

European SMEs Risk Falling Behind As AI Adoption Outpaces Basic Digital Infrastructure

Nearly half of European SMEs use AI tools like ChatGPT, but fewer than 30% use digital document management or data analytics — leaving millions unprepared for digital change.

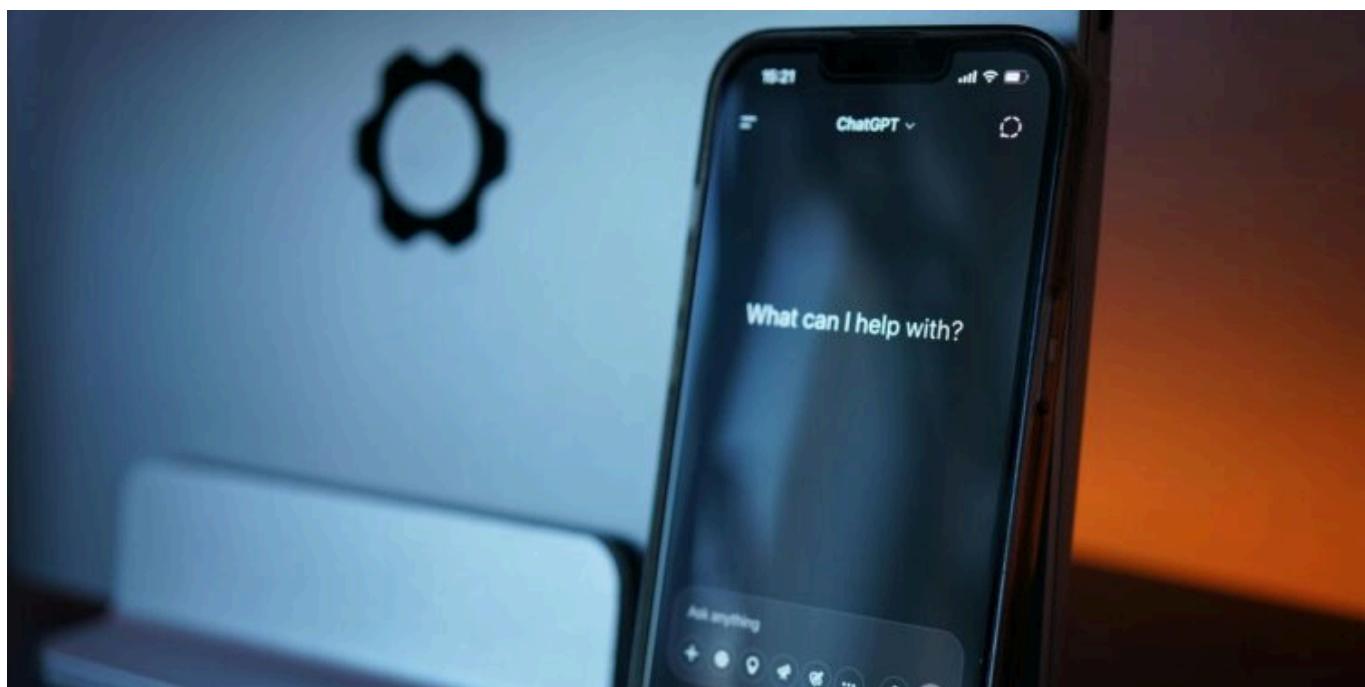


by Allwork.Space News Team

— October 9, 2025 in News

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AA



Nearly 50% of Europe's 25 million SMEs may be prioritizing AI experimentation over the basic digital infrastructure necessary for stable and efficient operations.

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A recent survey by Qonto, Europe's leading business finance platform for SMEs and freelancers, shows the significant risks facing European small and medium-sized enterprises as they pursue AI adoption without solid digital foundations.

The research reveals that while nearly half of European SMEs (46%) are using AI tools such as ChatGPT, many have yet to fully implement essential digital systems. Only about a quarter have adopted digital accounting solutions, and less than a quarter use video conferencing platforms like Zoom. This suggests that nearly 50% of Europe's 25 million SMEs may be prioritizing AI experimentation over the basic digital infrastructure necessary for stable and efficient operations, potentially placing themselves at a disadvantage against competitors with stronger technological foundations, according to [Fintech Finance News](#).

