



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



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To help businesses big and small to harness the full potential of AI, we will invest in a network of local digital innovation hubs and in centres of excellence for advanced research and education.

Where do we stand today?

European companies are not making the most of all the opportunities digital has to offer

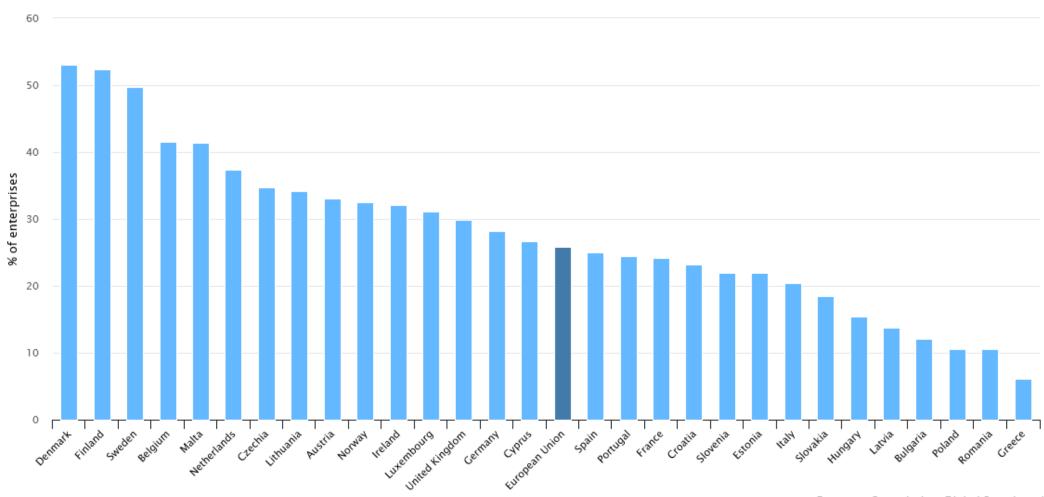
Highly digitised companies across Europe (2019)





Enterprises with High levels of Digital Intensity

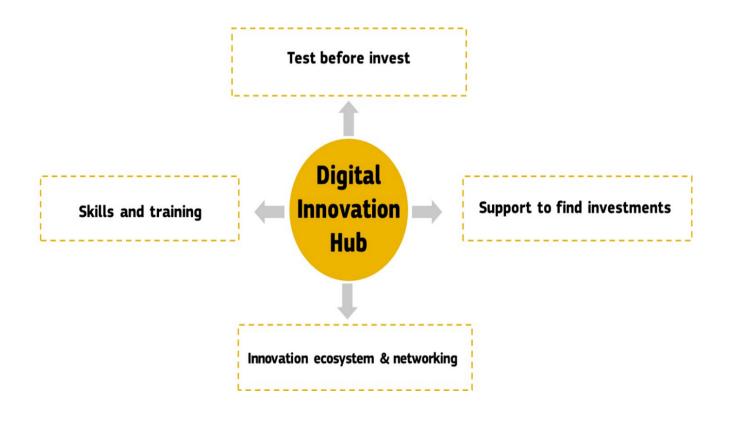
Year:2019



European Digital Innovation Hubs



European Digital Innovation Hubs provide technological experimentation facilities to enable the digital transformation of the industry and the public sector



- Typical participants:
 - Research and Technology
 Organisations, 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



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.

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.

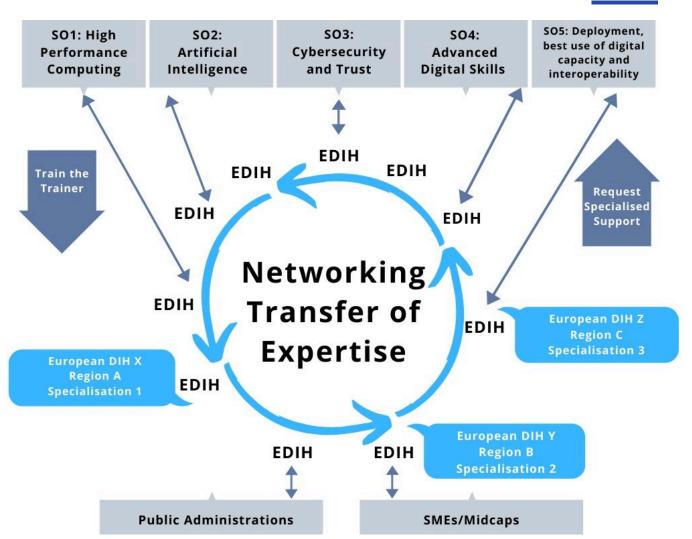
Cluster 4, Destination 1, Section on Advanced digital technologies for manufacturing.

