

# Digital Public Administration factsheet 2021

France



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*Please note that the data collection exercise for the update of the 2021 edition of the Digital Public Administration factsheets took place between March and June 2021. Therefore, the information contained in this document reflects this specific timeframe.*





1

# Country Profile



# 1 Country Profile

## 1.1 Basic data

**Population:** 67 248 926 inhabitants (2020)

**GDP at market prices:** 2 302 860 million Euro (2020)

**GDP per inhabitant in PPS (Purchasing Power Standard EU 27=100):** 103 (2020)

**GDP growth rate:** -7.9%

**Inflation rate:** 0.5%

**Unemployment rate:** 8%

**General government gross debt (Percentage of GDP):** 115.7 (2020)

**General government deficit/surplus (Percentage of GDP):** -9.2 (2020)

**Area:** 643 801 km<sup>2</sup>

**Capital city:** Paris

**Official EU language:** French

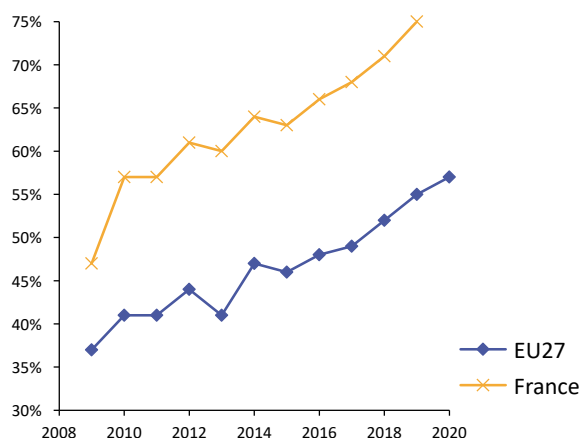
**Currency:** EUR

Source: [Eurostat](#) (last update: 28 June 2021)

## 1.2 Digital Public Administration Indicators

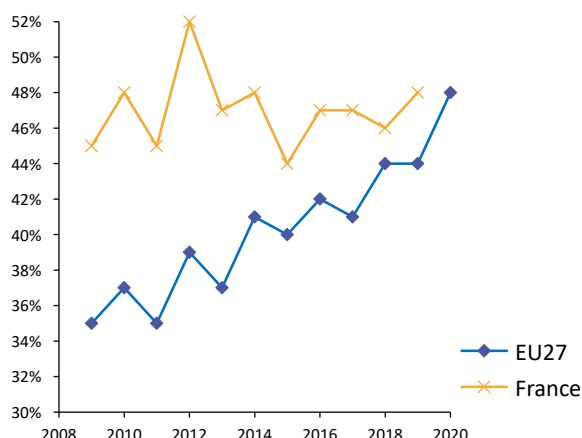
The following graphs present data for the latest Digital Public Administration Indicators for France compared to the EU average. Statistical indicators in this section reflect those of Eurostat at the time the Edition is being prepared.

Percentage of individuals using the internet for interacting with public authorities in France



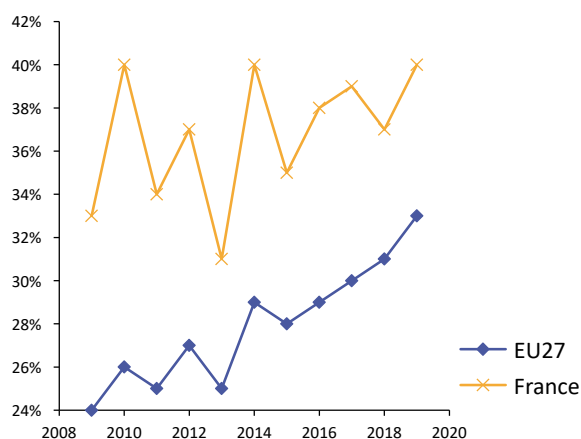
Source: Eurostat Information Society Indicators

Percentage of individuals using the internet for obtaining information from public authorities in France



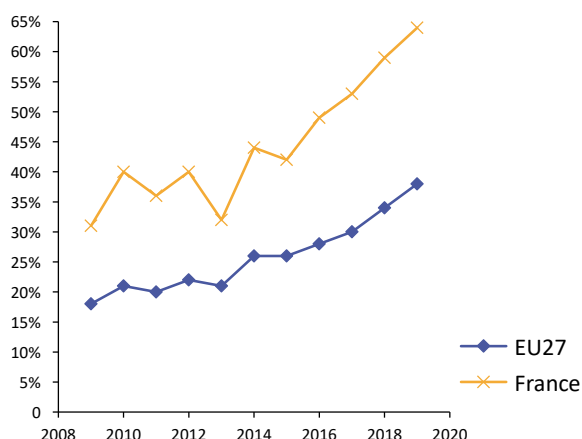
Source: Eurostat Information Society Indicators

Percentage of individuals using the internet for downloading official forms from public authorities in France



Source: Eurostat Information Society Indicators

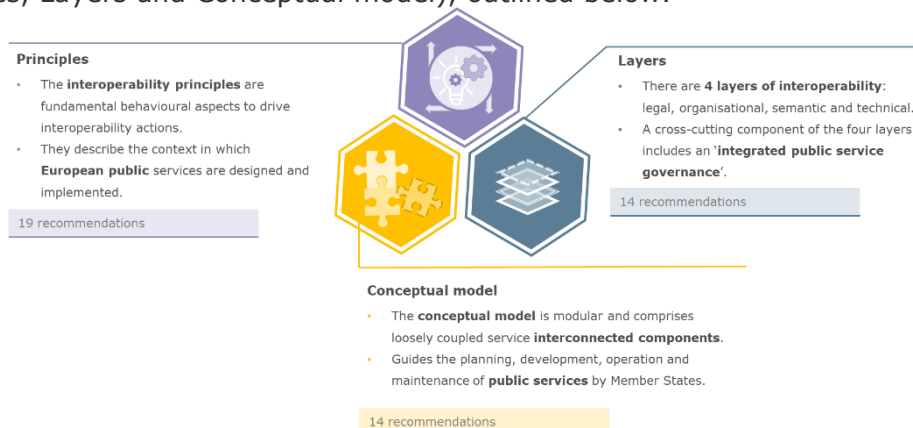
Percentage of individuals using the internet for sending filled forms to public authorities in France



Source: Eurostat Information Society Indicators

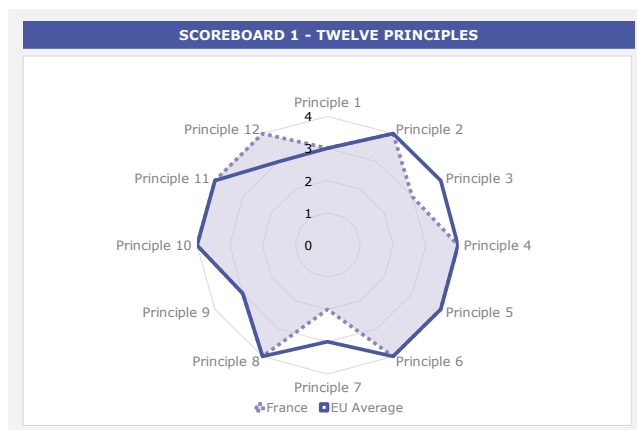
### 1.3 Interoperability State of Play

In 2017, the European Commission published the [European Interoperability Framework](#) (EIF) to give specific guidance on how to set up interoperable digital public services through a set of 47 recommendations. The picture below represents the three pillars of the EIF around which the EIF Monitoring Mechanism was built to evaluate the level of implementation of the EIF within the Member States. It is based on a set of 71 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) clustered within the three main pillars of the EIF (Principles, Layers and Conceptual model), outlined below.



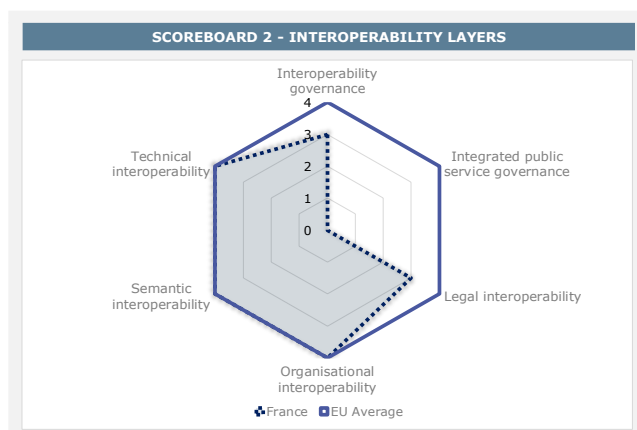
Source: European Interoperability Framework Monitoring Mechanism 2020

For each of the three pillars, a different scoreboard was created to breakdown the results into their main thematic areas (i.e. the 12 principles of interoperability, the interoperability layers and the components of the conceptual model). The thematic areas are evaluated on a scale from one to four, where one means a lower level of implementation and 4 means a higher level of implementation. The graphs below show the result of the second EIF Monitoring Mechanism data collection exercise for France in 2020.



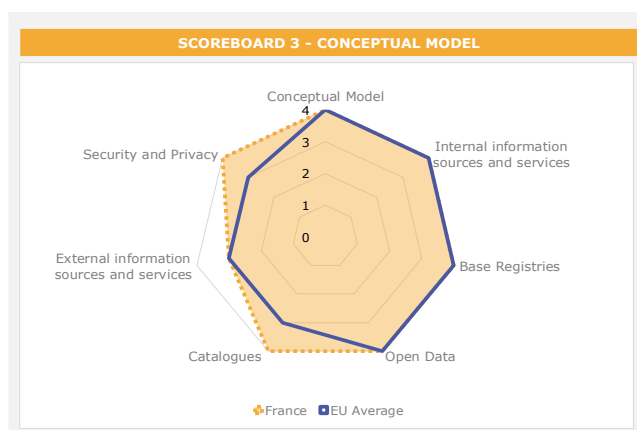
Source: European Interoperability Framework Monitoring Mechanism 2020

France's results in Scoreboard 1 show an overall good implementation of the EIF Principles, scoring above the European average for Principle 12 (Assessment of Effectiveness and Efficiency). Areas of improvements are concentrated in the Principles 3 (Transparency) and 7 (Inclusion and Accessibility) for which the scores of 3 and 2 respectively show a medium to upper-medium performance in the implementation of corresponding recommendations. Indeed, the internal visibility and provision of external interfaces for European public services (Principle 3 – Recommendation 5) and the accessibility of public services to all citizens, including persons with disabilities, the elderly and other disadvantaged groups (Principle 7 – Recommendation 14) could be improved in order to reach the maximum score of 4 in corresponding principles.



Source: European Interoperability Framework Monitoring Mechanism 2020

In spite of the lack of data for the interoperability layer related to the integration of public service governance, the French results for the implementation of interoperability layers assessed for Scoreboard 2 shows an overall good performance with scores of 3 and 4. Potential areas of improvement to foster the country's implementation of the recommendations under Scoreboard 2 are concentrated in the areas of legal and governance interoperability. More specifically, the score of 1 for France in Recommendation 23, stating that relevant catalogues of standards, specifications and guidelines at national and EU level should be consulted when procuring and developing ICT solutions, lowers the overall interoperability governance result for France.



Source: European Interoperability Framework Monitoring Mechanism 2020

France's scores assessing the Conceptual Model in Scoreboard 3 show a very good performance with a maximum score of 4 in the implementation of recommendations associated with internal and external information sources and services, base registries, catalogues, security and privacy, internal information sources and services, and open data. Although aligned with the EU average, there is still area for improvement regarding the implementation of the recommendations related to external information sources and services. More precisely, the use of external information sources when developing public services (External information sources and services - Recommendation 45) could be developed further, which would consequently improve the overall French score in Scoreboard 3.

Additional information on France's results on the EIF Monitoring Mechanism is available online through [interactive dashboards](#).

