# Strengthening European Digital Resilience and Trust

## A Core Standard for Digital Governance and Strategic IT Reporting

*(Dutch Public-Private Solutions in Support of EU Policy )*

## Introduction

Europe's digital transition calls for coordinated action from governments, businesses, and civil society. The Netherlands affirms its commitment to an open, secure, and trustworthy digital environment—one that fosters innovation and economic growth, while remaining resilient against emerging digital threats. This while emphasizing the challenge to ease implementation of supporting EU regulation and create consistency, especially for SME.

In this context, the Netherlands is pleased to present three concrete instruments developed through the Online Trust Coalition (OTC)—a public-private initiative coordinated by the Ministry of Economic Affairs. These tools support organizations in complying with EU regulation, enhance digital resilience, and reduce regulatory burdens. They have been co-created in close collaboration with industry stakeholders, regulators, and societal partners, and are already in practical use within the Netherlands.

The Netherlands now offers these instruments to its European partners in the Telecommunications Council, with the aim of strengthening collaboration and fostering regulatory harmonization across the Union.

## About the Online Trust Coalition (OTC)

Established in 2020, the OTC[1] unites over 30 public and private entities, with international engagement. Its mission is to enhance trust in online services, with a particular focus on cloud infrastructure—an essential and more and more critical enabler for digital innovation and Europe's strategic autonomy.

The OTC has contributed to several strategic initiatives, including:

- Supporting the development of the EU Cloud Cybersecurity Certification Scheme[2];
- Promoting a coherent Dutch voice in relevant European forums;
- Contributing to the policy framework on Digital Open Strategic Autonomy (DOSA)[3];
- Assisting in the implementation of recommendations from the Draghi Report[4] regarding administrative burden;
- Participating in the broader discourse on digital sovereignty,
- focus on effective information and communication for economic sectors and business-organizations.

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[1] https://onlinetrustcoalitie.nl/en/
[2] https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/cipr/items/713799/en
[3] https://interoperable-europe.ec.europa.eu/collection/open-source-observatory-osor/news/dutch-digital-open-strategic-autonomy
[4] https://commission.europa.eu/topics/eu-competitiveness/draghi-report_en

# Three Instruments for Digital Accountability and Harmonization

## 1. International Digital Reporting Standards (IDRS)

The IDRS[5] provides a standardized methodology and structure enabling organizations to report annually on the governance of their digital processes, contributions with IT for effectiveness of business processes and their supply chain and IT risks—analogous to financial annual reporting.

*Key benefits include:*

- Integrated accountability across multiple EU regulatory frameworks (e.g. NIS2, DORA, AI Act);
- Easy implementation in the existing enterprise management of an organization as it is based upon management principles and international best practices and standards;
- Reduced supervisory pressure through harmonized reporting;
- Enhanced transparency within digital value chains;
- Strengthened risk awareness among boards and supervisory bodies;
- Increased knowledge about governing digital processes of Board members and management.

The IDRS is based on internationally recognized frameworks and received strong support from the Dutch Parliamentary Committee on Digital Affairs on 29 January. The associated governance platform is set to be officially launched at the ONE Conference, scheduled for 30 September – 1 October 2025.

The unique value of the IDRS lies in its capacity to support organizations in aligning their strategic objectives—both short- and long-term—with goals related to competitiveness and innovation, while ensuring effective oversight of both internal and external IT environments. Furthermore, it offers a structured approach to addressing critical priorities such as resilience, continuity, compliance, digital sovereignty, and sustainability. In this context, we consider the IDRS to be a vital instrument in advancing the future of Europe, as envisioned in the Draghi report[6].

## 2. Holistic Data Model (HDM)

The HDM[7] was developed to counteract fragmentation in regulatory compliance strategies. It enables organizations to structure their digital operations in a way that ensures simultaneous compliance with multiple EU regulations, including:

- General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
- Network and Information Security Directive (NIS2)
- Digital Operational Resilience Act (DORA)
- Artificial Intelligence Act (AI Act)

By consolidating compliance efforts, the framework reduces duplication and administrative burden, while fostering a more integrated approach to digital security, responsible data use and operational resilience (innovation and competiveness). Furthermore it provides insights about

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[5] https://onlinetrustcoalitie.nl/nieuws/internationale-digitaal-rapportage-standaard/
[6] https://commission.europa.eu/topics/eu-competitiveness/draghi-report_en
[7] https://onlinetrustcoalitie.nl/nieuws/holistic-data-model/

relations between regulatory requirements and the interoperability of controls. The HDM is designed to be scalable, with a roadmap to incorporate additional EU regulations.

## 3. Overview of Key EU Digital Legislation

To help organizations navigate the evolving regulatory landscape, the OTC—together with NOREA and ICTRecht—has developed a concise reference guide covering 19 key EU regulations[8]. It includes summaries of core provisions, implementation timelines, and direct links to official legislative texts.

This tool:

- Is available in English for international applicability;
- Is actively used both within and beyond the Netherlands;
- Is regularly updated (most recently on 1 May 2025).

It serves as a valuable resource for compliance officers, policymakers, and entrepreneurs aligning their digital strategies with EU requirements. The overview also highlights the new market opportunities created by legislation and how these can increase competitiveness and innovation.

**Call for European Cooperation**

The Netherlands invites fellow Member States to:

1. *Familiarize themselves with these three instruments;*
2. *Explore opportunities for collaboration or adoption;*
3. *Engage in dialogue on the harmonization of digital accountability practices across the Union.*
4. *Share comparable initiatives in their own ecosystem*

By investing collectively in shared standards, frameworks, and transparency, we can strengthen digital trust, reduce administrative and supervisory burdens, and build a digitally sovereign Europe together.

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[8] https://onlinetrustcoalitie.nl/nieuws/eu-legislation-overview/