



13 June  
2025

# Achieving digital-ready policymaking: the European Commission's approach to the interoperability assessments

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## Digital-ready Policymaking

powered by **interoperable**  
europe

# Outline

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**Digital-ready Policymaking (DRPM) framework**

02

**Example from Directorate-General for Environment**

03

**Lessons learnt**

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**Q&A**

# Interoperable Europe Act in a nutshell

Helps EU and Member State administrations to deliver connected digital services to citizens and businesses across Europe.

## Entered into force in April 2024

Lays down measures to enhance cross-border interoperability, thus helps EU and Member States administrations to deliver connected digital services to citizens and businesses across Europe.



## Scopes trans-European digital public services and their systems

All services requiring interaction across Member States' borders by means of their network and information systems.



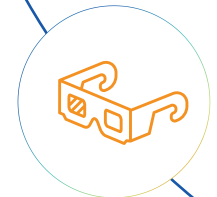
## Applies to Union entities and public sector bodies of Member States

All entities that provide, regulate or manage trans-European digital public services (including EU agencies).

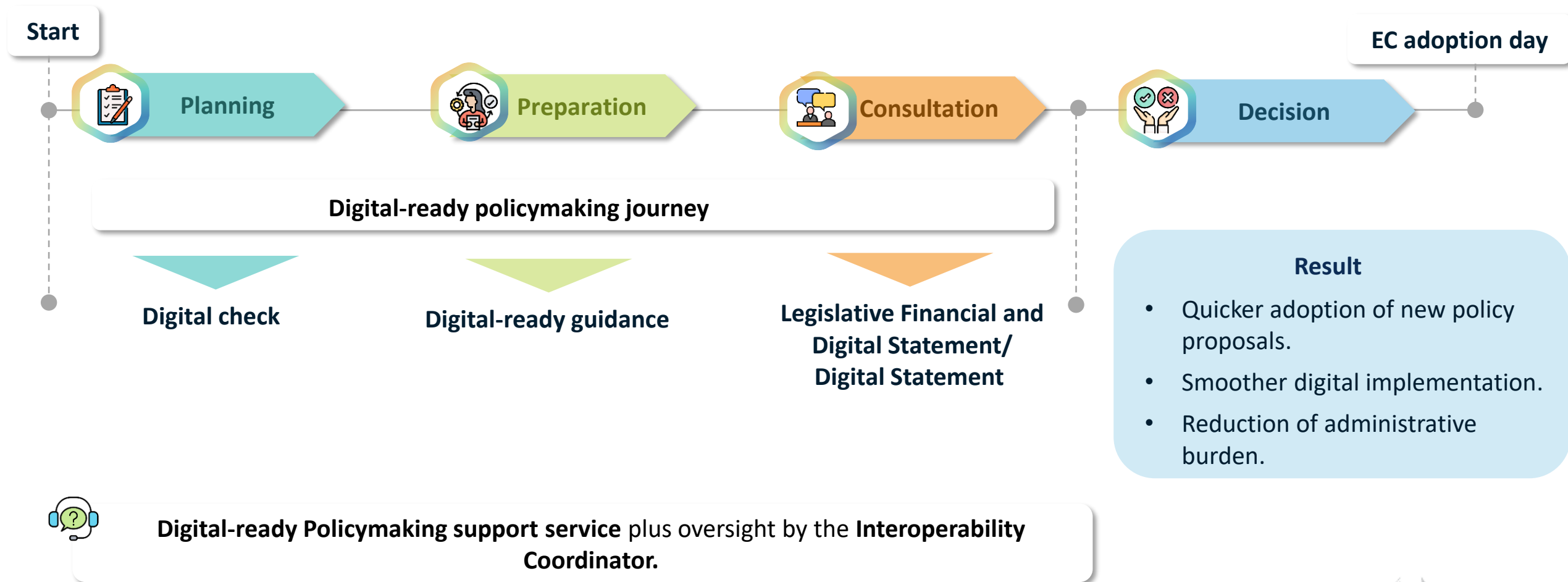


## Introduces mandatory interoperability assessments

To discover opportunities for more cross-border interoperability, making the outcome of this discovery transparent in a report.



