



Expertise France AND **Digital Technology**



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+ 55

projects with a significant
digital component in 2023

€50 M

of ongoing business volume
for digital projects

Digital technology is an undeniable tool for individual emancipation. It facilitates access to both information and a number of services. It has become an increasingly important part of our daily lives and the global economy. But the significant increase in the use of digital technology does pose real social and environmental risks.

Expertise France helps its partners benefit from the digital transition, while taking account of the risks related to these major changes.

Digital technology, an instrument for sustainable development

Digital technology accelerates development trajectories towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Expertise France works with its partners to disseminate new technologies, in line with the French vision which aims to support a free, open and safe digital world, organised around common goods. The agency's digital objectives are consistent with the climate agenda, as these two issues are inextricably linked and contribute together to sustainable development.

Opportunity and strategy of the digital transformation

The digital transformation brings both risks and opportunities for society and the environment. The massive arrival of mobile phones and digital services in developing countries has brought about major changes in accessibility to basic services (in the fields of finance, health and education). It has also considerably opened up possibilities for access to information and communication. The digital economy accounts for over 15% of world GDP and is growing at a pace 2.5 times faster than global growth¹.

Digital technology contributes to resilience against health crises and climatic disasters, as it helps improve access to information and public services. At the same time, it reduces disruptions to economic activity.

Key figures

15 %

of world GDP is linked to the digital economy¹

3,5 %

of greenhouse gas emissions were caused by digital technology in 2021²

39 %

of 15-24 year-olds use Internet in low-income countries³

9th

place for France in the Global Cybersecurity Index

230

million jobs in Sub-Saharan Africa will require digital skills by 2030⁴

5 200

5,200 digital start-ups in Africa between 2020 and 2021⁴

The crosscutting nature of digital technology makes it a **major issue for developing countries**. This central role has been clearly identified in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as it has been included in all the goals.

Expertise France works to support **digital entrepreneurship**, which contributes to the creation of innovative, high-impact companies that support development. The digitalisation of numerous public services improves access for a broad population. The agency also works towards public transformation and innovation, and accompanies these changes by providing support to ensure the **security of cyberspace**.

Digital transformation: risks and threats

The digital transformation poses major challenges in various fields.



Gender inequalities: Despite the reduction in gender-based inequalities in access to Internet in recent years, women remain less likely to own a smartphone than men. It is essential to take the issues of sustainability and inclusion into account to avoid increasing inequalities.



Employment: With the adoption of new technologies, a high number of jobs either change or disappear, and new occupations are created. It is therefore essential to develop new digital skills to cater to these changes. Artificial intelligence may be the catalyst for a considerable upheaval to the job market.



Cybercrime: Insecurity in the digital world can undermine the proper functioning of institutions by weakening the exercise of their sovereignty. It can also obstruct public services and interfere with economic activity. INTERPOL estimates that 10% of African GDP in 2021 was lost to cybercrime.



Environment and climate: Technological products are huge consumers of rare earths. Their mining and life cycle raise major environmental issues. In terms of the climate, it is estimated that in 2021, digital technologies accounted for 3.5% of global greenhouse gas emissions and that this footprint could double by 2025 (World Bank, April 2022).

Artificial intelligence: between endless possibilities and ethical limits

Artificial intelligence has the potential to bring about large-scale improvements in numerous technical fields, including:

- Optimising yields from precision agriculture solutions through improved monitoring and detection ;
- Improving mobility management by optimising routes and deploying solutions to analyse and visualise traffic data ;
- Creating solutions based on artificial intelligence in the field of health to complement existing health services, by improving the available medical diagnoses and providing access to more effective treatment

However, the increasing development of artificial intelligence does raise issues over the creation of ethical frameworks to protect citizens from the negative consequences of these technologies. Expertise France, in conjunction with actors in artificial intelligence in France and its partner countries, develops a coherent approach to assist governments with ethical issues. The objective is help them make the best use of these technologies, in particular for green and sustainable development.



