

# SHAPING EUROPE'S DIGITAL FUTURE

## European Digital Innovation Hubs

*Extension of the network to  
Associated Countries*

# Agenda of the meeting

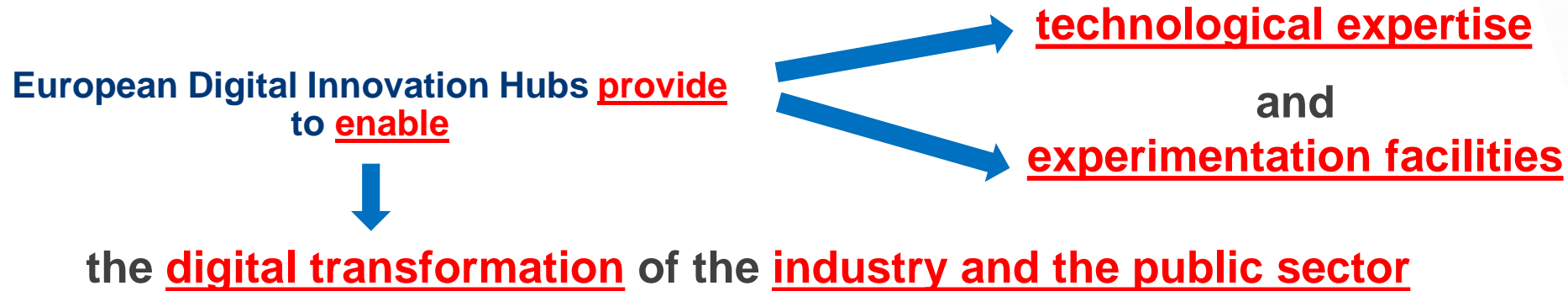
- 1) What is an EDIH
- 2) Selection process for the EDIHs
- 3) Next steps
- 4) Support to the EDIH candidates

DTA – Digital Transformation Accelerator

GIZ – Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit

- 5) Questions and Answers

# 1) What is an EDIH?



## *Typical participants:*

Innovation Clusters  
Research and Technology  
Organisations  
Technical Universities  
Financial institutions  
Industry associations  
Enterprise Europe Network  
Accelerators / Incubators  
Innovation agencies  
Private companies  
Vocational training institutes...

## *Typical customers:*

Small companies  
Micro companies  
Mid-caps  
(medium sized companies)

Public sector organizations

# EDIH Services

## EDIH SERVICES

**Offer support for digital transformation which is adapted to local needs, based on a specialisation**

Build **regional ecosystems** of users and suppliers, strengthening local innovation environment

**Connect to the whole of Europe through the network:**

- Share best practices with other hubs

- Connect local SMEs to SMEs outside the region, building new value chains in Europe

- Seek synergies with innovators

- Disseminate digital capacities of Digital Europe Programme to local community



**EDIH contribute to the country strategy for digitalisation**

Given the importance of Artificial Intelligence and its wide applicability in all sectors, the European Commission expects that at least one of the hubs designated in each country will have expertise in AI

# The network of European Digital Innovation Hubs

The network today includes **EU countries + 3 associated countries** (Norway, Iceland and Lichtenstein)

*Other countries have signed an association agreement or are in the process of signing/ratifying it.*

To be eligible the country has to be associated to DEP before the signature of the Grant Agreement (requested applicability from 01 January 2023 – budget from 2021-2023)

The Grant Agreement must be signed before end of 2024 (budget from 2021-2023)



## EDIH – the network today

151 EDIH

(funded 50% by DIGITAL, 50% EU countries)

