

Network Readiness Index 2025

With support from:



Bulgaria

The Network Readiness Index (NRI) is one of the leading global indices on the application and impact of information and communication technology (ICT) in economies around the world. In its latest version of 2025 the NRI Report maps the network-based readiness landscape of 127 economies based on their performances in four different pillars: Technology, People, Governance, and Impact. Each of these pillars is itself comprised of three sub-pillars (see Figure 1) that have been populated by a total of 53 variables.

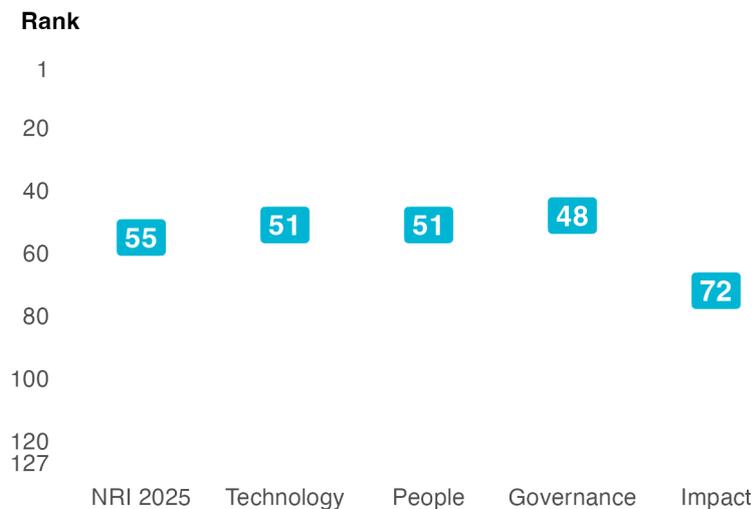
Figure 1: The NRI 2025 model



Global NRI position of Bulgaria

Bulgaria ranks 55 out of the 127 economies included in the NRI 2025 (Figure 2). Its main strength relates to Governance. The greatest scope for improvement, meanwhile, concerns Impact.

Figure 2: Bulgaria global ranking, overall and by pillar



Performance at sub-pillar level

When it comes to sub-pillars, the strongest showings of Bulgaria relate to Regulation, Individuals and Governments, among others (Table 1). More could be done, though, to improve the economy's performances in the SDG Contribution, Businesses and Quality of Life sub-pillars.

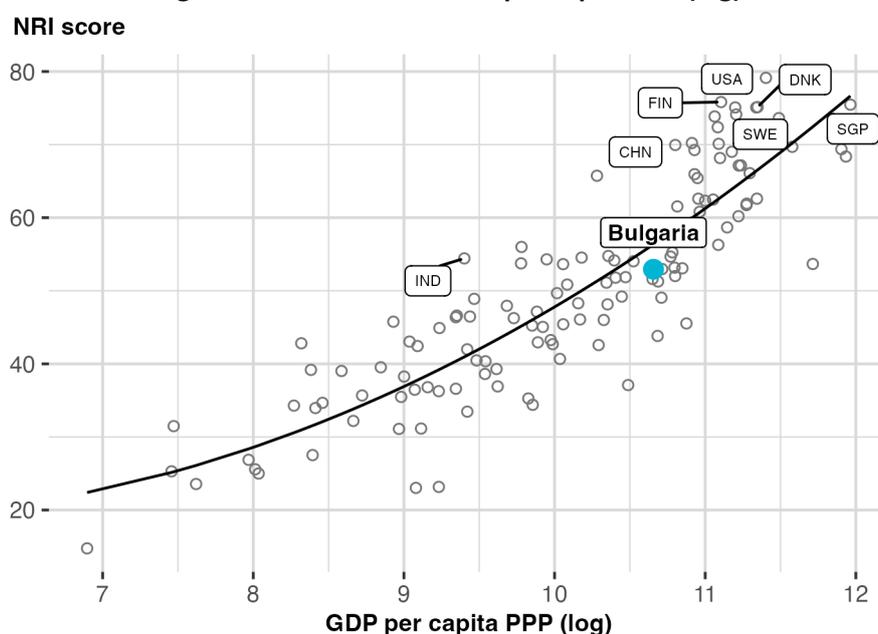
Table 1: Bulgaria rankings by sub-pillar

