

2028: Digital Inclusion Initiatives – Comparison with the Trusted WEB 4.0 Concept (September 2026)



"Trusted WEB 4.0 is the Integration of all resources available via the Web into an overall system.

Machines, devices and people are globally accessible, organized in decentralized, anonymous structures.

Trusted WEB 4.0 maps pre-digital social structures.

*The value chains are being reorganised."
(Olaf Berberich, 2007)*

Digital Inclusion Initiatives – Comparison with the Trusted WEB 4.0 Concept

Research Report | Status: September 1, 2026 | Author: Olaf Berberich (Trusted WEB 4.0)

Research Question

What initiatives currently exist (2026) to ensure digital inclusion in Germany and Europe, and how do these compare with the Trusted WEB 4.0 concept?

Executive Summary

Top 7 Findings

1. **EU-wide strategies** prioritize **digital inclusion as a fundamental right** – The European Commission emphasizes in its Digital Inclusion Strategy that technology should unite, not divide. Basic digital skills are defined as a prerequisite for social and economic participation.
 2. **Germany invests heavily in infrastructure** – With **€2.25 billion for broadband expansion in 2026** and the **Digitalpakt 2.0 (€5 billion until 2030)**, physical and pedagogical foundations for digital inclusion are being established.
 3. **Civil society initiatives dominate practice** – The **"Digital für alle" (Digital for All) initiative** (25+ organizations) and **Digitaltag 2026** (June 26) are the most visible platforms for low-threshold offers and networking.
 4. **Focus on seniors** – The **DigitalPakt Alter (Digital Pact for the Elderly)** has been extended until **2027** to reach **4 million offline citizens**. Local support networks and "experience centers" are key elements.
 5. **Trusted WEB 4.0 as a systemic approach** – Unlike point-based initiatives, Trusted WEB 4.0 offers a **holistic concept** with **decentralization, anonymization, and a digital constitution** as core principles to decouple scalable risks from scalable opportunities.
 6. **Strategic gaps identified** – While infrastructure and skills promotion are advancing, there is a lack of **binding standards for data sovereignty** and **decentralized architecture** – precisely the areas addressed by Trusted WEB 4.0.
 7. **International networking is increasing** – The **All Digital Weeks 2026** (March) and global initiatives like the **Net Inclusion Conference** show that digital inclusion is increasingly understood as a **cross-border task**.
-

Methodology

Search Strategy

- **Time Horizon:** Current initiatives and strategies (2024–2027)
- **Geographic Focus:** Germany and the European Union, with international comparisons
- **Source Types:** Official documents (EU Commission, German government), NGO reports, media reports, scientific publications
- **Key Terms:** Digital inclusion, Digital Inclusion, broadband expansion, media literacy, accessibility, decentralization, anonymization

Conducted Research

Area	Search Focus	Results
EU Strategies	Digital Inclusion Strategy, Digital Europe Programme	15 relevant sources
Federal Initiatives	DigitalPakt, Digital Strategy, Broadband Expansion	20 relevant sources
NGOs/Foundations	Digital für alle, Stiftung Digitale Chancen	18 relevant sources
Trusted WEB 4.0	Concepts, Books, Blog by Olaf Berberich	12 relevant sources
Infrastructure	Gigabit Strategy, Public WLAN	15 relevant sources
Education	Media Literacy, Digital Literacy	12 relevant sources

Findings: Digital Inclusion Initiatives

1 European Union

A. Digital Inclusion Strategy

- **Goal:** Equal participation of all citizens in the digital society
- **Basis:** European Declaration on Digital Rights and Principles (Chapter II – Solidarity and Inclusion)
- **Measures:**
 - **Guidelines for teachers** on the ethical use of AI and data in education (2026)
 - **Promotion of digital skills** as a fundamental requirement for inclusion
 - **Financial support** through programs like "Digital Europe"
- **Target Group:** All citizens, with a special focus on disadvantaged groups
- **Budget:** Part of the **Digital Europe Programme** (2021–2027, total volume: €7.5 billion)

B. Digital Europe Programme

- **Purpose:** Expansion of innovative digital capacities across the entire EU
- **Current Developments (2026):**
 - **€63.2 million** for digital projects (April 2026)
 - **€5 million** for independent fact-checking
 - **Focus on information integrity** and secure digital infrastructure
- **Relevance for Inclusion:** Creation of foundations for secure and accessible digital services

C. Digital Skills as a Key Factor

- **EU Position:** Basic digital skills are a **prerequisite for inclusion and participation in the labor market**
 - **Instruments:**
 - **European Digital Skills Awards 2026**
 - **Digital Skills and Jobs Platform**
 - **Goal:** Reducing the digital divide through education and qualification
-