Although the vast majority of SMEs acknowledge the importance of digitalization and AI, only around 62% regard it as absolutely critical to their business. This leaves a significant portion — approximately 9.5 million SMEs — treating digital transformation as less urgent, which could lead to competitive vulnerabilities.

Among the countries surveyed, Spain shows the strongest commitment to digital priorities, while France displays the lowest level of conviction, indicating potential economic challenges as more digitally advanced competitors gain ground.

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Despite recognizing the importance of digital tools, 40% of SMEs do not feel well prepared for the digital transformation ahead. This includes about 10 million businesses employing millions of workers who risk falling behind.

Germany stands out as the most digitally prepared market, with over three-quarters of SMEs confident in their readiness. Conversely, France reports the highest share of businesses feeling unprepared, suggesting potential economic risks.

The study also highlights a worrying pattern: many businesses adopt advanced AI tools without foundational technologies.

Digital document management and data analytics tools are used by less than 30% of SMEs, and video conferencing remains underused. France, in particular, leads in AI adoption but lags behind in fundamental digital systems like accounting, signaling a possible focus on innovation over operational stability.

Automation is proving to be a significant productivity booster for many SMEs. Around 12% of businesses report saving more than 20 hours per week through automation — equivalent to over half a workweek — allowing more time for strategic growth activities. More than half save at least 10

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These findings underscore a critical challenge for Europe's economic competitiveness. SMEs form the backbone of the continent's economy, but without building robust digital infrastructures alongside AI adoption, many risk losing out to more prepared rivals.

The digital divide could deepen disparities within the single market unless policy efforts address regulatory hurdles, skills shortages, cultural barriers, and uneven digital adoption across countries.

While AI offers exciting possibilities, the success of European SMEs in the future of work will depend heavily on strengthening core digital systems to support sustainable growth and innovation.

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15-Minute City Planned For Miami-Dade Aims To Support 32,000 Jobs

A bold new vision could transform farmland in southwest Miami-Dade into a job-packed, commute-cutting hub with offices, industry, and workforce housing — all built around the “15-minute city” model.



by Allwork.Space News Team — October 9, 2025 in News Reading Time: 2 mins read

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City Park at West Kendall, the proposed 15-minute city in southwest Miami-Dade, plans to create a thriving mixed-use community with thousands of jobs, homes, and industrial space near Miami Executive Airport.

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The Easton Group, Lennar, and Dallas-based MPKA LLC are proposing a nearly 1,000-acre mixed-use development in West Kendall that emphasizes job creation, economic impact, and reduced commuter dependency, according to [BisNow](#). Named *City Park at West Kendall*, the project is designed as a “15-minute city,” integrating residential, commercial, and industrial components to support a self-sustaining local economy.

The development plan includes approximately 500,000 square feet of office space and 526,000 square feet of industrial space, with a focus on attracting aerospace suppliers and training organizations due to the site’s proximity to Miami Executive Airport.

At full build-out, the project is expected to support 32,000 jobs, including 13,000 permanent positions averaging \$75,000 in annual salary, and over 19,000 construction jobs. The developers estimate a \$2.3 billion annual economic output from the completed project.

City Park would also include 1.4 million square feet of retail space and 7,800 residential units, nearly 1,000 of which would be reserved as workforce housing for essential service workers. The site, currently farmland, lies between Southwest 136th and 152nd Streets and Southwest 162nd and 177th Avenues — approximately five miles west of Country Walk and 30 miles from Downtown Miami.

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The developers have filed preapplications with Miami-Dade County to expand the Urban Development Boundary (UDB) by 960 acres and rezone the land for high-density development. The proposal includes a 144-acre downtown district, 20 acres for schools and civic facilities, and more than 250 acres of parks, trails, lakes, and open space.

A central goal of the project is to reduce commuting by creating a major employment center in West Kendall, which has long lacked significant office, industrial, and commercial infrastructure. The developers plan to incorporate traffic management strategies to ease congestion and improve connectivity within the region.

Source: [BisNow](#)

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