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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Digital Partnerships in Action: Economic and Technological Security in Practice - Information from the Centre for Security, Diplomacy and Strategy (CSDS) of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB)

Following the meeting of the Working Party on Telecommunications and Information Society on 19 February 2026, delegations will find in Annex the presentation made by the Centre for Security, Diplomacy and Strategy (CSDS) of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB)¹.

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Digital Partnerships in Action

Economic and Technological Security in Practice

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Presentation Roadmap

- Why digital partnerships matter now
- The shift to economic security diplomacy
- EU strategy and global architecture
- Strategic technology domains
- INPACE as implementation model
- Delivery challenges
- Strategic takeaways



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2

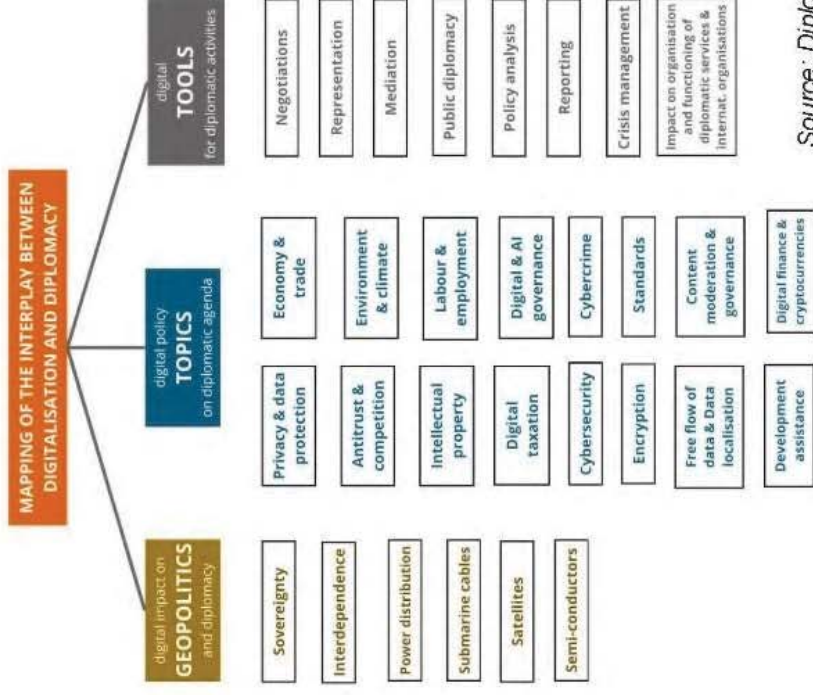
Strategic Context

Why Digital Partnerships Matter Now

- ▶ Geopolitical intensity shaping digital ecosystems
- ▶ Economic security now central to EU external action
- ▶ Fragmentation in global tech governance
- ▶ Partnerships as instruments for competitive resilience
- ▶ Shift from normative diplomacy →
geoeconomic strategy



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Source: Diplo 2025

3

EU International Digital Strategy

Goals & Structure

- ▶ Deepen existing Digital Partnerships & Dialogues
- ▶ Build a global Digital Partnership Network
- ▶ Strengthen competitiveness & security with partners
- ▶ EU Tech Business Offer
- ▶ Support EU values in digital governance



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Source: EEAS 2025

Key Domains of Cooperation

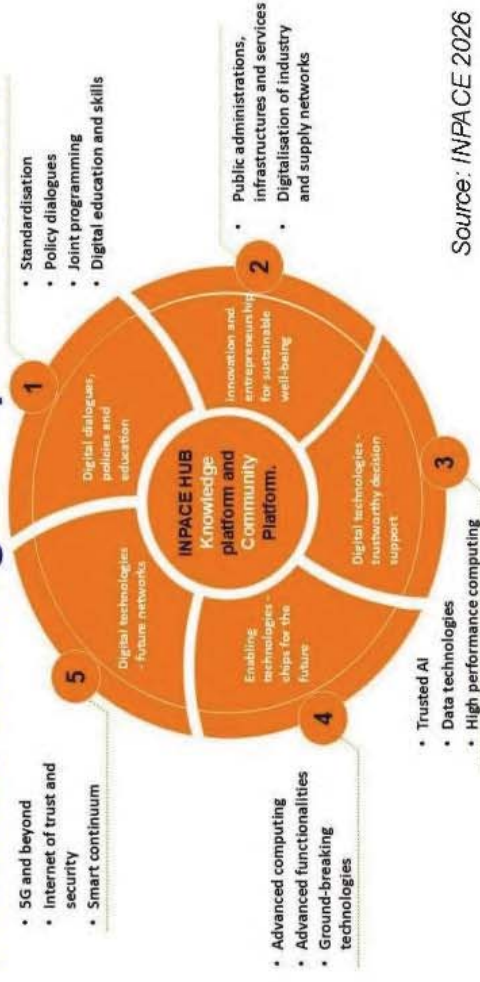
Where Cooperation Delivers Economic Security

- ▶ Emerging technologies (AI, semiconductors, quantum)
- ▶ Cybersecurity & secure infrastructure
- ▶ Digital public infrastructure & digital identity
- ▶ Online platforms & digital governance



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Thematic Working Groups & Clusters



Source: INPACE 2026

5

INPACE Project

Case Study of Digital Partnerships in Action

- ▶ Horizon Europe project activating Partnerships with Japan, Korea, Singapore & India
- ▶ Multi-stakeholder Indo-Pacific European Hub for digital tech collaboration
- ▶ Builds durable cooperation mechanisms
- ▶ Operationalises strategy priorities



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Source: INPACE 2026
<https://inpacehub.eu/eu-japan-digital-week-2026/>

6

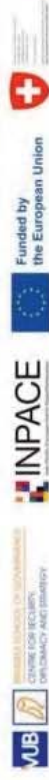
International Digital Strategy

Implementation Challenges & Policy Implications

- ▶ Need for inter-institutional coordination
- ▶ Integrating public & private investment
- ▶ Balancing openness with resilience
- ▶ Measuring impact and sustaining momentum



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Source: VUB 2026

7

Conclusion: Economic Security Diplomacy

Pathways for Future Cooperation

- ▶ Digital Partnerships as strategic instruments
- ▶ INPACE as an operational model
- ▶ Strengthening economic security through shared interests *and* norms
- ▶ Europe as reliable partner in global digital order



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Source: European Commission 2026

8



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Thank you


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