## 1.4 eGovernment State of Play

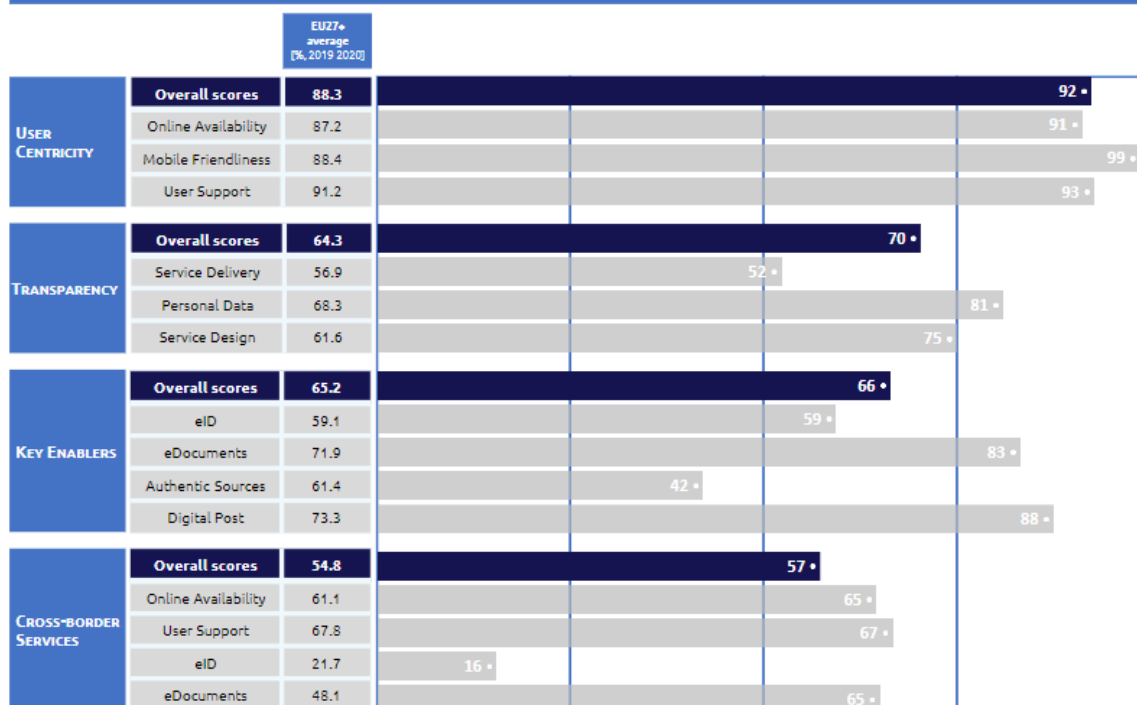
The graph below presents the main highlights of the latest eGovernment Benchmark Report, an assessment of eGovernment services in 36 countries: the 27 European Union Member States, as well as Iceland, Norway, Montenegro, the Republic of Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom, Albania and Macedonia (referred to as the EU27+).

The study evaluates online public services on four dimensions:

- **User centricity:** indicates the extent to which a service is provided online, its mobile friendliness and its usability (in terms of available online support and feedback mechanisms).
- **Transparency:** indicates the extent to which governments are transparent about (i) the process of service delivery, (ii) policy making and digital service design processes and (iii) the personal data processed in public services.
- **Cross-border services:** indicates the extent to which users of public services from another European country can use the online services.
- **Key enablers:** indicates the extent to which technical and organizational pre-conditions for eGovernment service provision are in place, such as electronic identification and authentic sources.

The 2021 report presents the biennial results, achieved over the past two years of measurement of all eight life events used to measure the above-mentioned key dimensions. More specifically, these life events are divided between six 'Citizen life events' (Career, Studying, Family life, measured in 2020, and Starting a small claim procedure, Moving, Owning a car, all measured in 2019) and two 'Business life events' (Business start-up, measured in 2020, and Regular business operations, measured in 2019).

### eGovernment performance across policy priorities



Source: eGovernment Benchmark Report 2021 Country Factsheet





# 2

## Digital Public Administration Highlights

## 2 Digital Public Administration Highlights

### Digital Public Administration Political Communications

In March 2021, the Ministry for Public Transformation and Civil Service presented its [400 days to accelerate the State's digital transformation](#) agenda. The plan targets three categories of stakeholders (end-users - both citizens and businesses, civil servants and democracy players) and is focused around three main challenges:

- Quality of public services;
- Openness and transparency;
- Security and sovereignty.

On 5 February 2021, the French government organised the [5<sup>th</sup> Interministerial Committee for Public transformation](#) which reaffirmed France's commitment to eGovernment:

- Commitment 5: Ensure transparency of results and reforms;
- Commitment 6: Define and deploy an ambitious strategy for data valorisation;
- Commitment 7: Simplify 10 procedures and 100 forms in the upcoming year;
- Commitment 9: Accelerate data exchange between public administrations;
- Commitment 11: Ensure that each civil servant that may work from home obtain teleworking equipment (e.g. laptop);
- Commitment 12: Accelerate decision making to improve efficiency.

In late 2020, the French government launched the [France Relance](#) recovery plan to help face and recover from the economic and sanitary consequences of the COVID-19 crisis and build the France of 2030. A EUR 1 billion envelope has been [dedicated to the State and local authorities' digital transformation](#) over the 2020-2022 period to fund digital transformation initiatives (e.g. improvement of online procedures, data sharing between administrations, open data), offer civil servants better digital tools, accelerate cybersecurity and the implementation of digital identity, and foster the digital transformation of education.

### Digital Public Administration Legislation

The [Law for a State at the Service of a Society based on Trust](#) was promulgated on 10 August 2018, establishing the principle of the right to error (in French *droit à l'erreur*) and including a series of measures to simplify administrative formalities.

The first part of the Law provides that French citizens who make a mistake in official declarations to the administration will not incur any penalty for the first error as long as it was made in good faith. It will be up to the administration to demonstrate the user's bad faith.

The second part of the Law gathers measures to simplify administrative formalities. To facilitate citizens' journeys, an experiment will be carried out appointing a single contact person who will be responsible for having the users' requests processed by the administrations concerned.

### Digital Public Administration Governance

In July 2020, Amélie de Montchalin was appointed minister for Public Transformation and Civil Service. This newly created Ministry is responsible for the State's transformation policy and notably the promotion of actions to accelerate the State's digital transformation.

### Digital Public Administration Infrastructure

The [Digital Identity Mission](#), conducted under the [Tech.gouv programme](#), made considerable progress in 2020, notably with the continuous uptake of FranceConnect, France's e-identification federation system, which counted over 21 million users in



January 2021 and the launch of FranceConnect +. The French government pursued the elaboration of its renewed Cloud Strategy, to be officially published mid-2021. In 2020, the State-developed [tools for civil servants](#) (e.g. Tchap, the State's instant messaging app, or WebConf, the state's videoconferencing system) gained in usage and in popularity and were essential to the remote work of civil servants.

A close-up photograph of a person's hand, wearing a white shirt cuff, holding a white stylus and writing on a tablet. The background is blurred, showing a dark suit and a white pocket square. A blue overlay with white text is positioned in the upper right quadrant.

# 3

## Digital Public Administration Political Communications



## 3 Digital Public Administration Political Communications

### 3.1 Specific political communications on digital public administration

#### Berlin Declaration on Digital Society and Value-Based Digital Government

In December 2020, the French government signed the [Berlin Declaration on Digital Society and Value-Based Digital Government](#), thus re-affirming its commitment – together with other EU Member States – to foster digital transformation in order to allow citizens and businesses to harness the benefits and opportunities offered by modern digital technologies. The Declaration aims to contribute to a value-based digital transformation by addressing and strengthening digital participation and digital inclusion in European societies.

#### Tech.gouv

On 16 April 2019 the French government launched [Tech.gouv](#), a new programme led by the Inter-ministerial Directorate for Digital Affairs (DINUM) with the support of all Ministries which aims to speed up the digital transformation of public services. This agile and collaborative programme aims to help the State seize the opportunities offered by digital technologies to improve public services and bring the administration closer to citizens, businesses and civil servants. Tech.gouv addresses six priority issues: simplification, inclusion, attractiveness, command, economies and alliances. The strategy is structured around eight missions:

- Four missions related to digital products and services to develop new uses (labelling, digital identity, data and infrastructure);
- Four missions related to the promotion of digital expertise to accelerate public service transformation (pilot, talents, factory and transformation).

Tech.gouv is accompanied by a three-year action plan centred on 35 priority projects and actions.

#### National Strategy for an Inclusive Digital Society

In September 2018, the [National Strategy for an Inclusive Digital Society and the initiative Digital in Common\(s\)](#) were launched on the occasion of the first event bringing together all actors of digital mediation. The objective is to train 1.5 million people in digital literacy to reduce inequalities and provide equal opportunities for all throughout the country. With 13 million French people who still do not use the internet, or only to a limited extent, including 6.7 million who never connect to the internet, the government faces a real challenge to carry out the digital transformation of the State. The National Strategy is based on four main approaches:

- Detecting audiences struggling with digital technology;
- Offering human support in the process;
- Training those who wish to do so thanks to the Digital Pass;
- Strengthening the players in digital mediation.

#### Public Action 2022

The [Public Action 2022](#) programme was launched in September 2017 by the French Prime Minister, Édouard Philippe, aiming to modernise the State. The programme has three objectives: improving the quality of public service provided to the user; improving the working conditions of staff; and helping to control the budget path. To achieve these objectives, the government developed a National Strategy for the Transformation of Public Action, published at the [second Inter-ministerial Committee for Public Transformation](#) in October 2018. The Strategy includes precise and quantifiable

indicators to measure and report on the success of the programme. French citizens will thus be able to monitor the progress of the reforms. The ambition is to have a closer, simpler and more efficient State to better meet citizens' expectations, with transparency in monitoring being a guarantee of the success of reforms.

The National Strategy is based on four streams guiding the government's action:

- Public services closer to users;
- Simpler and more accessible approaches;
- Clearer and more effective public intervention;
- A State that transforms itself.

A considerable part of the action in the field involves digital solutions, thus contributing to the promotion and development of digital government.

In June 2019, the Prime Minister launched the second part of the initiatives aiming at public transformation, inspired by citizens' contributions to the *Grand débat national*, a public consultation conducted earlier in the year. This second part is centred on three priority commitments: a simpler and more responsive administrative organisation; closer and more accessible administrations; and a more efficient administration, able to leverage digital tools for the benefit of end-users, public servants and public policies.

This over-arching strategy has been implemented by each Ministry through Ministerial Transformation Plans that define the modalities for implementing major government reforms (milestones, achievements and impact indicators). The monitoring of the implementation of these reforms is carried out by the Inter-ministerial Directorate for Public Transformation with the Offices of the Prime Minister and the President of the Republic and takes the form of high-level follow-up meetings scheduled at regular intervals. Since the programme's launch, five Inter-ministerial Committees for Public Transformation have been organised, the latest one having taken place in February 2021, with [renewed commitments for the State's digital transformation](#).

### Ministerial Transformation Plans

Following the roadmap that the Prime Minister sent to each member of the government at the beginning of his term of office, each Minister has now drawn up a [Ministerial Transformation Plan](#), for which he/she is responsible, to ensure the implementation of the main reforms. After the design and trade-off phase, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Inter-Ministerial Committee for the Transformation of Public Action (CITP) was introduced to accelerate the implementation of the Ministries' roadmaps and their Transformation Plans. These Plans are monitored at the highest level to ensure that the reforms undertaken are translated into concrete results. The ambition is to have a closer, simpler and more efficient State to better meet citizens' expectations.

### Ministerial Digital Transformation Plans

As part of the [Public Action 2022](#) initiative launched by the Prime Minister in October 2017, at the end of the same year the Minister for the Armed Forces defined a roadmap setting three objectives for the [digital transformation](#) of the Ministry:

- Ensure operational superiority and information literacy in theatres of operations;
- Strengthen the efficiency of support and facilitate the daily lives of staff;
- Improve the relationship with citizens and the attractiveness of the Ministry.

This Ministerial Digital Transformation Plan was the first to be presented and sets out actions in a concrete way, as the Minister for the Armed Forces reminded: "After four months of work, we are now entering the action phase. This Plan offers concrete measures to fully achieve our objectives and address the digital transformation".

At the same time, the education system is engaged in profound [pedagogical and organisational transformations](#), from nursery schools to post-baccalaureate, requiring to thoroughly mobilise the potential of digital technology. Digital technology represents



a powerful lever for transformation to support ministerial policy in all its dimensions: pedagogical transformation, with digital technology at the service of learning and evaluation; training in the challenges and professions of tomorrow; simplification of relations with users; and modernisation of the functioning of the State with redesigned information systems. In addition, today the Ministry of National Education produces a very large amount of data related to school life, student assessments and results, and work and homework performed by students. A wide variety of personal digital data is collected, stored and processed by a multitude of actors (schools and educational institutions, academic services, local authorities, and private partners providing educational resources and digital services). In this context, the Ministry must ensure that the flow, processing and storage of school data strictly respects the privacy of students and their families, teachers and administrative staff.

