



**Tallinn
Digital
Summit**

Press Materials

Tallinn Digital Summit 2021

The Tallinn Digital Summit is an annual high-level event hosted by the Prime Minister of Estonia for political leaders, policy innovators, thought-leaders, entrepreneurs, and the tech-community to spotlight the saliency of digital transformation and to tackle its implications on economies, societies, and governments.

This year Tallinn Digital Summit sessions will take place in a hybrid format on 7 September at the Tallinn Creative Hub.

Focus

The 2021 Tallinn Digital Summit is dedicated to Trusted Connectivity. Why? Because the key challenge facing democratic countries in the 21st century is how to develop connectivity through the global infrastructure on which our lives depend. This does not only mean the ways we move people, goods, produce and transfer energy, but also the ways we create, transmit, store, use, and protect data.

There are several global infrastructure initiatives that address the issue of creating trust in connectivity investments (e.g. the Build Back Better World, the Blue Dot Network, the EU Connectivity Strategy), but the Tallinn Digital Summit will be the first opportunity to introduce and discuss all these different ongoing Trusted Connectivity related initiatives among an extended group of like-minded countries. Tallinn Digital Summit as a forum will not only contribute creating synergy among the various similar initiatives but will also promote such principles in the 3SI region and beyond.

In consideration of the current geopolitical developments, shared principles are vital.

This year's Summit will highlight the nexus between cross-border infrastructure, geopolitics, and digital technologies, specifically, the agenda revolves around three key pillars:

- + **Enhancing trust and transparency** to make large-scale cross-border infrastructure investments attractive to the private sector to boost economic growth and to facilitate the digital transformation. Private sector is the strength of democratic countries and market economies.
- + **Empowering governments** to take ownership of their digital futures by building more effective and cost-efficient digital government services.
- + **Protecting our digital societies** by contemplating a minimum threshold for governments to allocate to cybersecurity. Given our reliance on digital technologies, this would be a feasible and significant step toward mitigating cyber threats.

Estonia has the know-how to create trust through digital means. We shall discuss how to utilise trust, transparency, and the free flow of data to make large-scale, cross-border infrastructure investments trustworthy and attractive to the private sector in an effort to boost economic growth, interstate cohesion, and regional security.

In addition to a wider strategic view, we will set our sights on tactical matters by focusing on the following:

- + **Accelerating the digital transformation of government services.** In low resource environments, governments struggle to keep pace with the ever increasing impetus toward the digitalisation of services. The digital building blocks-approach enables governments to easily create or modify their digital platforms, services, and applications by reducing cost, time, and other resource requirements.
- + **Smart Connectivity.** Digital components have become central to all infrastructure, thereby enabling the emergence of new business models and technologies. The aim of the Smart Connectivity is to establish a growth platform for new services, and to support economic growth driven by innovation. This could, for example, ultimately lead to the automation of road transport and the smart transformation of electricity networks.
- + **Smart cities.** The spatial environment is the last mile of connectivity where the aforementioned constituent parts converge and the actual benefits are realised. This might take the form of digital services, mobility, and energy

solutions. The environment we aim to fashion emerges from high-level policy guidance, has practical benefits, and increases the quality of life of its inhabitants.

The Tallinn Digital Summit will deal with the entire life-cycle of societal development: from the principles and functionality of the creation and financing of infrastructure to the architecture and use of services. The event provides participants with a unique mixture of a wide-angle and a close-up perspective on connectivity in the 21st century.

Schedule:

The opening speech will be given by the Estonian Prime Minister Kaja Kallas, the event itself will feature prime ministers and ministers of foreign affairs, digital development, and economic affairs from Europe and Asia, high-level representatives from influential international organisations, academic leaders, and CEOs.

Keynote speeches will be held by Charles Michel, President of the European Council, and Mathias Cormann, Secretary-General of OECD, followed by the plenary session of government leaders. Case studies and parallel discussions that bring together innovation, business, and public policy are on the agenda throughout the whole Summit.

Please see the [schedule](#) here.

Important keywords:

Trusted Connectivity

Trusted Connectivity is a broader concept of how democratic states are planning to develop the global infrastructure. Trusted Connectivity aims to create a shared understanding of how to utilize trust, transparency, and the free flow of data to make large-scale cross-border infrastructure investments attractive to the private sector in an effort to boost economic growth, interstate cohesion, and regional security.

