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Federal Council publishes new Digital Switzerland strategy

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> Introduction

- > New "Digital Switzerland" strategy
- > Federal Council chooses priority themes
- > Action plan to be continuously updated

Introduction

In a press release dated 16 December 2022 (available in French, German and Italian), the Federal Council announced that it has adopted a new "Digital Switzerland" strategy for 2023. This new strategy will set out high priority topics on an annual basis. For 2023, the three priority topics are:

- · digitalisation-friendly legislation;
- · digitalisation of the healthcare system; and
- · digital sovereignty.

New "Digital Switzerland" strategy

The new Digital Switzerland strategy contains guidelines for the state's activities in the area of digital transformation and provides a framework for all players and sectors in the digitalisation process, such as:

- · cantons;
- · municipalities;
- business and science sectors; and
- civil society.

In addition, the strategy is binding on the federal administration.

There are five overarching areas in the updated strategy:

- education and skills:
- · security and trusts;
- framework conditions:
- · infrastructure; and
- digital government services.

Further, the strategy focuses on certain specific topics in the form of priority themes.

Federal Council chooses priority themes

For the first time, the Federal Council has defined specific focus topics. With this new approach, increased importance is given to themes that appear urgent or that need to be brought up to speed.

For 2023, the chosen topics are:

- digitisation-friendly laws;
- · digitisation in the health sector; and
- · digital sovereignty.

Action plan to be continuously updated

Representatives from the scientific, business, administrative, political and civil society jointly developed the basic principles of this new strategy.

This revised action plan is designed to be dynamic. Accordingly, it will be updated on an ongoing basis, and the Federal Council will report annually on the status of the strategy.

For further information on this topic please contact Jürg Schneider, Hugh Reeves or Maxime Meier at Walder Wyss by telephone (+41 58 658 58 58) or email (juerg.schneider@walderwyss.com, hugh.reeves@walderwyss.com or maxime.meier@walderwyss.com). The Walder Wyss website can be accessed at www.walderwyss.com.



JÜRG



HUGH REEVES



MAXIME MEIER