76 Seal of Excellence EDIH

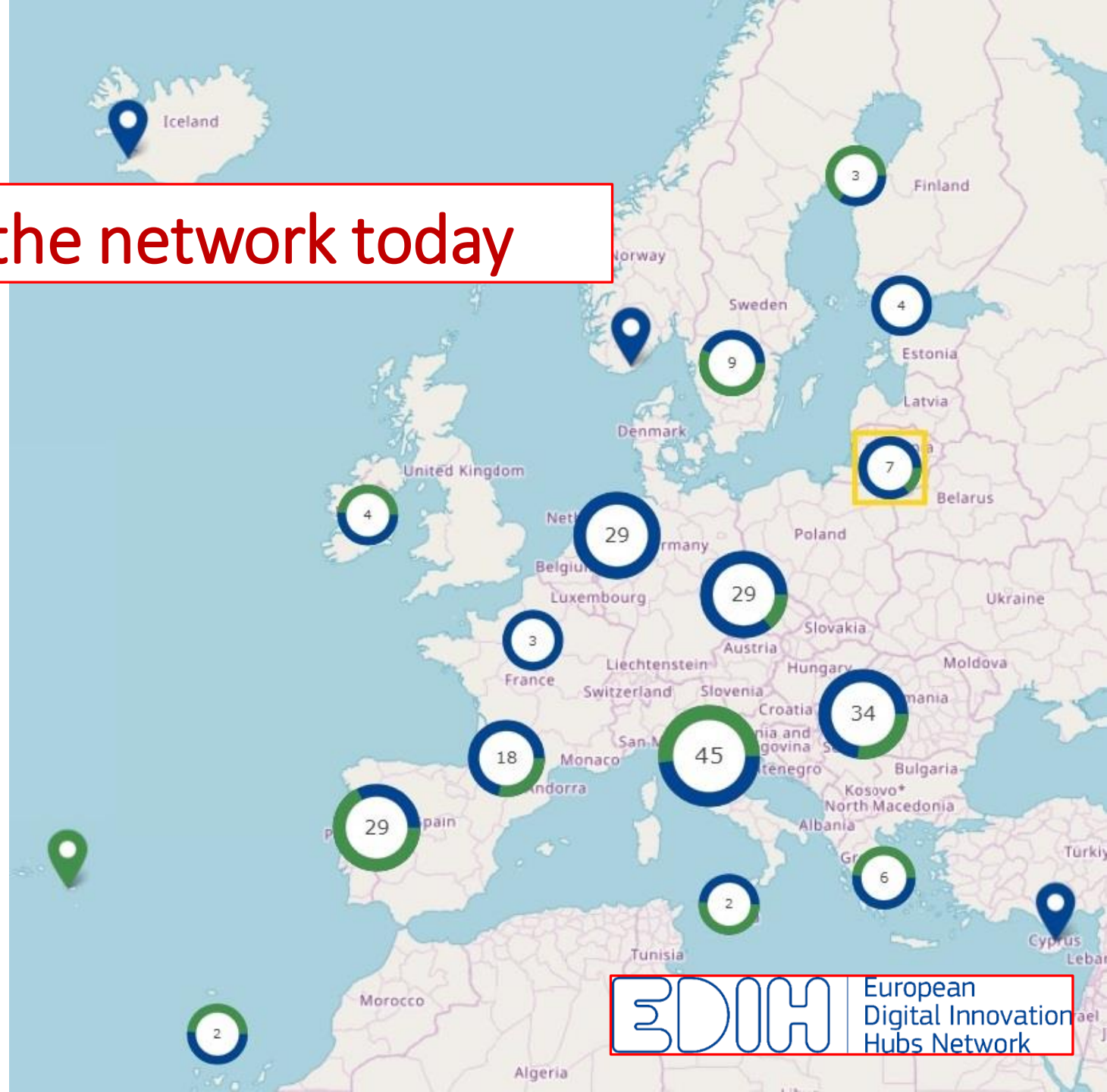
(funded entirely by EU countries)

EU27 + Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein

**Future extension (2024)  
to associated countries**

**The web presence of the network  
is the EDIH portal, a repository of  
useful data and information  
including the full EDIH catalogue**

<https://ec.europa.eu/edih>



# The structure of an EDIH

An EDIH can be organised in different ways:

- One single entity or a small consortium
- A new consortium or a pre-existing hub

Examples from <https://european-digital-innovation-hubs.ec.europa.eu/edih-catalogue/>

## **AIR-Andalusia**

Coordinator: non-profit foundation

Partners: industry association, universities, private companies, chamber of commerce, municipality

## **Tuscany X.0**

Coordinator: network of local companies

Partners: industry association, universities, private companies, research institution, non-profit foundation

## **ENTIRE**

Coordinator: research institute

Partners: university, vocational training institution

# The network of European Digital Innovation Hubs

We are working to open a call in **December 2023** ~~in early 2024~~ for Associated Countries.

**If by that time not all the countries will be ready, we will open a further call later on.**

*Let's be as fast as possible, but not faster*



## Funding and number of EDIHs

**Budget is fixed**  
**Number of EDIHs per country is indicative**

Country	Budget 2024 - 2027	Number of EDIHs
Ukraine	3 M€	3
Türkiye	3 M€	3
Serbia	1 M€	1
Kosovo	0,5 M€	1
Montenegro	0,5 M€	1
North Macedonia	0,5 M€	1
Albania	0,5 M€	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9 M€</b>	<b>11</b>

## Example

**Country A**  
Fixed Budget 3 M€  
Indicative No. EDIHs 3

**Total Budget  
(from DEP)**

**Fixed  
3 M€ Budget**

After evaluation - Proposals above  
threshold

Ranked proposals	EDIH Total cost	EU contribution (from DEP)	
Proposal 1	2 M€	50%	1 M€Invited to sign GA
Proposal 2	2 M€	50%	1 M€Invited to sign GA
Proposal 3	1 M€	50%	0,5 M€Invited to sign GA
Proposal 4	1 M€	50%	0,5 M€Invited to sign GA
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6 M€</b>		<b>3 M€</b>

