European Digital Innovation Hubs - Current status and how we want to build the network

Matthias Kuom
DG Connect A4: Digital transformation of industrial ecosystems

Benefit from Digital Innovation Hubs to connect the unconnected
NGINO event | 11 May 2021
Smart Anything Everywhere (SAE)
ICT Innovation for Manufacturing SMEs (I4MS)

Digital technologies for business operations
(additive manufacturing, Cyber Physical Systems and IoT, robotics and HPC)

Integrating digital technologies into products and services
(Cyber-physical and embedded systems, customized low energy computing, etc.)

Phase 1: Creating a well-functioning ecosystem
Phase 2: Growing the ecosystem and its European dimension
Phase 3: Consolidating collaboration and widening the pan-European network of DIHs
The main DIH collaboration space

DIHNET.EU Community

Articles & Announcements
Events
Matchmaking
Q&A
Real-time chat
Surveys, guidelines & templates

DIH champions (DIH awards)
I4MS Disruption (SME award)
Africa-EU Digital Economy Task force

Report recommendations / 4 pillars - June 2019:

• Access to affordable broadband connectivity and digital infrastructure
• Guaranteeing essential Digital skills
• Improving business environment to support Digital entrepreneurship
• Accelerating adoption of E-Services (e-Gov, Smart Cities, e-Commerce, eHealth etc.)


Largely reflected by the African Union 2020 Digital Transformation Strategy
Africa-EU: Current initiatives & key players

PRIDA Project: « Policy & Regulation Initiative for Digital Africa » (on-going)

• Important initiative with large number of African countries, African Union and agencies to make progress together towards more harmonised regulatory environment


The Africa EU Innovation Partnership

• Great success and important experience exchange: important initiative to reinforce visibility of African innovation and also to get better knowledge of challenges

• Scope very close to ICT 58 Call

https://africaeurope-innovationpartnership.net/
ICT 58: International partnership building between European and African innovation hubs

2021-24 / 11 Mil €

- **Reinforcing cooperation and strategic partnership** with selected countries in Africa to support the strengthening of existing digital innovation hubs (DIHs) in Africa and to facilitate the collaboration between EU and African DIHs in order to strengthen a common EU Africa innovation and start-up ecosystem.

- **Projects selected on wide array of DIH topics: technology but also entrepreneurship, industry interface, etc.**

- **Balanced Consortia with European and African partners**

- **Reinforcing support to D4D Hub: IDEAD4DHub project**
5Mil €: key contribution to Bridging dimension; partners in more than 80 countries

• **VISION** is to shape a common African-European innovation and start-up ecosystem in collaboration with key players from Africa and Europe. The core of the project is to **strengthen pan-African and African-European digital innovation partnerships** to promote engagement and knowledge sharing between SMEs, start-ups, academic institutions, governments, intermediaries (hubs, incubators), large companies, research organizations and others

  - **Bridging activities** on technical capacity building and technology transfer between African and European innovators and start-ups, private sector actors, academia, local gov. and investors.

  - **Enabling environment** reinforced by conducive local policies with relevant policymakers

AEDIB coordinator: Stefanie Zinsmeyer (stefanie.zinsmeyer@giz.de)
Projects bringing technology to the benefit of African economy and society

**Digilogic (2 Mil €):** putting technical solution to the benefit of smart Logistics in African countries

**Africon-EU (2 Mil €):** validating the “AfriConEu Networking Academy” an innovative mechanism for connecting and sharing best practices, experiences and resources between DIHs in Africa and between DIHs in Africa and EU.

**Hubiquitous (2 Mil €):** Validating Innovative training concept putting technical knowledge & entrepreneurship skills in synergy

**IDEAD4DHub (1 Mil €):** Supporting D4D Hub secretariat to promote implementation of the Task Force’s recommendations and Team Europe Initiatives
European Digital Innovation Hubs provide technological expertise and experimentation facilities to enable the digital transformation of the industry and the public sector. Trans-regional collaboration supports shared use of expertise and strengthens Pan-EU value chains.

“I want European businesses and our many SMEs to access high quality data and create value for Europeans – including by developing Artificial Intelligence applications.”

Thierry Breton, Commissioner for the Internal Market

The plan is to have at least one EDIH per region.

Up to 210 Hubs advising SMEs how to integrate digital innovations into their products, business models and processes and improve digital skills, in cooperation with EEN and clusters.
EDIH means more than “DIH 2.0”

Digital Innovation Hubs in Horizon 2020

- Support to more than 2000 Start-ups, SMEs and mid-caps to test digital innovations

European Digital Innovation Hubs in the Digital Europe programme

- From support to capacity building
- Co-funding from Member States
- From 2000 to…?