### Digital Local Administration Joint Development Programme

The State Secretary for Digital Affairs launched the [Digital Local Administration Joint Development Programme \(DCANT\)](#) in 2018. The programme was co-created by associations of elected representatives and representatives of governmental services. It aimed at promoting the roadmap for regional digital transformation, as well as building complementary and efficient digital public services. The programme had four priorities:

- Building a common foundation for applications, digital blocks, and shared frameworks to accelerate digital transformation;
- Guaranteeing shared governance of the digital transformation between the State and local authorities;
- Contributing to a global approach to data to the benefit of public policies;
- Facilitating the scaling up of digital administration.

Since the adoption of the programme, the actions linked to these priorities have been updated/enriched every six months and reviewed by a steering committee. A [report](#) on the final results of the DCANT Program was published in January 2021.

The programme's objectives have mainly been reached and, to build on the several successes of the last two programme editions (2015-2017 and 2018-2020), a new programme will be launched in May 2021 and should pursue 3 main goals:

- Building strong political steering and involvement on the program's topics;
- Making the stakeholders invest time and resources to create value through the implementation of concrete digital solutions impacting positively French citizens' life and/or public servants' work for local authorities;
- Reinforcing the elements of the French Recovery plan dedicated to the digital transformation of local authorities with complementary actions to reach the digital transformation sought by the French government. This program will last 2 years (instead of 3) to match the duration of the [France Relance](#) economic recovery plan that was launched by the Prime Minister on 3 September 2020 following the COVID economic crisis.

These objectives of the upcoming plan are set to increase the digital transformation of the State by building, together with citizens, private partners, public servants, and State and elected representatives, a collaborative digital administration that should be:

- Inclusive and efficient;
- Open and transparent;
- Secured and promoting French and European sovereignties.

The results of the programme's initiative will be followed by a coordination review steering committee. They will then be challenged and validated by the Ministry of Transformation and Public Service, the Minister of Territorial Cohesion and Relations with Local Bodies, and the State Secretary for Digital Affairs, every 6 months.

## Government Roadmap for the Digital Economy

Following a workshop on the digital economy organised on 28 February 2013, the government presented the [Government Roadmap for the Digital Economy](#). This strategy revolves around three pillars, namely: 'Providing opportunities for youth', 'Reinforcing competitiveness', and 'Promoting French values in society'.

### Providing opportunities for Youth

Four objectives were defined under this pillar:

- Using digital tools to rethink education in schools, i.e. ensure that all students leaving school are familiar with digital tools, have followed courses in information and media, and are aware of the historical, cultural, artistic, economic and social challenges brought about by the information society;
- Creating more digitally accessible universities, i.e. ensure that distance learning programmes and diplomas can be obtained in all fields where this is possible, and that 20% of educational programmes are available through digital means;
- Promoting ICT related jobs, as to increase the number of graduates obtaining ICT related degrees by at least 3,000 per year;
- Reinforcing awareness-raising campaigns.

### Reinforcing competitiveness

Four objectives were defined under this pillar:

- Encouraging the development of global digital companies;
- Encouraging research and innovation;
- Guaranteeing digital take-up for the entire economy;
- Developing a 21<sup>st</sup> century infrastructure.

### Promoting French values in society

Six objectives were defined under this pillar:

- Encouraging the use of digital tools to tackle exclusion;
- Protecting French sovereignty and establishing a trustful environment for citizens;
- Defining a new digital pact to promote cultural activities;
- Modernising public policy through the use of digital tools and resources;
- Promoting the use of digital means in the health sector;
- Responding to cyberspace-related challenges.

## 'State Start-up' Strategy

Since 2013 the State has been implementing a new innovation policy allowing State start-ups to be incubated to develop user-centric digital products that tackle public policy issues. The ['State Start-up' Strategy](#) is a striking initiative for public services delivery, with an unprecedented approach to the conception of public services by small independent teams. Today, Beta.gouv, the network of State start-up incubators hosted by the Inter-Ministerial Directorate for Digital Affairs (DINUM), leads a growing community of members that build tomorrow's digital public services within public sector incubators.

## 'Tell Us Once' Principle

Following the [Law of 10 August 2018 for a State at the Service of a Society based on Trust](#), a decree published in the Official Journal of 20 January 2019 supplements the 'Tell Us Once' principle, providing that a user of the administration (individual or company) carrying out an action will no longer be obliged to provide certain information or supporting documents (e.g. reference tax income, proof of identity) if the information is already held by the administration services. Furthermore, a [plan](#) to speed up the



implementation of the 'Tell Us Once' principle was announced at the latest Inter-ministerial Committee for Public Transformation in November 2019.

## 3.2 Interoperability

### Demarches-simplifiees.fr

Since 1 March 2018, the [demarches-simplifiees.fr](https://demarches-simplifiees.fr) platform has been allowing users to make online queries in record time and free of charge. As an eGovernment platform, [demarche-simplifiee.fr](https://demarches-simplifiees.fr) offers public administrations a turnkey service to digitalise administrative procedures and as a result free themselves from paper forms. In three years, the platform enabled the digitisation of more than 5,000 administrative procedures and the filing of more than one million files. The platform is used by more than 750 entities, mainly State services and public bodies.

A study commissioned by the European Commission in July 2019 compared different forms of generation tools used by European payrolls, with [demarches-simplifiées.fr](https://demarches-simplifiees.fr), the only open-source solution, resulting the best.

## 3.3 Key enablers

### 3.3.1 Access to public information

No political communication has been published in this field to date.

### 3.3.2 eID and Trust Services

#### Implementation of secure digital identity solutions

The French government has launched a programme to deploy a [digital identification system](#). This new public service enables everyone, be they citizens, residents or legal entities, to prove their identity in a secure, ergonomic and accessible way, both in data exchanges related to administrative procedures and in more extensive uses, such as commercial transactions on the internet.

### 3.3.3 Security aspects

#### Information Campaign to Carry Out Administrative Procedures in Complete Safety

The objective of the [National Information Campaign to Carry Out Administrative Procedures in Complete Safety](#) is to enable French citizens to carry out administrative procedures in complete safety. Fake administration sites offer to carry out certain common administrative procedures for a fee (e.g. requests for birth certificates or criminal records, change of address, registration on the electoral rolls), while the same services are offered free of charge on the official websites of the administration (accessible from the website [www.service-public.fr](https://www.service-public.fr)). Defrauded citizens suffer not only a financial loss, but also an intrusion into their private lives, as the use of these sites leads to access to sensitive personal data.

### 3.3.4 Interconnection of base registries

No political communication has been adopted in this field to date.

### 3.3.5 eProcurement

#### European Single Procurement Document

The European Single Procurement Document (ESPD or Document Unique de Marché Européen, DUME in French) was launched in France in 2018. The ESPD is a harmonised declaration of honour elaborated on the basis of a standard form drawn up by the European Commission, used in public procurement procedures by both public purchasers (contracting authorities/entities) and economic operators in the European Union.

The ESPD service solution allows the creation and filing of fully dematerialised ESPDs. In particular, the solution enables each public purchaser to precisely define the criteria for its tender, and each economic operator to meet the relevant criteria. In addition, the necessary certificates are automatically repatriated. Thanks to the ESPD service, the ESPD becomes a simplification tool for businesses and public buyers.

#### Public Procurement Digital Transformation Plan

In December 2017, the Public Procurement Digital Transformation Plan was adopted as a shared roadmap for the digitisation of public procurement for the period 2017–2022.

## 3.4 Domain-specific political communications

#### Governmental Roadmap 'Digital and Environment, make the Transitions Converge'

In February 2021, the French government published the 'Digital Technology and the Environment: Converging Transitions' roadmap, which is composed of three pillars:

- Developing knowledge of the digital environmental footprint to act effectively;
- Supporting a more sober digital economy by reducing the environmental footprint of digital technology;
- Leveraging digital technology for sustainable growth.

Some of the main measures include:

- An environmental barometer of digital players;
- Support for the development of the French reuse and refurbishment industry;
- The ambition for the State to buy 20% of reconditioned or second-hand computer equipment, landlines and cell phones;
- Adoption of ecodesign principles by digital public services;
- Supporting young innovative environmental companies with high potential (under the French Tech mission), to accelerate their development;
- Calls for projects to support the development of innovative solutions for the ecological transition.

Public sector specific measures can be found under actions No. 1, 2, 11, 13 and 14. They include measures such as elaborating a methodology to quantify the environmental footprint of digital services, having a responsible digital services procurement strategy and putting data and innovation at the service of the environment.

#### Ma Santé 2022 Strategy

Announced in September 2018 by the President of the Republic, the Ma Santé 2022 Strategy provides an overall vision and global responses to the challenges facing the French health system. The first challenge are the inequalities in access to healthcare, with more and more French people experiencing difficulties in accessing a doctor during the day and sometimes being forced to go to the emergency room by default. The second challenge is the aspiration of professionals to cooperate better with each other, to have more time to care for their patients and to be trained in other ways.



### 'School of Trust' Project (*Ecole de la Confiance*)

The [education system](#) is engaged in profound pedagogical and organisational transformations, from nursery schools to post-baccalaureate, requiring to thoroughly mobilise the potential of digital technology. The 'School of Trust' Project represents a powerful lever for transformation to support ministerial policy in all its dimensions: pedagogical transformation, with digital technology at the service of learning and evaluation; training in the challenges and professions of tomorrow; simplification of relations with users; and modernisation of the functioning of the State with redesigned information systems.

### Digital Criminal Procedure Programme

The [Digital Criminal Procedure Programme](#) pursues the work initiated by the prefiguration team composed of magistrates, clerks, police and gendarmerie officers. In particular, the Programme focuses on the capacity of law enforcement agencies and justice information systems to deal with a fully digital criminal procedure.

## 3.5 Emerging technologies

### National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence

Following the publication of the [Villani Report on Artificial Intelligence \(AI\)](#), the government launched a National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence at the [AI for Humanity Summit](#) in 2018.

### National Research Strategy for Artificial Intelligence

On 28 November 2018, the main points of the [National Research Strategy for AI](#) were presented. The Strategy will be financed by the State to the tune of EUR 665 million by 2022. The Strategy is largely based on research, that is the foundation of AI development. In this field, France already holds a recognised place thanks to its excellent mathematics and computer science schools. In this context, the objective of the Strategy is twofold:

- Making France one of the top five AI expert countries in the world on a sustainable basis;
- Making France the European leader in AI research.

### Selection of AI Projects for the AI Lab

Since the announcement of the National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence, the Inter-ministerial Directorate for Digital Affairs (DINUM) and the Inter-ministerial Directorate for Public Transformation (DITP) have organised two calls for expression of interest to identify public sector AI projects:

- One in 2018, with [6 projects](#) selected;
- One in 2019, with [15 projects](#) selected.

Proposals were submitted by various administrations (central and decentralised bodies, operators, public institutions, rectors, universities, courts of laws, hospitals, etc.) and selected by a jury of experts. The selected projects were then passed to the AI Lab, hosted by the DINUM and the DITP, to be tested and developed over 10 months.

### Cloud Strategy

The [French Cloud strategy for administrations](#) was made public in November 2018. It encourages the use of Cloud Computing based on an offer split into 2 parts:

- Internal cloud, which corresponds to infrastructure fully controlled by the French central administration, including hosting, engineering, operations, monitoring. This internal cloud is reserved for the most sensitive data and applications and for the exclusive use of the central administration. Local administrations and

public companies cannot therefore access such resources. Two platforms are in production, each supported by a ministry and all on Openstack technologies. They both offer a high level of resilience with two regions and multiple availability zones;

- External cloud, which gathers all resources that can be found on the internet. It can be mobilised whenever permitted by the context, mixing different levels of sensitivity and application criticality regarding service continuity considerations. The use of the external cloud is allowed to central administrations under the strict condition: sensitive data has to be hosted by cloud providers with SecNumCloud qualification (delivered by ANSSI - the French National Cybersecurity Agency of France) and out of the reach of extra-EU regulations. Such condition is without prejudice to other rules application (GDPR or health-related information). The external cloud is the subject of a public contract open to the whole French public administrations (or sector) giving access to the main public Cloud offers (IaaS and PaaS). ANSSI works in close cooperation with ENISA in the trust label convergence process, therefore the European standard has replaced the SecNumCloud requirement for the French Administration.

