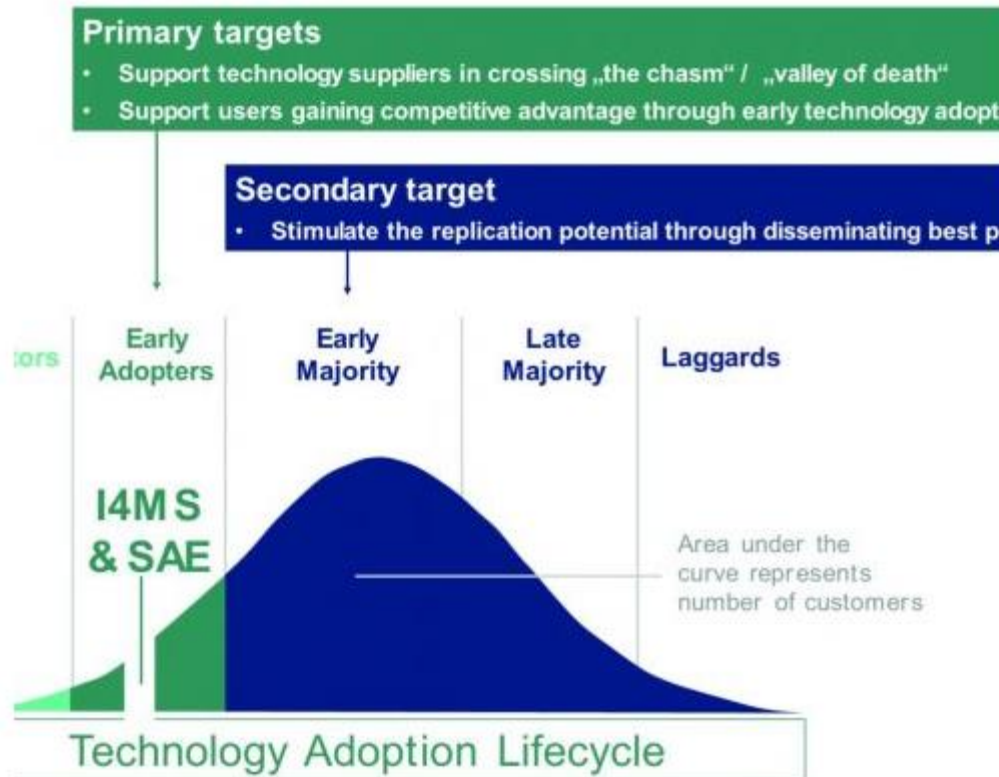# European Digital Innovation Hubs - Current status and how we want to build the network

Matthias Kuom
DG Connect A4: Digital transformation of industrial ecosystems

Benefit from Digital Innovation Hubs to connect the unconnected
NGINO event | 11 May 2021

European Commission

Primary targets
- Support technology suppliers in crossing „the chasm" / „valley of death"
- Support users gaining competitive advantage through early technology adopti

Secondary target
- Stimulate the replication potential through disseminating best pr

Early Adopters

Early Majority

Late Majority

Laggards

I4M S & SAE

Area under the curve represents number of customers

Technology Adoption Lifecycle

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

Horizon 2020 Programme

I4MS

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

SAE

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

The main DIH collaboration space

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..)**

https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/new-africa-europe-digital-economy-partnership-report-eu-au-digital-economy-task-force

Largely reflected by the African Union 2020 Digital Transformation Strategy
https://au.int/en/documents/20200518/digital-transformation-strategy-africa-2020-2030

European Commission

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

https://www.africa-eu-partnership.org/en/projects/policy-and-regulation-initiative-digital-africa-prida

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 €

- *Reinforceing 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*

African-European Digital Innovation Bridge (AEDIB)

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

EDIH rollout

"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

Test before invest

The plan is to have at least one EDIH per region

Digital Innovation Hubs

Skills and training

Support to find investment

Innovation ecosystem & networking

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

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.

