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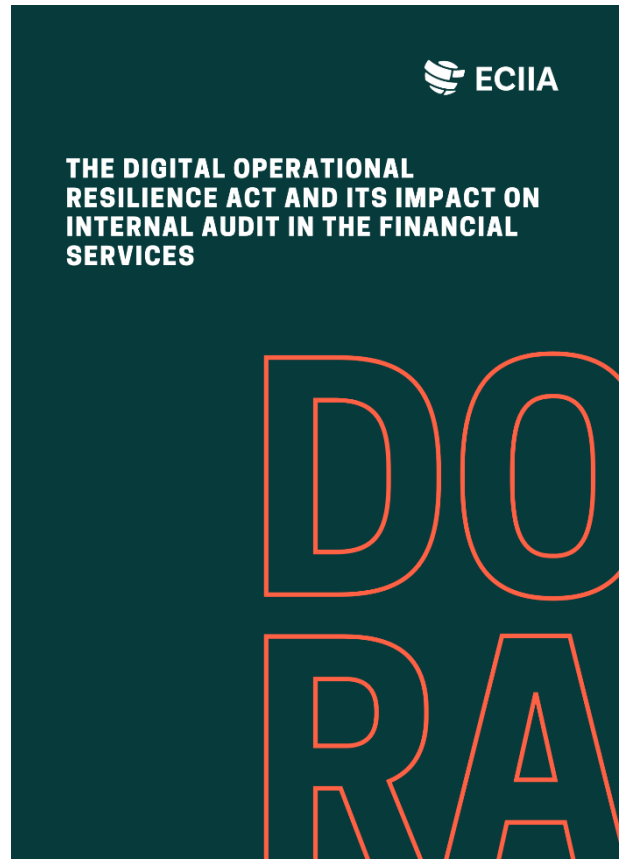
DORA: the Digital Operational Resilience Act and its impact on internal audit in the financial services

The Digital Operational Resilience Act (DORA) is the European Union's (EU) strategic approach to managing systemic risk within the financial system. DORA is designed to improve the cybersecurity and operational resilience of the financial services sector (as of 2025).

DORA provides the financial sector the opportunity to further improve and broaden operational resilience. Harmonizing IT cybersecurity requirements, coupled with a 'lex specialis' approach, aims to streamline and prevent the duplication of efforts. Furthermore, improving oversight and alignment of audits in this area can prevent multiple independent audits of the same critical ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) infrastructure provider by various FIs.

Implementing DORA may be challenging as several technical details and implementation standards (Regulatory Technical Standards, RTS) are still to be defined. ESAS currently consults on the first batch of DORA policy products. It is mainly the responsibility of the first and second line. Internal audit functions will need to start early to assess and prepare changes to their audit programs and practices to meet DORA (*) requirements.

The [paper](#) explains the role internal auditors should play, specifically regarding third-party outsourcing.





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