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Monitoring Report on Digital Switzerland Strategy 2023

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1 Introduction

The Digital Switzerland Strategy sets the guidelines for digital transformation in Switzerland. It is binding for the Federal Administration. For other stakeholders such as cantons, communes, business, science and civil society, it serves as a guide on how best to take the opportunities presented by digital change and use them for the benefit of all. As an umbrella strategy, the Digital Switzerland Strategy provides a framework for digitalisation in Switzerland. It allows for multiple digitalisation strategies within public administration, for example at cantonal and federal levels, as well as interaction between various administrations within the framework of the Digital Public Services Switzerland.

Among the strategy's key elements are the five domains indicating the topics that will have a long-term impact on digitalisation in Switzerland. Another core element is the three focus topics that the Federal Council defines each year as important priorities for digitalisation in Switzerland. These topics are not intended to be resolved within the 'focus year'. They should rather be ready for launch by the year's conclusion, for example by starting a programme.

In its 2023 monitoring report, the DTI Sector of the Federal Chancellery shows the measures that the lead administrative units were able to implement last year, briefly summarises the status of digital transformation and makes suggestions for new focus topics.

2 Review: Focus topics in 2023

2.1 Focus topic: digitalisation in the healthcare sector

Lead administrative unit: General Secretariat FDHA with the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH) and the Federal Statistical Office (FSO).

2.1.1 Progress on implementation

Three measures have been used to implement the focus topic digitalisation in the healthcare sector:

1. The Swiss Personalised Health Network (SPHN) continued to expand its research data network in 2022 and 2023. This enabled several multi-centre, data-driven healthcare research projects to be implemented in compliance with all ethical, data security and regulatory guidelines. In addition, four National Data Streams (NDS) were established. NDSs are consortial research infrastructures (platforms) involving a national network of clinical and science/engineering partners. They build on the SPHN data interoperability framework and the BioMedIT secure data processing environment and secure it for the long term. They provide access to curated, high-quality data sets in line with the FAIR principles.
2. At the beginning of May 2022, the Federal Council instructed the FDHA to develop a programme to promote digital transformation in the healthcare sector (DigiSanté) and submit it to the Federal Council as part of a dispatch with a guarantee credit. In 2022, the FOPH and FSO assembled the programme team, drew up the programme initiation mandate and established the programme's organisation. Initial work on the programme concept began in 2023, as well as the background work required to prepare the dispatch for the guarantee credit. Two information events were held for stakeholders, in order to give them an insight into the work that had been planned up to that point. DigiSanté was also presented at various events, including the plenary meeting of the Swiss Conference of the Cantonal Ministers of Public Health (GDK). Work focusing on the programme concept will continue until the end of 2023, and the dispatch on the programme will be submitted to the Federal Council on time.
3. In the eHealth Switzerland 2.0 Strategy, the federal government and cantons set themselves the goal of increasing efforts towards digitalisation in the healthcare sector, with a particular focus on introducing and promoting the use of electronic patient records (EPRs). All eight (core) communities have been certified since December 2022. eHealth Suisse has offered a vaccination module as a Java open source application since the end of 2022. The medication plan was developed in 2022 and tested at the EPR Projectathon in September 2022. The EPR (core) communities are to integrate the medication plan into their platforms by 31 May 2024, with implementation support offered by eHealth Suisse. Other exchange formats for structured data are also in preparation. Furthermore, on 30 June 2023 the FOPH partnered with the cantons to launch a campaign – 'The EPR works' – aimed at healthcare professionals and the general public.

2.1.2 Outlook

Sharing health data, which in some cases is very sensitive, or using it for new purposes outside of patient care (e.g. for research or quality control) currently requires individual negotiations between institutions. The relevant legal framework and processes need to be standardised and harmonised. For efficient interoperability, ideally data standards would already be harmonised when data are collected, regardless of whether they are to be used for research, patient care or quality assurance, etc. The SPHN approach could be used here as a scalable model. The comprehensive revision of the Federal Act on the Electronic Patient Record (EPRA) and the implementation of the DigiSanté programme are also intended to promote the desired standardisation.