Sub-pillar	Rank	Sub-pillar	Rank
Regulation	29	Trust	58
Individuals	38	Inclusion	59
Governments	42	Future Technologies	65
Economy	43	SDG Contribution	69
Content	50	Businesses	72
Access	51	Quality of Life	87

NRI score and income

Figure 3 shows the position of Bulgaria in terms of both NRI score and GDP per capita (PPP). The trend line shows the expected NRI score given an economy's income level. As can be seen, Bulgaria is well below the trend line, which suggests that it is underachieving and that one would expect it could raise its network readiness in view of its income level.

Figure 3: NRI score and GDP per capita PPP (log)



Note: USA = United States of America (rank: 1), FIN =Finland (rank: 2), SGP = Singapore (3), DNK =Denmark (4), SWE = Sweden (5), CHN =China (24), and IND = India (45).

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Performance against its income group and region

High-income countries

Bulgaria is ranked 46th in the group of high-income countries (Figure 4, left panel). In terms of pillar performance, it has a score below the income group average in each of the four pillars. At the sub-pillar level, it outperforms high-income countries in one of the twelve sub-pillars: Regulation.

Europe

Bulgaria is ranked 34th within Europe (Figure 4, right panel). It lags behind its region in each of the four pillars. With regard to sub-pillars, it outperforms the average in Europe in one of the twelve sub-pillars: Individuals.

Figure 4: Performance of Bulgaria against its income group and region, overall and by pillar

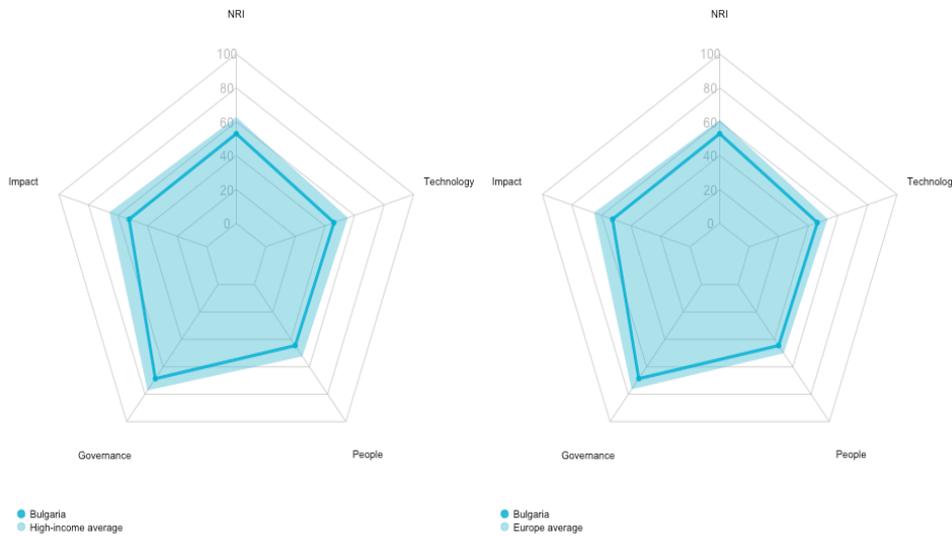


Table 2: Bulgaria scores vs. averages of its income group and region, overall and by pillar

Dimension	Bulgaria	High-income countries	Europe
NRI	52.94	62.71	61.14
Technology	46.11	55.47	53.04
People	44.49	52.36	50.07
Governance	68.64	77.18	76.41
Impact	52.52	65.84	65.05

NRI 2025 At-A-Glance: Bulgaria

Network Readiness Index

Rank: 55 (out of 127)