# Digital-ready Policymaking (DRPM) framework





# Digital check



Mandatory field at a planning phase.



Applies since **1 January 2025**.



Policy officers should contact **their local support team** to fill in the digital check.



The result is determined by **answers to 4 simple questions**.



To find out if **policy proposal has digital aspects**.



# 4 questions of the digital check

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## Does the policy initiative...

- ✓ foresee the collection, processing, generation, exchange or sharing of data?
- ✓ consider the automation or digitalisation of stakeholders' processes?
- ✓ foresee the use of new or existing digital solution(s)?
- ✓ concern digital public services?



# Digital-ready policymaking support



## Local DRPM support

- Provides first-hand information.
  - Includes IT, data, and procedural experts.
- In touch with the DRPM support service.



## DRPM support service

- Provides tailored consultancy.
  - Organises information sessions, produces guidance and other resources.



## Self-service materials

- Detailed guidance on the DRPM framework's components.
  - Tailored digital-ready guidance for different profiles.
    - E-learning courses.



# Legislative Financial and Digital Statement

**Digital dimensions** chapter has been added to the Legislative Financial Statement (LFS), making it the Legislative Financial and Digital Statement (LFDS). It serves as the **interoperability assessment report** within the Commission.



- **From 1 January 2025.**
- Policy officers fill in the LFDS with help of their local support.



- The LFDS accompanies a policy proposal in the inter-service consultation (ISC).
- If comments made during the ISC, the LFDS has to be changed accordingly. A policy officer should consult local support to make adjustments.



The LFDS reaches other institutions along with the policy proposal.

## Result



The LFDS is publicly available in EUR-Lex.



It provides for an overview of digital implications of a policy proposal.





# Legislative Financial and Digital Statement

1

## Requirements of digital relevance

Lists articles or paragraphs of the legislative proposal involving aspects about data, digitised or automated processes, digital solutions or digital public services.

2

## Data

Describes data and data-flows mandated by requirements of digital relevance. Including explanations on how they comply with the once only principle and the EU data strategy.

3

## Digital solutions

Describes digital solutions mandated by requirements of digital relevance (new or to use). Including explanations on how they comply with the EU digital policies.

4

## Interoperability assessment

Describes concerned digital public services and assesses the measures taken to support their cross-border interoperability.

5

## Measures to support digital implementation

Lists measures supporting the digital implementation of the legislative proposal. This may involve any implementing or delegated acts or guidelines, conducting policy implementation pilots, establishing ICT procurement procedures, sandboxing, capacity building, stakeholder engagement, etc.



## Recap – What is expected?



- Since 1 January 2025
  - DRPM principles embedded in the policy development cycle



- Digital check early in the planning stage
  - LFDS/DS that includes interoperability assessment as mandated by the Interoperable Europe Act