2.1.3 Conclusion

With data-driven, personalised medicine, the connections between research and healthcare are increasing, but this is not reflected at legal, organisational, political and financial levels. The digitalised future of healthcare requires a close alliance between research and care with uniform data standards and efficient, harmonised processes. In addition, people must be able to use and share their health data autonomously, including for charitable causes such as research. This requires above all giving people the ability to access their own data and new approaches to consent, as well as improving understanding among the population.

Until now, compliance with regulatory requirements when linking personal data from different sources has required a disproportionate effort, making it difficult to map patient pathways across multiple healthcare providers or to analyse non-medical influences on health. Requirements include an additional unique personal identifier for research, a trust centre to act as a fiduciary in connecting data sets, and a secure IT environment to process data. Suitable legal foundations and supervisory mechanisms are also needed to achieve this.

Fulfilling the above-mentioned requirements of healthcare and research will require national coordination, infrastructures and services in addition to local capacities. These must serve the country as a whole, regardless of individual interests. Continuing expansion and development of the EPR and the implementation of the DigiSanté programme can both make a significant contribution to this. National support structures also facilitate the connection to international data spaces such as the European Health Data Space.

A Swiss data space for health-related research will only bring added value if there is sustainable funding for both the structured collection of interoperable data in the healthcare sector and the corresponding data-driven research.

2.1.4 Assessment

Switzerland has one of the best and most expensive healthcare systems in the world. However, Switzerland is still in the early stages of digitalising its healthcare system and is not very developed. Achieving the transition to a digital healthcare system essentially requires the following strategic objectives to be met:

- Digitalising: The Confederation and cantons create the necessary conditions for digital transformation in the healthcare sector (they digitalise the services provided by the authorities in their area of responsibility)
- Coordinating: In order to increase the impact of all activities, the relevant stakeholders are brought into the process and the dialogue between them is facilitated or improved
- Standardising: Secure and interoperable data exchange between healthcare stakeholders is established and/or improved
- Anchoring: At federal and cantonal levels, identifying legal bases that need to be adapted or created

There is still a need for action in all areas, but it has been recognised. The focus topic on digitalisation in the healthcare sector highlights the importance of the comprehensive use of data as a core element of digital transformation; This is also reflected in the close cooperation between the FOPH and the FSO.

Key cornerstones for the digitalisation of the healthcare system have been initiated (e.g. the DigiSanté programme) and some are already being implemented (e.g. the further development of the electronic patient records [EPRs]). The Federal Council has realised that very few people use the patient record, and is therefore providing funding to open records (the Confederation can grant a maximum amount of CHF 30 per record). It has also launched a complete revision of the Federal Act on the Electronic Patient Record (EPRA), submitting a draft for consultation in June 2023.¹

2.2 Focus topic: digitisation-friendly legislation

Lead administrative unit: Federal Office of Justice (FOJ)

2.2.1 Progress on implementation

The FOJ will give special attention to the digitalisation-friendly legislation focus topic this year. However, the implementation of the topic will extend far beyond the current year. The Federal Council has stated that it wants to promote laws that drive forward digital transformation. The Federal Office of Justice (FOJ) is involved in this challenge in two ways: it supervises its own legislative projects, and it also supports the departments and the Federal Chancellery in legislative monitoring. The following projects in particular were realised in 2023:

