presented below.

Just over half (52 %) of the EU-28's adult population (aged 16-74 years) used the internet for interacting with public authorities during the 12 months prior to the 2018 survey: 44 % used the internet to obtain information from public authority websites, 34 % to submit completed forms, and 31 % to download official forms.

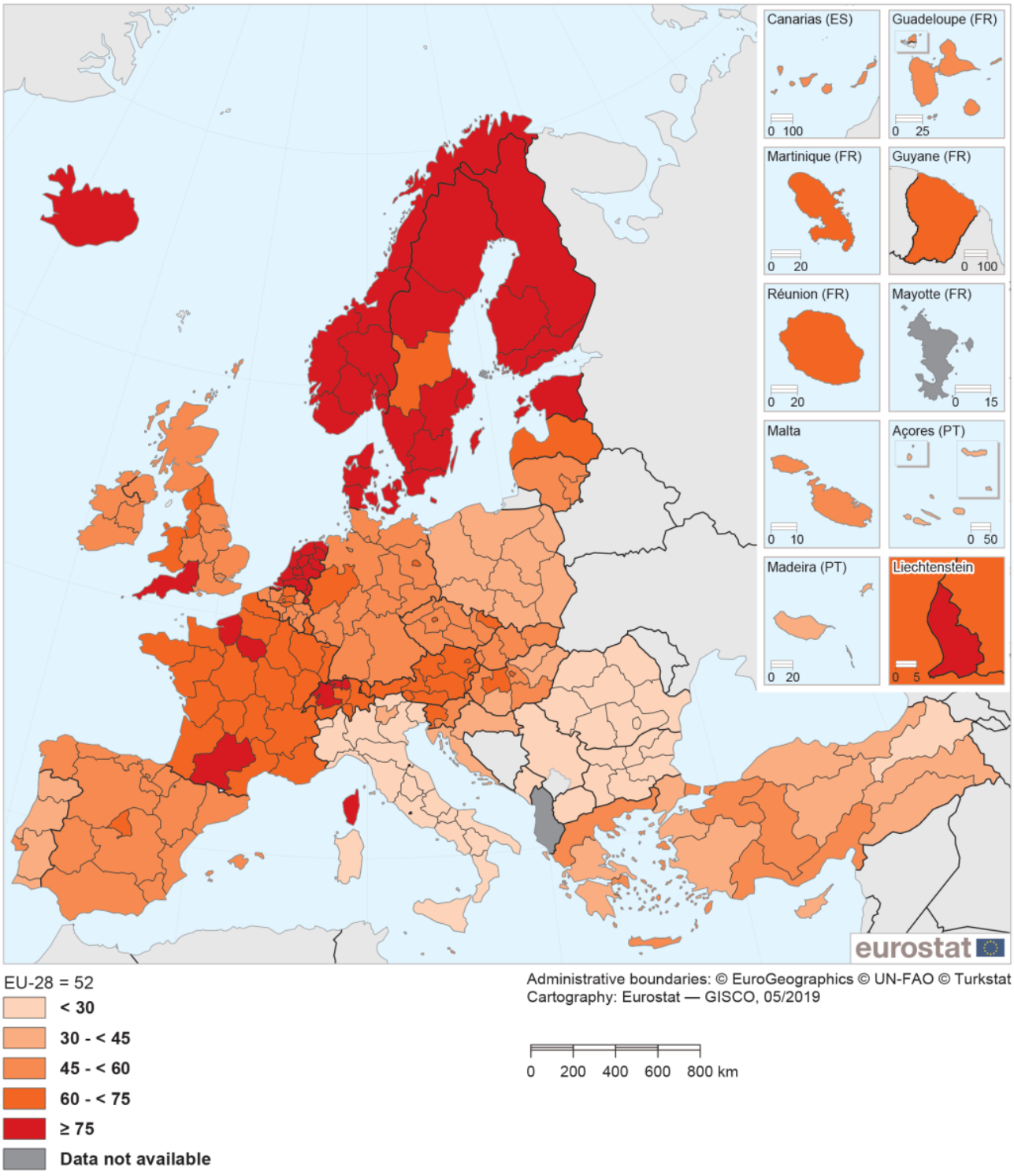
Among the 209 NUTS level 2 regions across the EU for which data are available in 2018 — note again that statistics presented for Germany, Greece, Poland and the United Kingdom relate to NUTS level 1 regions — the share of the adult population interacting with public authorities over the internet ranged from a low of just 3 % in Sud-Est (Romania) up to a high of 93 % in Hovedstaden (the capital city region of Denmark).