We need a well-structured European network
Each EDIH

• will provide services based on a specific focus/expertise

• will make available the relevant experimentation facilities related to its specialisation

• will offer a seamless service with Enterprise Europe Network and Startup Europe

• will act as interface with the European Commission to support the implementation of specific sectorial, SME or eGovernment policies
Specialisms acting as attractor (lighthouse)

(with courtesy of the BOWI project)
Initial Network of European Digital Innovation Hubs

**Budget**

- Fixed budget per country
- Every EDIH is expected to have a budget between 1-2 M€ per year (DIGITAL grant will cover 50%).
- MS are free to propose more smaller EDIHs or less larger ones.
- Cross-border trans-national hubs, serving different regions from different countries is possible

**Timeline**

- Call opening: 27 May, deadline for submission: 29 September
- Evaluation (fully remote): October-November
- Sending of letters: December
- Signature of contracts: Beginning of 2022
The fabric for EU-wide collaboration – and beyond

Digital Innovation Hubs Catalogue

- Yellow pages of DIHs
- Fact-sheets with profile, contact data, service examples for regional, national, and EU-supported DIHs
- Map-based search tool by technical competences, market sector, services

Digital Innovation Hubs

Search
Enter any search term
Countries
Selected
Evolutionary Stages
Selected
Technical Competences
Selected
Services Provided
Selected
Focus on TRL
Selected
Market sectors
Selected

More than 600 Digital Innovation Hubs:
- 10 in Norway
- Mention contacts with African Hubs in their profiles


Widening activates

BOWI project: Call for proposals to create long-term collaborations between two regions

Some numbers

- **27 countries** have preselected their candidate entities (26 Member States + Norway)
- **331 EDIH candidates** pre-selected by the countries

### Specialisation

<table>
<thead>
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<th>AI</th>
<th>HPC</th>
<th>Cyber-security</th>
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### Other digital technologies

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<th>Automation</th>
<th>Big Data</th>
<th>Blockchain</th>
<th>Cloud</th>
<th>Communication technologies / 5G</th>
<th>IOT</th>
<th>Micro-electronics / Photonics</th>
<th>Advanced materials</th>
<th>Robotics</th>
<th>Virtual Reality</th>
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### Sectors

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<th>Automotive</th>
<th>Construction</th>
<th>Creative industry</th>
<th>Health</th>
<th>Public sector</th>
<th>Life sciences</th>
<th>Logistics</th>
<th>Manufacturing</th>
<th>Maritime</th>
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<th>Social care</th>
<th>Sustainability</th>
<th>Tourism</th>
<th>Energy</th>
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Catalogue of candidate EDIHs

- New version of catalogue available
- Profiles can be updated directly by the candidate hubs

Networking - “EU-Local” approach

EDIHs will:

• act as an **access point to the European network** of EDIHs for local organisations

• **actively network with other hubs**, sharing best practices and specialist knowledge

• bring companies into **contact with other companies of their value chain**, and seek synergies with innovators

• broker between **public administrations and companies** providing e-government technologies.
Role of DTA in collaborations

The Digital Transformation Accelerator will be available to support the collaboration activities e.g. by putting people in contact, organising events and providing technical help.

**General rule: each EDIH pays for their own expenses.**

DIHs which are not part of the European DIH network (e.g. DIHs supported by Horizon Europe programme, by National funding programmes or other funds, or self-declared DIHs registered in the catalogue will be considered part of the community and supported as long as the cost to provide them a services is marginal.
The Local ecosystem and its networks

Synergy potentials:

- Local/regional embedding of the networks
- SME strategy – key focus on digitalisation
- Common commissioner for DG GROW and DG CNECT acting as Team Breton

EDIH
- Technological expertise
- Experimentation facilities
- Enable digital transformation of SMEs and public sector

EEN
- Internationalisation
- Innovation assessment
- Partnerships

Clusters
- Specialised expertise, services, resources, suppliers and skills

Local ecosystem
Digital for Development (D4D) Hub

• **VISION** is to shape a common African-European new era of the global digital cooperation.

• **Launching December 2020 – Chancellor Merkel**
  - Strong presence of Member States agencies GIZ, Enabel, Experise France, etc.
  - 11 Member States expected to join as a whole
  - Private sector: key role to play
  - Concrete translation of Team Europe: holistic view, synergy between EU/national level, for better efficiency
  - Not a financial institution but support to decision-making process
  - D4D Hub will cover other continents

https://d4dlaunch.eu/
Materials available


- European Digital Innovation Hubs in Digital Europe Programme - Draft working document - 25-01-2021
- FAQs
- Practical Handbook on Digital Innovation Hubs as policy instruments to boost digitalisation of SMEs
Series of webinars

- 2 March 2021: EDIH and collaboration with EEN and clusters
- 18 March 2021: Overview of already existing tools and services that CSAs of H2020 have developed that EDIHs can use for the development of their own services
- 13 April 2021: Collaboration between different EDIHs in the network, including trans-national cross-border hubs and corridors
- 27 April 2021: Co-funding, eligible costs and state aid (postponed. A new date will be fixed soon and announced on this page.)
- 18 May 2021: Digital Maturity Tool and the Innovation Radar
Support from the community

DIHNET

- Stakeholders can find good practices from the ‘DIH of the month’
- materials, webinars, news from DIH related initiatives, list of open calls, etc, published in the community,
- has initiated an informal and open precursor network, which aims to explore how (E)DIHs can collaborate. Currently the precursor network consists of over 60 member organizations.
- In the DIHNET community platform, interested stakeholders can create, lead and moderate a specific space on a topic of interest.

I4MS (ICT Innovation for Manufacturing SMEs)

- success stories of the SMEs having already benefitted from I4MS support
- Working groups, one on upskilling challenges of the industry and another on best practices on digital transformation
- For trends on manufacturing industry: I4MS online community
- Request for more I4MS Contact Points
Questions and remarks
Keep in touch

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