



24 June 2024

Berlin Declaration Monitoring (BDM) Implementation Webinar

Progress across the seven Policy Areas between 2021-2023
and exchange of good practices



interoperable
europe

Agenda of the session

1

Welcome & Introduction



2

Three years of BDM: progress across the seven Policy Areas



3

BDM implementation: exchange of good practices



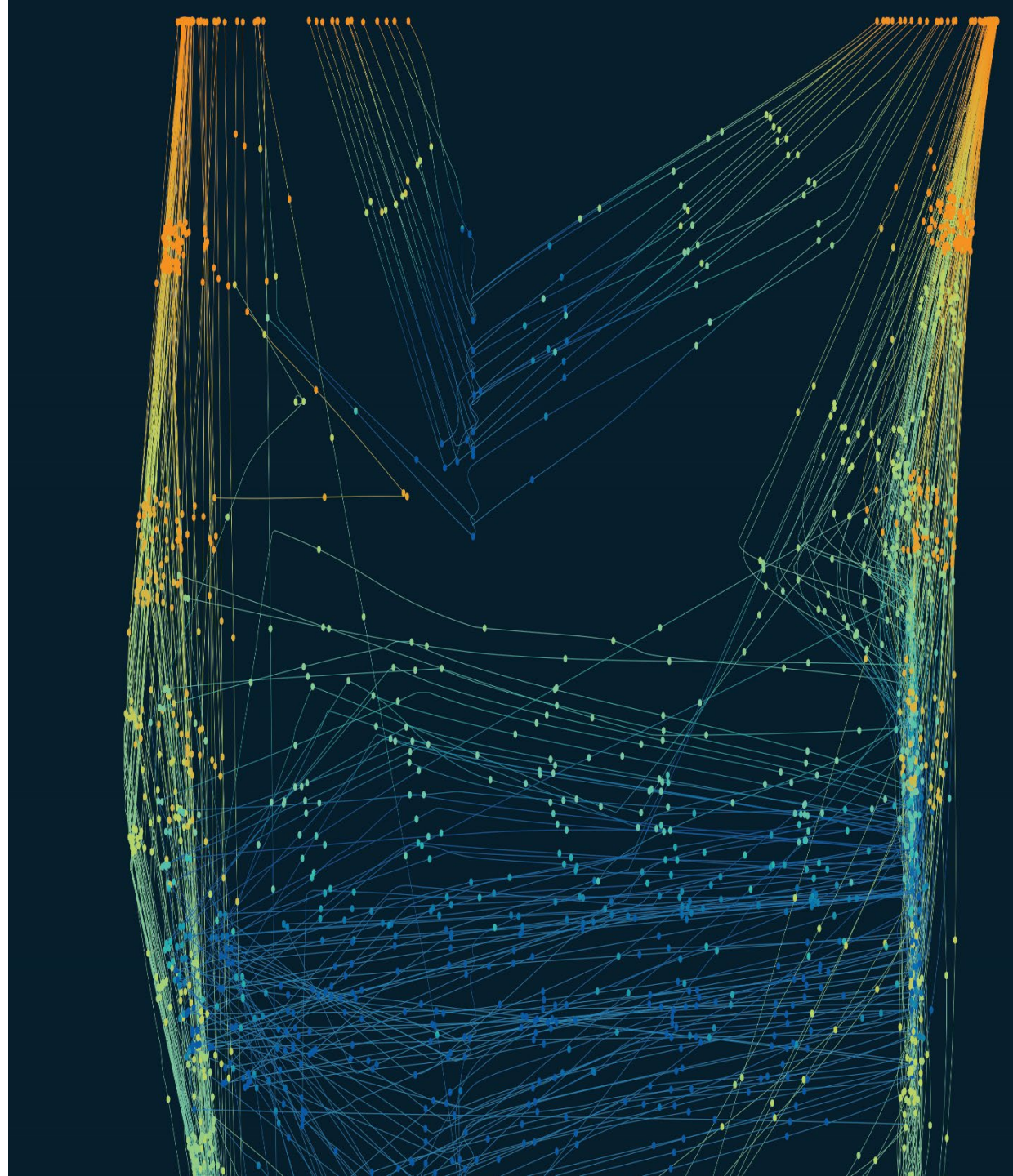
4

Feedback received on the BDM exercise by Member States



5

Q&A

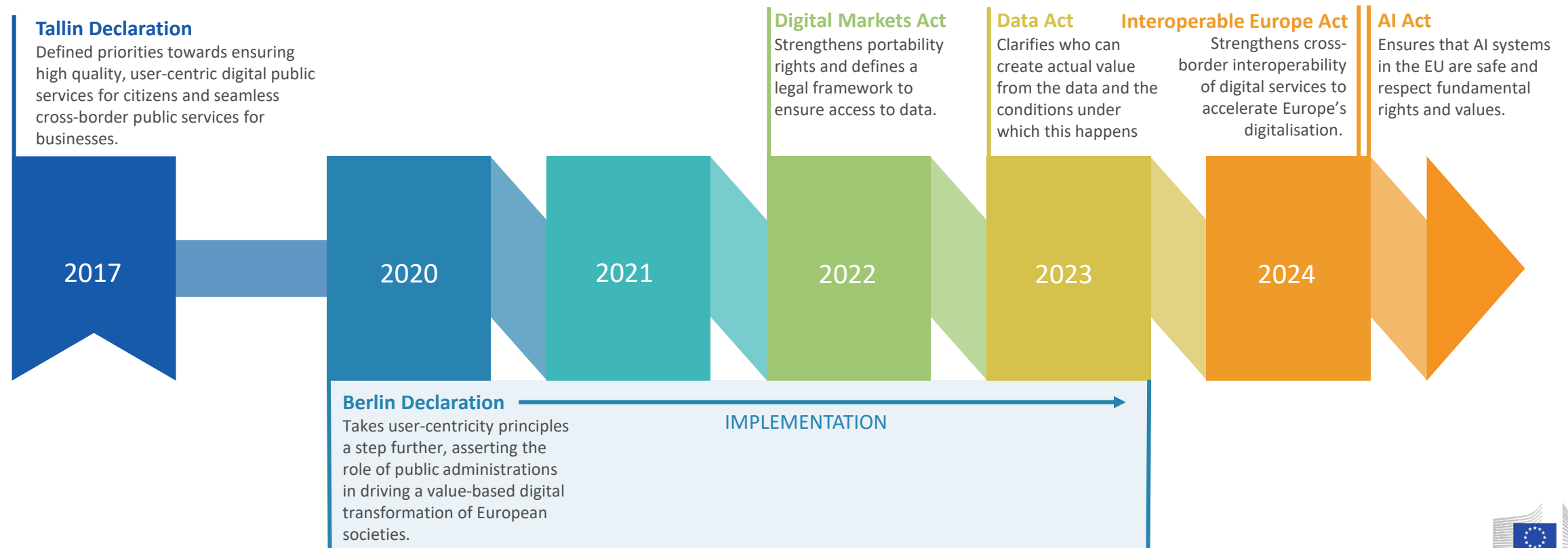


Part I – Welcome and Introduction

/ Welcome and short introduction on the BDM and its assessment framework

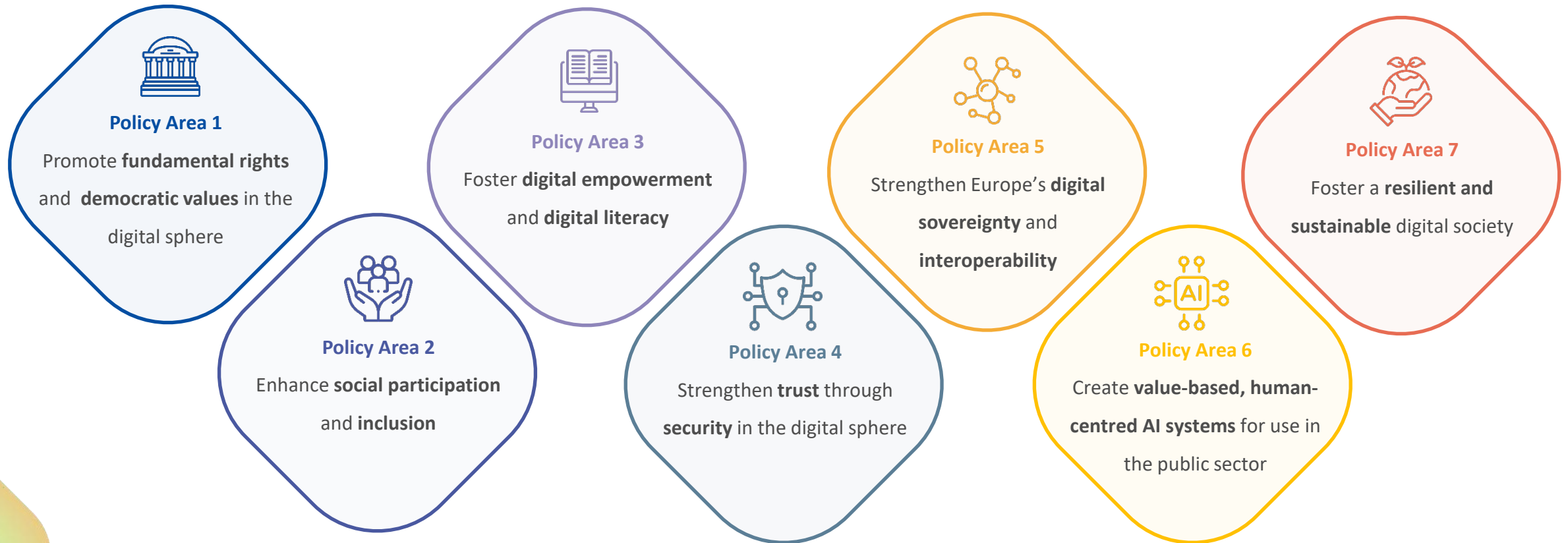
Berlin Declaration on Digital Society and Value-based Digital Government

The **Berlin Declaration on Digital Society and Value-based Digital Government** is an initiative of the German Presidency of the Council of the European Union, whose programme was shaped by the need to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic and pursue a sustainable, economic and social recovery. Signed in **December 2020**, the Declaration has reaffirmed European leaders' **commitment to fundamental rights and European values**, as already stipulated in the 2017 Tallinn Declaration on eGovernment.



7 Principles of the Berlin Declaration

The Berlin Declaration relies on **7 key principles**, called Policy Areas, and emphasises the importance of digital public services in our everyday lives.



Berlin Declaration Monitoring Mechanism (BDM)

The Berlin Declaration monitoring mechanism (BDM) was developed following the will of the Member States to **assess the implementation of said principles and monitor their progress made over time.**

- The BDM and its theoretical framework was **developed under the French Presidency** of the Council, **building on past experiences** on the monitoring of MS's implementation of recommendations in areas related to digital public services, such as the **European Interoperability Framework monitoring mechanism (EIF MM).**
- The BDM was developed in accordance with the **Better Regulation Guidelines and Toolbox** and following a **co-creative approach**, involving the members of the Chief Information Officers (CIO) Network of the EC.