There were 34 regions in the EU where at least three quarters of the adult population used the internet to interact with public authorities in 2018 (as shown by the darkest shade in Map 3). These 34 regions were exclusively located in northern and western parts of the EU — with some of the highest shares concentrated in the Netherlands and the Nordic Member States.

Regional patterns for the use of e-government services often closely reflected the patterns already observed above for social media insofar as the highest shares were recorded in northern and western regions of the EU. Nevertheless, there were some differences: for example, it was common for adults in most French or Austrian regions to make greater use of the internet for interacting with public authorities than it was to participate in social networks, while the opposite was often true in the United Kingdom.

The distribution of the adult population interacting with public authorities over the internet was somewhat skewed. In 2018, there were 129 regions where this share was higher than the EU-28 average (52 %), compared with 74 regions that had a lower share and six regions with an identical share. This reflected, at least to some degree, a particularly low use of e-government services in three of the EU Member States — Bulgaria, Italy and Romania. All 34 regions in the EU where less than 30 % of the adult population interacted with public authorities over the internet were located in these three Member States (as shown by the lightest shade in Map 3). Looking in more detail, there were four regions — all in Romania — where the share of adults making use of e-government services fell to single digits: Vest (9 %), Sud-Vest Oltenia (also 9 %), Nord-Est (7 %) and Sud-Est (3 %).

People interacting with public authorities over the internet, 2018
(%, share of people aged 16-74; during the 12 months preceding the survey, by NUTS 2 regions)



Note: Germany, Greece, Poland, the United Kingdom and Turkey, NUTS/statistical regions level 1. Serbia: national data. Switzerland: 2017. Corse (FRM0) and Mellersta Norrland (SE32): low reliability.
Source: Eurostat (online data codes: isoc_r_gov_i and isoc_ciegi_ac)

Map 3: People interacting with public authorities over the internet, 2018(%, share of people aged 16-74; during the 12 months preceding the survey, by NUTS 2 regions)Source: Eurostat (isoc_r_gov_i) and (isoc_ciegi_ac)

Digital skills

The increasing spread of digital technologies has already profoundly impacted labour markets and is likely to continue to do so. Robots, artificial intelligence and automation are likely to continue to replace mundane and repetitive jobs, while those seeking work will need to acquire and regularly refresh their digital skills in order to maintain their employability. The digital transformation of the economy means that almost all jobs now require some level of digital skills.

Digital skills are considered essential for global competitiveness, boosting jobs and growth, while the internet can also play a vital role in terms of providing high-quality education and training. Official statistics in this domain are based on a proxy measure of digital competences that covers four different dimensions:

- information skills (copying or moving files, saving files to an internet storage space, obtaining information from public authorities, finding information about goods or services, seeking health-related information);
- communication skills (sending/receiving e-mails, participating in social networks, telephoning/video calls over the internet, uploading self-created content to a website);
- problem solving skills (transferring files between computers or other devices, installing software and applications, changing settings of software, online purchases, selling online, using online learning resources, internet banking);
- software skills (using word processing software, using spreadsheet software, using software to edit photos/video/audio files, creating a presentation or document integrating different types of content, using advanced functions of a spreadsheet, writing code in a programming language).