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

Cascade Funding/FSTP



Network of EDIHs



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) will be a central node that animates the network:

- Networking events
- Training the hubs
- Best practice sharing
- Interactive map of digital capacities
- Collaboration with EOSC hub, and other DIHs not funded by DEP.
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Based on existing strengths and addressing future needs of the local industry or public sector organisations

DEP	Other Technologies	Application areas	Sector
AI, HPC, or Cybersecurity	Simulation Supply chain integration Blockchain Advanced Materials,	Industry 4.0 Circular economy	Manufacturing
bersecu	Remote sensing, Photonics, Life- Science Technologies,	Precision farming	Agri-food
ırity	Robotics, Simulation,	Exo-skeletons, Automated building	Construction
	Digital solutions for governments, Blockchain,	Services for citizens, once only principle	Public administration
		10	



European added value

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 Al world class reference sites.

Local added value	European added value	
Hub will improve competitiveness of local economy by stimulating digital transformation	Hubs will improve their offer by acquiring new knowledge and capacities through their participation in Digital Europe on HPC, AI, Cybersecurity, Advanced digital skills and public sector solutions	
Hub has specialisation which is based on local strengths and addresses local needs	Networking of the hubs will stimulate knowledge transfer between hubs and rationalisation of investments because facilities are opened up for use outside the local boundaries. It reduces duplication and optimises investments in infrastructure	
Hub is near their customers and they speak the same language	Hubs will learn from other hubs by sharing best practices, and by collaboration of hubs in case of missing expertise/facilities.	
	The hub network will be a means to promote excellence developed locally to other regions in Europe; it will open new markets for the companies involved in the innovations	



Process for EDIH network in

	Member States	European Commission	Candidate Entities				
first restricted EDIH call							
1		Launches the expression of interest Launches a restricted call for proposals					
2	Designate candidate entities through an open and competitive process						
3			Submit proposals, including proof of being in the list of designated entities				
4		Evaluates proposals with external experts					
5		Ranks proposals evaluated above threshold, balancing geographical, technological and sectoral coverage, taking into account the advice from Member States					
6	Endorse the ranked proposals (through the Member States committee)						
7		Prepares grants for the selected proposals and disburses initial payments					
second restricted EDIH call							
1		Launches a restricted call for proposals					
2			Submit proposals, including proof of being in the list of designated entities				
3		Evaluates proposals with external experts					
4		Ranks proposals evaluated above threshold, balancing geographical, technological and sectoral coverage, taking into account the advice from Member States					
5	Endorse the ranked proposals (through the Member States committee)						
6		Prepares grants for the selected proposals and disburses initial payments					
7		Publishes the list of hubs making up the initial network of EDIHs					



Timeline and next steps

- Agreement on MFF October?
- Designation of hubs by MS, possibly by October 2020
- GEARING UP TOWARDS EUROPEAN DIGITAL INNOVATION HUBS 9th 10th November 2020
- Adoption of Digital Europe Programme November?
- Adoption of the Workprogramme December?
- Launch of the 1st call December/January 2020? Deadline March/April?
- Launch of the 2nd call September/October 2021?



Conclusions

MIDIH has arrived to the end with many achievements accomplished. It has been an important project that has delivered many good results. Now we should build on those results and go further.

One of the ways to maximize the impact of the outcomes of MIDIH is for you to apply for the EDIHs in DEP.

In this sense, we also expect the MIDIH results to play their role in HE in the manufacturing domain.



More information

Digital Innovation Hubs

https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/digital-innovation-hubs

<u>Digital Innovation Hubs in Digital Europe Programme</u>

https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/european-digital-innovation-hubs-digital-europe-programme-0

containing also information about contact persons in the Member States

THANK YOU!