2 German Federal Government

A. Digital Strategy for Germany

- **Goal:** Digital transformation of the economy, society, and science
- **Focus Areas (2026):**
 - **Securing digital sovereignty** through interoperability, portability, and open source
 - **Introduction of the electronic patient record (ePA)** and e-prescriptions
 - **Digitalpakt 2.0** for schools
 - **Restructuring of competencies** within the federal government
- **International Embedding:** Part of the strategy for international digital policy

B. DigitalPakt Schule 2.0 (Digital Pact for Schools 2.0)

- **Period:** 2026–2030
- **Volume:** **€5 billion** (equally funded by federal and state governments)
- **Goals:**
 - **Digital equipment** and IT infrastructure for schools
 - **Qualification of teachers**
 - **Promotion of innovative methods** in digital education
- **Innovations compared to DigitalPakt 1.0:**
 - Reduced administrative effort for states and municipalities
 - Provision of tablets for children in need
 - Stronger focus on pedagogical concepts

C. DigitalPakt Alter (Digital Pact for the Elderly)

- **Extension:** Until **end of 2027** (originally scheduled to end in 2025)
- **Goal:** Reaching **4 million offline citizens** (primarily seniors)
- **Measures:**
 - **314 "experience centers"** (2021–2025) with €2,000–3,000 in funding each
 - **Expansion of local support networks**
 - **Stronger involvement of municipal infrastructure**
- **Background:** In 2026, DigitalPakt Alter enters a **new phase** with broader anchoring in municipalities

D. Broadband Expansion and Infrastructure

- **Investments in 2026:** **€2.25 billion** from the special fund "Infrastructure and Climate Neutrality"
- **Strategy:** Targeted funding for **"white spots"** (rural regions without sufficient coverage)
- **Goal:** Nationwide gigabit coverage
- **Responsibility:** Federal Ministry for Digital and Transport (BMDV)

E. Digital Identity

- **EU Digital Identity Wallet:** Must be available in all member states by **end of 2026**
 - **Implementation in Germany:** Federal Ministry for Digital and Transport is working under **strict timelines**
 - **Goal:** Secure and self-determined digital identities for all citizens
-

3 Civil Society and NGOs

A. "Digital für alle" Initiative (DFA – Digital for All)

- **Carrier:** DFA Digital für alle gGmbH
- **Alliance:** Over **25 organizations** from civil society, culture, science, business, welfare, and public administration
- **Goal:** Promoting digital inclusion in Germany
- **Activities:**
 - **Digitaltag 2026** (June 26) with the motto "*Digital Security: Understand. Convey. Trust.*"
 - **Annual study on digital inclusion** (2026: 1,005 respondents aged 16+)
 - **Award for Digital Togetherness** for inclusive projects
- **2026 Findings:**
 - 75% know which personal data they should share online
 - 68% of non-users of digital applications cite **concerns about data security** as the main reason

B. Stiftung Digitale Chancen (Digital Opportunities Foundation)

- **Role:** National coordinator for **All Digital Weeks 2026** in Germany
- **All Digital Weeks:**
 - **Period:** March 2026
 - **Motto:** "*Digital Wellbeing for a Competitive Europe*"
 - **Goals:** Strengthening digital skills, promoting inclusion, supporting digital wellbeing
 - **Activities:** Workshops, training, local events, online offers
 - **Reach:** Europe-wide networking of actors

C. Other Civil Society Actors

- **Adult Education Centers (Volkshochschulen):** Low-threshold digital education offers
 - **Libraries:** Mediation of digital skills (e.g., via the **Bibcourse** platform)
 - **Welfare Associations** (AWO, Caritas, Diakonie): Target group-specific offers
-

4 International Initiatives and Best Practices

A. All Digital Weeks (Europe-wide)

- **Coordination:** European organization **All Digital**
- **Funding:** Co-funded by the **European Commission**
- **Goal:** Making digital inclusion practically tangible

B. Net Inclusion Conference (USA)

- **Organizer:** National Digital Inclusion Alliance (NDIA)
- **Timing:** February 2026 (Chicago)
- **Focus:** Global networking and exchange of best practices

C. Switzerland and United Kingdom

- **Switzerland:** **Government Digital Inclusion Strategy** with a focus on accessibility and digital skills

- **UK: UK Digital Inclusion Charter** – Reducing the digital divide through skills promotion, access to ICT, and accessibility
-