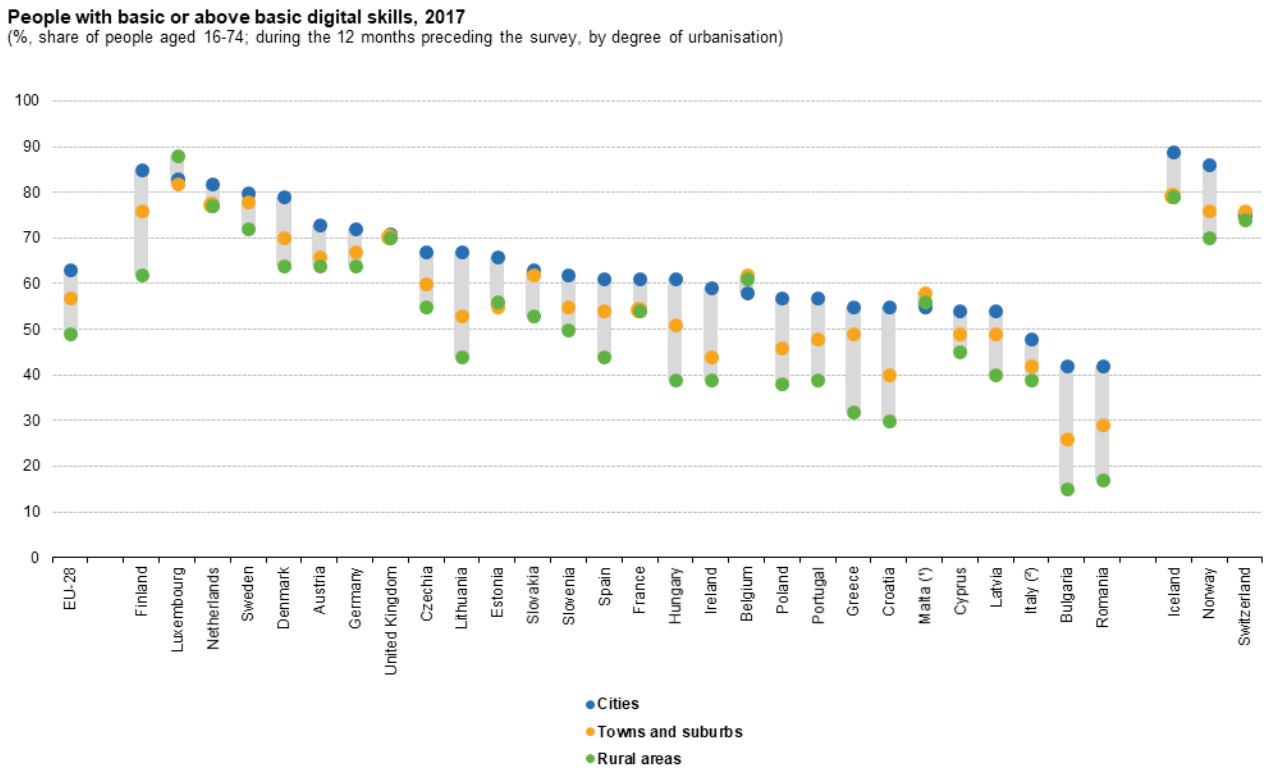
For each dimension, the adult population's (aged 16-74 years) skills are assessed according to two levels ('basic skills' and 'above basic skills'), with the results combined to produce a composite indicator for overall digital skills that has four different levels ('no skills', 'low skills', 'basic skills' and 'above basic skills').

Digital skills gaps are apparent across the EU in a number of different areas: on one hand, most EU Member States have unfilled vacancies for ICT professionals, while on the other, just over a quarter (27 %) of the EU-28's adult population possessed no more than a low level of digital skills in 2017; note that digital skills could not be assessed for 16 % of the adult population (as they had not used the internet in the three months prior to the survey).