On 17 May 2021, the French government presented an updated version of its [Cloud Strategy](#). Cloud computing is one of the priority projects for the digital transformation of the French State. The French State Cloud strategy aims at encouraging public actors to seize the opportunities attached to the Cloud with the ultimate objective to provide a better public service to citizens, while at the same time keeping strict control over sensitive data.

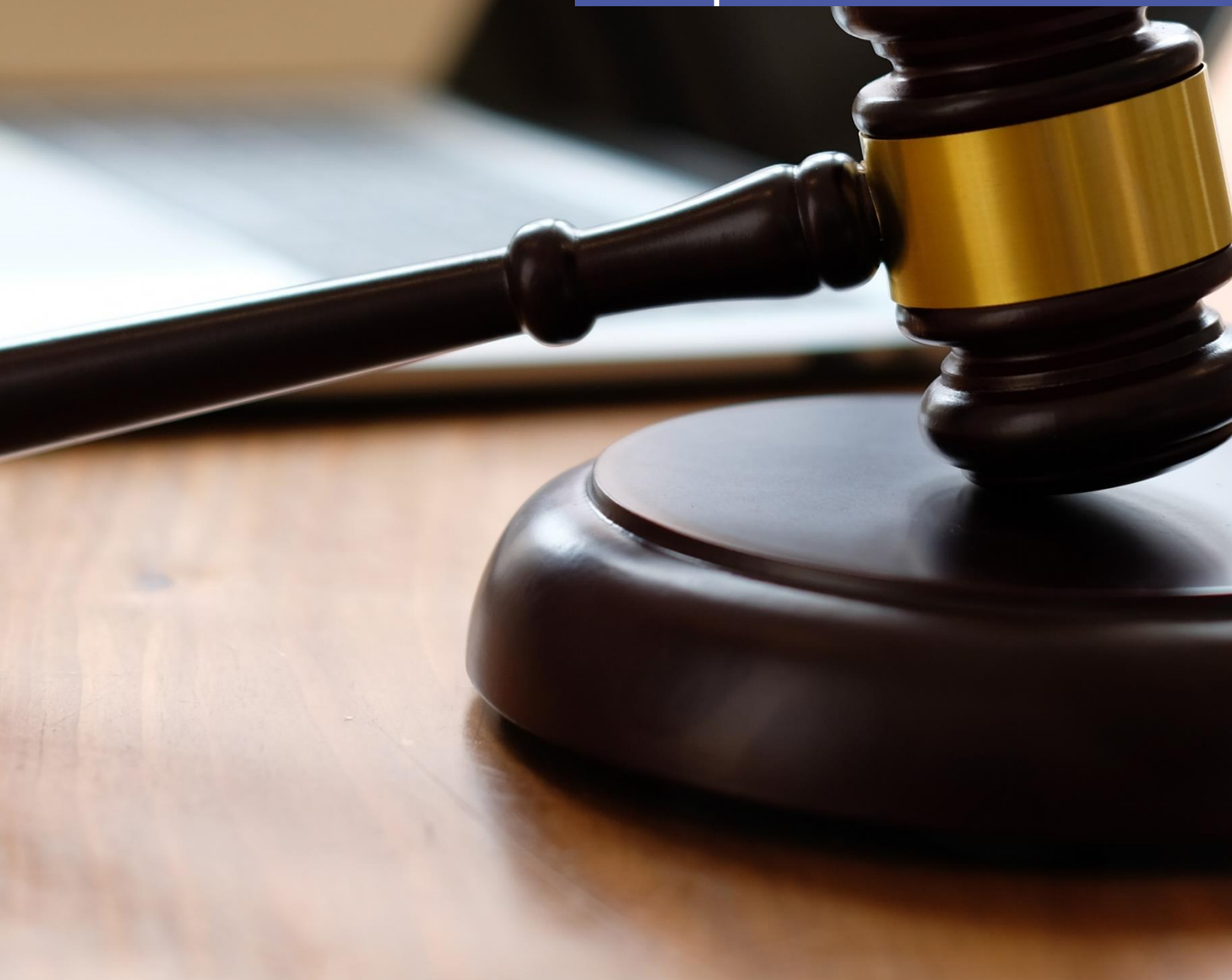
The challenges are therefore at several levels:

- **A transformation** challenge: cloud computing is an enabler of a wider transformation, involving agility with business stakeholders, technical leadership and IT delivery transformation towards DevOps;
- **A sovereignty** challenge: the adoption of the cloud should not hinder France's autonomy in terms of decision-making or action, even though the leadership on the cloud computing playground currently seems beyond the reach of European players;
- **An industrial** challenge: the adoption of Cloud Computing by the French administrations is a win-win opportunity for key European IT-players. Public administrations seek the best-in-class cloud services and can offer significant and reliable revenue perspectives.



# 4

## Digital Public Administration Legislation



## 4 Digital Public Administration Legislation

### 4.1 Specific legislation on digital public administration

#### Law for a State at the Service of a Society based on Trust

The [Law for a State at the Service of a Society based on Trust](#) was promulgated on 10 August 2018, establishing the principle of the right to error (in French *droit à l'erreur*) and including a series of measures to simplify administrative formalities.

The first part of the Law provides that French citizens who make a mistake in official declarations to the administration will not incur any penalty for the first error as long as it was made in good faith. It will be up to the administration to demonstrate the user's bad faith.

The second part of the Law gathers measures to simplify administrative formalities. To facilitate citizens' journeys, an experiment will be carried out appointing a single contact person who will be responsible for having the users' requests processed by the administrations concerned.

#### Digital Bill

The [Law for a Digital Republic](#) or Digital Bill was promulgated on 7 October 2016, preparing the country for the challenges of the digital transition and the economy of tomorrow. In particular, the Law promotes innovation, and the development of the digital economy and an open, reliable digital society, while protecting the rights of citizens. It also aims to ensure access for all, in all territories, to all opportunities related to digital technology.

For the first time, the document was jointly prepared with internet users before being submitted for review, incorporating the contributions into the text.

In addition, the Decrees related to the Bill establish the following principles:

- **Net neutrality:** the French [Authority for Regulation of Electronic Communications and the Postal Sector \(ARCEP\)](#) is responsible for ensuring that operators do not discriminate in providing access to the network on the basis of services;
- **Data portability:** email providers are required to allow the migration of users' emails as well as their contact lists when users decide to change service provider;
- **Right to maintain the connection:** households experiencing payment difficulties may receive financial assistance from a universal solidarity fund. Their connection shall be maintained by their access provider while their assistance request is under examination;
- **Confidentiality of private correspondence:** emails are considered as confidential as physical letters, and may not be analysed by email services, except to detect spam and viruses;
- **Right to be forgotten for minors:** persons who were minors at the time their personal data was collected in connection with information society services are entitled to have their personal data erased by the data controller. If data is not erased or the controller does not respond within a month, the matter can be referred to the National Commission for Informatics and Liberties (*Commission nationale de l'informatique et des libertés* – CNIL) which shall give a ruling within 15 days;
- **Better information of consumers about online reviews:** online review sites must indicate whether their publication has been verified. Consumers can thus assess the degree of credibility of the reviews available online;
- **Openness of public data:** public bodies such as social landlords must publish their databases online. In addition, public authorities are required to guarantee the quality and updating of 'reference data' such as the national address

database, thereby facilitating the work of local public services such as fire brigades and emergency services;

- **Improved accessibility:** all public administration websites have to specify their level of compliance with accessibility regulations, failing which financial penalties will be applied. Large companies must also offer after-sales telephone services that are accessible to the hearing impaired;
- **Digital death:** citizens have the right to express their wishes and have them respected with regard to what happens to their personal information published online after their death.

### Ordinance on the Right of Users to Communicate with the Administration via Electronic Means

Ordinance No. 2014 - 1330 on the Right of Users to Communicate with the Administration via Electronic Means was adopted on 6 November 2014 by the French government. The Ordinance effectively defines the conditions and procedures for users to exercise the right to communicate electronically with the different administrations, in line with Ordinance No. 2013 - 1005 adopted on 12 November 2013, allowing for the simplification of the relation between the administration and users.

The former Secretary of State for Public Accounts and State Reform, Thierry Mandon, announced, at the Council of Ministers, 40 measures to be adopted by the government to simplify the lives of citizens. These measures are the result of the [public consultations held between 9 July and 15 September 2014](#), with more than 2,000 proposals made by users. Many of the measures represent a great step forward for users, enabling services such as scheduling an appointment at the Institute for Family Allowance (*Caisse d'allocations familiales* - CAF) or applying for the social security card online, getting a personal medical certificate, paying fines via smartphone or purchasing stamps online. All matters relevant to the relationship between users and the administration (central administration, regional governments and private legal entities having a public service mandate) are now regulated in one single code, namely the Code on the relationship between users and the administration (*Code des relations entre le public et l'administration*), which came into force on 1 January 2016. The Code deals with matters such as digital exchange, referral modalities of the administration, obligation of the administration to provide eServices to citizens (eProcedures, eForms, etc.), obligation of the administration to acknowledge receipt of digital referrals, etc. In addition, the Code contains the rules applicable to the exchange of information between administrations (Once-Only). Book III of the Code deals with the access to administrative documents and re-use of public information. Finally, the Code includes all new measures implemented by the Digital Republic and published on 27 October 2016.

### Decree on the Exchange of Information and Data between Administrations within the Context of Administrative Procedures

The purpose of the [Decree on the Exchange of Information and Data between Administrations within the Context of Administrative Procedures](#) is to organise the exchange of information or data between administrations when this is necessary to process declarations or requests submitted by the public. In particular, the Decree determines the fields and procedures concerned by the exchange of information or data, the list of administrations by which the request for communication is made according to the type of information or data, the security and confidentiality criteria necessary to guarantee the quality and reliability of the exchange, as well as the retention period for information and data applicable to each exchange system. The text of the Decree is codified in the Code on the relationship between users and the administration (*Code des relations entre le public et l'administration*).



## Ordinance on Electronic Interactions between Public Services Users and Public Authorities and among Public Authorities

The [Ordinance on Electronic Interactions between Public Services Users and Public Authorities and among Public Authorities](#) (*Ordinance relative aux teleservices*) was adopted on 8 December 2005 on the basis of the Legal Simplification Law of 9 December 2004. The Ordinance establishes a comprehensive legal framework for the shift to 'electronic administration', creating simple and secure electronic interactions between citizens and public authorities. The text covers all exchanges of electronic documents and emails or digital communications among public authorities, and between citizens and the central administration, regional governments and private organisations. Moreover, the Ordinance grants emails the same legal status as traditional paper-based correspondence and legalises the use of electronic signatures by public authorities. Lastly, the text stipulates the provisions on both the security of exchanges and the interoperability of information systems.

## 4.2 Interoperability

### Decree on the Unified Command and Information System for Fire and Rescue Services and Civil Protection NexSIS 18-112

The [Decree on the Unified Command and Information System for Fire and Rescue Services and Civil Protection](#) was implemented in January 2019, providing for the establishment of a unified information and command system for fire, rescue and civil security services, called *NexSIS 18-112*. The system aims to provide a quality service for processing alerts received through emergency call numbers 18 and 112 and for the operational management of emergency resources; a national capacity to manage civil security and crisis management activities; interoperability with the information systems of public and private bodies contributing to civil security, in particular those competent for public security and health services; and functionalities to ensure the exchange, sharing and storage of data in accordance with confidentiality and security rules. The implementation and management of this information system falls within the scope of the missions of general interest entrusted to the Digital Agency for Civil Security (*Agence du numérique de la sécurité civile*).

## 4.3 Key enablers

### 4.3.1 Access to public information

#### Law on the Modalities of Reuse of Public Sector Information

The purpose of the [Law on the Modalities of Reuse of Public Sector Information](#) is to promote the reuse of public data. The text lays down the principle of free access for the opening and reuse of public data, known as 'open data'. This principle applies to the State and local authorities. The Law limits the exceptions to the principle of free access, on the one hand, to public authorities required to release their resources, and, on the other, to the digitisation of cultural funds.

#### Law on Access to Administrative Documents

The [Law on Access to Administrative Documents](#) of 17 July 1978 grants everyone access to the administrative documents held by public bodies. All documents which are handed over are subject to copyright rules and cannot be reproduced for commercial purposes. Public bodies must respond to requests for documents within one month. A [Commission of Access to Administrative Documents \(CADA\)](#) is tasked with supervision. Before a complaint can be appealed to an administrative court, CADA must make a decision on the complaint.