BDM Assessment framework

Level 1 Policy Areas aligned with the Declaration's 7 key principles.	Policy Area 1 Promote fundamental rights and democratic values in the digital sphere			Policy Area 2 Enhance social participation and inclusion			Policy Area 3 Foster digital empowerment and digital literacy			Policy Area 4 Strengthen trust through security in the digital sphere			Policy Area 5 Strengthen Europe's digital sovereignty and interoperability			Policy Area 6 Create value-based, human-centred AI systems for use in the public sector			Policy Area 7 Foster resilience and sustainability									
Level 2 Policy Actions that the Member States have committed to achieve in their respective countries by 2024.	1.1 Include and translate fundamental rights into policies and technology procurement rules 1.2 Raise awareness on value-based digital transformation 1.3 Establish ethical and technological expert councils			2.1 Encourage the use of digital tools to foster citizen participation in policy decision making 2.2 Ensure inclusiveness and accessibility for all to fully digital public services and information 2.3 Provide easy access to services from mobiles			3.1 Launch and promote initiatives for citizens' digital literacy 3.2 Provide easily accessible, user-friendly and seamless digital services 3.3 Initiate workshops/trainings to promote digital skills in the public sector			4.1 Promote the rollout and use of notified eID in the public and private sectors 4.2 Promote responsible and legally compliant re-use of data 4.3 Consider ways to foster agreement on ICT security requirements			5.1 Jointly work towards agreements on requirements for technology providers 5.2 Implement common standards and modular architectures in cross border digital solutions 5.3 Work with the EC to provide suitable online public services for EU cross-border use			6.1 Foster transparency and accountability when designing digital public services 6.2 Share best practices on the development of human-centric AI systems 6.3 Stimulate knowledge sharing on human centric technologies			7.1 Assess and make transparent energy consumption of digital tools and infrastructures		7.2 Evaluate the environmental impacts of ICT and extend the lifespan of digital equipment		7.3 Initiate expert consultations on appropriate use of digital technologies		7.4 Foster the exchange of crisis management data			
Level 3 KPIs split as: - 27 Primary indicators - 17 Secondary indicators [eGov Benchmark (4), DESI (3), CEF Dashboard (2), EIF MM (4), Open Data Portal (3), Electricity Directive 2019/944 (2021/2022) (1)]	1-2		3-5	6	7-8		9	10-12		13-14	15-18	19	20-22		23-27	28	29	30	31	32-33		34	35-36		37-39	40-42	43	44

BDM Benefits



For Member States ...

To highlight the **measures** taken by each one to reach the Policy Actions;



To identify **good practices and lessons learnt** along the way; and



To support decision-makers at EU and national levels in setting their **budgetary priorities and goals** in the digital domain.



For Academia...

To leverage the results of the BDM published as **open data** for further reuse;



To understand the **good practices and lessons learnt** shading light on the ongoing initiatives of the Member States; and



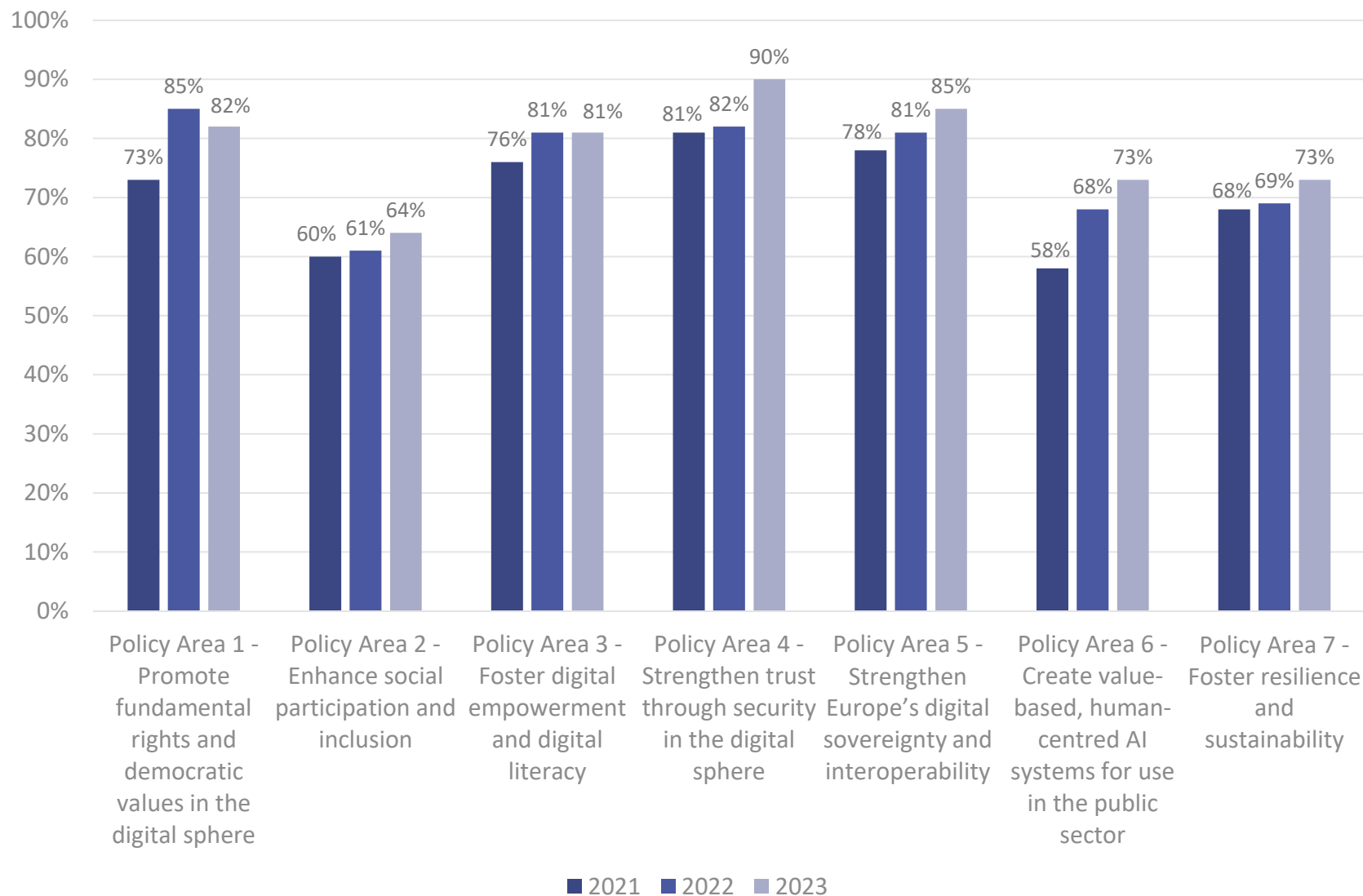
To develop **intelligence on the Member States** state of play in digital government.



