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Almost two thirds of the population have basic digital skills

Austria ranks 8th among the EU

Vienna, 2024-12-09 – 65% of the Austrian population have at least basic digital skills. Thus, Austria surpasses the EU-27 average and takes 8th place in the EU ranking. As a recent analysis conducted by Statistics Austria as part of the Federal Chancellery’s “Digital Skills Initiative” for Austria shows, digital skills are developing somewhat positively in Austria.

“Almost two thirds of the population have at least basic digital skills. This puts Austria above the EU average of 56% and brings it closer to the EU target of at least 80% of the population having at least basic digital skills by 2030. The Netherlands with 83% and Finland with 82% have already reached the EU target,” says Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

65% with basic digital skills but EU target not yet met

The Austrian population’s basic digital skills are at the upper mid-end of the EU ranking. 65% have at least basic digital skills, the EU-27 average is 56%. While the Netherlands and Finland have the highest level of digital skills at 83% and 82% respectively, Bulgaria and Romania are situated at the bottom end with 36% and 28%, respectively. Austria takes 8th place in the EU-27 ranking. The European Union’s target that at least 80% of the population should have at least basic digital skills by 2030 is currently only met by the top two countries.

Positive trend regarding the development of basic digital skills

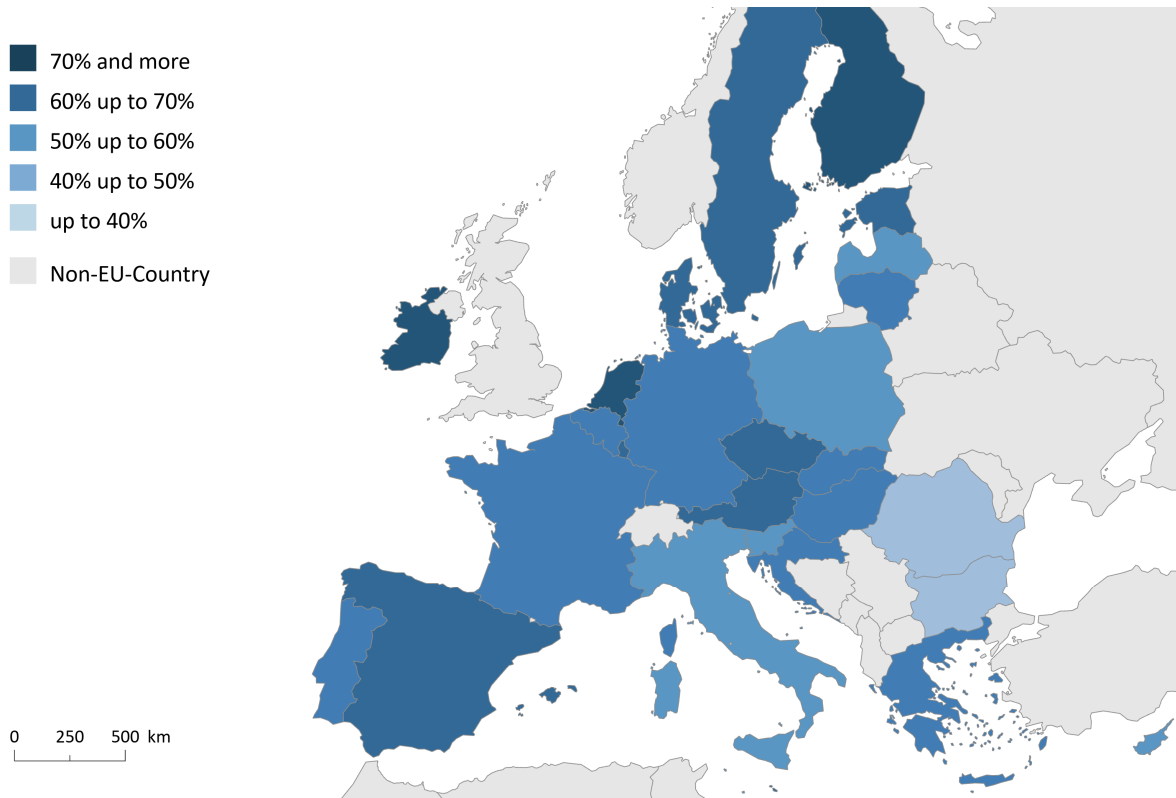
Although the results from 2023 are largely stable compared to the first survey in 2021, the development of basic digital skills shows a positive trend. While 63% of the Austrian population had basic digital skills in 2021, the share reached 65% in 2023. The EU-27 average showed a similar trend. In this case, skills improved from 54% to 56%. With a few exceptions, similar growth rates were also observed in the other EU member states.

Lowest digital skills in the competence areas safety and digital content creation

A comparison of digital skills across the individual competence areas shows a similar pattern for Austria and the EU-27 average. Skills are by far the highest in the competence area “communication and collaboration”. The skills level is also relatively high in the competence areas “information and data literacy” and “problem-solving”. In contrast, skills in the competence areas “safety” and “digital content creation” are lower than in the other areas.

For more detailed information as well as the analysis report “Digital skills in Austria and the European Union 2023” (available only in German) please refer to our [website](#).

At least basic digital skills across the EU-27 2023 (in percent)



S: Eurostat, European survey on ICT usage in households 2023.

Information on methodology, definitions:

The **Digital Skills Indicator (DSI)** is published every two years by the statistical office of the European Union (Eurostat). The indicator captures the digital skills of EU citizens. Data was last collected in 2023. Overall, the DSI is comprised of 33 online activities (individual variables) categorised into five competence areas, which correspond to the five areas of the European digital competence framework for citizens (DigComp): “information and data literacy”, “communication and collaboration”, “digital content creation”, “safety” and “problem-solving”. The DSI employs a proxy concept. It is assumed that individuals who carried out certain online activities also have the corresponding digital skills.

The data basis is derived from the results of the European survey on the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) in households and by individuals in 2023. The survey is based on an EU Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2019/1700) which obliges Austria and all other EU member states to deliver data, as well as on an Implementing Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2022/1399) and a Delegated Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2022/2279). Statistics Austria conducted the Austrian survey as a sample survey with a uniform Europe-wide questionnaire, standardised definitions and a uniform methodology. The analysis report on the DSI was pre-pared by Statistics Austria on behalf of the Federal Chancellery.

Statistics Austria is the central organisation for official data and statistics on society, the economy, the state and the environment. As a national statistical institute, it is committed to the statutory principles of independence, impartiality and objectivity. Statistics Austria is headed by Tobias Thomas, Director General Statistics, and Franz Haslauer, Director General Finance.

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