Smart Connectivity

The overall vision of Smart Connectivity is to expand digital components across key infrastructure, which will in turn support new business models and technologies. It is about making investments in energy and transport future-proof. The aim of Smart Connectivity is to establish a growth platform for innovative services and to support economic growth based on innovation. This could ultimately lead, for example, to the automatization of road transport and the smart transformation of electricity networks, allowing consumers to simultaneously play the roles of energy consumer, producer and saver.

Take a look at the [video](#)

Build Back Better World Partnership/ B3W

B3W is a values-driven, high-standard, and transparent infrastructure initiative launched in June 2021 by the leaders of G7. At the heart of it lies the Blue Dot Network (BDN), conceived in 2019 by the United States, Japan, and Australia. The aim of the BDN is to encourage development by creating a certification framework that would attract public—private investments into high-quality and transparent infrastructure projects.

GovStack

The GovStack initiative aims to build a common understanding and technical practice on fundamental reusable and interoperable digital components to enable countries to kickstart their digital transformation journey by adopting, deploying, and scaling digital government services.

Read more about [GovStack](#).

Digital Testbed Framework

The Digital Testbed Framework is an Estonian Government's new and innovative collaboration model looking to attract partners globally for joint innovation on digital government. It aims to give start-ups, scale-ups or any govtech innovators, access to government's resources (stack, know-how, etc) to come and build or test groundbreaking new ideas, prototypes, products or whole new digital services, in a world-leading digital government setting.

Read the [factsheet](#)

The Three Seas Initiative

This cooperation platform of 12 EU Member states, spanning the Baltic, Adriatic and Black Seas, is an excellent example of trusted connectivity in practice. The initiative was created in 2016 to promote cooperation between concerned states, first and foremost, for developing energy, transport, and digital infrastructure.

Read more about [Three Seas Initiative](#)

Why this initiative is important in context of this year's summit?

The Three Seas Initiative Investment Fund was founded to achieve the region's ambitious infrastructure development goals in an open, inclusive, transparent, and economically-viable manner, and in compliance with international regulations. It has served as a lighthouse project to illustrate the benefits of combining public and private money to support large-scale cross-border infrastructure developments. The first investments from the fund have already been finalised, and many more will follow.

Tallinn Digital Summit: timeline

2017

The first Tallinn Digital Summit was held in September 2017 among the head of states and governments of the European Union member states as part of the Estonian Presidency of the Council of the EU.

It succeeded in establishing a much-needed highest political level debate on the digital future of governments and society within EU. Ever since the summit has served as a node for discussion on the intersection between government, business, society and technology that has only grown in importance over the years.

2018

The focus of the second annual Tallinn Digital Summit was on how Artificial Intelligence and free-moving data can be wielded in the service of our digital states, economies and societies. It brought together delegations from 15 digitally-minded nations across the globe and the European Commission.

Find out more about 2018 Summit Conclusions [here](#)

Videos of the panels are available [here](#)

2019

The third annual Tallinn Digital Summit continued the conversation on Artificial Intelligence this time exploring it in a more holistic manner leveraging operational, regulatory and ethical perspectives. Summit brought together more than 200 experts from 23 countries, including top leaders from the government level as well as private sector and scientists.

Summit hosted 12 sessions with more than 40 expert speakers discussing how to utilize AI in governments and democracy, smart cities, law enforcement and healthcare touching also the complex legal and ethical aspects.

Videos of all the panels and sessions can now be found on our [YouTube channel](#).

2020

Due to the ongoing global crises related to the spread of Covid-19 it was decided not to organize Tallinn Digital Summit 2020. Nevertheless, we realized, that digital health, health data and AI in health are now more important topics than ever. Despite the cancellation of the event, we tried to keep up the discussions about building a shared digital future and sharing the best practices we have gained while countering the crises via digital means are very much needed.

2021

7 September, Tallinn Creative Hub. Looking forward to meet you all!

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Accreditation procedure is now open, you can register yourself [here](#)

Accreditation will be open until September 2nd.

Information about the press-centre and relevant practical details will be distributed to accredited journalists on September 3rd the latest.

COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS IN ESTONIA

Organisers of the Tallinn Digital Summit will do everything in their power to ensure the safety and well-being of all participants. Free face masks, hand sanitizing stations and rapid tests will be available on site. We cooperate with the Estonian Health Board and follow closely their guidelines.

Latest information issued by the Estonian Government regarding COVID-19 pandemic is available and regularly updated [here](#).

Updates of COVID-19 restrictions at the Tallinn Digital Summit are regularly updated [here](#)

CONTACTS FOR MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES

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Photos and videos for free use
(during and after the event)
will be published in [Flickr](#)

[Official webpage](#)

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