Part II – Three years of BDM: progress across the seven Policy Areas

/ Presentation of the progress achieved for each Policy Area between 2021 and 2023 (at EU level)


Overview of the results at EU level between 2021 and 2023 (1/2)





Overview of the results at EU level between 2021 and 2023 (2/2)

All Policy Areas have shown **positive development** since the establishment of the monitoring mechanism in 2021, highlighting the strong commitment of Member States to the objectives set forth by the Berlin Declaration. However, Policy Areas have progressed at a **different pace**:



Cluster 1 – High Progress (More than 7% of progress since 2021)	Cluster 2 – Medium Progress (Progress between 5% and 7% since 2021)	Cluster 3 – Low Progress (Less than 5% of progress since 2021)
Policy Area 6 (+15%)	Policy Area 5 (+7%)	Policy Area 2 (+4%)
Policy Area 1 (+9%)	Policy Area 3 (+5%)	
Policy Area 4 (+9%)	Policy Area 7 (+5%)	

Policy Area 1 – Promote fundamental rights and democratic values in the digital sphere

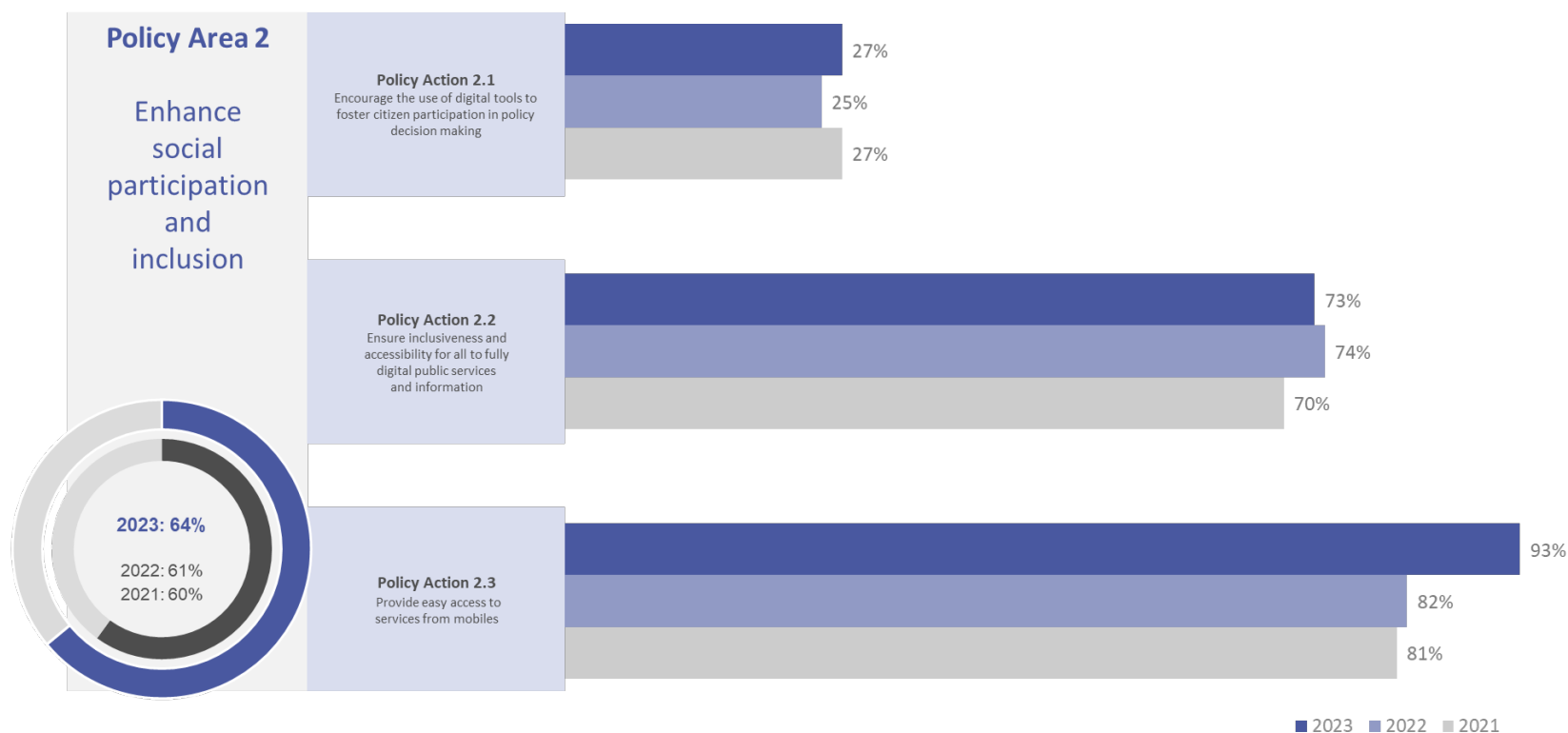


Key considerations

Member States have increasingly created **platforms and portals** to provide more information and foster debate on **fundamental rights** and how these rights are linked to the digital sphere.

Ethical and technical experts' councils have been gradually established in most Member States.

Policy Area 2 – Enhance social participation and inclusion



Key considerations

Member States have consistently fostered the **participation of citizens in policymaking processes**, as well as increased their efforts to ensure that public services and information are **fully digitally accessible to everyone**, including people with disabilities and elderly people.

The low results evolution linked to Policy Action 2.1 can be explained by **the limited amount of data available** linked to online information on citizens' ability to participate in policymaking processes, and how users can enroll in activities to improve the design and delivery of services.

Policy Area 3 – Foster digital empowerment and digital literacy



Key considerations

Member States have consistently introduced strategies and initiatives, including training, to increase their citizens' and businesses' **digital skills and competencies**.

Results possibly **stagnated** between 2022 and 2023 due to the fact that this Policy Area had already achieved good results, especially linked to Policy Action 3.3, in the previous year.

Policy Area 4 – Strengthen trust through security in the digital sphere



Key considerations

Member States have set up several strategies and action plans to reinforce their security measures in the digital remit, including enhancing **ICT security requirements** and promoting the use of **the Once-Only principle**.

Results linked to Policy Action 4.3 suggest that all countries have achieved the **maximum level of security and privacy** defined for public authorities.