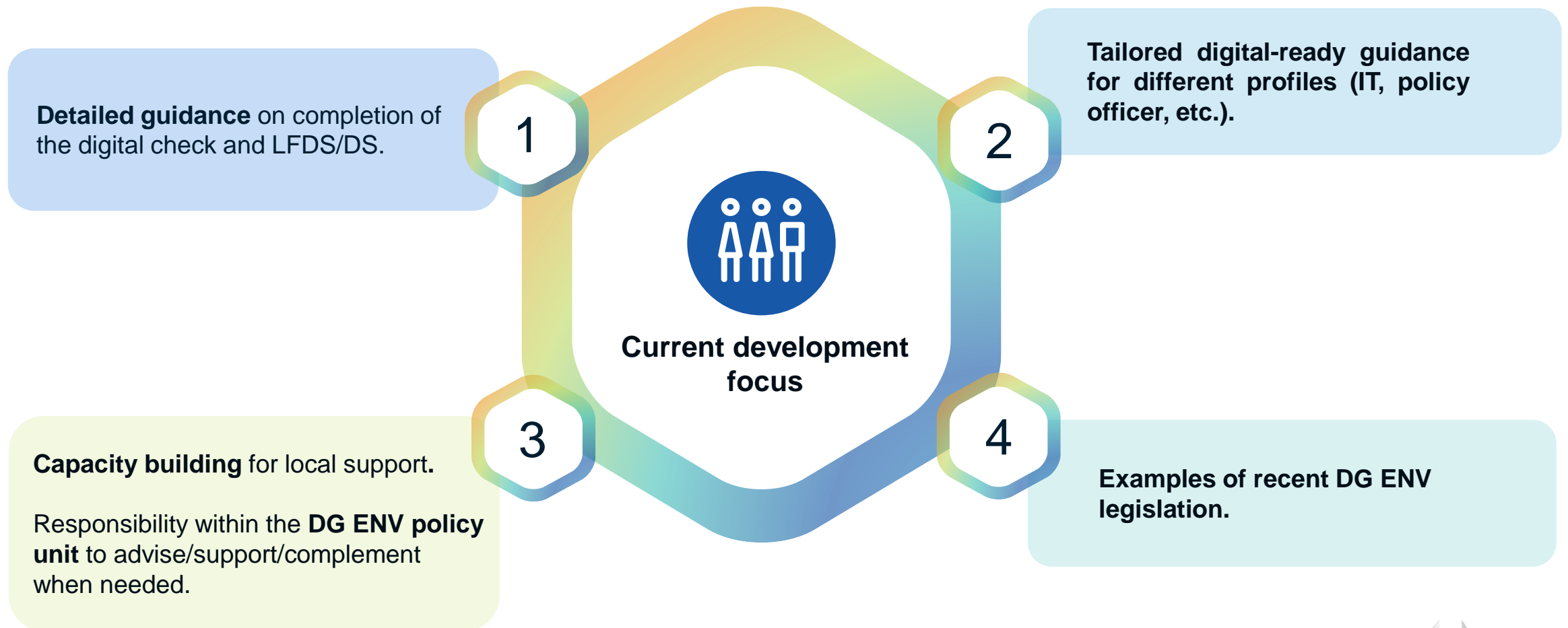


- LFDS/DS needed for the interservice consultation
- LFDS to be published on EUR-Lex



# Support to ENV Units

## Digital-ready Policymaking support service + ENV DRPM Hub





# ENV DRPM Hub

DG Environment's DRPM local support to policy units.

## Can advise/support/complement when and where needed

Final responsibility is with the policy unit.



## Brings capacity

Together from the DIGITAL policy team and the ENV IT Unit.



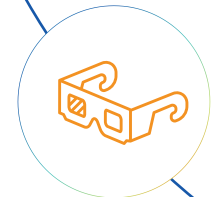
## Help with digital check

Available via functional mailbox; most of the times direct contact.



## 3 LFDS/DS consultancy and 17 digital checks

For ongoing initiatives.





# Digital Check integrated early in the policy cycle

**Digital Check**  
**NEW!**

The digital check refers to four questions available at [this page](#).  
If any of the answers is a YES, then the initiative has a digital dimension. And you should tick YES below.  
If the answer is NO to the four questions, please tick NO and choose a justification by selecting one of the options under NO.

☒ YES  
☐ NO - please select one of the options below:

- ☐ Budget amendment or adjustment
- ☐ Repeal of existing EU legislation
- ☐ No digital relevance
- ☐ Other-

*If other, please enter your own short textual justification below:*

The initiative has a digital dimension with potential for reducing the burden associated with reporting requirements, related to the

**Digital Readiness Check for Environmental Policy Proposals**

Support tool for legal professionals assessing digital implications in environmental law

## 1. Does the proposal involve data?

Ask yourself:

> Will this policy require collecting, sharing, or accessing data between stakeholders or institutions?