- Digitalisation of the Swiss justice system: Dispatch adopted on the Federal Act on the Platform for Electronic Communication in the Justice System (ECJA).
- Federal Act on the Use of Electronic Means to Conduct Official Tasks (EMOTA). Parliament adopts the draft and referendum deadline expires. The ordinance provisions are expected to be submitted to the Federal Council by the end of the year.
- New VOSTRA: Entry into force of the new criminal records law (Criminal Records Register Act and Criminal Records Register Ordinance), with the new register of convictions VOSTRA coming into operation.
- Notarial Digitisation Act: Adoption of the draft by Parliament.
- Updating the legislative guide, drafting the fact sheet on the interpretation and revision of formal requirements in public law, drafting the legislative guide on data protection.
- e-ID and trust infrastructure: Adoption of the dispatch on the Federal Act on Electronic Identification Services (e-ID Act).
- Secondary use of data: Start of work on a legislative project in this area.

2.2.2 Outlook

Digital transformation is sometimes a generational project. The list of measures that are currently underway shows that there is still a lot to do; very few will be finished in 2023. Two examples:

- Cooperation relating to legal foundations, standards, services and infrastructures within and across federal levels, in particular with regard to the Digital Public Services Switzerland (DPSS).
- Possible need for regulation of artificial intelligence.

¹ Source: [Further development of EPR \(admin.ch\)](#)

2.2.3 Conclusion

Creating the necessary legal basis plays an important role in digital transformation. At the same time, the success of digital transformation also depends on other factors. With regard to the legal aspects of the digitalisation of the state and society, some of the biggest challenges are:

- Digital transformation projects are breaking new technical and legal ground. They often require new legal foundations. This requires not only legal knowledge, but also a sound understanding of modern information technology. This poses new challenges for the lawyers involved.
- In agile IT projects, fundamental decisions are often made at various stages of the project. It is therefore crucial to clarify the relevant legal issues at the right time and incorporate them into the work.
- Many IT projects have an international dimension. International requirements must therefore be taken into account from the outset (e.g. Schengen/Dublin, EU adequacy decision on data protection, EU digitalisation initiative, OECD work).

Legal regulations relating to digitalisation often affect many different areas of life. For example, the future government-issued e-ID is to be used for both official and private transactions. Meeting all these needs makes legislation particularly complex.

2.2.4 Assessment

Digitalisation-friendly law is a challenging focus topic due to the complexity of the subject and the pace of digitalisation. It exemplifies how important it is to understand digital transformation from an interdisciplinary and holistic perspective and to create the right legal conditions for a digital Switzerland.

Important projects at this thematic interface were tackled in 2023. EMOTA has set the groundwork for using the opportunities presented by digital transformation when it comes to official tasks. It regulates activities such as the use of open source, open government data, API and pilot tests.

The need for action remains significant. There is great potential in the introduction of the e-ID, for example. In future, legal advice and the empowerment of employees and other stakeholder groups will become even more important for the successful joint digital development of Switzerland. The need for regulation of AI systems must be clarified in order to ensure legal certainty.

2.3 Focus topic: digital sovereignty

Lead administrative unit: FDFA Directorate of International Law

2.3.1 Progress on implementation

The concept of digital sovereignty describes the ability of states to exercise control in the digital space. The purpose of this control is to ensure operational freedom (e.g. to use a certain technology) while at the same time ensuring defence capability (e.g. to prevent other countries from accessing data). Absolute sovereignty is neither desirable nor realistic for Switzerland. Rather, the aim is to achieve an optimal balance among the three digital sovereignty targets: free data traffic, data utilisation and data sovereignty.

The following five metrics were central to determining this balance in 2023:

1. Development of standardised terminology: Collaboration with the Swiss Data Alliance on a white paper and active participation in various events on the concept of digital sovereignty in Switzerland, how the term is used and what various stakeholder groups expect of the Confederation.
2. Sectoral analysis: Survey of relevant offices of the Federal Administration on the requirements for digital sovereignty and possible measures at technical, organisational and legal levels (including in the areas of health, energy, civil protection and the financial centre).

