

TECH POLICY SHAPES HOW EUROPEAN DEVELOPERS VOTE

INSIGHTS INTO EUROPEAN DEVELOPERS' PRIORITIES, AND VIEW ON REGULATIONS

DEVELOPERS' INTEREST IN POLITICAL POSITIONS AND POLICY ENGAGEMENT

Developers heavily consider political candidates' stances on the tech industry policies when voting. A significant number of developers believe that elected officials are supportive of their work. Most developers are willing to talk with government officials on tech policy matters. However, unlike other parts of the world, a significant majority of European developers have yet to be approached by government officials on such issues.



81% of European developers express keen interest in understanding the **TECH STANCES** of policymakers.



More than **50%** of European developers believe that elected officials are supporting them.

Candidates' positions on the tech industry hold immense sway over developers' **VOTING DECISIONS**, with a significant majority being influenced by them.



84% of devs are willing to speak to government officials on tech policy issues, yet **MORE THAN 70%** haven't been approached on tech policy issues.

DEVELOPERS' PERSPECTIVE ON DIGITAL MARKETS

European developers are drawn to smaller regional markets driven by a localized internet. Devs want a fair deal from large online platforms. They feel that platform companies help them a great deal with search, discovery and audience reach at scale, startup investment and innovation backing. However, European developers have mixed feelings about the need for specific regulations targeting large platforms to support competition and market entry.

71%

of European developers are interested in smaller regional markets driven by a more **REGIONALIZED INTERNET.**

A LARGE MAJORITY OF DEVELOPERS BELIEVE PLATFORM COMPANIES HAVE HELPED THEM.

81% of developers credit platforms for aiding in search and discovery
36% for supporting startups
22% for facilitating access to a broad audience
17% believe they are provided a platform for innovation.

These are the primary avenues indicated on how platforms assist smaller companies.



Only **50%** favor specific regulation of large platform companies to support **COMPETITION** and market entry.

DIGITAL REGULATIONS & EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

European developers favor a co-regulatory approach, with the involvement of industry associations, national government agencies, and standardization organizations. They support general regulations for emerging technologies, such as robotics, intelligent virtual assistants, and autonomous vehicles. However, opinions vary regarding the need for specific regulations for AI, machine learning, and virtual reality.

EUROPEAN DEVELOPERS SUPPORT A CO-REGULATORY APPROACH:

43% believe that **industry associations** should be involved
25% see a role for national government agencies or standardization organizations, respectively.

European devs generally support regulations for emerging technologies.

While **44%** prefer a precautionary approach, others believe regulations should be implemented only when **HARM OCCURS.**

Robotics, intelligent virtual assistants, and autonomous vehicles are the **TOP THREE AREAS** requiring regulations in the view of European developers.



BUT, ONLY 22% see the need for AI and machine learning regulations.
AND JUST 18% for virtual reality regulations.

DATA PROTECTION AND PRIVACY REGULATIONS: A DOUBLE-EDGE SWORD

European developers embrace data protection and privacy regulations for their positive impact on user trust, clear rules, and peace of mind. However, some express concerns about restrictions that impede their competitiveness at a global level. A significant majority oppose mandated online surveillance, while a substantial portion disagree with banning digital and in-app advertising.

77%

of European developers see privacy regulations as helpful.

37% give user trust as a reason
27% are looking for clear rules
25% for peace of mind in general



49%

consider personal data protection and privacy rules as hurting their ability to **COMPETE INTERNATIONALLY.**



68%

oppose mandated **ONLINE SURVEILLANCE.**



70%

of European developers **oppose** a digital and in-app **ADVERTISING BAN.**

CONCLUSION:

Developers' voting decisions, influenced by candidates' tech industry stances, underscore the importance of this issue to the developer community. Bridging the gap between policymakers and the tech industry is crucial to nurture developers' growing interest in shaping technology-related policies.

European developers prioritize regional markets and hold platform companies in high regard. However, diverse opinions arise when it comes to platform regulations. Although developers embrace privacy rules, competitiveness concerns persist. Developers have strong positions against online surveillance and advertising bans.

***Based on an April 2023 3rd party survey of 850 developers in the US, EU and Australia, with a margin of error of 3.6% at the aggregate.*