## Article 47 of the Disability Act of 2005

In September 2018, [Article 47 of the Disability Act of 2005](#) was updated by Article 80 of the Act for a Professional Future to transpose the [European Directive on digital accessibility of websites and mobile applications of public sector bodies](#) into French law.

### 4.3.2 eID and Trust Services

#### Law for a State at the Service of a Society based on Trust

In January 2019, two decrees finalised the implementation of the 'Tell Us Once' principle established by the [Law for a State at the Service of a Society based on Trust](#). The purpose of this Law was to simplify the French administrative formalities based on two pillars: trust and simplicity; and aiming at all users – individuals or companies – in their daily dealings with administrations.

Published on 20 January 2018 in the Official Journal, the Decree on the Exchange of Information and Data between Administrations supplemented precisely the 'Tell us once' principle, one of the pillars of the Law, introducing a major change in relations between users and administrations: a user – individual or company – undertaking an administrative procedure is no longer required to provide certain information or supporting documents (e.g. reference tax income, proof of identity, certificate of rights issued by social security organisations) if the information is already held by the administration.

#### Law on Electronic Communications and Audio-visual Communication Services

Adopted on 9 July 2004 and amended on 8 August 2008, the [Law on Electronic Communications and Audio-visual Communication Services](#) transposes into French law the EU regulatory framework for electronic communications, namely: [Directive 2002/21/EC \(Framework Directive\)](#); [2002/20/EC \(Authorisation Directive\)](#); [2002/19/EC \(Access Directive\)](#); [2002/22/EC \(Universal Service Directive\)](#); and [2002/58/EC \(Privacy Directive\)](#). The transposition has been subsequently completed with the adoption of several decrees.

#### Law on Electronic Signature

The [Law on Electronic Signature](#) of 13 March 2000 was the first to grant legal value to electronic signatures and electronically-signed documents, transposing [EU Directive 1999/93/EC](#) on a Community framework for electronic signatures into French law. The Law was then complemented by an [application decree](#) issued on 30 March 2001, then abrogated by a new decree on 28 September 2017, following the adoption on 23 July 2014 of Regulation (EU) No. 910/2014 on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market (repealing EU Directive 1999/93/EC).

#### Law for Trust in the Digital Economy

Adopted on 21 June 2004, the [Law for Trust in the Digital Economy](#) transposes [EU Directive 2000/31/EC](#) on electronic commerce and sets the legal framework for the development of eCommerce services in France. The Law was [amended](#) on 12 December 2018.

### 4.3.3 Security aspects

#### Law No. 2018-133 of 26 February 2018 on Various Provisions for Adapting to European Union Law in the field of Security

The [Law on Various Provisions for Adapting to European Union Law in the field of Security](#) was implemented in France on 26 February 2018. The Law contains a series of provisions to transpose Directive 2016/1148 of the European Parliament and of the

Council of 6 July 2016 concerning measures for a common high-level of security of network and information systems across the Union.

### Personal Data Protection Act

The [Personal Data Protection Act](#) was promulgated on 20 June 2018, adapting the Law on Informatics and Liberties of 6 January 1978 to the European data protection package. The package included the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), a regulation of 27 April 2016 directly applicable in all European countries as of 25 May 2018 and a directive dated the same day on criminal records, the so-called Police Directive.

### Law on Informatics and Liberties

The [Law on Informatics and Liberties](#) was adopted on 6 January 1978, providing a legal framework for the use of identifiers in databases and the processing of personal data by public and private sector organisations. In addition, the Law created a [National Commission for Informatics and Liberties \(CNIL\)](#). The CNIL is in charge of overseeing the implementation and observance of the Law and had an advisory role in the planning of administrative data systems. The Law on Informatics and Liberties was amended by [Law No. 2004-801](#) of 6 August 2004 implementing the [EU Data Protection Directive \(95/46/EC\)](#).

#### 4.3.4 Interconnection of base registries

##### Vehicle Portal

According to the [Law on Taxis and Chauffeured Cars](#), starting from February 2016 all registrations in the Vehicle Registry must be done through the new online [Vehicle Portal](#).

##### [Transport.data.gouv.fr](http://transport.data.gouv.fr)

The delegated Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/1926 of 31 May 2017 supplementing Directive 2010/40/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to the provision of EU-wide multimodal travel information services stipulates that each Member State of the European Union shall set up a single national access point giving users access to static and dynamic travel and traffic data. Transport authorities, infrastructure managers, transport operators and providers of on-demand transport services are required to make available, through the access point, the data relating to their services and networks that are necessary for traveller information. Providers of travel information services may then re-use this data. As concerns France, the [transport.data.gouv.fr website](http://transport.data.gouv.fr) is the national access point referred to in Article 3 of the delegated Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/1926 of 31 May 2017 supplementing Directive 2010/40/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to the provision of EU-wide multimodal travel information services.

##### Commercial Code

The [Commercial Code](#) is the main company law in France, stipulating the most important requirements and rules for company organisation and structure. The French Commercial Code also refers to some rules in the Civil Code, and the Monetary and Financial Code. As far as company registration is concerned, the Act of 19 December 2002 establishes the obligations of all companies set up in France with regard to the French Registry of Commerce and Companies (*Registre de commerce et des sociétés*).

##### 'Tell-Us-Once' Principle Programme

The '[Tell-Us-Once' Principle Programme](#) was implemented along with a wide range of base registry initiatives launched by a number of strategies. In particular, the '[Tell-Us-Once' Principle](#) (in French *Dites-le-nous une fois*) was an inter-ministerial programme launched at the Inter-ministerial Government Modernisation Council in 2012 which was



designed to simplify and reduce the administrative burden on businesses by 2017. More in detail, the aim was to reduce the amount of redundant information that civil society was asked to provide by 50%.

#### 4.3.5 eProcurement

##### French Public Procurement Code

On 1 April 2019, the first French **Public Procurement Code** entered into force, following the publication of Ordinance No. 2018-1074 dated 26 November 2018 about the legislative part of the Code and Decree No. 2018-1075 dated 3 December 2018 about the regulatory part of the Code.

The Code aims to modernise French regulations and finalise the transposition of the three European directives on public procurement and concessions dated 26 February 2014 (Directive 2014/24/EU, 2014/25/EU and 2014/23/EU), including, for instance, the eProcurement provisions relating to eAuctions and Dynamic Purchasing Systems.

Moreover, the Code aims at gathering the rules governing the award, performance, and termination of public procurement agreements – mainly public procurement contracts and concession agreements.

The Code is divided into three parts: (i) scope (defining the two main types of public procurement agreements); (ii) rules applicable to public procurement contracts (providing for the rules applicable to public procurement contracts, partnership contracts, public defence or security contracts, and some specific public procurement contracts); and (iii) rules applicable to concession agreements.

The codification process was also used to integrate some of the main principles of the public contracts case law into the written positive law and was carried out by integrating laws and regulations already in force.

##### eInvoicing Legislation

**Ordinance No. 2014-697 of 26 June 2014 on the Development of Electronic Invoicing** is the result of a codification process aimed, among other things, to integrate eInvoicing legislation. The Ordinance stipulates that economic operators involved in public procurement must submit electronic invoices and all public administrations must accept these invoices. The submission of electronic invoices is mandatory for all economic operators starting from 1 January 2020.

According to the **2020 Budget Law**, business-to-business eInvoicing will start, on a gradual basis, from January 2023 and will be mandatory as of 1 January 2025, depending on the size of the company and the sector of activity.

#### 4.4 Domain-specific legislation

##### Law on Programming 2018–2022 and on the Reform of Justice

The **Law on Programming 2018–2022 and on the Reform of Justice** was promulgated on 23 March 2019, providing for a 24% increase in the budget of the Ministry of Justice for the period 2018–2022. In this context, 6,500 jobs will be created and EUR 530 million will be spent on the Ministry's digital transformation. The text is structured around seven areas: simplification of civil procedure; reduction of the burden of administrative courts and increased efficiency of administrative justice; simplification and increased efficiency of criminal procedure; possibility of using digital criminal procedure; efficiency and meaning of penalties; diversification of the way juvenile offenders are dealt with and increased efficiency of the judicial system; and adaptation of the functioning of the courts.

## Law on the Organisation and Transformation of the Healthcare System

The [Law on the Organisation and Transformation of the Healthcare System](#) entered into force on 24 July 2019, implementing the measures presented by the President of the Republic in [his speech of 18 September 2018](#) on the My Health 2022 Plan.

The legislative initiative states that innovation and digital technology play a key role in the French healthcare system, advocating for the digital transformation of the healthcare system and caregiver practices.

More in detail, Article 12 allows users to open their digital health space by 1 January 2022 to access their shared medical file, as well as digital tools for secure exchanges with health professionals and institutions. This aimed to promote prevention by providing access to referenced and personalised health information, simplifying the preparation of hospitalisation and discharge, or even making it possible to evaluate individualised care journeys. The Article also provides that users may decide at any time to close their digital health space and specifies the conditions for destroying the data contained therein.

## Law on the Growth and Transformation of Enterprises

On 22 May 2019, the Parliament adopted the Law on the Growth and Transformation of Enterprises launched by the Minister of Economy and Finance. This Law complements the regulatory and non-regulatory measures as well as tax measures that are incorporated into the 2019 Budget Law. All these measures make up the [Action Plan for the Growth and Transformation of Enterprises \(PACTE\)](#). The PACTE has two objectives: making companies grow so that they create more jobs and redefining the place of companies in society to better involve employees. From creation to transfer, the PACTE removes obstacles, simplifying business creation and easing workforce thresholds. In particular, entrepreneurs' lives will be simplified thanks to the creation of a single online platform for business formalities. The PACTE is a new step in the country's economic transformation and the fourth phase of the economic reforms initiated by the government more than two years ago. The Action Plan is in line with ordinances for strengthening social dialogue and the tax reform initiated by the [2018 Budget Law](#). Moreover, the PACTE acts in parallel with the Law on the Freedom to Choose One's Professional Future to give small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) the means to create jobs. The PACTE is the result of a co-construction process initiated with companies, parliamentarians, and local authorities in October 2017. Following this first phase of consultation, companies, individuals, and professional federations were able to express their views in early 2018, during an online public consultation that gathered several thousand contributions and counted 65,000 votes.

## 4.5 Emerging technologies

No pieces of legislations in this field have been reported to date.





5

# Digital Public Administration Governance



## 5 Digital Public Administration Governance

### 5.1 National

#### 5.1.1 Policy

##### Ministry for Public Transformation and Civil Service

In France, the eGovernment strategy is under responsibility of the Prime Minister, Mr Castex and the Minister for Public Transformation and Civil Service, who is in charge of the coordination of all work on the modernisation and simplification of the State.



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##### Inter-ministerial Directorate for Public Transformation (DITP)

The General Secretary for the Modernisation of Public Administration (SGMAP), operating from 2012 to 2017, was transformed into two new Inter-ministerial Directorates by [Decree No. 2017-1584](#) of 20 November 2017:

- the [Inter-Ministerial Directorate for Public Transformation \(DITP\)](#), under the authority of the Minister of State Reform and led by the Inter-ministerial Delegate for Public Transformation;
- the [Inter-Ministerial Directorate for Digital Affairs and State Information and Communication System \(DINUM, formerly known as DINSIC\)](#), placed, by the delegation of the Prime Minister, under the authority of the Secretary of State for the Digital Sector.

The DITP supports Ministries and administrations in the public transformation of the State. The DITP coordinates the Public Action 2022 Programme and leads innovative interdepartmental projects. Furthermore, the DITP includes:

- a service called 'Acceleration of transformations';
- the following departments: 'Innovative methods, behavioural sciences and listening to users'; 'Public service performance, managerial transformation and digital transformation'; and 'Piloting the public policy transformation agenda';
- communication and support missions.



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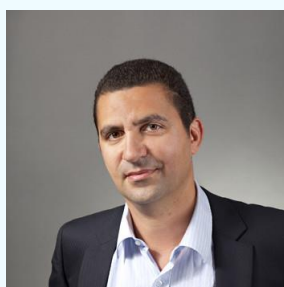
**Source:** <http://www.modernisation.gouv.fr>

### 5.1.2 Coordination

#### Inter-ministerial Directorate for Digital Affairs

The **Inter-Ministerial Directorate for Digital Affairs (DINUM)**, which succeeded the Inter-Ministerial Directorate for Digital Affairs and State Information and Communication System (DINSIC) in 2019, is a Prime Minister's service, under the authority of the Ministry for Public Action and Accounts and at the disposal of the Ministry of the Economy and Finance, and of the State Secretary for Digital Affairs.