There was a considerable digital skills divide in the EU between adults living in cities and those living in rural areas

Figure 2 provides information on the share of the adult population with basic or above basic digital skills in 2017. An analysis by degree of urbanisation reveals that the overall level of digital skills in the EU-28 was lowest among adults who were living in rural areas (49 % had basic or above basic skills), rising to 57 % for adults living in towns and suburbs , and peaking at 63 % for adults living in cities . This pattern — with the highest level of digital skills recorded for those adults living in cities — was repeated in all but three of the EU Member States, the exceptions being Belgium, Luxembourg and Malta.

In 2017, the gap in digital skills between city-dwellers and people living in rural areas was, on average, 14 percentage points (pp) in the EU-28 (as measured by the difference in relative shares of adults possessing basic or above basic digital skills). This digital divide in overall skills reached 20-25 pp in seven EU Member States — Ireland, Hungary, Greece, Lithuania, Finland, Croatia and Romania — peaking at 27 pp in Bulgaria.



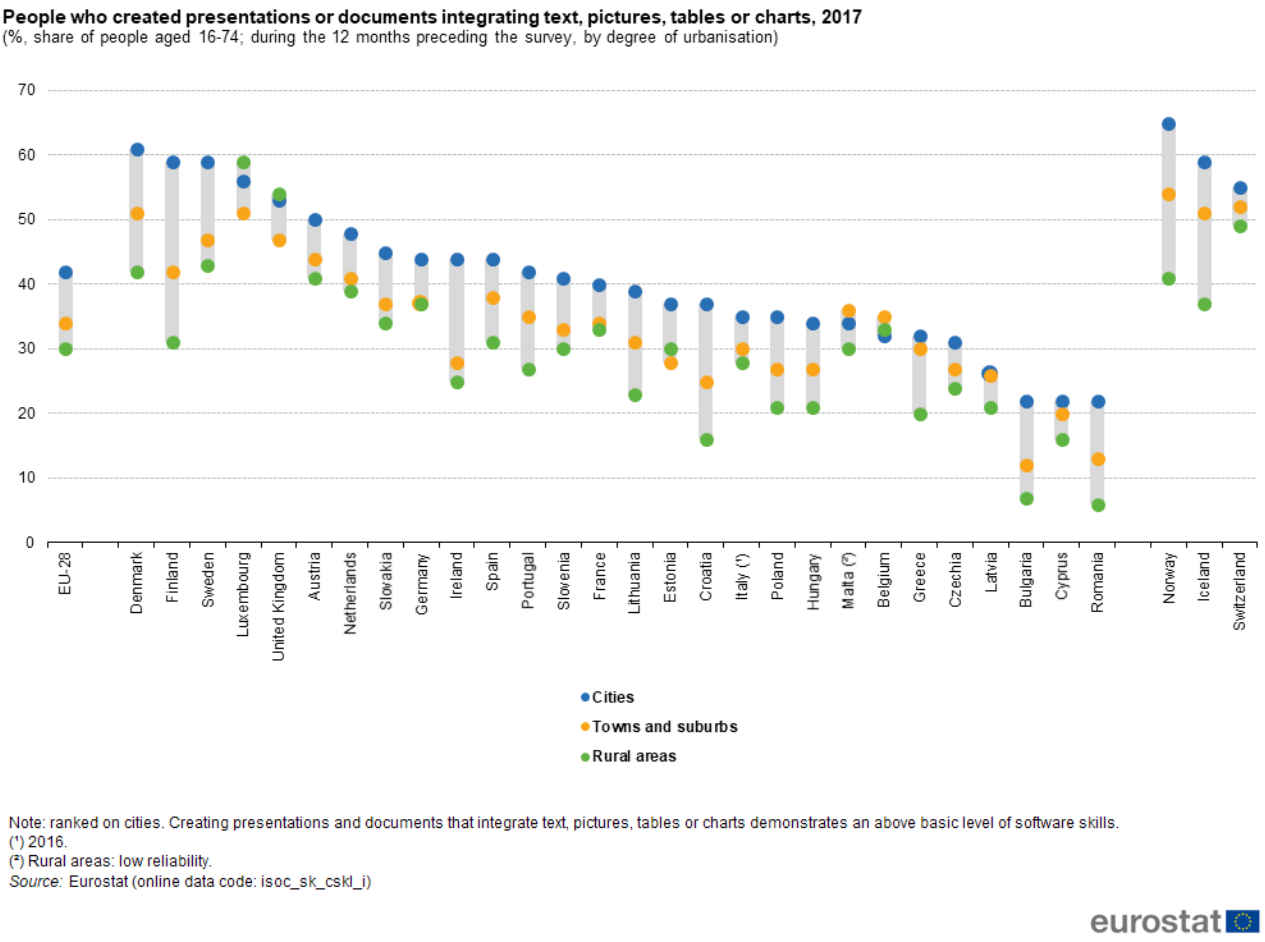
Note: ranked on cities. Basic and above basic digital skills are the two highest levels of skills (compared with low skills or no skills). The indicator presented is a composite indicator covering four different skills domains: information, communication, problem solving and software skills. Individuals with basic and above basic digital skills have at least a basic level of skills for one of these four domains and do not have no skills across all four domains.
(1) Rural areas: low reliability.
(2) 2016.
Source: Eurostat (online data code: isoc_sk_dskl_i)