**Budget must be allocated  
(Grant signed) by the end of  
2024**

Proposal 5                      1 M€                      50%                      0,5 M€  
In the reserve list - in principle will not sign a  
GA with DEP

# EDIH co-funding

- Up to 50% funded through Digital Europe Programme
- Countries will co-fund the selected EDIHs in their territory by providing matching funding (national funds, private sources, income generated by the project, contributions from partners)
- In the proposal (Application Form, Part B, Section 1.4 Financial obstacles) – the proposers have to describe how the project will be co-funded

**EDIH will receive around 65% (of the 50% from DEP) as pre-financing, at the start of the project**

**The co-fund from the country does not need necessarily to be available at the start of the project – to be decided by the country/EDIH**

## 2) Selection process for the EDIHs

Member States / Associated Countries	European Commission	EDIH Candidates
Propose candidate entities		

*Countries have to organize an open and transparent process to select potential EDIHs*

*They will inform the EDIHs with a **designation letter**, and inform the Commission of the entities coordinating the designated EDIHs*

December 2023  
(or earlier)



# Selection process for the EDIHs

Member States / Associated Countries	European Commission	EDIH Candidates
Propose candidate entities		
	Issues a restricted call for proposals	

From the Workprogramme text:

December 2023

*The selection of the EDIHs will follow a two-step process: first, an Expression of Interest (see topic 1.1) will request Member States to designate potential EDIHs through a national process, and secondly the European Commission will launch two restricted calls (see topic 1.2) for proposals in which only designated potential EDIHs are eligible to participate.*

# Selection process for the EDIHs

Member States / Associated Countries	European Commission	EDIH Candidates
Propose candidate entities		
	Issues a restricted call for proposals	
		Submit proposals

How to submit a proposal? see the Online Manual for the “Funding & tender opportunities” portal

<https://europa.eu/!3fnFgG>

Call deadline:  
March / April  
2024

**We will organize preparatory webinars starting in 4th quarter 2023**

# Selection process for the EDIHs

Member States / Associated Countries	European Commission	EDIH Candidates
Propose candidate entities		
	Issues a restricted call for proposals	
		Submit proposals
	Evaluates proposals with external experts	
	Ranks proposals balancing geographical, technological and sectoral coverage	

June 2024

***EDIH are supposed to be a tool to implement the country digitalisation strategy, so experts will evaluate the proposals on the basis of standard criteria (relevance, implementation, impact) but also on the basis of the coherence with the specific digitalisation strategy of the country.***

We will ask Associated Countries to name a country expert for the evaluation



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		Submit proposals
	Evaluates proposals with external experts	
	Ranks proposals balancing geographical, technological and sectoral coverage	
Endorse the ranked proposals		
	Prepares Grant Agreement	

4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2024





# Selection process for the EDIHs

Member States / Associated Countries	European Commission	EDIH Candidates
Propose candidate entities		
	Issues a restricted call for proposals	
		Submit proposals
	Evaluates proposals with external experts	
	Ranks proposals balancing geographical, technological and sectoral coverage	
Endorse the ranked proposals		
	Prepares Grant Agreement	
		Sign Grant Agreement
	Issues pre-financing	<b>Start project</b>

December 2024



# Selection process for the EDIHs

Preparing a grant agreement is time-consuming:

- Registering all participants in the EC database (takes time!)
- Verifying their financial viability (need to provide financial documents!)
- Address recommendations from evaluators (e.g. to fix mistakes)

**Budget must be allocated (Grant signed)  
by the end of 2024**

### 3) Next steps – what is needed?

Associated Countries	European Commission	EDIH Candidates
Provide 3-slide Summary of digitalisation strategy for the country	Organizes preparatory webinars starting in 4th quarter 2023	Gathers consortium
Preselect candidate entities through open and transparent process	Prepares and issues a restricted call for proposals	Prepare for submitting proposal in the European restricted call
Final list of candidate entities (provide designation letters) – by mid of December		
Propose experts for each country - by Dec2023		

**Association Agreement signed and ratified  
before the signature of the GA  
(requested applicability from 01 January 2023)**

## 4) Support to the EDIH candidates

- **DTA** – Digital Transformation Accelerator
- **GIZ** – Deutsche Gesellschaft für  
Internationale Zusammenarbeit  
(felix.kullmann@giz.de)

In case of interest for support you should contact the  
**GIZ** office in your respective country



# Where is the information?

**EDIH network web portal**

[Information for Associated Countries | European Digital Innovation Hubs Network \(europa.eu\)](#)

# 5) Questions and Answers

For further information please contact:

**[CNECT-DIH@ec.europa.eu](mailto:CNECT-DIH@ec.europa.eu)**