Score: 52.94

Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score	Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score
A. Technology pillar	51	46.11	C. Governance pillar	48	68.64
1st sub-pillar: Access	51	73.03	1st sub-pillar: Trust	58	63.45
2nd sub-pillar: Content	50	31.05	2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	29	76.46
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	65	34.26	3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	59	66.01
B. People pillar	51	44.49	D. Impact pillar	72	52.52
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	38	57.34	1st sub-pillar: Economy	43	38.30
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	72	28.63	2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	87	57.41
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	42	47.49	3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	69	61.85

The Network Readiness Index in detail

Indicator	Rank	Score	Indicator	Rank	Score		
A. Technology pillar	51	46.11	C. Governance pillar	48	68.64		
1st sub-pillar: Access	51	73.03	1st sub-pillar: Trust	58	63.45		
1.1.1 Mobile tariffs	51	74.06	3.1.1 Secure Internet servers	21	87.26	●	
1.1.2 Handset prices	51	75.78	3.1.2 Cybersecurity	90	69.43	○	
1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions	48	36.90	3.1.3 Online access to financial account	19	56.44		
1.1.4 Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network	25	99.95	●	3.1.4 Internet shopping	52	40.66	
1.1.5 International Internet bandwidth	28	78.45	●	2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	29	76.46	
1.1.6 Internet access in schools	n/a	n/a		3.2.1 Regulatory quality	51	52.44	
2nd sub-pillar: Content	50	31.05	3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment	22	88.75	●	
1.2.1 GitHub commits	30	36.26	●	3.2.3 Regulation of emerging technologies	41	59.23	
1.2.2 Internet domain registrations	39	15.82	●	3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	1	100.00	●
1.2.3 Mobile apps development	51	68.35		3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content	26	81.87	●
1.2.4 AI scientific publications	73	3.79		3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	59	66.01	
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	65	34.26	3.3.1 E-Participation	59	65.21		
1.3.1 Adoption of emerging technologies	36	72.03	3.3.2 Socioeconomic gap in use of digital payments	64	72.77		
1.3.2 Investment in emerging technologies	50	46.50	3.3.3 Gender gap in Internet use	61	64.31		
1.3.3 Robot density	41	3.41	○	3.3.4 Rural gap in use of digital payments	44	61.75	
1.3.4 Computer software spending	71	15.11		D. Impact pillar	72	52.52	
B. People pillar	51	44.49	1st sub-pillar: Economy	43	38.30		
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	38	57.34	4.1.1 ICT patent applications	44	2.80		
2.1.1 Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country	61	16.22	4.1.2 Domestic market scale	70	52.26		
2.1.2 ICT skills in the education system	69	47.89	4.1.3 Technology-Enabled Work Flexibility	45	52.95		
2.1.3 Use of virtual social networks	67	67.73	4.1.4 ICT services exports	15	45.20	●	
2.1.4 Adult literacy rate	25	97.53	●	2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	87	57.41	
2.1.5 AI talent concentration	n/a	n/a		4.2.1 Happiness	81	51.25	
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	72	28.63	4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices	85	60.42	○	

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Indicator	Rank	Score
2.2.1 Firms with website	70	45.53
2.2.2 Number of venture capital deals invested in AI	36	15.73
2.2.3 Annual investment in telecommunication services	63	41.22
2.2.4 Public cloud computing market scale	50	12.05
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3rd sub-pillar: Governments	42	47.49
2.3.1 Government online services	57	72.66
2.3.2 Data Capabilities	29	52.68
2.3.3 Government promotion of emerging technologies	33	52.21
2.3.4 Gross expenditure on R&D	48	12.41

Indicator	Rank	Score	
4.2.3 Income inequality	80	59.95	o
4.2.4 Healthy life expectancy at birth	78	61.20	
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3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	69	61.85	
4.3.1 SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	68	84.44	
4.3.2 SDG 4: Quality Education	50	31.77	
4.3.3 SDG 5: Women's economic opportunity	40	86.36	
4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	86	68.35	
4.3.5 SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	103	37.39	o

NOTE: ● indicates a strength and ○ indicates a weakness.

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