eurostat

Figure 2: People with basic or above basic digital skills, 2017(%, share of people aged 16-74; during the 12 months preceding the survey, by degree of urbanisation)Source: Eurostat (isoc_sk_dskl_i)

Figure 3 looks in more detail at one of the four dimensions for analysing digital skills, namely software skills. It presents the share of the adult population who created presentations or documents integrating text, pictures, tables or charts in 2017. More than two fifths (42 %) of adults living in cities across the EU-28 demonstrated an above basic level of software skills by creating presentations or documents integrating text, pictures, tables or charts. The corresponding shares among adults living in towns and suburbs (34 %) and rural areas (30 %) were much lower, underlining the digital divide between city-dwellers and people living in rural areas.

In 2017, adults living in cities were more likely (than people living elsewhere) to demonstrate an above basic level of skill when creating presentations or documents integrating text, pictures, tables or charts. This pattern was confirmed in 23 of the EU Member States: the five exceptions were Belgium, Luxembourg and Malta (which were also exceptions for overall digital skills), Latvia (where identical shares were recorded for adults living in cities and in towns and suburbs) and the United Kingdom. The gap between city-dwellers and adults living in rural areas for the share of adults demonstrating an above basic level of skill when creating presentations or documents integrating text, pictures, tables or charts was, on average, 12 pp in the EU-28; it reached 21 pp in Croatia and peaked at 28 pp in Finland.



Note: ranked on cities. Creating presentations and documents that integrate text, pictures, tables or charts demonstrates an above basic level of software skills.
(1) 2016.
(2) Rural areas: low reliability.
Source: Eurostat (online data code: isoc_sk_cskl_i)

eurostat

Figure 3: People who created presentations or documents integrating text, pictures, tables or charts, 2017(%, share of people aged 16-74; during the 12 months preceding the survey, by degree of urbanisation)Source: Eurostat (isoc_sk_cskl_i)

In addition to the analysis presented above for the level of digital skills, the closing focus of this chapter provides information on the share of adults (aged 16-74 years) who sought to improve their digital skills by carrying out free online training or self-study (as shown in Figure 4). In 2018, 12 % of adults living in cities across the EU-28 sought to do so, compared with fewer than 1 in 10 adults living in towns and suburbs (9 %) or rural areas (7 %).

Among the individual EU Member States (no data available for the United Kingdom), almost one third of all adults (32 %) in Finland and almost one quarter of all adults (24 %) in Czechia carried out free online training or self-study to improve their digital skills in 2018. Half (14) of the Member States reported that their share of adults who carried out free online training or self-study to improve their digital skills was within the range of 10-15 %, while there were five Member States where this proportion was no higher than 5 %: Greece, France, Hungary, Italy and Cyprus (where the lowest share was recorded, at 3 %).