Policy Area 5 – Strengthen Europe’s digital sovereignty and interoperability

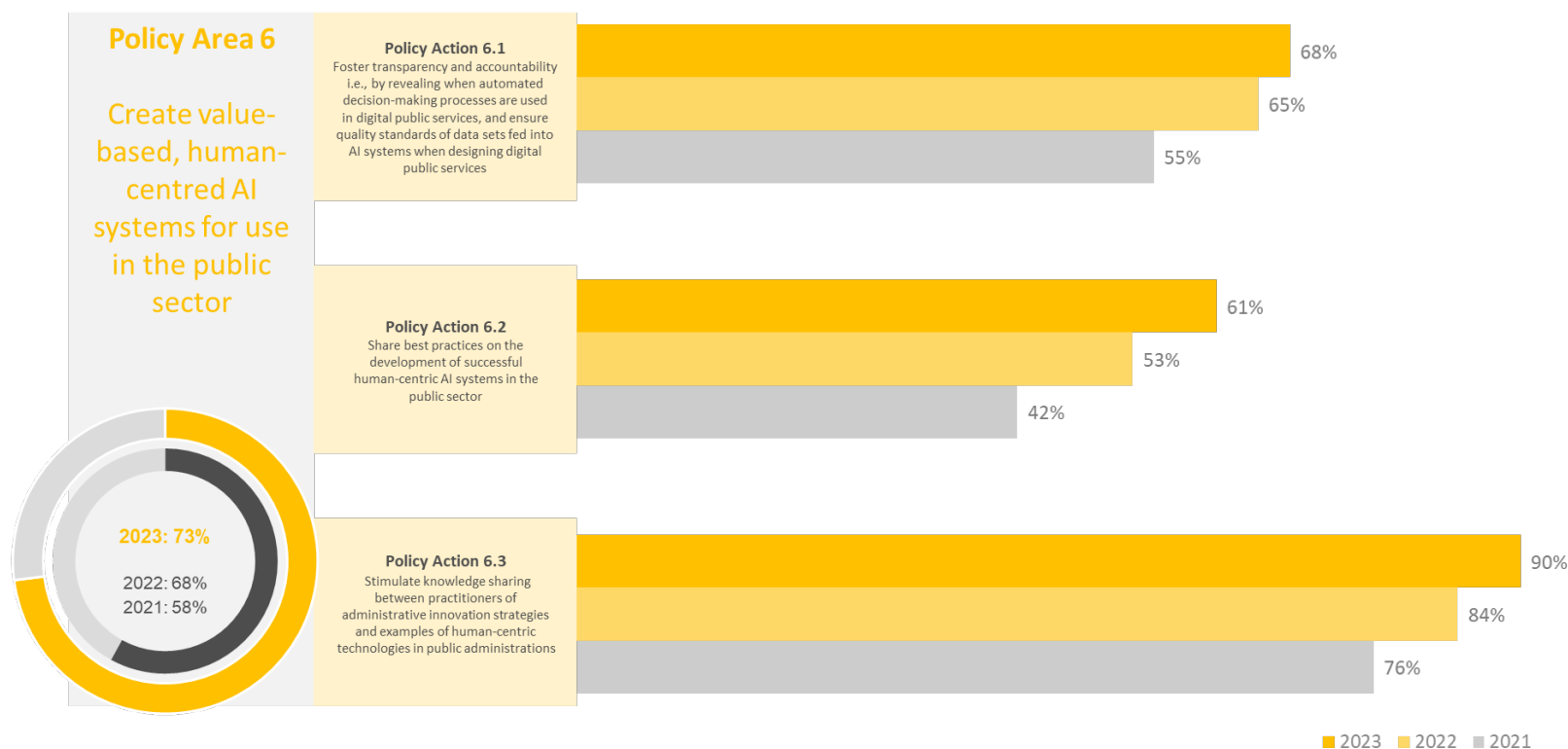


Key considerations

Member States have worked together towards agreeing on **requirements for technology providers and solutions** in the public sector that are essential for digital sovereignty.

In relation to Policy Action 5.3, almost all Member States have fully met the **requirements set by the Single Digital Gateway Regulation** on the online availability and accessibility of administrative procedure.

