

NEWS – ECIPE PRESS RELEASE – NEW OCCASIONAL PAPER

Boosting Efficiency and Quality in EU Public Services: The Need for a European Multi-Cloud-First Strategy

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Brussels, 19 March 2025 - A [new ECIPE study](#) highlights that adopting a **European Multi-Cloud-First Strategy** could unlock **up to 450 billion euros** in annual fiscal savings for EU governments while significantly improving the quality, security, and efficiency of public services.

The study provides a data-driven case for accelerating cloud adoption in the public sector, aligning with recent calls from policymakers such as Enrico Letta and Mario Draghi, who have stressed the need for targeted investment in technology to boost Europe's economic competitiveness.

"Europe cannot afford to let outdated notions of sovereignty and bureaucratic inertia hold back its public services. A Multi-Cloud-First Strategy is not just about efficiency – it is about making government services more resilient, secure, and citizen-centric while unlocking billions for urgent public investments," said Dr Matthias Bauer, Director at ECIPE.

Cloud Adoption: A Missed Opportunity for European Public Services

While cloud adoption is transforming public administration in countries like Singapore and Norway, many EU governments remain hesitant, often citing sovereignty and security concerns. However, the study finds that modern multi-cloud solutions already comply with stringent EU security and data protection standards, allowing governments to maintain full control over their data while leveraging the cost and efficiency benefits of cloud computing.

"This is a unique opportunity to make Europe's public services high quality and trustworthy while freeing up billions of euros that could be reinvested in critical areas such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure," Dr Bauer added.

Policy Recommendations: A Call for Action

To fully harness the potential of cloud computing for public services, the study recommends:

- Establishing a **centralised EU marketplace for IT procurement** to streamline adoption
- Implementing a **Cloud-First, Multi-Cloud Strategy to avoid vendor lock-in** and increase resilience
- Developing **non-discriminatory standards that support innovation** and ensure security
- Investing in **training and awareness to enable government agencies to implement cloud solutions** effectively

With **strong political leadership**, Europe has a historic opportunity to modernise its public sector, strengthen digital sovereignty, and enhance citizen services – all while unlocking unprecedented economic benefits.

Publication details: [Boosting Efficiency and Quality in EU Public Services: The Need for a European Multi-Cloud-First Strategy](#), ECIPE Occasional Paper No. 04/2025,

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