In 2018, adults living in cities were more likely (than those living elsewhere) to carry out free online training or self-study to improve their digital skills. This pattern was observed in 22 of the EU Member States, the six exceptions being: Ireland and Lithuania (where identical shares were recorded for adults living in cities and in towns and suburbs); Latvia (where identical shares were recorded for adults living in cities and in rural areas), Malta (note that the data for rural areas are of low reliability), Romania and Slovakia. In Finland, the share of adults living in cities and carrying out free online training or self-study to improve their digital skills was 15 pp higher than the corresponding share for adults living in rural areas, while the gaps recorded in Sweden (9 pp) and Poland (8 pp) were also relatively large.

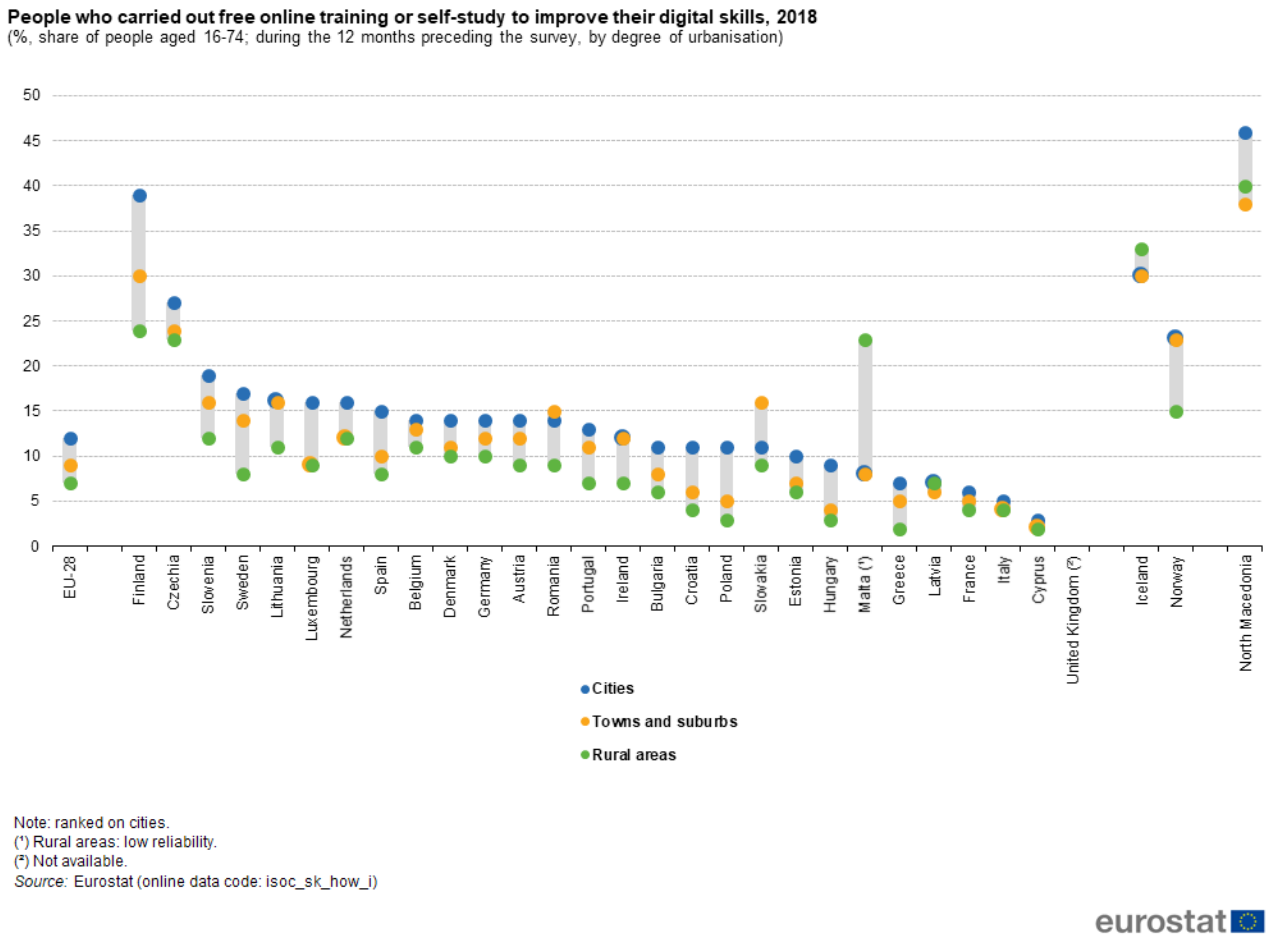


Figure 4: People who carried out free online training or self-study to improve their digital skills, 2018(%, share of people aged 16-74; during the 12 months preceding the survey, by degree of urbanisation)Source: Eurostat (isoc_sk_how_i)

Source data for figures and maps

Digital economy and society at regional level

Data sources

European ICT surveys aim to provide timely statistics on individuals and households relating to their use of ICTs. Many of these statistics are used in the benchmarking framework associated with the EU's digital scoreboard .

Statistics on the use of ICT are based on Regulation (EC) No 808/2004 concerning Community statistics on the information society . The regulation concerns statistics on the use of ICT in enterprises, as well as in households and by individuals — only statistics for households and individuals are presented here. Since 2005, European Commission implementing regulations have been passed annually, specifying particular areas of interest for data collection, thereby allowing policymakers to have access to data that aim to measure the impact of new technologies and services in this rapidly changing domain.

The statistical units for regional data on ICTs are the household or the individual. The population of households consists of all households having at least one member in the age group 16-74 years. The population of individuals consists of all individuals aged 16-74 years. Questions on access to ICTs are addressed to households, while questions on the use of ICTs are answered by individuals within the household.

In general, the data presented were collected in the second quarter of the survey year (2017 or 2018). Data for the EU are compiled when data are available for EU Member States representing at least 60 % of the