Policy Area 6 – Create value-based, human-centred AI systems for use in the public sector

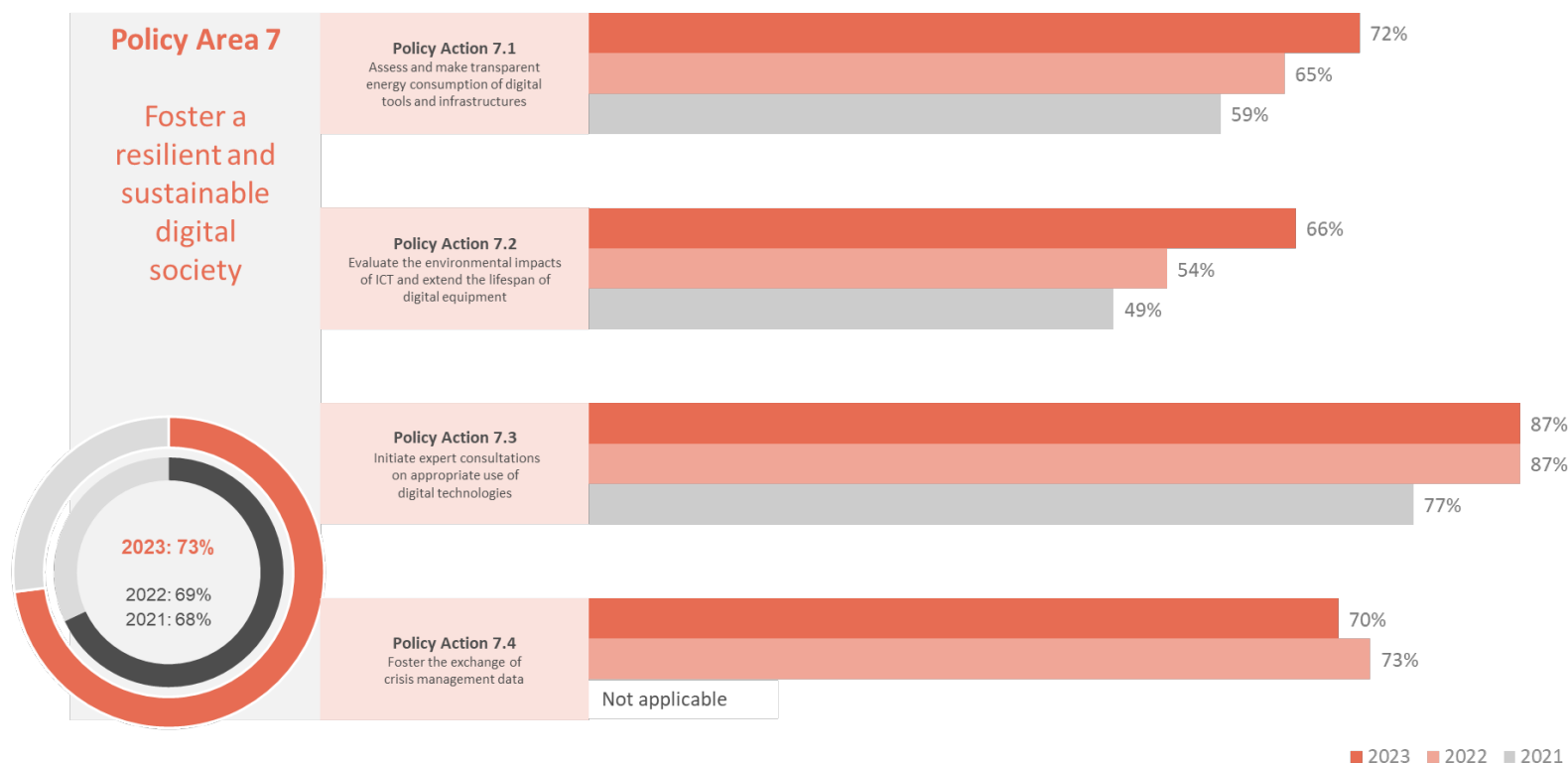


Key considerations

Member States have progressively introduced regulatory measures for the **uptake of emerging technologies and human-centred digital solutions** at the national level, putting emphasis on **knowledge sharing and fostering transparency and accountability**.

Overall, Policy Area 6 is the one that has shown the **highest progress among all Policy Areas** (+15% between 2021 and 2023).