- Pollution or emissions registries
- Biodiversity databases
- Environmental impact monitoring or reporting
- Public notifications or authorisations

## 2. Does it digitalise stakeholder processes?

Ask yourself:

> Will this change how people, companies, or agencies interact or comply using digital tools?

- Online submission of environmental permits

- The Digital Check is integrated in the template for new legal initiatives.
- Policy units share fiches for new initiatives with the Better Regulation Planning team. At this point this fiche is also shared with the ENV DRPM Hub for validation of the Digital Check.
- Digital Check questions in an Environmental legislation context.
- A positive Digital Check leads to a more in-depth assessment of digital aspects early in the process.

# The Digital Statement

Explains how a new law or policy will work in our digital world

4.1. Requirements of digital relevance

If the policy initiative is assessed as having no requirement of digital relevance, provide an explanation as to why digital means are not used.

Otherwise, please list the requirements of digital relevance in the table below:

Reference to the requirement	Requirement description	Actor affected or concerned by the requirement	High-level processes	Category
Article 4 (1-2)	Establish soil districts and soil units using data provided in this act or more detailed or updated equivalent data available at European national or subnational levels	Member States	Establishment of soil districts and soil units	<a href="#">Data</a> ; digital <a href="#">solution</a> ; Digital public service

4.2. Data

High-level description of the data in scope and any related standards/specifications

Type of data	Reference to the requirement(s)	Standard and/or specification (if applicable)
Soil units and soil districts	Article 4 (1-2), Article 18 (3)	Member States shall establish for administrative purposes throughout their territory one or more soil districts under the responsibility of one or more competent authorities.  Member States shall also establish soil units on their entire

Data flows

Type of data	Reference(s) to the requirement(s)	Actor who provides the data	Actor who receives the data	Trigger for the data exchange	Frequency (if applicable)
Soil units and soil districts	Article 18 (3) (a)	Member States	Commission	3 years and 3 months after the date of entry into force	

Digital solution	Reference(s) to the requirement(s)	Main mandated functionalities	Responsible body	How is accessibility catered for?	How is reusability considered?	Use of AI technologies (if applicable)
Soil health data portal	Article 6	Provides public access in georeferenced spatial format to soil health data.	Commission and EEA	Following EC accessibility rules	The format and methods for sharing or collecting the data are defined through	Not applicable

4.4 Interoperability assessment

Describe the digital public service(s) affected by the requirements

Digital public service or category of digital public services	Description	Reference(s) to the requirement(s)	Interoperable Europe Solution(s) (NOT APPLICABLE)	Other interoperability solution(s)
Monitoring soil health	Inform the <a href="#">general public</a> about European soil health	Article 6 (6), Article 19 (1)	//	<del>Copernicus services, EU Statistical services</del>

1. Which articles in your proposal involve **digital processes or data (categories: data, digital solution, digital public service)** ?
2. How does the proposal align with the European Data Strategy (data spaces, free flow of data) and the once-only principle (data reuse, ask only once and reuse).
3. Provide a description of high-level data in scope.
4. What **data flows** are required?
5. What **digital solutions** will be used — and are they aligned with EU policy?
6. And an interoperability assessment that identifies the digital public services involved and the concrete measures to ensure **interoperability** across border and successful digital implementation?

# Lessons learnt



## **Mindset change**

Missing understanding of digital processes, underestimation of digital dimensions importance, start thinking about digital solutions from the start.



## **DRPM local support network**

To foster collaboration, share piloting materials, offer assistance.  
Put together a multidisciplinary to bridge policy/business and IT.



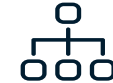
## **Lack of collaboration processes**

Developing specific processes within different Directorates-General.  
And embed these processes in your policy-making cycle (procedures, templates).



## **Awareness raising**

Information sessions, workshops, courses, promotional materials including advantages of making policies digital-ready.



## **Change of habits**

For business to include IT and for IT to proactively get involved in designing policies.



## **Knowledge sharing**

Guides and documentation, exchange of good practices.





# Questions?





# interoperable europe

innovation ∞ govtech ∞ community

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