



Digital Innovation Hubs in Digital Europe Programme – Current status

Helena Rodrigues
DG CNECT A2 - Technologies and Systems for Digitising Industry
helena.rodrigues@ec.europa.eu

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EDIH in DEP

Questions?

Please use the chat!

(will answer at the end)

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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.

**Digital Innovation Hubs are
at the core of European
digital policy**











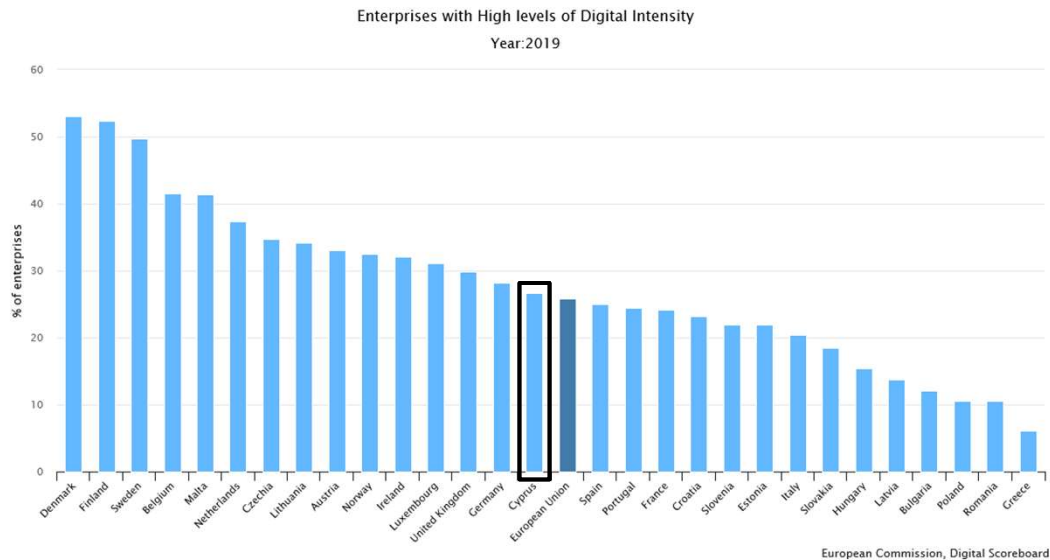
Where do we stand today?

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

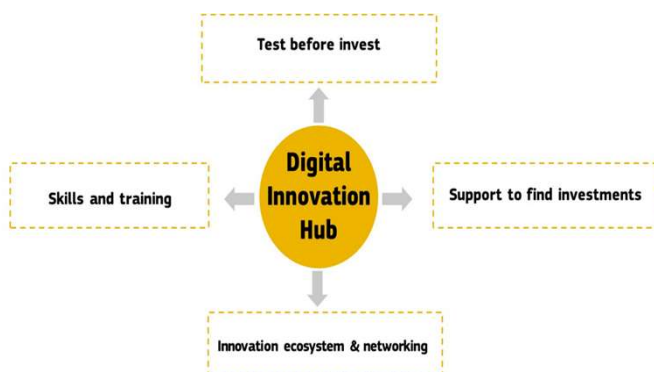
Highly digitised companies across Europe (2019)

Countries	Sector	Size
 <div>53% of Danish companies</div>	 <div>70% of computing companies</div>	 <div>25% of SMEs</div>
 <div>6% of Greek companies</div>	 <div>11% of construction companies</div>	 <div>62% of large enterprises</div>

Enterprises with high level of Digital Intensity



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, 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 240 EDIHs

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

Continuation of initiatives like I4MS

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.

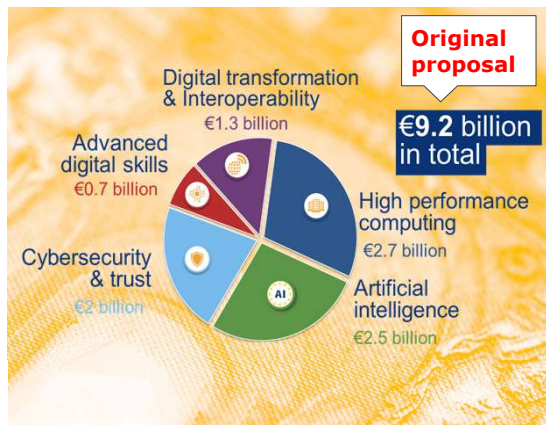
Allocated at
national level

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.

Funding programme focused on building the strategic digital capacities of the EU and on facilitating the large scale deployment of digital technologies, to be used by Europe's citizens and businesses

What?



Why?

Compete globally

- Other regions of the world invest huge amount of public capital in advanced technologies. For example, the US and China spend € 10-20 billion annually on AI alone

Achieve scale through collective co-investments

- Given the size of investments needed, scale required and risks involved Europe needs to pool the resources together

Regain control over Europe's value chains and ensure Europe's technological sovereignty

