



**European Committee
of the Regions**

Commission for Economic Policy

ECON

**ECON Commission Conference on
Strengthening Digital Resilience
A precondition for successful
digital transformation
in EU Regions**

**Wismar and Schwerin,
Germany
18 - 19 October 2023**



LANDTAG
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern



**European Committee
of the Regions**



19 October 2023 | 09.00 – 13.15 | Markt- und Eventhalle Wismar, Stockholmer Straße 1, 23966 Wismar

Strengthening Digital Resilience – A precondition for successful digital transformation in EU Regions

During the COVID-19 pandemic, societies and economies became more digital than ever as governments sought to harness the power of digital technologies in order to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Whereas the pandemic crisis accelerated a digital transformation in Europe, additional challenges to the use of digital technologies have since appeared, such as cyber-attacks against European private and public entities by third state and non-state actors.

Results from an online consultation with European local and regional authorities, which was run as part of the ECON study on Digital Resilience (published in April 2023; see QR code below), confirm that digital resilience across European local and regional authorities varies widely. Some public authorities have been actively pursuing and consolidating their digital resilience for years; some others evidently lag behind, or have difficulties in embarking on a path to digital resilience due to lack of funds and/or capacities; and yet others have low or no awareness of the need to become digitally resilient.

This conference will examine EU initiatives on digital resilience, the current situation in EU regions and will look at how local and regional authorities can improve their digital resilience and achieve a reasonable level of cyber-security. It will promote an exchange of experience on the attacks suffered and on lessons learned in the process.

09.00 Registration and coffee

09.30 Opening statements

Bettina Martin, Minister for Science, Culture, Federal and European Affairs, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

Ilpo Heltimoinen, First Vice-Chair of the ECON Commission, European Committee of the Regions

09.40 Keynote statement

Christian Pegel, Minister of the Interior, Building and Digitalisation, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

10.00 Session 1: European policy action for more digitally resilient public administrations

The digital transformation of public administrations is one of the four cardinal points of the EU Digital Compass and Member States are investing intensely in the digitisation of their public administration. However, while more and more services provided by the EU public sector become digital and mutually interconnected, the risk of major cyber-attacks or physical attacks on critical infrastructures sharply increases, potentially leading to a “digital pandemic”. One of the most important actions for a preventive approach is to support research and innovation in the cybersecurity field. Moreover, a necessary political step is to increase awareness-raising among all actors. There is a need to align the skills, strategies and solutions that are required to build transition frameworks across society. Public and private sector leaders should collaborate to build practical roadmaps for collective resilience that would contribute to economic growth and global innovation, thereby supporting ongoing efforts in the fields of energy security and green technology to increase the EU’s strategic autonomy.

This session aims to look at the key stakes for digital resilience in the ongoing EU policy agenda. It will also give focus on how to ensure synergies between policies at European, national and regional level.

Moderator: **Pehr Granfalk**, Rapporteur for the CoR opinion on Digital Resilience

The current state of play, EU legislation and financing of digital resilience

Miguel Gonzalez-Sancho, Head of Unit 'Cybersecurity Technology and Capacity Building', Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology, European Commission

Cyber resilience in cities and municipalities in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

Thomas Beyer, Chairman of the Board, Städte- und Gemeindetag Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

How to increase digital resilience and pool resources (ECON study on digital resilience)

Simona Cavallini, Senior Researcher, Progress Consulting

Q&A with the audience.

11.15 Coffee break / press conference

11.45 Session 2: Best practice – how to increase digital resilience at the local level

At a local and regional level, the concept of digital resilience can be considered to be comprised of three components:

- *A comprehensive legislative framework that sets minimum cybersecurity and cyber resilience requirements, for example, for networks and information systems.*
- *Solid and reliable critical infrastructures, involving both the external infrastructure necessary for the delivery of public services (among which are, for example, power distribution networks) and LRAs' digital infrastructures, i.e., communication networks and information systems with their hardware and software.*
- *Appropriate digital and cybersecurity skills to understand and deal with risks, manage the consequences of incidents, contain damage and the spreading of outside attacks in LRAs.*

This session aims to showcase the most inspiring initiatives supporting digital resilience in EU regions, to raise awareness of the relevant EU funding available and to take stock of the latest developments in interregional cooperation..

Moderator: **Milda Kaklauskaitė**, Senior Manager, European Cyber Security Organisation ECSO

Digital resilience challenges in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and funding instruments

Corina Croissant-Kannt, Director of the new Regional Ministry for Digitalisation, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany

Informing the public and SMEs about cyber risks

Jeremy Grandclaudon, Agence du numérique, Wallonia, Belgium

Developing into a smart city while pursuing information security

Danijel Antonic, Chief Information Security Officer, City of Rijeka, Croatia

Q&A with the audience.

13.00 Closing statements

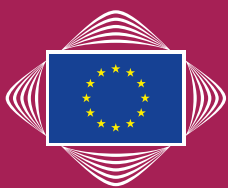
Tilo Gundlack, Member of the Landtag of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

Ilpo Heltimoinen, First Vice-Chair of the ECON Commission, European Committee of the Regions

13.15 Lunch

14.00 Boat excursion / city tour

16.00 Transfer to the airport



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Scan below to access
the ECON study on
Digital Resilience