Policy Area 7 – Foster a resilient and sustainable digital society



Key considerations

Member States have put in place several actions to preserve our **natural foundations of life** in line with the European Green Deal and **use digital technologies** to enhance the sustainability of IT systems.

The majority of Member States seems to have put in place **guidelines on responsible and appropriate use of digital technologies** aimed at guaranteeing a good work-life balance and provide mental and physical support.

*Policy Action 7.4 was included later in 2022, thus 2021 results are not available.



Part III - BDM implementation: exchange of good practices

- / Introduction to Policy Area 6
- / Lightning talk by Finland

Policy Area 6 – Create value-based, human-centred AI systems for use in the public sector

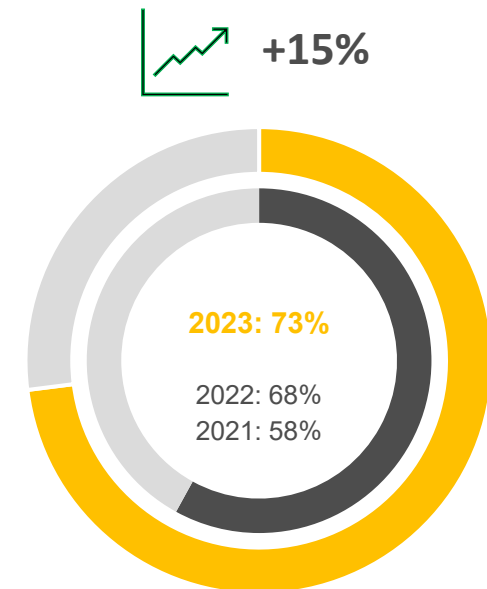
Policy Area 6 ensures that opportunities that derive from innovative technologies, including Artificial Intelligence (AI) systems, should be strengthened at the EU level to guarantee that these comprise a **secure and trustworthy technology design** since they carry great potential for **evidence-based policymaking** and play a key role in providing user centric public services. In this context, Europe aims to promote a **human-centred, responsible and common-good oriented development and use of AI and other novel technologies in the public sector** to ensure that such applications are inclusive, help solve societal challenges, and do not reproduce harmful social or economic biases.

Policy Actions linked to Policy Area 6

6.1 | Encourage the use of digital tools to foster citizen participation in policy decision making

6.2 | Ensure inclusiveness and accessibility for all to fully digital public services and information

6.3 | Provide easy access to services from mobiles





MINISTRY OF FINANCE
FINLAND

The Berlin Declaration Monitoring Implementation – some Finnish remarks

RIITTA AUTERE, MINISTERIAL ADVISER
BDM IMPLEMENTATION WEBINAR
24.7.2024

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Guidelines and regulation on AI and automatic decision-making

Principles

Transparency

Accountability

Rule of law

Right of review

Equal treatment

Predictability



Automatic decision-making

- National regulation on the use of rules-based automatic decision-making in public administration entered into force in May 2023.
- Exception to the ban in Article 22 of the GDPR
- Assures conformity of automatic-decision making with national legal requirements (e.g. the Constitution), especially with regard to
 - accountability
 - transparency
 - predictability
 - right of review and non-discrimination are based on pre-existing law

Before use of ADM

Designing the ADM process and the processing rules that will be used, determining applicable regulation



Documentation regarding responsibilities



Documentation regarding the processing rules



Quality assurance and testing of implemented ADM against the documentation



Informing the public



Decision on use



Publication of the decision on use



During use of ADM

Quality control and monitoring



Corrective measures in case of errors



Assuring the quality of the data used in ADM



Risk management



Notifying the person concerned of the principles of ADM



Further developments

- Conformity of AI systems with national legal requirements
 - accountability vs. autonomy
 - transparency vs. black boxes and trade secrets
 - predictability vs. statistical models
- The AI Act
 - Interoperability between the AI Act and national solutions
 - Does not target internal processes of the deployer to a great extent
 - Distinction between high-risk AI systems and other AI systems ("low-risk" AI systems)
 - From a national perspective all systems that make automatic decisions are "high-risk"
 - Will standards and technical specifications be suitable for public sector use cases?