Better address Europe's economic and societal challenges

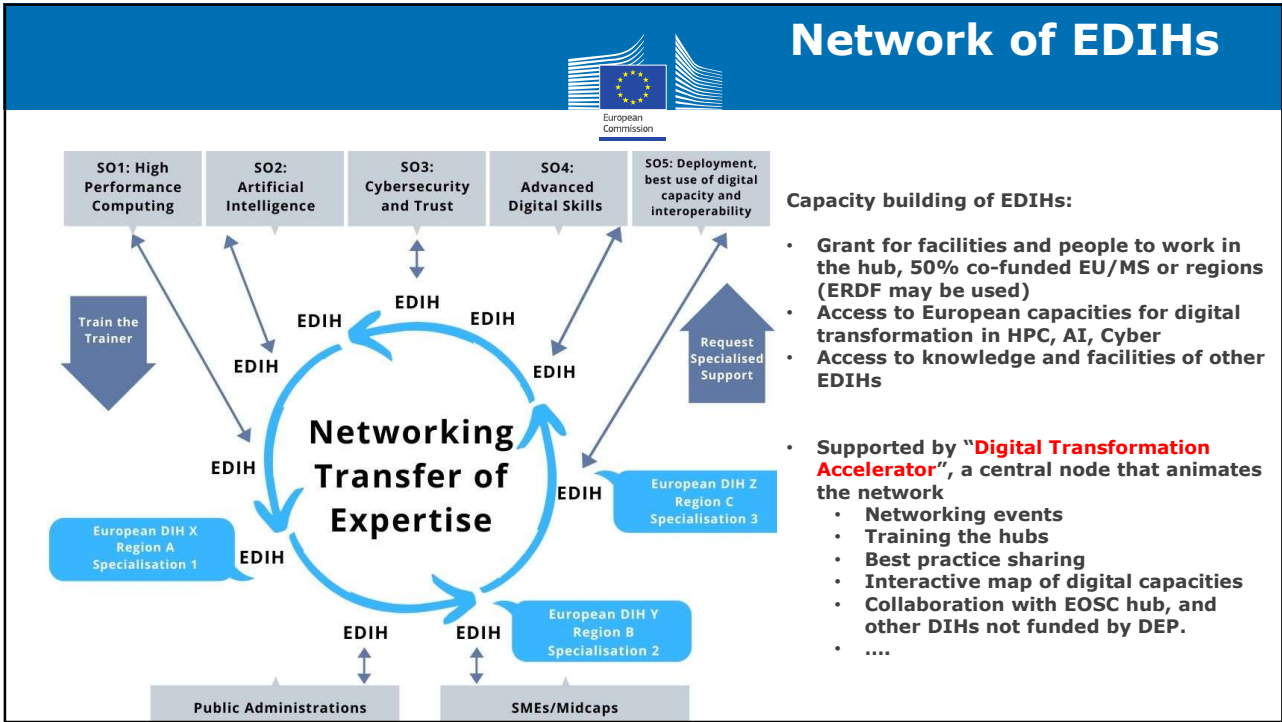
- E.g. climate, health, mobility and public services

Ensure broad take-up of digital technologies across all regions of EU

- In deploying latest technologies to offer best services to citizens and business

Support SMEs to acquire/access latest technologies and skills

- More than 400,000 EU vacancies in these fields



Specialisation/focus			
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
	Remote sensing, Photonics, Life-Science Technologies, ...	Precision farming	Agri-food
	Robotics, Simulation, ...	Exo-skeletons, Automated building	Construction
	Digital solutions for governments, Blockchain, ...	Services for citizens, once only principle	Public administration
...			

At least one per country on AI.

Cyprus can have 1-2 hubs.



Grants and co-financing

Which costs can be financed by a Digital Europe grant?

- **Direct and indirect eligible costs:**

Direct costs: e.g.

purchase of hardware or software,
depreciation of hardware or software,
personnel costs of the EDIH for delivering digital transformation services,
travel costs for hubs and local stakeholders to work with other hubs.

Indirect costs = 7% of direct costs

- **DEP will cover 50% of direct and indirect eligible costs**
- Other 50% can be in-kind or cash contribution by MS, regions or private actors

For state-aid purposes: **Price list for services to-be-provided**, and estimated number of customers

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Performance monitoring - KPIs

- Number of businesses and public sector entities which have used the European Digital Innovation Hubs' services.
- Number of Collaborations with other EDIHs and stakeholders outside the region at EU level and Number of Infrastructures jointly shared / joint investments.
- Digital maturity evolution of the entities that have been supported by the European Digital Innovation Hubs.

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European added value

Exporting / Importing EDIH

Excellence

- Complementary competences and infrastructures.

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

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

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New Planned timeline for DEP

- Agreement on MFF – mid-November 2020
- List of candidate EDIHs from Member States – 1 December 2020
- Adoption of Digital Europe Programme regulation – mid-December
- First workprogramme adopted, expression of interest and restricted call launched – end of January
- Networking event for candidate EDIHs – January
- Deadline restricted call 27 April 2021
- Second restricted call launched – December 2021

**These dates
are NOT official**

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Adapted procedure to establish the initial network of EDIH



	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 EDIHs making up the initial network of EDIHs	

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GEARING UP TOWARDS EUROPEAN DIH – sometimes in January



- For regions and Member States: understand how they can co-finance the hubs and ensure that regional and national needs are satisfied. Member States and Regions may decide to invest together in common EDIHs serving different regions in different countries.
- For individual hubs

Understand how they can fulfil the 4 functions of an EDIH: test before invest, support to find follow up investments, ecosystem and networking, skills and training.

To learn on how to set up an EDIH, practical questions

To discuss the cooperation models possible between EDIH
- The role of the Digital Transformation Accelerator to animate the network of EDIHs

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More information

Digital Innovation Hubs

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

Digital Innovation Hubs in Digital Europe Programme

<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 and info days)

Practical handbook for investing in DIHs

https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/dae/document.cfm?doc_id=66604

Implementation details of European DIHs in Digital Europe Programme

https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/dae/document.cfm?doc_id=62936