DINUM is in charge of directing, leading, supporting and coordinating public administrations' actions aiming at enhancing the quality, efficiency and reliability of the services provided by the State's information and communication system. Furthermore, DINUM supports the Ministries' digital transformations, secures major projects, advises the government and develops services and shared resources such as the Inter-ministerial State Network (RIE), FranceConnect and [api.gouv.fr](http://api.gouv.fr). The Inter-Ministerial Directorate encompasses all eGovernment-related issues and plays a key role in coordinating the actions of the Ministerial Directorates for Digital Affairs.



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**Source:** [https://lannuaire.service-public.fr/gouvernement/administration-centrale-ou-ministere\\_194230](https://lannuaire.service-public.fr/gouvernement/administration-centrale-ou-ministere_194230)

#### Inter-ministerial Directorate for Public Transformation

The **Inter-ministerial Directorate for Public Transformation (DITP)** coordinates the Public Action 2022 Programme in collaboration with the Ministries. Driven by a new vision for the transformation of public action, the DITP supports inter-ministerial projects or accompanies ministerial projects with a high impact. As an accelerator of public transformation, the DITP provides expertise so that administrations and their agents become entrepreneurs in their transformation. In other words, the DITP helps administrations imagine new solutions, move beyond the framework, unleash public energy, transform public action and build a more efficient, fairer public service, better adapted to users' needs. Putting the user at the centre, unleashing the capacity for action and creativity of managers and agents, keeping things simple, being transparent

about results and ensuring trust are the commitments of the Inter-ministerial Directorate.

### 5.1.3 Implementation

#### Inter-ministerial Directorate for Digital Affairs

The [Inter-Ministerial Directorate for Digital Affairs \(DINUM\)](#) is a Prime Minister service, under the authority of the Ministry for Public Action and Accounts and at the disposal of the Ministry of the Economy and Finance, and of the State Secretary for Digital Affairs.

DINUM is in charge of directing, leading, supporting, coordinating and implementing public administrations' actions aiming at enhancing the quality, efficiency and reliability of the services provided by the State's information and communication system. Furthermore, DINUM supports the Ministries' digital transformations, secures major projects, advises the government, develops services and shared resources, and plays a key role in the implementation of eGovernment projects.

#### All Central Government Departments

Central Government Ministries deal with the implementation of eGovernment projects placed within their respective jurisdiction.

### 5.1.4 Support

#### National Digital Council

The [National Digital Council \(\*Conseil National du Numérique, CNNum\*\)](#) is an advisory body created on 27 April 2011 by the President and consisting of thirty experts (ten members representing the digital economy, ten members from the research community and ten members taking part in the development of digital technology in society). The CNNum is tasked with advising the government on issues related to digital technology. More specifically, the CNNum is consulted for advice on 'any proposed law or regulation that may have an impact on the digital economy, so that the government can have insight from the industry'. Nevertheless, the CNNum can also make recommendations on issues of interest without a previous request by the government.

#### French Network and Information Security Agency

The [French Network and Information Security Agency \(\*Agence Nationale de la Sécurité des Systèmes d'Information, ANSSI\*\)](#) was established by a decree issued on 8 July 2009. The Agency is placed under the authority of the Prime Minister and is attached to the Secretary General for Defence and National Security, replacing the Central Directorate for Information System Security (DCSSI). Compared to the DCSSI, the ANSSI is assigned wider missions and resources, namely: detection of and prompt reaction to cyber-attacks; continuous surveillance of sensitive governmental networks; implementation of appropriate defence mechanisms; prevention of threats through trusted products and services by French operators; advise and support to governmental entities and operators of critical infrastructure; and continuous information on security threats.

#### Directorate of Legal and Administrative Information

The Directorate of Legal and Administrative Information (DILA) is part of the Prime Minister's Office and is placed under the authority of the Secretary General of the Government. DILA is tasked with law dissemination, public edition, and administrative information. More specifically, DILA publishes the following: the [official website](#) of the French administration; the [website](#) of law dissemination; the website of the [Official Gazette](#) of the French Republic; the [website](#) of public debate and public edition; the



[website](#) of the Official Bulletin of Public Procurement Notices (*Bulletin officiel des annonces des marchés publics*, BOAMP); and the [website](#) of the Official Bulletin of Civil and Commercial Notices (*Bulletin officiel des annonces civiles et commerciales*, BODACC).

### Public Interest Group 'Modernisation of Social Declarations'

The [Public Interest Group 'Modernisation of Social Declarations'](#) (GIP-MDS) gathers the different social security institutions and business federations to develop joint services enabling businesses to file their social declarations electronically. These services are accessible through the [Net-Enterprises](#) website.

## 5.1.5 Interoperability coordination

### Inter-Ministerial Directorate for Digital Affairs

The [Inter-Ministerial Directorate for Digital Affairs \(DINUM\)](#), which succeeded the Inter-Ministerial Directorate for Digital Affairs and State Information and Communication System (DINSIC) in 2019, is a Prime Minister's service, under the authority of the Ministry for Public Action and Accounts and at the disposal of the Ministry of the Economy and Finance, and of the State Secretary for Digital Affairs. DINUM is in charge of directing, leading, supporting, coordinating and implementing public administrations' actions regarding interoperability activities.

## 5.1.6 Base registry coordination

### Ministry of Justice

The [Ministry of Justice](#) takes care of the [Criminal Record Registry](#), handling personal data for natural and legal persons.

### Ministry of Ecological and Solidarity Transition

The [Ministry of Ecological and Solidarity Transition](#) provides the [Registry for Chauffeured Cars](#) (online Vehicle Portal), dealing with vehicles' data.

### Info-Greffe

Info-Greffe provides legal and economic information on business companies on behalf of all registries of all French commercial courts. More in detail, Info-Greffe's mission is to facilitate access to its services and to dematerialise the main procedures and dealings with registrars. The information provided has legal validity. Since 2009 Info-Greffe has also been handling the Business Registry, dealing with business data.

### Ministry of the Economy and Finance

The [Land and Tax Registries](#) belong to the [Ministry of the Economy and Finance](#), handling land, parcels and tax data.

### National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies

The [National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies \(INSEE\)](#) produces and manages the SIRENE Registry, dealing with the identification of businesses.

### 5.1.7 Audit

#### Court of Accounts

The responsibilities of the **French Court of Accounts** (*Cour des Comptes*) cover mandatory and optional examinations of the use of public funds.

#### Finance Committees of the Parliament

The use of public funds is also scrutinised by the Finance Committees of both the National Assembly and the Senate.

### 5.1.8 Data Protection

#### National Commission for Informatics and Liberties

The **National Commission for Informatics and Liberties (CNIL)**, the French Data Protection Authority, was created by the Law on Informatics and Liberties of 6 January 1978, providing a legal framework for the use of identifiers in databases and the processing of personal data by public and private sector organisations. The CNIL is an independent body in charge of overseeing the implementation of the above-mentioned Law and also has an advisory role in planning administrative data systems.

#### French Network and Information Security Agency (ANSSI)

The **French Network and Information Security Agency** (*Agence Nationale de la Sécurité des Systèmes d'Information, ANSSI*) was established by a decree issued on 8 July 2009. The Agency is placed under the authority of the Prime Minister and is attached to the Secretary General for Defence and National Security, replacing the Central Directorate for Information System Security (DCSSI). Compared to the DCSSI, the ANSSI is assigned wider missions and resources, namely: detection of and prompt reaction to cyber-attacks; continuous surveillance of sensitive governmental networks; implementation of appropriate defence mechanisms; prevention of threats through trusted products and services by French operators; advise and support to governmental entities and operators of critical infrastructure; and continuous information on security threats.

#### Computer Security Incident Report Team

The **Computer Security Incident Report Team** (*Centre d'Expertise Gouvernemental de Réponse et de Traitement des Attaques informatiques, CERTA*) is the point of contact for all computer-related security incidents regarding France.

## 5.2 Subnational (federal, regional and local)

### 5.2.1 Policy

#### Regional and Local Administrations

Regional and local government bodies (regions, counties and municipalities) devise their eGovernment policy in compliance with the national eGovernment policy, within the remits of their competences.

### 5.2.2 Coordination

#### Concerted Development of Territorial Digital Transformation Programme

The **Concerted Development of Territorial Digital Transformation (DCANT) Programme** aims to become the roadmap for regional digital transformation. the Programme is co-

authored by associations of elected representatives and representatives of State services with the purpose of building complementary and efficient digital public services.

### Regional Agencies for ICT

In some regions, dedicated ICT Agencies participate in the coordination of regional eGovernment projects.

## 5.2.3 Implementation

### Regional and Local Administrations

Regional and local government bodies implement eGovernment projects falling within their respective areas of competence.

## 5.2.4 Support

### Caisse des Dépôts

The *Caisse des Dépôts* is a State-owned financial institution that performs public-interest missions on behalf of France's central, regional and local governments.

### National Agency for Territorial Cohesion

The *National Agency for Territorial Cohesion (ANCT)* was established at the beginning of 2020 and is the result of the merger of the General Commission for Territorial Equality (CGET), Epareca and the Agency for Digital Affairs. The ANCT is a new partner for local governments, tightening links between the State and local governments to help the latter succeed in their projects. The ANCT can facilitate the implementation of various types of projects, including broadband coverage and WiFi installation in public places, and carries out various national programmes, some of which related, for instance, to digital inclusion issues.

### National Centre for the Management of Territorial Service

The *National Centre for the Management of Territorial Service (Centre National de la Fonction Publique Territoriale, CNFPT)* is at the heart of decentralisation. Through its core missions of agent training and career support of executives, the CNFPT aims to modernise the local public service.

### CAP-TIC

*CAP-TIC* is a company created in February 2000 by the *Caisse des Dépôts*, which provides technical, economic, pedagogical, and legal services to public sector organisations.

### Internet Cities Association

The *Internet Cities (Villes Internet) Association* is a network of elected officials, local civil servants, and private and voluntary stakeholders, aimed at supporting the exchange of experience and practice for the development of the internet and internet-based citizen services at local level.

The Internet Cities Association meets once a year and is the *national label* given to local governments implementing local digital public policy. Since 2015, the label for the promotion of citizen internet has been directed to internet territories, cities and villages. The Association also offers a *Geolocation Mapping Portal* that lists and presents the services offered by local actors in connection with citizen internet.

## 5.2.5 Interoperability coordination

No responsible organisations have been reported to date.



### 5.2.6 Base registry coordination

No responsible organisations have been reported to date.

### 5.2.7 Audit

#### Regional Courts of Accounts

The Regional Courts of Accounts are tasked with examining the use of public funds by public authorities.

### 5.2.8 Data Protection

#### National Commission on Information Technology and Liberties

The National Commission for Informatics and Liberties (*Commission Nationale de l'Informatique e des Libertés, CNIL*) is an independent French administrative regulatory body whose mission is to ensure that data privacy law is applied to the collection, storage and use of personal data.

# 6

## Digital Public Administration Infrastructure





## 6 Digital Public Administration Infrastructure

### 6.1 Portals

#### 6.1.1 National portals

##### 'Tell-Us-Once' Principle: Continuous Enhancement of the API Catalogue

DINUM created a unique point of entry to have access to [all public APIs](#). This [catalogue of APIs](#) is primarily intended for service creators and API consumers and aims to facilitate the discovery and understanding of APIs, and the access to APIs and their producers. At the same time, the catalogue enables suppliers to easily publicise their APIs.

Administrations often consume several APIs (from different producers) to implement a teleservice or a new approach. The use of an interdepartmental tool allows them to ensure consistency in the authorisation procedure and centralise their requests. To facilitate the lives of data providers, DINUM developed a specific tool to manage the authorisation phase, called 'DataPass'. Furthermore, DINUM created two API hubs, namely [API Enterprise](#) and [API Particulier](#).

#### DataPass

The DINUM worked on setting up a common legal framework to harmonise and streamline relations between data providers and service providers through the construction of DataPass, a tool facilitating the connection between suppliers and consumers. This tool is intended for stakeholders (e.g. public administrations) who wish to use personal data. DataPass delivers authorisations through a simple, standardised and compliant process, to access all protected data produced by the State.