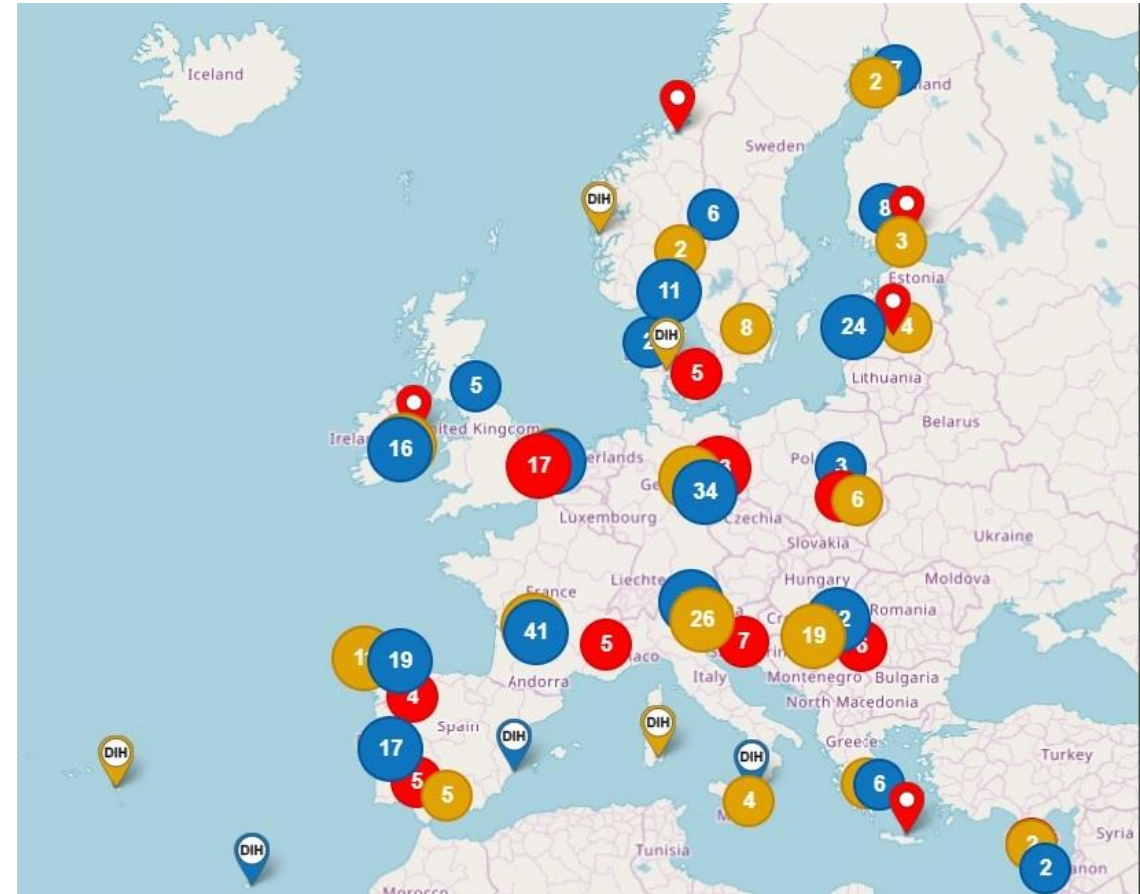European Commission

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*
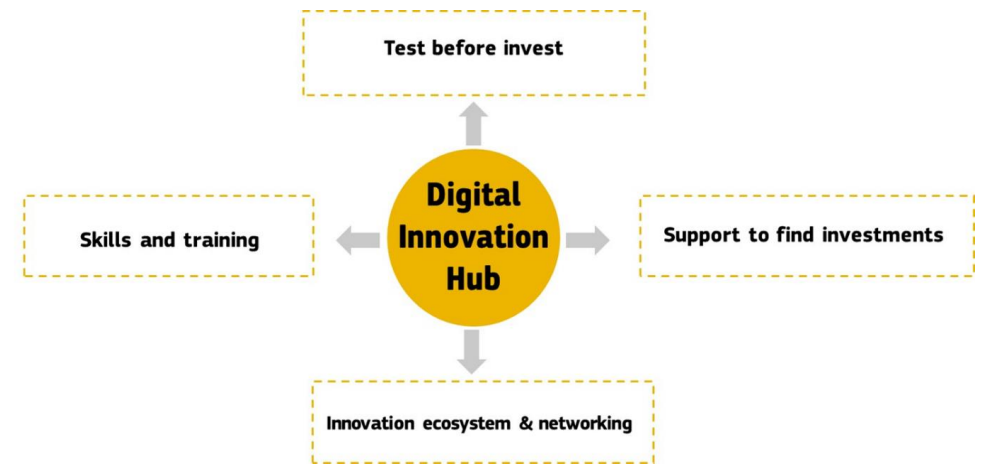
European Digital Innovation Hubs in the Digital Europe programme