3. Technical aspects of digital sovereignty: Collaboration with the Bern University of Applied Sciences for a study on technical possibilities for strengthening digital sovereignty, e.g. through the increased use of open source or AI for the development and operation of proprietary large language models (e.g. Federal Supreme Court).
4. Clauses: Development of contractual clauses for possible international agreements to regulate cross-border access rights to data.
5. Immunity of data under the US CLOUD Act: Regarding Geneva-based international organisations with immunity under international law, a common understanding has been developed with the US Department of Justice that US law enforcement must also recognise this immunity in the digital space. This in turn is making International Geneva more attractive to new players as a digital host state.

The focus until the end of 2023:

- Finalising white paper on the concept and expectations of stakeholder groups in Switzerland
- Evaluating and making use of the sectoral analysis in the Federal Administration
- Finalising study on technical options for strengthening digital sovereignty
- Formalising the common understanding on immunity with the US Department of Justice

2.3.2 Outlook

There is a great need for action in the coming years. The Federal Council will adopt a report by the end of 2024 in response to the Z'graggen postulate, Switzerland's Digital Sovereignty Strategy (No. 22.4411). It will define the term 'digital sovereignty', assess Switzerland's level of digital sovereignty and propose necessary measures.

At the same time, stakeholders from business, administration and politics are already actively positioning themselves. Various interests are expressed here, which the federal government should take into account in its further work and thus allow the players as much freedom of organisation as possible.

2.3.3 Conclusion

Implementation is on track. The most significant challenges are:

- Necessity for groundwork: This is a relatively new area, so fundamental clarifications and needs analyses must first be carried out with relevant stakeholder groups. The political discussion can only take place, and the federal government can only undertake measures, with this solid foundation.
- Rapid technological change: Technological developments (e.g. in artificial intelligence or quantum computers) influence the possibilities and limits of digital sovereignty. These technological parameters are constantly changing.
- International dimension: Switzerland is able to take certain measures autonomously to protect its digital sovereignty (e.g. storing sensitive data in Switzerland). In many areas, however, international coordination and cooperation is required (e.g. data access rules). Although digital sovereignty is a major topic internationally, effective governance structures are still lacking.
- Role of private infrastructure: Alongside states, private companies are key players in the digital space and must therefore be included in discussions and measures on digital sovereignty. This often requires new structures and instruments.

2.3.4 Assessment

In future, Switzerland's ability to act as a state will increasingly depend on whether it can exercise control in the digital space. At the same time, Switzerland has an eminent interest in the free movement of data and the greatest possible utilisation of data.

The focus topic Digital Sovereignty 2023 allows us to lay the foundations for the political discussion in Switzerland with the country's various stakeholder groups. Based on this, it is possible to define the concept of digital sovereignty, what level of sovereignty should be targeted and what measures can be used to achieve this. These findings will play an important role in Switzerland's Digital Sovereignty

Strategy, which the Federal Council will adopt at the end of 2024 in fulfilment of the Z'graggen postulate (no. 22.4411).

3 Review: Domains for 2023

3.1 Education and skills domain

3.1.1 Indicators

Enhanced digital skills of the population in international comparison

Last updated	2021	40%
Development	Decrease (2019: 46%, due to a change in the assessment basis)	
EU comparison	2021	26% (EU-27)

Proportion of ICT specialists in Switzerland

Last updated	2022	5.7% total; 4.8% men, 0.9% women
Development	Slight increase from 5.4% to 5.7% since 2019, proportion of women constant since 2019	
EU comparison	2022	4.5% total; 3.65% men, 0.85 ² % women (EU-27)

Sources: FSO Omnibus Study and FSO SLFS Survey

3.1.2 Measures in the action plan and 2023 highlights

By the end of August 2023, 8 of the 74 measures in the action plan had been assigned to the education and skills domain. The EAER has the highest number of measures (5) and one measure each comes from the FDHA, DETEC and ETH (external measure). Highlights include the following programmes and projects: cantonal programmes to promote basic skills for adults, the Swiss Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and the OECD Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC).