For the stakeholders requesting access to data, DataPass contains the following features:

- APIs centralising authorisations stemming from public administrations (available as well for any other type of organisations, both public and private);
- Single account to access API managers and request access to the DataPass tool (SSO);
- Management of authorisations to access API;
- Email notification from the Data Protection Officer and the data controller of the users' organisation when a request has been validated.

For the data controller:

- Email notification for each new access request;
- Automation of the creation of API manager access accounts;
- Automation of token creation through interaction with the API manager;
- Publication of validated authorisations on [DataPass](#) in accordance with the GDPR;
- Activity management / [statistical dashboard](#).

#### API Enterprise

Digital technology enables the pre-filling and digitisation of administrative forms that businesses are required to complete, in particular to enable the exchange of information between the different departments and agencies. Since 2014 two projects have been running in the framework of the inter-ministerial programme.

Public administrations can access this information through APIs ([API Enterprise](#)) that provide information from different base registries. The base registries that are made available through the APIs are:

- INSEE (administrative information / contact details and identity);



- Info-Greffe (legal information / legal status);
- INPI (legal acts / business acts);
- Ministry of Social Affairs (collective agreements);
- *Chambre des métiers et de l'Artisanat* (CMA) France (handicraft enterprise information);
- ADEME (energy certificates);
- DGFIP (fiscal information / taxation / turnover);
- ACOSS & MSA (social situation / social security contributions);
- Customs (economic operator registration and identification);
- *Caisses retraites* (pension funds).

The API Enterprise hub aims to centralise company information owned by French administrations (General Directorate of Public Finance, Companies Register, Associations Register, etc.) to help administrative service providers to develop simplified online procedures, e.g. public procurement applications or requests for public subsidies. DINUM performs the technical interfacing with the different APIs within standards that are up-to-date with industrial constraints. Public service providers just have to deal with a single account and a single contact to access multiple data to develop online public services.

### **API Particulier**

The [API Particulier](#) hub aims to centralise personal data owned by French administrations (National Family Allowance Fund, General Directorate of Public Finance, etc.) to help administrative service providers (administrations, cities, departments, etc.) to develop simplified and improved online procedures. DINUM performs the technical interfacing with the different APIs within standards that are up-to-date with industrial constraints. Public service providers just have to deal with a single account and a single contact to access multiple data to develop online public services.

For instance, the API hub helps administrations to simplify and improve administrative online processes such as scholarship applications. In this case, families' incomes were directly retrieved from tax centres. In September 2018, the French administration received 650,000 successful calls, corresponding to as many supporting documents that did not need to be produced. This saves time for families: in the past, some parents had to take half a day off work to submit their applications, others to ask their children to queue during recess. Today, to replace a supporting document with a call to API Particulier users must still enter specific information to the administration, such as tax number or beneficiary number. The French administration would like users to be able to identify themselves more easily through [FranceConnect](#). Thus, with a single login and password, the API hub would allow everyone to simplify their procedures.

### **State as a Platform**

The Inter-ministerial Directorate for Information Systems built the foundations of the [Etat plateforme](#) (State as a Platform), i.e. an architecture supporting the creation of a new kind of digital public services. This State information system transforming strategy presupposes that the administration itself gathers user data in one place to offer almost ready-to-use services. The aim is to centre services on needs, rather than on the organisation of administrative structures. The main principles of the State as a Platform are the opening of APIs by large public providers of data, the flow of data between administrations, and flow control by users through FranceConnect, i.e. the French identification system (Single Sign-On).

### **ePassports**

In April 2006, the Ministry of Interior announced the calendar for the introduction of the first [electronic passports](#) in France, progressively introduced between April and July 2006. Embedded with a contact-less chip, the French ePassport contains the digitalised

photograph of its owner. ePassports are intended to be more than a simple travel document and in the future could be used for the fulfilment of administrative formalities. On 28 June 2009, electronic passports were replaced by biometric passports containing also the holder's digitised fingerprints.

### FranceConnect

The Inter-ministerial Directorate for Digital Affairs is currently building the [FranceConnect Platform](#), a Single Sign-On (SSO) solution providing users with an identification mechanism recognised by all digital public services available in France and by 30 private organisations (banks, insurance, utilities, etc.). FranceConnect does not aim to replace the various suppliers of public identities, but federates the accounts already created by users, such as tax, social security and Post Office. FranceConnect will allow France to implement the European eIDAS Regulation (Electronic Identification and Signature), requiring the interoperability of identification systems used by Member States to access their online services. The process of pre-notification of the French identity scheme FranceConnect + and L'identité numérique La Poste was launched on March 2021. FranceConnect was launched in June 2016 and counts 21 million users as of January 2021. By May 2021, FranceConnect + will federate eIdentities with a substantial level of assurance for even more secured online services.

### WorkInFrance.gouv.fr

[WorkInFrance](#) is a platform for requesting temporary work permits for foreign students. As a transparent public service adapted to the needs of companies, WorkInFrance simplifies the work authorisation process for students on apprenticeship contracts, professionalisation contracts and medical interns, and for Algerian students subject to the Franco-Algerian agreement of 27 December 1968. On the platform, users (company or employee) will find an interface where they can submit their request and find information on the status of their request.

### Mesdroitssociaux.fr

[Mesdroitssociaux.gouv.fr](#) offers a new digital service centralising information about insured persons and facilitating the procedures to be undertaken with social protection bodies. More in detail, [Mesdroitssociaux.fr](#):

- Is aimed at all social security contributors (be they employees, self-employed, retired or unemployed);
- Offers a centralised entry point with personalised personal information;
- Provides a new communication channel between social protection bodies and insured persons, complementary to the accounts of the latter.

The site is continuously evolving and in 2019 some [new features](#) were introduced. For instance, the site now enables to use the multi-service simulator without entering FranceConnect IDs, to view activity bonus rights for the last 12 months and to find out if the user can benefit from the individual bonus introduced on 1 January 2019.

### Service-Public.fr

[Service-Public.fr](#) was launched in October 2000, giving access to practical information focused on daily-life events for public service users. More specifically, the portal guides citizens to the services enabling them to know their obligations, exercise their rights and carry out their administrative procedures. *Service-Public.fr* is the official website of the French administration, i.e. the single portal for administrative information and access to online services, published by the Directorate of Legal and Administrative Information (DILA) in partnership with national and local administrations.

## Data.gouv.fr

[Data.gouv.fr](https://data.gouv.fr) is an open data portal maintained by the French government. The portal can host or reference datasets produced by administrations, corporations, citizens or non-profit organisations. On [data.gouv.fr](https://data.gouv.fr), anyone can publish or comment a dataset, or publish a reuse.

## Mes-aides.fr

[Mes-aides.fr](https://mes-aides.fr) is a digital public service State start-up produced in an unprecedented construction approach by a small independent team and supported by a community of public officials and citizens. The site *mes-aides* makes use of the free software simulation of the French tax-benefit system [OpenFisca](https://openfisca.org). In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, multiple dashboards were designed.

## Observatoire.numerique.gouv.fr

Since June 2019, the Inter-ministerial Directorate for Digital Affairs (DINUM) has been tracking the usability and user experience of the 250 most used public services in France. The project helps the French administration prioritise the product roadmap of those services and work with the different administrations on the continued improvement of their services.

DINUM quantifies the quality of the user experience via a series of criteria, including mobile responsiveness, the Once-Only principle, user satisfaction, speed and performance and accessibility for people with disabilities. Data are accessible to anyone via the platform as open data and are updated every quarter.

To calculate the satisfaction index, DINUM asked the administrations to add a feedback button at the end of each service (the '*Je donne mon avis*' button). The button was very easy to add, with just one line of code needed. As of March 2021, 3,000,000 users had given feedback. The '*je donne mon avis*' (I give my opinion) button is featured in 70% of the most used services.

## Demarches-simplifiees.fr

Since 1 March 2018, the [demarches-simplifiees.fr](https://demarches-simplifiees.fr) website has been allowing French citizens to make online queries in record time and free of charge. As a dematerialisation platform, [demarche-simplifiee.fr](https://demarches-simplifiees.fr) offers administrations a turnkey service to digitalise administrative procedures and as a result free themselves from paper forms.

In two years, the platform enabled the digitisation of more than 5,000 administrative procedures and the filing of more than 2.5 million files. The platform is used by more than 750 public bodies, mainly State services and public bodies.

A study commissioned by the European Commission in July 2019 compared different forms of generation tools used by European payrolls, with [demarches-simplifiees.fr](https://demarches-simplifiees.fr), the only open-source solution, resulting the best. The Commission plans to expand its use to other European countries.

## Business Creation Portals

The [guichet-entreprises.fr](https://guichet-entreprises.fr) and [guichet-qualifications.fr](https://guichet-qualifications.fr) portals form the online point of single contact for business creation recognised by the European Commission, implementing [Directive 2006/123/CE](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006 on services in the internal market and [Directive 2005/36/CE](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 September 2005 on the recognition of professional qualifications. More in detail:

- The [guichet-entreprises.fr](https://guichet-entreprises.fr) portal enables French and European citizens to complete the necessary procedures to start a business (registration, application



for licences or authorisations, etc.), modify the information about a business, stop a business activity and carry out a regulated activity in France;

- The [guichet-qualifications.fr](https://guichet-qualifications.fr) portal promotes professional mobility for residents of the European Union and the European Economic Area by providing full information on how to access and carry out a regulated profession in France, with a view to obtaining official recognition of their professional qualifications.

The Guichet Enterprises service, operating both portals, is part of the [EUGO Network](#).

### Beta.gouv.fr

[Beta.gouv.fr](https://beta.gouv.fr) is a digital services incubator forming part of the mission of the Inter-ministerial Directorate for Digital Affairs (DINUM). More specifically, [beta.gouv.fr](https://beta.gouv.fr) incubates *State start-ups* with a 4-phase process:

1. A public official investigates an obstacle between administration and citizens;
2. Two to four people build a digital product in less than six months;
3. The team consolidates the service by expanding the target audience; and
4. An institutional operator takes over the service and ensures its sustainability.

Current State start-ups include, for example, [employment](#) and [transportation data](#) websites, and [environmental protection](#) programmes.

### France Num

The [France Num](https://france-num.fr) portal was launched on 15 October 2015 and is maintained by the General Directorate for Companies (DGC) of the Ministry of the Economy and Finance. France Num aims to promote the digital transformation of SMEs and Very Small Businesses (VSBs). In particular, the portal allows companies to find funding for their digital projects, receive advice from experts and have an easy access to governmental and local digital services for businesses. France Num also plays a key role in building a *communauté des activateurs*, i.e. a network of digital experts supporting France's digital transformation.

### Tribunaldigital.fr

The [tribunaldigital.fr](https://tribunaldigital.fr) portal gives online access to France's 134 commercial courts. Companies can access their files and personal data as well as follow the progress of an ongoing case. The portal also allows users to have an easy access to public services, including seizing the local jurisdiction, collecting/paying a debt, seeking help in case of a cash crisis and filing an application before a bankruptcy judge.

### Health Data Hub

The aim of the [Health Data Hub](#), a platform for health data launched in 2019, is to promote the use of and increase the possibilities for exploiting health data, particularly in the fields of research, support to healthcare personnel, health systems management, and monitoring and informing patients. In this context, the Hub will enable the development of new techniques, notably those related to artificial intelligence methodologies, and will have a role in promoting innovation in the use of health data.

### National Agency for Secured Documents websites

The National Agency for Secured Documents (ANTS) manages several websites:

- One for procedures related to [drivers' licences](#);
- One for procedures related to [French passports](#) or ID cards;
- One for procedures related to [vehicle registration](#).

### 6.1.2 Subnational portals

No particular infrastructure in this field has been reported to date.

## 6.2 Networks

### Inter-ministerial Network of the State

The [Inter-ministerial Network of the State](#) (*Réseau Interministériel de l'Etat, RIE*) is a shared network carrying out data exchanges within each Ministry and between Ministries. It is a key project in the [modernisation of the State's information system and, by extension, of public action](#) in France, promoting and securing exchanges of data between administrations at the service of eGovernment. As of 1 January 2020, more than 13,000 sites were interconnected, with a target of 14,000 sites in 2022 as the French army will rally. The Network is enriched with secure internet browsing services and more services will be added by 2022.