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

We need a well-structured European network

Scope - services

Test before invest

Skills and training

Digital Innovation Hub

Support to find investments

Innovation ecosystem & networking

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)
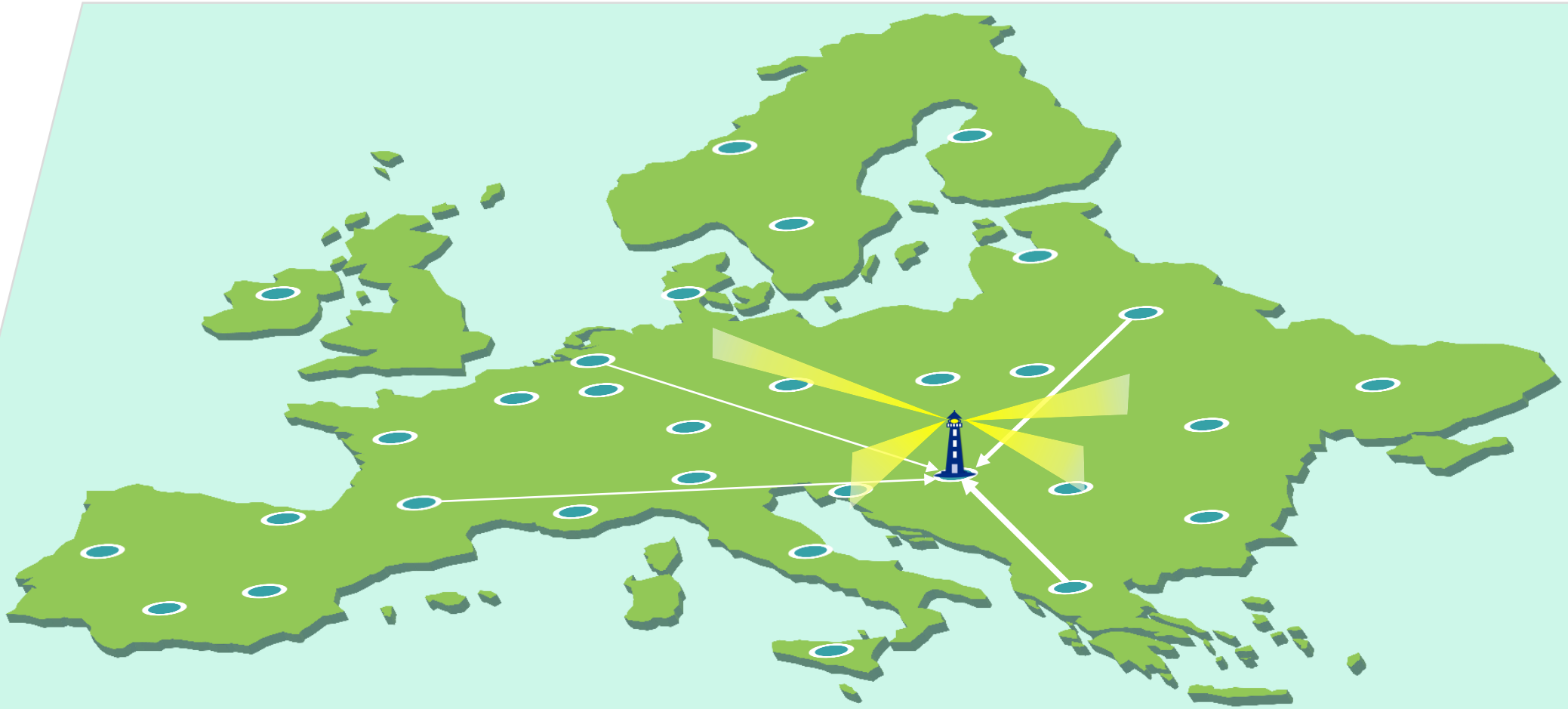
(with courtesy of the BOWI project)