EU's population and at least 55 % of the number of EU Member States. If additional national data become available, these are included in revised aggregates; as such, these statistics may be revised to reflect the supply of additional information.

Regional statistics on ICT for the EU Member States are generally available for NUTS level 2 regions. However, the latest data for Germany, Greece, Poland and the United Kingdom are only provided for NUTS level 1 regions.

For more information:

Digital economy and society

Methodology manuals for ICT usage in enterprises and households

Context

In May 2015, the European Commission adopted a strategy to deliver a digital single market (COM(2015) 192 final) as one of its top 10 political priorities for the period 2015-2019. The strategy covers three broad pillars:

- promoting better online access to goods and services across Europe;
- designing an optimal environment for digital networks and services to develop;
- ensuring that the European economy and industry takes full advantage of the digital economy as a potential driver for growth.

Work in this area focused on, among others: improving rules to make cross-border e-commerce easier; delivering more efficient and affordable parcel deliveries; ending geo-blocking by online sellers for commercial reasons; launching an anti-trust competition enquiry into e-commerce in the EU; delivering proposals to modernise copyright rules to facilitate wider online availability of content; or reducing VAT burdens.

At the end of 2015, the European Commission published a framework called monitoring the digital economy and society 2016-2021 . This describes main policy developments and outlines data requirements for these, with a digital scoreboard introduced to measure progress in the European digital economy.

The European Commission adopted a review of the digital single market; two years on during 2016 and this was followed in May 2017 by a mid-term review of the digital single market strategy (COM(2017) 228 final) which confirmed that two thirds of Europeans thought the introduction of the most recent digital technologies had a positive impact on society, the economy and their own lives. The review also identified three emerging challenges:

- to ensure that online platforms continue to bring benefit to the economy and society — tacking illegal content online and encouraging enhanced responsibility among online platform providers;
- to develop the*European data economy* to its full potential — for example, by making proposals for the free flow of non-personal data within the EU; and,
- to protect Europe's assets by tackling cybersecurity challenges — including a blueprint for rapid emergency responses in case of a large scale cyber incident.