Digital technology at Expertise France

Expertise France assists its partners with their digital and technological transition, while taking account of the social and environmental risks related to cybercrime, violations of individual freedoms, and the weakening of the sovereignty of States.

Our operating methods

Expertise France has developed an approach that aims to **mainstream digital technology into all the agency's fields of action**, while remaining vigilant over the potential dangers that may stem from it. To this end, the agency's action aims to support **responsible digital technology with a social impact**, and **strengthen local capacities for cybersecurity**, as well as the **fight against cybercrime**. Supporting local innovation is an important aspect of the action of Expertise France, which also works to strengthen the digital sovereignty of States.

In a crosscutting manner, the approach draws on technologies capable of scaling up the impacts of actions, such as geospatial data, data science, and artificial intelligence.

Our lines of action

#1

E-governance

Expertise France assists partner countries with the modernisation and digital transformation of both national and local public services. The agency uses technological building blocks and tried-and-tested solutions in the public sphere in France and worldwide to strengthen the institutional and administrative capacities of partner countries.

#2

Digital education and digital training

Expertise France very actively supports the digital transition and the development of digital skills. In 2023, six projects are being developed on digital education. Their objectives include the creation of digital spaces for online in-service training for teachers, and the development of websites listing all the theses in a country. Digital inclusion is a crosscutting priority area for Expertise France.

#3

Cybersecurity

Expertise France helps national and regional institutions develop, improve and implement strategic institutional and legal frameworks for cybersecurity and the protection of critical public infrastructure. The agency promotes international cooperation on cybersecurity, with the objective of fostering the convergence of European Union policies and practices with its partner countries.

#4

Geospatial sector

Expertise France promotes the use of geospatial data among public and private actors, by facilitating its use by start-ups, contributing to the creation of geospatial hubs, and assisting the implementation of national and regional geospatial strategies.

#5

Digital innovation

Expertise France is involved in innovation and access to digital technology for public and private actors in its partner countries. To this end, the agency supports local ecosystems of digital innovation and start-ups, contributes to the development of policy frameworks conducive to innovation, strengthens the capacities of groups that do not have access to digital technology, and develops the digital skills of companies.

#6

E-health

Expertise France assists its partners with the development of health prevention measures by helping them improve their health and social protection systems. Since the Covid-19 pandemic, the agency has stepped up its activities to improve its partners' response to health crises. Digital technology is a key tool for this approach. For example, the activities include establishing national data-based epidemiological surveillance mechanisms and deploying e-health solutions.



Digital technology, a tool for sustainable development

EL SALVADOR

STRENGTHENING THE SOCIO-PROFESSIONAL INTEGRATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE (LAMARR)

2023-2026 | €9 M | European Union

The project aims to improve the social-professional integration of young people in El Salvador. It directly contributes to fostering employability through the acquisition of digital skills and the development of the use of digital technology in companies. It primarily focuses on young women and men from vulnerable

GREECE

PROJECT TO SUPPORT THE DIGITAL REFORM

2021-2024 | €1.7 M | European Union

The project aims to implement cooperation with the Greek administration for its reform and digital transformation. It is in particular helping to implement strategies to simplify processes, develop digital skills, use artificial

LIBYA

SUPPORTING THE DIGITAL TRANSITION – RAQAMEYON

2023-2024 | €0.7 M | Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs

The project aims to promote the diversification of Libya's job market by building on the digital economy. It is developing digital training for public officials in basic skills (Excel, e-mails...) and advanced skills (artificial intelligence, cyber). The project is enabling the deployment of a digital curriculum in the public service.

BENIN

SUPPORTING THE CHANGE TOWARDS OPEN DATA

2022 | €0.2 M | Agence Française de Développement

The project is helping the Agency for Information Systems and Services establish Open Data regulations, develop an Open Data culture, develop cases of data use, and establish data governance.