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
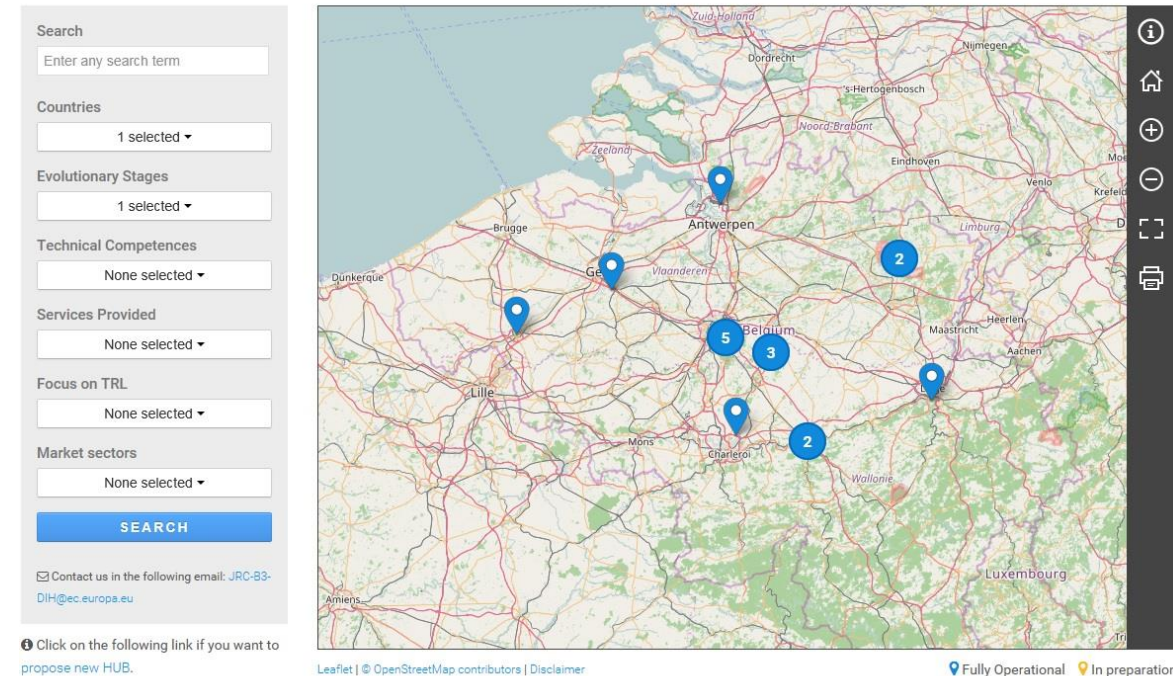
Timeline

- Call opening: 27 May, deadline for submission: 29 September

- Evaluation (fully remote): October-November

- Sending of letters: December

- Signature of contracts: Beginning of 2022

European Commission

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

http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/digital-innovation-hubs-tool

Digital Innovation Hubs

Search

Enter any search term

Countries

1 selected ▾

Evolutionary Stages

1 selected ▾

Technical Competences

None selected ▾

Services Provided

None selected ▾

Focus on TRL

None selected ▾

Market sectors

None selected ▾

SEARCH

✉ Contact us in the following email: JRC-B3-DIH@ec.europa.eu

ⓘ Click on the following link if you want to propose new HUB.

