The EC focus on digitalization: DIHs network and EDIHs in Digital Europe Programme

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Where do we stand today?

• **Digitalisation** can bring benefits to the EU socioeconomic landscape and has been analysed in view of the upcoming financial period 2021-2027.

• During the global crisis caused by the COVID19 pandemic we have witnessed an explosion in the use of many **digital technologies** and innovations that were able to help citizens and businesses mitigate the disruptions caused.

• **Advanced digital technologies** are being used for public health security purposes while advanced data analytics and AI technologies are providing important insights and evaluation of proposed health treatments.
Why to go Digital?

Yes, it is the same brand

During the Covid-19 crisis, Ferrari manufactured pieces for hospital ventilators.

They had never done it before, but they had:

- flexible manufacturing facilities
- advanced design and simulation tools
- collaboration infrastructure for working remotely

It would have been impossible for a “non-digital” company
European Digital Innovation Hubs provide technological expertise and experimentation facilities to enable the digital transformation of the industry and the public sector.

Typical participants:
- Research and Technology Organisations (RTOs), Technical Universities
- In collaboration with:
  - Industry associations
  - Clusters
  - Enterprise Europe Network
  - Accelerators/Incubators
  - Innovation agencies
  - Vocational training institutes

A geographically spread network of up to 200 EDIHs.

Through the Digital Innovation Hubs support for businesses to help them cope with the new realities.
Connection among the EDIHs and DIHs:

- EDIHs will be regionally distributed to collaborate with existing other DIHs.
- EDIHs can support the other DIHs with AI, HPC or Cy, representing them in the EU EDIH network or connecting them with DIHs from other countries.

The Digital Transformation Accelerator (DTA) a central node to animate the network: community building events between EDIHs and DIHs that are not part of the EDIH network to set up links with DIHs focused on agriculture, health or public administration.
EDIH capacity building:

- Exchange of experience, good practices, and mirroring successful set-ups.
- A more mature DIH helps a less mature.
- Learning from specialists in HPC, Cy, AI.
- Advanced training, train-the-trainer.
- Use new solutions developed by the HPC, Cy Competence Centres and AI world class reference sites.
Critical mass of highly innovative experiments

- Develop novel products or services, improve processes with digital technologies.
- Bring together actors along value chain.
- Suppliers to assist new users in customising and applying digital technologies in their environment.
- Facilitate cost-effective small-scale production.

All proposed innovation actions may involve financial support to third parties (typically in the order of EUR 20000 – 100000 per third party).
Accelerating the best use of digital technologies

**Task of the hubs:**

1. Focus on digital transformation of SMEs and public sector (Adopt AI)
2. EDIH will collaborate with all existing networks funded by other programmes and avoid overlap.
3. Member States involvement in designating the entities consortia) which can participate to the call for proposals.
4. DIHs specialised in core technologies could be of great help to the regional/national systems and industry to provide better digital advances.
DIHs Catalogue

Register to the DIHNET.EU Community the interactive community of the JRC DIH catalogue to find more information and to connect with other DIHs.

DIHNET.EU Community: Articles & Announcements, Events, Matchmaking, Q&A, Surveys, guidelines & templates.

• Structured collaboration between groups of hubs, e.g. around a sector, a technology, demographical characteristics (sparsely populated regions).

• Needs based collaboration to offer the best support to stakeholders.
### Funding programmes next MFF (2021-2027)

**Allocated at European level**

- **Horizon Europe**: Support to SMEs and mid-caps to experiment with highly innovative digital technologies in a cross-border setting. European Digital Innovation Hubs and others may apply for these grants, and cascade a large part of the funding to SMEs.

- **Digital Europe**: Support to the facilities and personnel of the European Digital Innovation Hubs, to build capacity in Europe to diffuse digital innovations across SMEs and administrations.

- **InvestEU**: Incentives and risk reduction programmes to help companies find follow-up investment to further complete their digital transformation. The work of the digital innovation hubs will diminish the knowledge gap that exists.

**Allocated at national level**

- **European Regional Development Fund**: Investments allocated by the Member States to build-up or strengthen the Digital Innovation Hubs infrastructures in their territories and reduce the digital divide. ERDF can be used by Member States to co-invest on EDIHs in Digital Europe.

- **European Agriculture Fund for Rural Development**: Investments allocated by Member States to foster knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas. EAFRD can be used by Member States to co-invest on EDIHs in Digital Europe.

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**Digital technologies research**

- **Digital applied solutions, for green, production**

- **Pillar 2, Cluster 4, Destination 1, Section on Advanced digital technologies for manufacturing.**

- **Topic I4MS 2.0, focusing on supporting SMEs in the manufacturing sector with their green and digital transition.**

- **Cascade funding/FSTP**

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**Digital Capacity Building: AI, HPC, Cyber, DestinE, Blockchain, Public Services, EDIHs**

- **SAE: reach out to companies → EDIHS**

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**EAFRD may be used for co-funding EDIHs focusing on agri-food and digitalised agriculture in general.**
Open calls from EU projects on Digital Innovation Hubs: to promote to the stakeholders
https://dihnet.eu/opencalls/

Funding & tender opportunities: Competitive calls and calls for third parties
https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/competitive-calls

Digital Innovation Hubs

Digital Innovation Hubs in Digital Europe Programme: contact persons in the MS and info days

Practical handbook for investing in DIHs

Implementation details of European DIHs in Digital Europe Programme