3.1.3 Conclusion

The aim of the domain is to provide people, businesses and public authorities with sufficient skills to make the most of new technologies and to evaluate them critically. Switzerland is making good progress with the measures listed in the action plan. It is also positive that Switzerland compares favourably with the EU, although it cannot be ruled out that there are certain uncertainties when comparing the metrics. In order to achieve this goal sustainably, Switzerland must continue to act such that the population and the economy can (further) develop the skills necessary for dealing with new technologies. It looks to be particularly important to continue to promote STEM skills among children and young people, with a special focus on promoting women in STEM, and to continue to offer attractive training and further education opportunities in STEM.

3.2 Security and trust domain

3.2.1 Indicators

Number of cyber incidents reported to the NCSC

Last updated	2022	34,527 incidents
Development	Increase of 12 813 reported incidents compared to the previous year (2021: 21,714 cases)	

² [ICT specialists in employment – Statistics Explained \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&plugin=1)

EU comparison	Not possible
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Digital crime; numbers by modus operandi

Last updated	2022	33,345 incidents
Development	Increase of 3,678 reported incidents compared to the previous year (2021: 29,667 incidents)	
EU comparison	Not possible	

Sources: NCSC and FSO police crime statistics (PCS)

The two metrics for the security and trust domain clearly show the extent to which reports of cyber incidents and digital crime have increased. To a certain extent this can be seen as a good sign, as the population trusts state institutions and reports incidents although there is no reporting obligation at present. The increase can also be interpreted as a sign of rising crime.

3.2.2 Measures in the action plan and 2023 highlights

By the end of August 2023, 13 of the 74 measures in the action plan (around 18%) had been assigned to the digital public services domain. They come from almost all departments, excluding the FDHA and EAER. The FDFA and DETEC reported the most measures (four each). There are also two external measures (ETH). Highlights include the following programmes and projects: the eGov signature validator, SCION infrastructure for highly available data communication and DaziT transformation programme. Also worth mentioning is an ETH initiative, Stop Hate Speech: Recognising online hate speech algorithmically and strengthening public discourse.

3.2.3 Conclusion

The goal of this domain is for people in Switzerland to be able to move around safely in the digital environment and have their privacy protected. People bear primary responsibility for their own digital security, but public institutions must take action in situations where they are unable to protect themselves adequately. On a positive note, the Swiss people consider the authorities to be trustworthy and they report incidents. Cyber security will nevertheless remain a major concern for us all in the future, probably even more so than it already is.

3.3 Framework domain

3.3.1 Indicators

Switzerland's position in the digital competitiveness ranking in international comparison

Last updated	2022	Fifth place
Development	Moved up one place compared to previous year (2021: Sixth place)	
EU comparison	2022 / 2021	Comparison with Denmark: 2022: First place 2021: Second place

Proportion of new companies in the ICT sector compared to overall figure

Last updated	2020	5.1%
Development	Improvement of 0.3 percentage points from 2018 to 2020. Relatively stable values since 2014 (ranging from 4.7% to 5.1%). Data from 2022 expected to be published by the end of 2023.	
EU comparison	No figures available (different data collected in the EU)	

Sources: IMD World Competitiveness Ranking and FSO statistics on business demography

The two indicators for the framework domain show Switzerland's digital competitiveness and new start-ups in the ICT sector. In terms of international digital competitiveness, one positive factor is that Swit-

Switzerland has been able to maintain its position in the top 10 for several years and improved its position again last year. Nevertheless, Switzerland has never made it into the top 3 and the gap with Denmark, Singapore and Sweden is large. The number of new companies founded in the ICT sector remains stable. Unfortunately, it is unclear how many of the new companies survived their first three years. It is hoped that Switzerland will rank among the top 4 most digitally competitive countries by 2030 and that the proportion of new ICT companies will increase to 6% by 2030.