RWANDA

COOPERATION PROJECT WITH RWANDA IN THE GEOSPATIAL SECTOR

2023-2024 | €0.65 M | Agence Française de Développement

The project aims to strengthen inter-ministerial digital governance at the Rwanda Information Society Authority (RISA) through French expertise. The objective is to improve and harmonise the digital infrastructure and services of administrations.

VIETNAM

SUPPORT FOR THE E-GOVERNMENT REFORM

2022-2024 | €0.6 M | Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs

The project aims to assist the transformation of the Vietnamese administration through digital technology, in line with the framework established by the Government. It actively contributes to improving the efficiency of public services for citizens and companies in terms of inter-ministerial coordination, decentralisation, and crisis

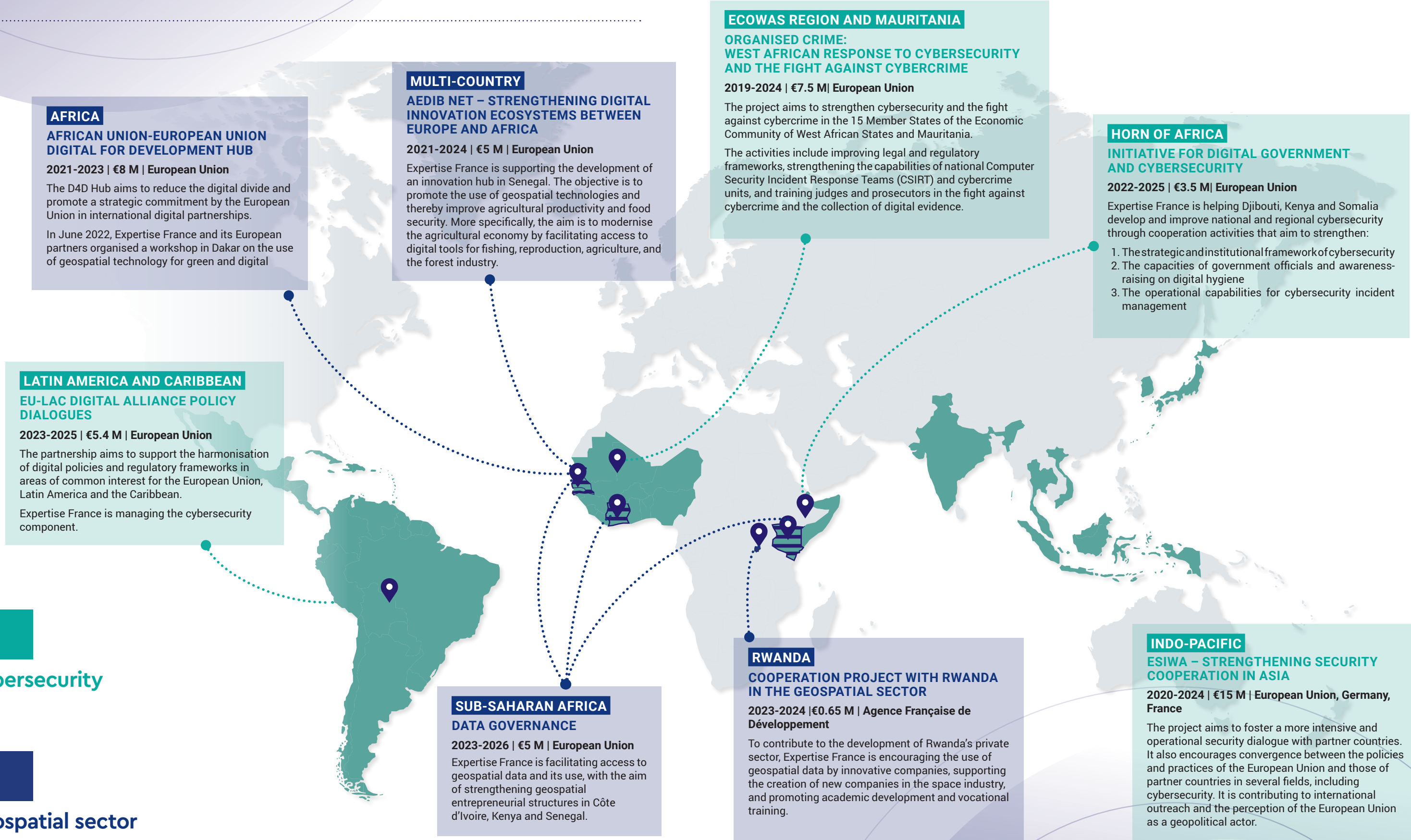
#1

E-governance

#2

Digital education
and digital training

Digital technology, a tool for sustainable development



#3

Cybersecurity

#4

Geospatial sector

Digital technology, a tool for sustainable development

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
CARIBBEAN INVESTMENT FACILITY

2022-2024 | €4.4 M | Agence Française de Développement

Expertise France is helping the Dominican Republic strengthen its health and social protection system, as well as the crisis response capability of its health surveillance system.

The agency is assisting with the creation of national epidemiological surveillance mechanisms that incorporate available data sources on human, animal and environmental health.

TUNISIA
INNOV'I – EU4INNOVATION

2019-2024 | €14.5 M | European Union

Expertise France is implementing the Innov'I project in Tunisia, which aims to promote innovation and the Tunisian entrepreneurial system. It is supporting the structures through technical assistance, loans, and help with structuring the Tunisian entrepreneurial ecosystem. The project is supporting a large number of digital start-ups.

TUNISIA
GREENOV'I

2023-2027 | €12 M | European Union

This project aims to support the environmental transition of Tunisia's private sector and develop systems for the production of goods and management of services in tune with the green economy. The project will especially support the emergence of a Greentech ecosystem, placing innovation and new digital technologies at the centre of a transformation towards green, equitable and sustainable production methods.

