

# GERMANY

## 2023 Digital Public Administration factsheets

### Annex 1. Selection of Topics: 2023

#### INTEROPERABILITY & INTEROPERABLE PUBLIC SERVICES



##### Digital-ready policymaking

Introducing a digital-readiness check for drafting policies and legislation, the so-called *Digitalcheck* is a political objective of the current federal government. The purpose of the Digitalcheck is to provide processes, methods, and skills for producing digital-ready policies. To achieve this goal, the **National Regulatory Control Council (NKR, Nationaler Normenkontrollrat)** has been endowed with the legal mandate to audit the execution of the digital-readiness check as of 1 January 2023. In addition, the beta version of the Digitalcheck has been applied to new regulation initiatives since January 2023. The beta version is based on five principles to provide a common ground for the different institutions involved in legislation. Applying an iterative and user-oriented approach, the Digitalcheck has been developed under the leadership of the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community jointly with an interdepartmental working group as well as the federally owned DigitalService GmbH.

Adopting a "digital first" mentality and considering the digital-readiness of policies right from the very beginning of the law drafting process implies a mindset shift and a whole new set of methods, processes and competences for policymaking. This transformation of a core political and administrative process such as legislation requires time and an iterative approach based on a long-term vision. The current beta version is only the beginning. Based on hands-on experiences, evaluation data and feedback by government staff and other stakeholders involved in law drafting and enforcing, the Digitalcheck will continue to evolve, with new and updated versions to be published in due course.

#### INNOVATIVE USE OF TECHNOLOGIES BY THE PUBLIC SECTOR



##### Artificial Intelligence (AI)

The **Federal AI Strategy** (*Strategie Künstliche Intelligenz der Bundesregierung*) was adopted in November 2018. With this AI strategy, the federal government established the framework for the holistic development and application of AI in Germany. To advance the use of AI in public administration, courageous decisions must be made for innovative transformation projects. At the same time, the success of implementation depends to a large extent on sufficient capabilities in the public administration. These include human resources and technical infrastructure. The goal is a public administration that uses AI competently for the common good in suitable fields of application. The focus of the German Federal Government is currently on the negotiations of the AI Act. However, the need for any upcoming national policy or legislative measures is constantly evaluated.



##### GovTech

In 2021, the GovTech Campus was founded as a non-profit association in cooperation between the federal government, the federal states of Hesse and Hamburg and several for-profit, non-profit and applied research organisations. The aim of the GovTech Campus is the establishment of a "physical" and virtual platform to foster the connection and collaboration between public administration and GovTech community – a platform that generates international visibility, fosters the positive development of a GovTech ecosystem and facilitates and sustainably increases collaboration and co-creation between civil society, administration, science and technology.



### Data spaces and Smart Data Platforms

The German Federal Ministry of Digital and Transport is funding the [Mobility Data Space \(MDS\)](#) that is organized on private enterprise lines and used for the voluntary exchange and trading of data. The MDS is also a lighthouse project of the German Federal government's digital strategy with the mission to connect people and enable sovereign data exchange, so that mobility can become safer, more sustainable and more user-friendly. The MDS is among the first important implementation projects in [GAIA-X](#), [the European data infrastructure](#), and is open for connection with other data spaces. It can be observed that the willingness to share data must grow significantly. Often, too little data is shared because there are concerns that data will fall into the wrong hands. To support data sharing, the Federal Government plans to establish a right to claim open data from federal authorities.



### Data exchanges with and within public administrations

In July 2021, the Federal cabinet adopted the [Open Data Strategy](#) of the German Federal Government. Over the next five years, the Open Data Strategy will cover three areas of action with a total of 68 measures taken by various federal ministries and federal authorities to improve data provision, promote data skills and establish a data culture in the federal administration to improve the quality and usability of data provided. In 2021, the [2<sup>nd</sup> Open Data Law](#) was passed, which obliges all federal authorities under direct control of the Federal Government to make available their open data in machine readable format by default and publish the respective metadata on GovData