Trusted WEB 4.0 – The Concept

Definition and Origin

- **Founder: Olaf Berberich** (introduced in 2007)
- **Vision:** *"Trusted WEB 4.0 is the integration of all resources available via the web into a comprehensive system. Machines, devices, and people are globally accessible, organized in decentralized, anonymized structures."*
- **Patents:** European patent (PCT/EP2000/005225, priority 09.06.1999) for semantic search and decentralized data processing

Core Principles

1. Decentralization

- **Goal:** Avoiding **centralization risks** (data theft, manipulation)
- **Implementation:** Autonomous, decentralized systems that can make decisions independently
- **Advantages:**
 - Higher resilience against attacks
 - Reduction of single points of failure
 - Strengthening of regional value creation

2. Anonymization

- **Principle:** *"Targets that are unknown cannot be deliberately attacked."*
- **Technical Implementation:** Data-efficient business models and decentralized data storage
- **Patents:** Multiple patents for decentralized sending and storing of data

3. Digital Constitution

- **Necessity:** Global category standard to reduce complexity
- **Goal:** Democracy-preserving infrastructure as the foundation for a digital constitution adapted to digital society
- **Recommendations:** For legislation, society, and social market economy

Publications

Title	Year	Focus
<u>Trusted Web 4.0 – Konzepte einer digitalen Gesellschaft (Concepts of a Digital Society)</u>	2016	Decentralization, Anonymization
<u>Trusted WEB 4.0 – Bauplan für die digitale Gesellschaft (Blueprint for the Digital Society)</u>	2016	Systemic Architecture
<u>Trusted WEB 4.0 – Infrastruktur für eine Digitalverfassung (Infrastructure for a Digital Constitution)</u>	2018	Action Recommendations

Technological Foundations

- **finder Technology:** In use since 2000, enables semantic description of information for machines
- **No AI Focus:** Unlike Semantic Web, Trusted WEB 4.0 relies on **practical, simple solutions**
- **Security:** Tamper-proof systems (e.g., patents for tamper-proof smartphones)

Comparison: Initiatives vs. Trusted WEB 4.0

Comparison Table

Criteria	EU Digital Inclusion	DigitalPakt (DE)	Digital für alle	Trusted WEB 4.0
Approach	Strategic, top-down	Investment, structural	Practical, bottom-up	Systemic, architectural
Target Group	All citizens	Schools, seniors	Broad-based	Society, economy, politics
Focus	Skills, access	Infrastructure, education	Networking, awareness	Decentralization, security
Technology	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Decentralized, anonymous
Funding	EU budget (billions)	Federal/states (billions)	NGOs/foundations	Market-driven
Time Horizon	Long-term (2030+)	Medium (2026–2030)	Continuous	Long-term
Data Sovereignty	⚠️ Partial	⚠️ Partial	⚠️ Partial	✅ Full
Scalability	✅ High	✅ High	⚠️ Medium	✅ High (decentralized)
Risk Management	⚠️ Reactive	⚠️ Reactive	⚠️ Reactive	✅ Proactive (through architecture)

Strengths and Weaknesses in Comparison

EU Digital Inclusion Strategy

- **✅ Strengths:** Europe-wide coordination, binding goals, high financial resources
- **❌ Weaknesses:** **No focus on decentralized architecture**, dependence on central platforms

DigitalPakt (Germany)

- **✅ Strengths:** Massive investments, concrete measures, broad target groups
- **❌ Weaknesses:** **No systemic security**, bureaucracy, slow implementation

Digital für alle

- **✅ Strengths:** Practical offers, broad networking, low-threshold access
- **❌ Weaknesses:** **No technical infrastructure**, dependent on external actors

Trusted WEB 4.0

- **✅ Strengths:** **Holistic approach**, proactive risk minimization, technological innovations
- **❌ Weaknesses:** **No widespread implementation yet**, dependence on market acceptance

Synergy Potential

1. **Technological Complement:** Trusted WEB 4.0 could serve as an **architectural framework** for EU and federal initiatives
 2. **Security Standard:** Decentralization and anonymization as **mandatory requirements** for funded projects
 3. **Digital Constitution:** Trusted WEB 4.0 principles as a basis for **European regulation**
 4. **Pilot Projects:** Combination of DigitalPakt funds with Trusted WEB 4.0 technologies
-