MULTI-COUNTRY
AEDIB NET – STRENGTHENING DIGITAL INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS BETWEEN EUROPE AND AFRICA

2021-2024 | €5 M | European Union

The project aims to set up a common African-European digital innovation ecosystem by supporting local digital innovation ecosystems and start-ups in Africa, and facilitating collaboration between European and African digital innovation hubs.

Expertise France is enabling the development of a policy framework conducive to innovation, by strengthening the capacities of marginalised groups and improving digital and entrepreneurial skills through the Digital Entrepreneur Skills Academy.

MULTI-COUNTRY
SUCCESS – PROJECT TO ELIMINATE CERVICAL CANCER

2019-2023 | €22 M | UNITAID

The project aims to strengthen secondary prevention of cervical cancer, i.e. prevent the development of the cancer through a human papillomavirus (HPV) detection test and the treatment of precancerous lesions.

As part of SUCCESS, an e-health solution (the DHIS2 Tracker) specific to cervical cancer has been developed in two West African countries. It optimises the follow-up of patients and facilitates real-time epidemiological surveillance.

AFRICA, CARIBBEAN, PACIFIC
DIGITALISATION OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES

2021-2023 | €1.7 M | Agence Française de Développement (funds delegated by the EU)

The project aims to strengthen the digitalisation of operators in health and education, as well as small enterprises, to help them cope better with crises. Training workshops are organised in the field and aim to strengthen the practical capacity of entrepreneurs to use digital tools to develop their activities and increase their resilience.

#5

Digital innovation

#6

E-health

Expertise France is a public agency, the interministerial actor in international technical cooperation and a subsidiary of Agence Française de Développement Group (AFD Group). As the second largest agency in Europe, it designs and implements projects that sustainably strengthen public policies in developing and emerging countries. Governance, security, climate, health, education... It operates in key areas of development and contributes alongside its partners to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Towards a world in common.

For more information: www.expertisefrance.fr/en



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