The European Commission has promoted a number of initiatives that seek to promote training in digital skills (both for people in the labour market and for other member of the population). On 10 June 2016, it published a new Skills Agenda for Europe (COM(2016) 381 final) with a range of actions to tackle the digital skills deficit in Europe:

- launch the digital skills and jobs coalition — a new flagship initiative;
- develop national digital skills strategies;
- establish national digital skills coalitions to connect public authorities, business, education, training and labour market stakeholders;
- develop ideas to help bring digital skills and competences to all levels of education/training.

The digital skills and jobs coalition initiative brings together EU Member States, businesses, social partners, non-profit organisations and education providers, with the aim of taking action to tackle the lack of digital skills in Europe. Its actions may range from providing basic digital skills to the unemployed, to training for teachers, or coding lessons for ICT specialists, alongside pilot projects for apprenticeships that give students and recent graduates an opportunity to get training in fields such as cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, coding or digital marketing.

At a regional level, over EUR 20 billion of funding has been made available through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and cohesion fund for ICT investments during the period 2014-2020. These investments are principally designed to support the European Commission's action to create a digital single market . The ERDF prioritises: extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks; developing ICT products and services and e-commerce; strengthening ICT applications for e-government, e-learning, e-inclusion, e-culture and e-health.

For more information:

Digital scoreboard

Skills Agenda for Europe

Other articles

- E-commerce statistics for individuals
- Digital economy and society in the EU — 2018 edition (online publication)
- Digital economy and society statistics — enterprises
- Digital economy and society statistics — households and individuals

Publications

- Eurostat regional yearbook
- Digital economy and society — news items

Main tables

- Digital economy and society (t_isoc) , see:

ICT usage in households and by individuals (t_isoc_i)

Regional ICT statistics (t_isoc_reg)

- Regional statistics (t_reg) , see:

Regional digital economy and society (t_reg_isoc)

Database

- Digital economy and society (isoc) , see:

ICT usage in households and by individuals (isoc_i)

Connection to the internet and computer use (isoc_ici)

Households - type of connection to the internet (isoc_ci_it_h)

Internet use (isoc_iiu)

Individuals - frequency of internet use (isoc_ci_ifp_fu)
Individuals - internet activities (isoc_ci_ac_i)

E-government (isoc_ci_egi)

E-government activities of individuals via websites (isoc_ciegi_ac)

Regional ICT statistics (isoc_reg)

Digital skills (isoc_sk)

ICT users (isoc_sku)

- Regional statistics by NUTS classification (reg) , see:

Regional digital economy and society (reg_isoc)

Dedicated section

- Digital economy and society
- Regions and cities

Data visualisation

- Eurostat statistical atlas (Chapter 9)
- Regional statistics illustrated

Methodology

- Methodological manual on territorial typologies — Eurostat — 2018 edition
- Methodological manuals for statistics on the information society
- ICT usage in households and by individuals (ESMS metadata file — isoc_i_esms)

Legislation

- Regulation (EC) No 808/2004 of 21 April 2004 concerning Community statistics on the information society
- Regulation (EC) No 1006/2009 of 16 September 2009 amending Regulation (EC) No 808/2004 concerning Community statistics on the information society

External links

- A Digital Agenda for Europe
- Europe 2020 strategy
- European Commission — Digital single market — Creating a digital society
- European Commission — Regional policy — Information and communication technologies
- Framework for Benchmarking Digital Europe 2011-2015
- i2010 A European Information Society for growth and employment

Maps can be explored interactively using Eurostat's statistical atlas (see user manual).

This article forms part of Eurostat 's annual flagship publication, the *Eurostat regional yearbook* .