

Question for written answer E-000937/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Dimitris Tsiodras (PPE)

Subject: Strengthening digital transformation programmes and facilitating SMEs' access to them

A number of conclusions can be drawn from the Commission's assessment of the effectiveness of the Digital Europe Programme with regard to its successes and how to make it more effective.

In particular, while small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are a key target group of the programme's efforts, only 17 % of funding is allocated to them. Indeed, the application process was considered challenging due to extensive administrative requirements, while many respondents pointed to issues such as obligatory double reporting to the European Commission and national authorities as well as co-financing requirements. These obstacles can have a significant impact on the programme's effectiveness and on the EU's ability to achieve its digital objectives.

In view of the multiannual financial framework 2028-2034, can the Commission say:

1. How does it intend to simplify the digital financing mechanisms and access thereto for SMEs, in order to boost their competitiveness and their ability to integrate into European value chains?
2. How will it help bridge the gap and accelerate the transition from research and innovation to the application of research results and their commercialisation?
3. How will it improve coordination with national funding programmes and national digital initiatives to ensure that activities at different levels support and reinforce each other?

Submitted: 6.3.2026