Leaflet | © OpenStreetMap contributors | Disclaimer   📍 Fully Operational   📍 In preparation

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

ICT-58-2020: International Partnership Building between European and African Innovation Hubs

European Commission

Some numbers

- **27 countries** have preselected their candidate entities (26 Member States + Norway)

- **331 EDIH candidates** pre-selected by the countries

Specialisation

AI	HPC	Cyber-security
211	95	137

Other digital technologies

Auto-mation	Big Data	Blockchain	Cloud	Communication technologies / 5G	IOT	Micro-electronics / Photonics	Advanced materials	Robotics	Virtual Reality
17	58	34	35	48	74	35	34	63	45

Sectors

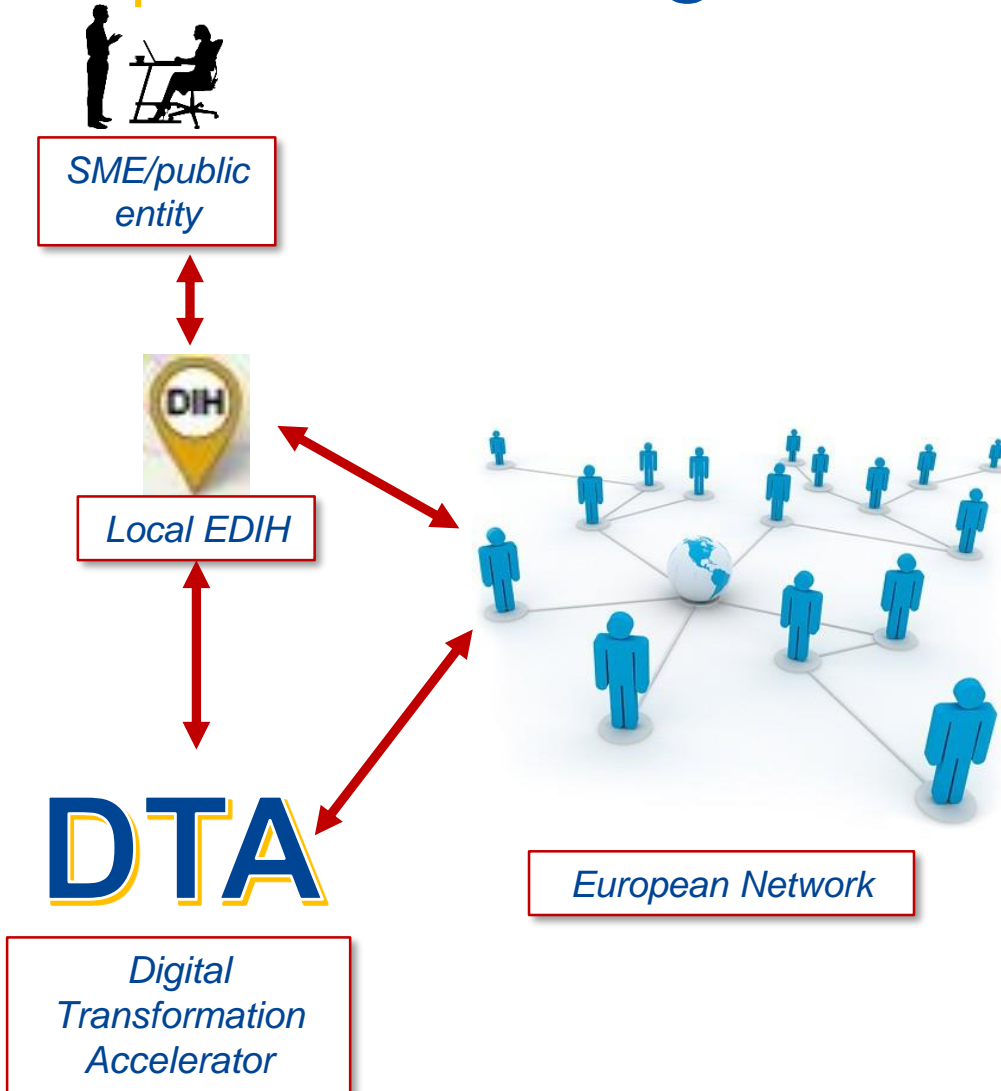| Agri-food	Auto-motive	Construction	Creative industry	Health	Public sector	Life sciences	Logistics	Manufacturing	Maritime	Mobility	Skills	Social care	Sustainability	Tourism	Energy
64	20	29	19	80	105	16	38	139	24	57	86	6	66	26	32

Catalogue of candidate EDIHs

- New version of catalogue available

- Profiles can be updated directly by the candidate hubs

https://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/digital-innovation-hubs-tool

Networking - "EU-Local" approach

SME/public entity

Local EDIH

DTA

Digital Transformation Accelerator

European Network

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.