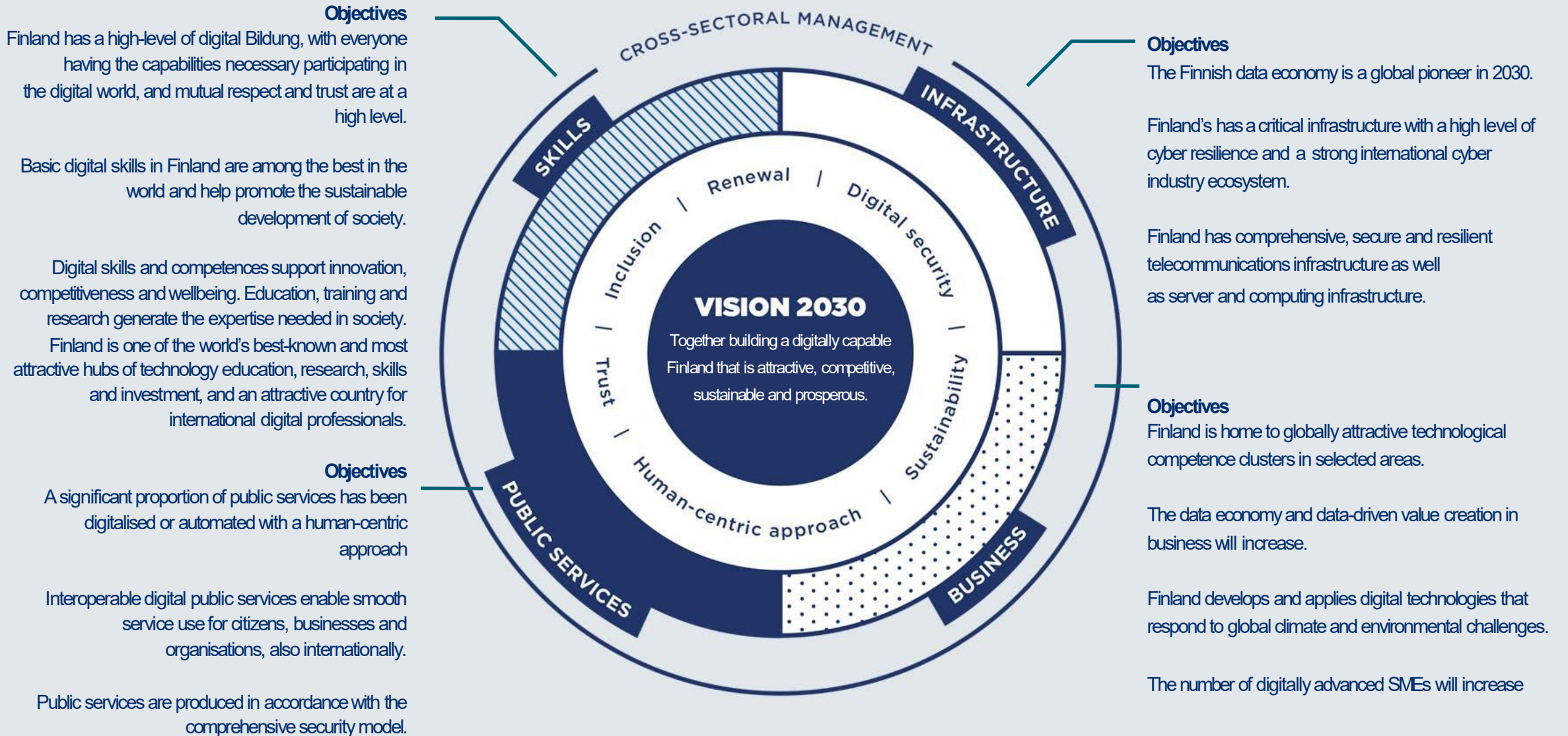
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**From a shared vision
towards
shared digital service paths**

The National Digital Compass guides digitalisation in Finland

- [The Digital Compass](#) describes the national vision and objectives that will guide Finland's digitalisation up to 2030.
- The vision is to build a digitally capable Finland that is attractive, competitive, sustainable and prosperous.
- Our aim is to create long-term commitment to the vision and objectives set in Finland's Digital Compass and to create the conditions for steering and implementing the development package for digitalisation.

Digital compass: Vision, values and objectives



Digitalising and automating life events

- In February 2024, the Ministry of Finance set up **a specific programme to promote life event based digitalisation** (2024-2027).
 - to identify potential life and business events and support their preparation towards implementation
 - 10 implementable project templates related to life or business events.
 - scalable and inclusive cooperation and development model
 - open developer network to ensure co-developing working method
- Public administration with particular development needs on service entities
 - simultaneous or interrelated dealing between several public officials, companies and communities
 - uninterrupted information flow and shared use of this information between different actors
 - need of guidance to handle complex situations
- Meaningful development opportunities combine human-centric approach, promotion of interoperability and economic impact.



Meaningful development opportunities combine human experience, interoperability and economic impact

HUMAN-CENTRED APPROACH

Service experiences are eased, including automation
Human burden associated with the services is reduced
Employee experience is improved

PROMOTION OF INTEROPERABILITY

Shared use, interoperability and usability of data is improved
Digitalisation is promoted
The Once-Only principle

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Efficiency and productivity of service provision
Manual processes and advice needs are reduced
Effectiveness increases and other societal benefits occur

FEASIBILITY

Commitment to implementation is strong
Development measures required for implementation are identified
Needs for legislative amendments are recognised

Issues requiring special attention

- Topics requiring stronger promotion
 - interoperability at all levels, e.g. vocabularies, reference architectures, technical interoperability
 - digitalisation ready or digitalisation friendly legislation
 - rights of access to information and disclosure of information between different operators, use of automation and automatic decision-making
 - Focus on making scalable services and solutions
 - Data products, registers etc. can be used or modified for different usage situations
 - The platform on which the services and products are offered can be expanded to new life events and their entities
- Issues to follow closely:
 - digital wallet and digital identity
 - data spaces
 - cross-border possibilities



Part IV – Feedback received on the BDM exercise by Member States

/ Overview of the main points raised by Member States on the overall BDM experience

Feedback on the BDM exercise



How was your **overall experience** in the implementation of the seven Principles of the Berlin Declaration?



Which was/were the **most challenging** Policy Area(s) to implement?



Do you have any suggestions on how to **improve the monitoring process** (e.g., how data are gathered, information requested)?



Part V – Q&A

- / Q&A
- / Closing remarks

Closing remarks and next steps



The **slides of today's webinar** will be shared on Joinup next week.



The **third and last BDM progress report** has been published today.



In the progress report, each country factsheet has been enriched with **qualitative stories** to **boost knowledge sharing and experience exchange**.



The **Berlin Declaration's objectives don't have to end here** – stay tuned for future updates at the national and EU levels!



Thank you!



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