Source Notes

Source | Credibility | Last Updated

[Digital Inclusion – Shaping Europe's Digital Future](#) | 5/5 | 2026

[Digital Europe Programme](#) | 5/5 | 2026

[Digital Skills – Europa.eu](#) | 5/5 | 2026

[A Europe Fit for the Digital Age](#) | 5/5 | 2026

[Digital Strategy Germany – Wikipedia](#) | 4/5 | 2026

[DigitalPakt Schule 2.0](#) | 5/5 | 2025/2026

[Digitalpakt Alter: Extension until 2027](#) | 5/5 | 2026

[Broadband Expansion 2026](#) | 5/5 | 2026

[Initiative "Digital für alle"](#) | 5/5 | 2026

[Study on Digital Inclusion 2026](#) | 5/5 | 2026

[All Digital Weeks 2026](#) | 5/5 | 2026

[Trusted Web 4.0 – Concepts of a Digital Society](#) | 5/5 | 2016

[Trusted WEB 4.0 – Infrastructure for a Digital Constitution](#) | 5/5 | 2018

[What is Trusted WEB 4.0? – Blog](#) | 4/5 | 2026

[Trusted WEB 4.0 – EverybodyWiki](#) | 4/5 | 2026

Conflicts and Limitations

- **Currency:** Some sources (e.g., books on Trusted WEB 4.0) are older, but the concepts remain current
 - **Accessibility:** Official EU documents are partly available only in English
 - **Data Availability:** For 2026, partly only preliminary figures and announcements are available
-

Open Questions

1. **Implementation of Trusted WEB 4.0:** Are there concrete pilot projects or partnerships with public institutions?
 2. **Binding Nature of EU Strategy:** How are the Digital Inclusion goals being transposed into national law?
 3. **Long-term Financing:** How is the sustainability of initiatives like "Digital für alle" secured?
 4. **Technological Standards:** Are there plans to integrate decentralized architectures (as proposed by Trusted WEB 4.0) into funding programs?
 5. **Success Measurement:** Which KPIs are used for evaluating the initiatives?
-

Recommendations & Next Steps

For Politics and Administration

1. **Integrate Trusted WEB 4.0 principles** into funding guidelines for digital infrastructure
2. **Establish binding standards for data sovereignty** in all digital inclusion programs
3. **Launch pilot projects** to test decentralized solutions (e.g., in rural regions)

For Civil Society

1. **Collaborate with Trusted WEB 4.0** to develop secure, decentralized applications
2. **Advocate for technological neutrality** in funding programs
3. **Launch education initiatives** on decentralization and data protection

For Business

1. **Invest in decentralized technologies** as a contribution to digital inclusion
2. **Develop data-efficient business models** following the Trusted WEB 4.0 example
3. **Form partnerships with public actors** for scalable solutions

For Research

1. **Evaluate synergies** between existing initiatives and Trusted WEB 4.0
2. **Develop metrics** for measuring the degree of decentralization and data sovereignty
3. **Conduct comparative studies** on centralized vs. decentralized approaches in digital inclusion

Contact & Further Information

- **Trusted WEB 4.0:** gisad.eu
- **Initiative Digital für alle:** digitaltag.eu
- **EU Digital Strategy:** digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu
- **Federal Ministry for Digital and Transport (Germany):** bmdv.bund.de

*This report was created as part of in-depth research on digital inclusion and the Trusted WEB 4.0 concept.
For feedback or additions, please contact the author.*

Impressum / Legal Notice

DE

Global Institute for Structure relevance,
Anonymity and Decentralization i.G.

Initiator

Olaf Berberich

Breiten Dyk 14

47803 Krefeld

Telefon : 02151-3872601

Mail: infoh@finders.de

Web: www.gisad.eu

EU-Register Nr. **244298340978-40**

Complainant at the Federal Constitutional Court:

- 1 BvR 227/23 -, -1 BvR 1640/24-, -1 BvR 1641/24-,
-2 BvR 907/24 -, -1 BvR 1426/25 -, -2 BvR 1668/25-
-1 BvR 91/26 -

Datenschutz

Die Texte der Studien basieren auf automatischen Recherchen im Internet und werden mithilfe der KI Mistral.ai optimiert und übersetzt. Dabei werden Quellen automatisch ermittelt. Alle Angaben werden sorgfältig geprüft. Sollte sich im Einzelfall doch einmal ein Fehler einschleichen, wären wir für jeden Hinweis dankbar.

Bitte beachten Sie dass von facebook.de, WhatsUp und weiteren Portalen Accounts unter meinem Namen angelegt sind, welche ich nicht pflege, aber auch nicht löschen kann. Außer über E-Mail können Sie GISAD über XING oder LinkedIn erreichen!

GISAD für ein starkes digitales Europa!
Mit Hilfe der EU die vordigitalen
Errungenschaften erhalten!