European Commission

Role of DTA in collaborations
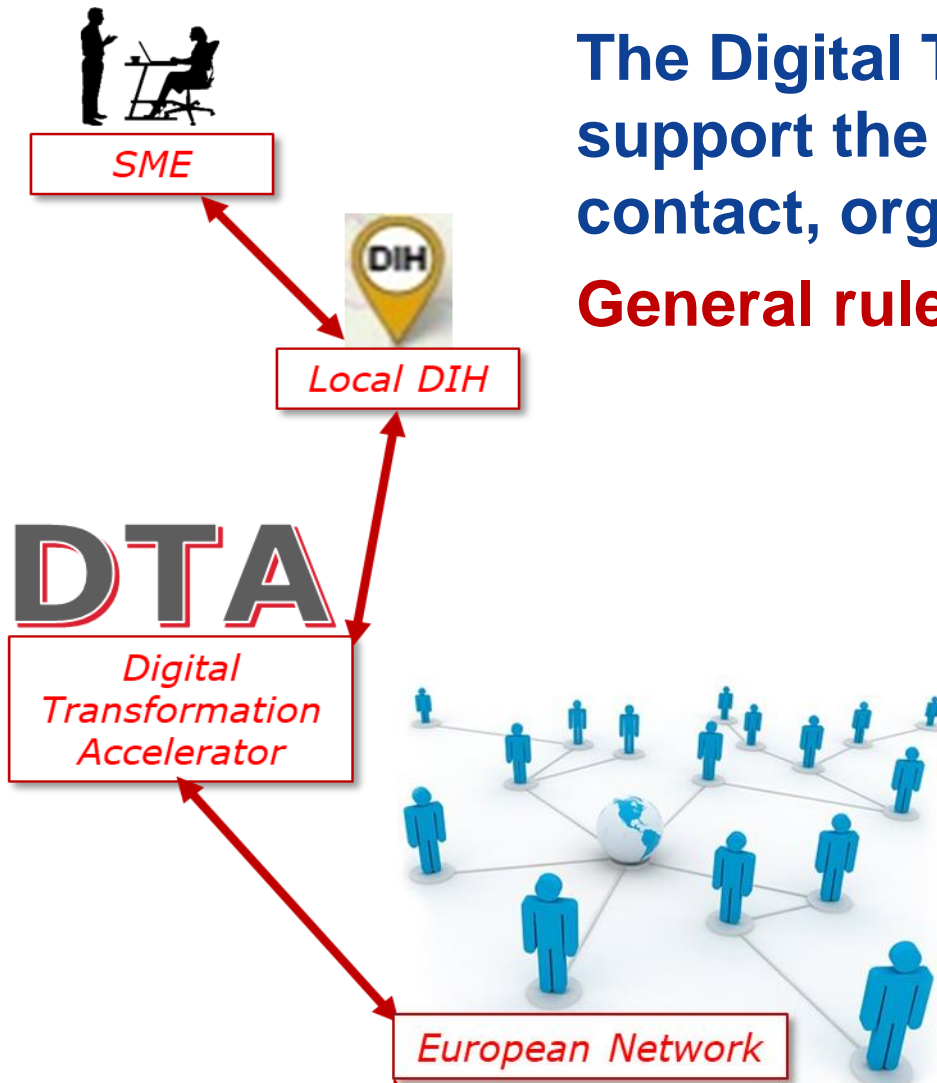
The Digital Transformation Accelerator will be available to support the collaboration activities e.g. by putting people in contact, organising events and providing technical help.
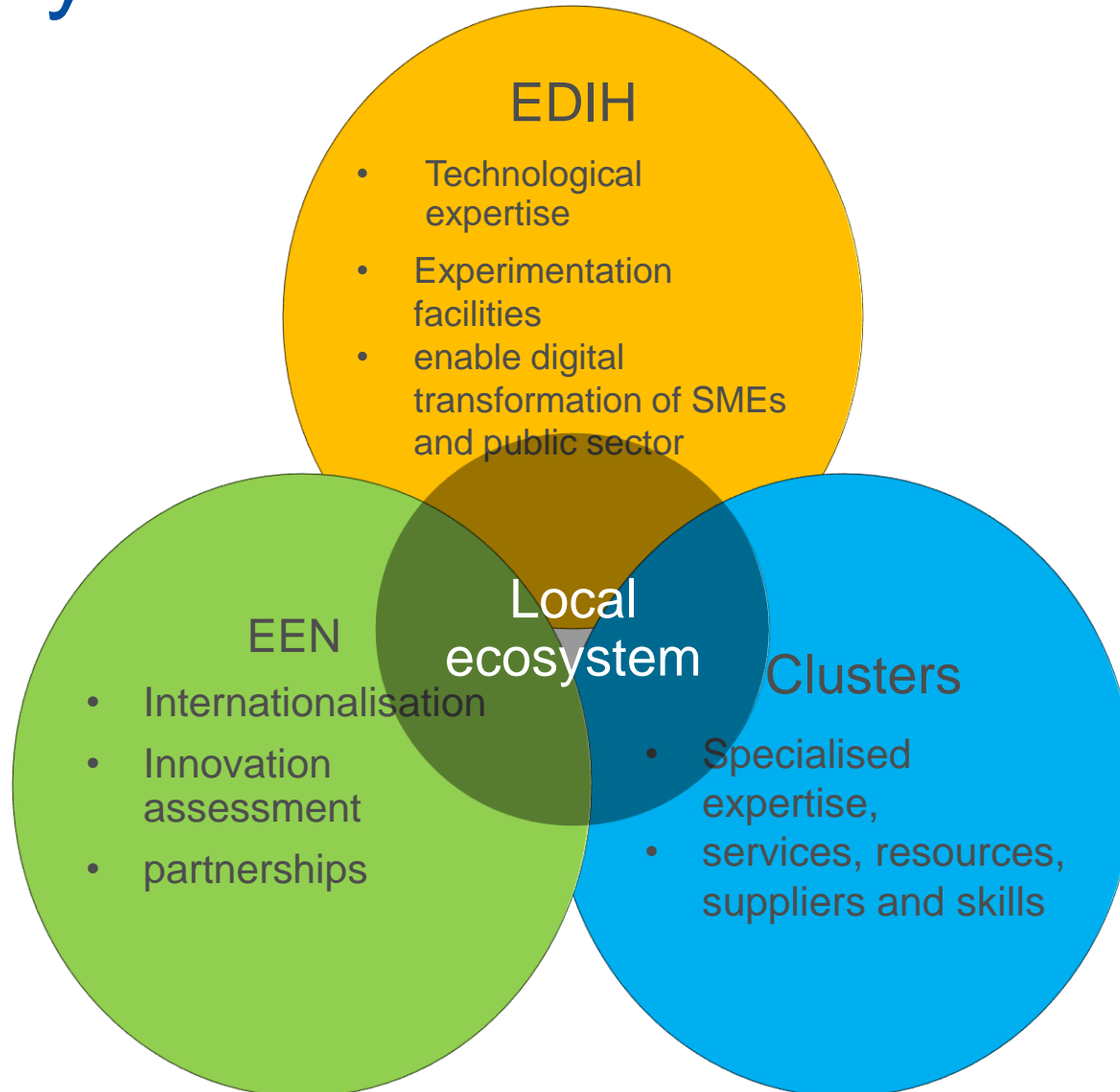
General rule: each EDIH pays for their own expenses.

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.

SME

Local DIH

DTA
Digital Transformation Accelerator

European Network

European Commission

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

Local ecosystem

EEN
- Internationalisation
- Innovation assessment
- partnerships

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

European Commission

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 bet 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/

Place to meet and coordinate initiatives

Materials available

https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/activities/edihs

- 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

European Commission

Questions and remarks

Keep in touch

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