3.3.2 Measures in the action plan and 2023 highlights

By the end of August 2023, 13 of the 74 measures in the action plan had been assigned to the framework domain. They come from almost all departments (with the exception of the DDPS). Most of the measures originate from the EAER (4) and the FDHA (3). There are no external measures. Highlights include the following programmes and projects: monitoring EU digital policy, promoting international data governance and participating in WTO negotiations on e-commerce, as well as the 2020–2023 Federal Administration Personnel Strategy.

3.3.3 Conclusion

This domain aims to establish a reliable and advantageous framework for the digital environment that businesses and society can rely on. In Switzerland this is already largely in place. As a small but highly networked country, it is difficult for Switzerland to pass laws on digitalisation independently. It is therefore advisable to play a more active role at European level, insofar as this is possible. Competition-friendly legislation at EU and international level also promotes a digitally innovative and competitive Switzerland.

3.4 Infrastructures domain

3.4.1 Indicators

[5G coverage in Switzerland by land area](#)

Last updated	2022	92%
Development	18 percentage-point improvement from the previous year (2021: 74%)	
EU comparison	Not possible: EU countries measure 5G coverage as a percentage of the population, not land area	

[Number of data sets available on opendata.swiss](#)

Last updated	11/2023	10,216 data sets
Development	Increase of 3,472 data sets from the previous year (June 2022: 6,744 data sets)	
EU comparison	No figures available (different data collected in the EU)	

Sources: OFCOM and opendata.swiss

The two indicators in the infrastructures domain show that Switzerland is in a good position in terms of physical and digital infrastructure. Switzerland has always performed well in this area, but there is still room for improvement. One aim is to connect additional remote areas to the 5G network, with a target of 85% coverage by 2030. In addition, 20,000 data records should be available by 2030.

3.4.2 Measures in the action plan and 2023 highlights

In 2023, 18 of the 74 measures in the action plan have been assigned to the infrastructures area of action (around 24%). They come mainly from DETEC (10), as expected, but also from external sources (5) including SBB and ETH, as well as from the FDJP and the FDHA. Highlights include the following programmes and projects: DigiSanté, the revision of the Electricity Supply Act, automated wagonload traffic, national electromobility data infrastructure. Also noteworthy is BIM – Simplification of processes

in the construction industry, a FEDRO project which aims to establish or improve an electronic standard for processes in the construction industry.

3.4.3 Conclusion

The objective of this domain is for public authorities to promote and operate reliable and resilient physical as well as digital infrastructures. A reliable infrastructure is essential to ensuring that Switzerland's digital transformation continues to progress rapidly, and should be further expanded. Compared to the Scandinavian or Baltic countries, Switzerland has room for improvement.

3.5 Digital public services domain

3.5.1 Indicators

User access to online public services

Last updated	2022	78%
Development	Decrease of 1 percentage point compared to 2020 (deterioration)	
EU comparison	2022	EU average is 84%

Digital public services for companies

Last updated	2021	62%
Development	Cannot make comparison, as measured variable was not collected the same way beforehand	
EU comparison	2021	EU average is 76%

Source: EU eGovernment Benchmark 2022 and 2023, Background Report

The majority of European countries score better than Switzerland in both metrics. According to the scoring system used, Switzerland's results are considered good (51–75 = good) or very good (76–100). It should be noted that the annual Background Report is not identical every year, i.e. these particular metrics were not published until 2020 or 2021. The aim here would be for Switzerland to achieve a score of very good (over 76 points) for both metrics by 2030.

3.5.2 Measures in the action plan and 2023 highlights

By the end of August 2023, 22 of the 74 measures in the action plan (around 30%) had been assigned to the digital public services domain. They came from almost all departments (with the exception of the DDPS). Most of the measures were reported by the FDHA (6). Highlights include the following programmes and projects: e-voting, electronic signature service, NaDB, AGOV and the EasyGov portal. Other noteworthy activities include the dispatch on the e-ID, ordinance on EMOTA, modernisation of websites and establishing of a uniform CMS for the Confederation. With the 2022 EMOTA, Parliament has created the legal basis to simplify the Federal Administration's use of electronic means. In 2023, the Federal Council amended the relevant ordinances, which are expected to come into force at the beginning of 2024.