The key aims of the RIE are the following:

- Information exchange simplification and streamlining between Ministries and departmental entities, and optimisation of services for agents and users;
- Security of the information system of the State and enhancements in the global IT security as the number of cyber-attacks grows;
- Optimisation of the infrastructure to provide unified service catalogues and reduce costs through mutualisation.

### Secure Inter-ministerial Intranet for Governmental Synergies

The [Secure Inter-ministerial Intranet for Governmental Synergies](#) (ISIS) has been operational since November 2007 and allows for the exchange and sharing of top-secret information among government actors. The ISIS is part of the French Network and Information Security Agency (*Agence Nationale de la Sécurité des Systèmes d'Information - ANSSI*).

### Trans European Services for Telematics between Administrations

France uses the Trans European Services for Telematics between Administrations (TESTA) network as the main cross border infrastructure to communicate digitally among the EU agencies, institutions and Member States.

## 6.3 Data Exchange

No particular infrastructure in this field has been reported to date.

## 6.4 eID and Trust Services

### FranceConnect

[FranceConnect](#) allows each individual to connect to the various online services by public administrations offering the icon on their site by using one of the 'digital identities' partners:

- [impots.gouv.fr](#) (taxes);
- [AMELI](#) (social security);
- [La Poste](#) (Post Office);
- [MobileConnect et moi](#).

Since 23 January 2018, FranceConnect's authentication page for individuals has had the [FranceConnect](#) icon. For all online processes on [impots.gouv.fr](#), users benefit from a new way of connecting with FranceConnect using the digital identity of their choice.

### Common eSignature solution

The electronic services provided online to citizens and enterprises via the portal [Service Public](#) are supported by one common electronic signature solution. Only the electronic certificates provided by qualified Certification Service Providers (CSPs) are eligible for

the online interactions of citizens and businesses with the government. To be recognised as such, certificates are evaluated against the requirements of the General Security Framework. Three levels of security are provided, namely: medium, high and qualified. The electronic certificates for businesses are issued to natural persons, but are only to be used on behalf of an enterprise.

### State as a Platform

The Inter-ministerial Directorate for Information Systems built the foundations of the *Etat plateforme* (State as a Platform), i.e. an architecture supporting the creation of a new kind of digital public services. This State information system transforming strategy presupposes that the administration itself gathers the various user data which are necessary for its purposes and offers in return almost ready-to-use services. The aim is to centre services on needs, rather than on the organisation of administrative structures. The main principles of the State as a Platform are the opening of APIs by large public providers of data, the flow of data between administrations, and flow control by users through FranceConnect.

### ePassports

In April 2006, the Ministry of Interior announced the calendar for the introduction of the first [electronic passports](#) in France, progressively introduced between April and July 2006. Embedded with a contact-less chip, the French ePassport contains the digitalised photograph of its owner. ePassports are intended to be more than a simple travel document and in the future could be used for the fulfilment of administrative formalities. On 28 June 2009, electronic passports were replaced by biometric passports containing in addition the holder's digitised fingerprints.

### Tchap

In 2019 the government launched [Tchap](#), i.e. its own instant messaging app created specifically for public officials to allow them to easily and securely communicate with their colleagues and partners. Tchap is based on an open-source software (Riot) and open standard (Matrix), is operated by the State and is hosted on French servers. The app guarantees the confidentiality and security of exchanges through end-to-end encryption. The service is available both on computers and mobile devices and offers unique features such as a user directory. As of March 2020, over 120,000 public officials have been using Tchap to communicate.

## 6.5 eProcurement

### [timbres.impots.gouv.fr](#)

The new [timbres.impots.gouv.fr](#) service allows the purchase of fiscal stamps. Electronic stamps are used to pay the rights for some administrative formalities.

### eProcurement Platform (PLACE)

Since 1 January 2020 public contracts equal to or greater than EUR 40,000 (excluding taxes) must be awarded electronically. Previously, starting from 1 October 2018, the threshold had been set to EUR 25,000. This obligation covers:

- The provision of procurement documents;
- The transmission of candidatures or tenders;
- All exchanges with economic operators (questions/answers);
- Notifications of decisions.

All government departments meet this requirement using the [government-wide eProcurement Platform \(PLACE\)](#). The Platform allows public sector organisations to post tenders online and receive electronic tenders from businesses (which can consult the



tenders online). The Platform is offered by the [DAE](#), an interdepartmental service dedicated to improving the efficiency of public procurement. Local authorities have their own electronic procurement solutions at regional and local level.

### Official Bulletin of Public Procurement Notices

The [Official Bulletin of Public Procurement Notices](#) website (Boamp.fr) provides an online version of the Official Bulletin of Public Procurement Notices. The website is managed by the Directorate of Legal and Administrative Information (DILA).

Boamp.fr publishes national and European public tender notices, concession notices and award notices, but also public-private partnership contracts and various notices issued by the State, the army, local authorities and their public establishments.

### eMarketplace of the Burgundy region

The [eMarketplace Portal](#) gathers more than 2,000 public authorities and institutions in the administrative region of Burgundy, in the east of France, and is accessible from the [Burgundy eGovernment Portal](#). Through the Portal, public bodies can post calls for tenders that potential suppliers can access and respond to. This eMarketplace was piloted with the support of the French government as part of France's ADELE plan for eGovernment and was launched as an operational service at the beginning of 2005. After a successful regional experimentation, Burgundy created a consortium made up of five regional authorities of EU countries, along with public and private partners, to put in place the [eTENProcure Project](#). The Project aims at enabling, across the five pilot regions, electronic bidding for public procurement through safe and intuitive web services for SMEs.

### Chorus Pro

Electronic invoicing requires a system that guarantees the authenticity and legibility of the invoice, and the integrity of its content. The French [Agency for the State Financial Information Systems \(AIFE\)](#) has developed and made available for free a shared technical solution called Chorus Pro.

[Chorus Pro](#) is a [portal](#) for electronic invoicing for companies, government suppliers and public entities enabling public officials to accept and issue dematerialised invoices and, thus, suppliers to send their invoices to State services.

More in detail, this portal enables to issue and monitor all annual invoices for the State, the local public sector (including hospital services) and public institutions. The solution takes into account the diversity of public and private entities and offers a choice of transmission and reception methods.

Chorus Pro aims to:

- Put in place a simplified process for submitting and receiving invoices via a single solution;
- Contribute to reduced invoice processing times between the different relevant services;
- Contribute to reduced invoice processing times at every step of the invoicing process;
- Optimise invoice tracking from issuing to payment;
- Archive invoices submitted by suppliers and validated by the information systems;
- Provide suppliers with the history of invoices transmitted via the solution.

Finally, the portal manages subcontractors and co-contractors' payment requests, as well as the exchange of documents related to the execution of works contracts.

## 6.6 ePayment

### PayFiP

Since mid-October 2018, the General Directorate of Public Finance (DGFIP) has been providing public authorities and users with an enhanced, secure and modern online payment service called [PayFiP](#). PayFiP allows for the payment by bank deposit of invoices issued by local authorities and public bodies (the State, local authorities, hospitals, etc.).

## 6.7 Knowledge Management

### [references.modernisation.gouv.fr](#)

The [references.modernisation.gouv.fr](#) website contains links to the latest version of the eGovernment policy reference documents aimed at public authorities, namely: General Accessibility Framework (RGAA); General Security Framework (RGS); General Interoperability Framework (RGI); and Charter for the Ergonomics of Public Websites.

### Adullact.Net

In June 2005, an open-source software repository and collaborative platform for cooperative software development for the use of the entire French administration was launched under the name of Admisource. Since July 2008, Admisource has been merged with [Adullact.Net](#), a platform developed by the Association of Developers and Users of Free Software for Administrations and Regional/Local Governments.

### Awareness Kit

The first part of the [Awareness Kit](#) (*Kit de sensibilisation*) was produced by [Cybermalveillance.gouv.fr](#) and its members, raising awareness on digital security issues, sharing best practices and improving business use.

## 6.8 Cross-border platforms

### Cleiss

[Cleiss](#) is the liaison body between French social security institutions and foreign counterparts for the implementation of European regulations and bilateral or multilateral social security agreements.

### Campus France Platform

The [Campus France Platform](#) provides information as regards study programmes in France. More in detail, the Platform offers information about the different programmes available in France and the possibilities of obtaining a scholarship and explains where to find Campus France near a specific location.

## 6.9 Base registries

### National Address Base Registry

DINUM and the National Institute of Geographic and Forest Information (IGN) developed and launched on 1 January 2020 the [National Address Base Registry](#), an open-source database gathering information on all geographical addresses on the French national territory.

### Registry for Chauffeured Cars

The [Ministry of Ecological and Solidarity Transition](#) provides the [Registry for Chauffeured Cars](#) (online Vehicle Portal), dealing with vehicles' data.

### Business Registry

Since 2009, the [Business Registry](#), dealing with business data, has been handled by Info-Greffe.

### Tax Registries

The [Land and Tax Registries](#) belong to the [Ministry of the Economy and Finance](#), handling land, parcels and tax data.

### SIRENE Registry

The [National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies \(INSEE\)](#) produces and manages the [SIRENE Registry](#) for businesses identification.

## 6.10 Emerging technologies

No particular infrastructure in this field has been reported to date.





7

## Cross-border Digital Public Administration Services

## 7 Cross-border Digital Public Administration Services for Citizens and Businesses

Further to the information on national digital public services provided in the previous chapters, this final chapter presents an overview of the basic cross-border public services provided to citizens and businesses in other European countries. [Your Europe](#) is taken as reference, as it is the EU one-stop shop which aims to simplify the life of both citizens and businesses by avoiding unnecessary inconvenience and red tape in regard to 'life and travel', as well as 'doing business' abroad. In order to do so, Your Europe offers information on basic rights under EU law, but also on how these rights are implemented in each individual country (where information has been provided by the national authorities). Free email or telephone contact with EU assistance services, to get more personalised or detailed help and advice is also available.

Please note that, in most cases, the EU rights described in Your Europe apply to all EU member countries plus Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, and sometimes to Switzerland. Information on Your Europe is provided by the relevant departments of the European Commission and complemented by content provided by the authorities of every country it covers. As the website consists of two sections - one for citizens and one for businesses, both managed by DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW) - below the main groups of services for each section are listed.

### 7.1 Life and Travel

For citizens, the following groups of services can be found on the website:

- [Travel](#) (e.g. Documents needed for travelling in Europe);
- [Work and retirement](#) (e.g. Unemployment and Benefits);
- [Vehicles](#) (e.g. Registration);
- [Residence formalities](#) (e.g. Elections abroad);
- [Education and youth](#) (e.g. Researchers);
- [Health](#) (e.g. Medical Treatment abroad);
- [Family](#) (e.g. Couples);
- [Consumers](#) (e.g. Shopping).

### 7.2 Doing Business

Regarding businesses, the groups of services on the website concern:

- [Running a business](#) (e.g. Developing a business);
- [Taxation](#) (e.g. Business tax);
- [Selling in the EU](#) (e.g. Public contracts);
- [Human Resources](#) (e.g. Employment contracts);
- [Product requirements](#) (e.g. Standards);
- [Financing and Funding](#) (e.g. Accounting);
- [Dealing with Customers](#) (e.g. Data protection).



## The Digital Public Administration Factsheets

The factsheets present an overview of the state and progress of Digital Public Administration and Interoperability within European countries.

The factsheets are published on the Joinup platform, which is a joint initiative by the Directorate General for Informatics (DG DIGIT) and the Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content & Technology (DG CONNECT). This factsheet received valuable contribution from Albane Sautory and Catherine Ferréol (Inter-Ministerial Directorate for Digital Affairs).



*The Digital Public Administration Factsheets are prepared for the European Commission by [Wavestone](#)*

## An action supported by Interoperable Europe

The ISA<sup>2</sup> Programme has evolved into [Interoperable Europe](#) - the initiative of the European Commission for a reinforced interoperability policy.

The work of the European Commission and its partners in public administrations across Europe to enhance interoperability continues at full speed despite the end of the ISA<sup>2</sup> programme. Indeed, enhanced interoperability will be necessary to unlock the potential of data use and reuse for improved public services, to enable cross-border collaboration, and to support the sector-specific policy goals set by the Commission for the future.

Interoperable Europe will lead the process of achieving these goals and creating a reinforced interoperability policy that will work for everyone. The initiative is supported by the [Digital Europe Programme](#).

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