3.5.3 Conclusion

The aim of this domain is for public authorities to offer their services digitally as standard ('digital first'). The authorities' existing online offering is widely used and is generally satisfactory, but there is still room for improvement. User requirements are constantly increasing. They want quick and easy access to digital public services that can be used in a seamless and uncomplicated manner. The services should also be barrier-free and easily accessible on all end devices. The range of digital public services is growing steadily in Switzerland, but many other European countries are developing more quickly and are already further ahead. The success of these leading countries is based largely on important basic services such as e-IDs and centralised portals (one-stop shop solutions) and consistent implementation of the once-only principle (i.e. data is only entered once).

Well-coordinated efforts from all three levels of government will continue to play an essential role if Switzerland is to keep pace with digital transformation in society and the economy and to improve its position in international rankings. Otherwise the gap with leading countries will widen even further.

4 Overall conclusion of 2023 Monitoring Report

The Digital Switzerland Strategy 2023 comprised three focus topics: digitalisation in the healthcare sector (lead: Federal Office of Public Health and Federal Statistical Office: Infrastructures domain), Digitalisation-friendly law (lead: Federal Office of Justice domain: Framework domain) and digital sovereignty (lead: FDFA / Directorate of International Law domain: Security and trust domain).

Digitalisation in the healthcare sector remains a major challenge. The Federal Council has taken measures, and the Swiss Personalised Health Network (SPHN) continued to expand its research data network in 2023. This enables better integration of research and healthcare through uniform data standards and efficient processes. National coordination, infrastructures and funding are crucial to creating a Swiss data space for health-related research and connecting it internationally.

In 2023, work continued on the DigiSanté programme concept, the dispatch on the programme was submitted to the Federal Council and the electronic patient record (EPR) was further developed. The Federal Council also began a complete revision of the Federal Act on the Electronic Patient Record (EPRA), with a draft submitted for consultation in June 2023.

The creation of a legal basis is crucial for digital transformation. However, many new legal bases only work if they are harmonised with international legal and technical standards. They must also function across all subject areas. Important topics include the introduction of the EMOTA from 2024, the future e-ID Act and the regulation of AI. A competence centre for digitalisation legislation is planned to begin work in 2024 as part of the Federal Office of Justice, which represents an important milestone in this regard. The Federal Council and Parliament must continue to actively develop the legal basis.

Digital sovereignty is still a relatively new topic: It is therefore important to lay the foundations, follow the rapid technological development, become involved internationally and include private companies in the process. In 2023, the focus was on this groundwork in order to develop a common understanding of digital sovereignty within the Confederation. The next step is to begin concrete implementation work.

The 2023 Monitoring Report shows that overall, the correct issues are being addressed in order to further advance digital transformation. The driving idea behind the focus topics is to foreground issues that require particular attention in policy making and to give them momentum for the upcoming years. Switzerland must intensify its digitalisation efforts if it is to remain innovative, competitive and attractive in future. The 2023 focus topics will still be important in 2024. It is now up to the relevant administrative units to ensure that these projects continue to develop. Measures will be recorded in the action plan.

Among the domains, digital public services shows the greatest need for Switzerland to catch up. A central element in this area is the e-ID as an essential basic service, as well as the further development of standardisation and interoperability. This requires increased cooperation across all levels of government. This is a requirement if the Swiss authorities are to offer services in the interests of citizens and implement principles such as 'once only'.

The 2023 Monitoring Report will be published on the Digital Switzerland website (www.digital.swiss) and on the website of the Federal Chancellery.