



Digital Innovation Hubs in Digital Europe Programme – Current status

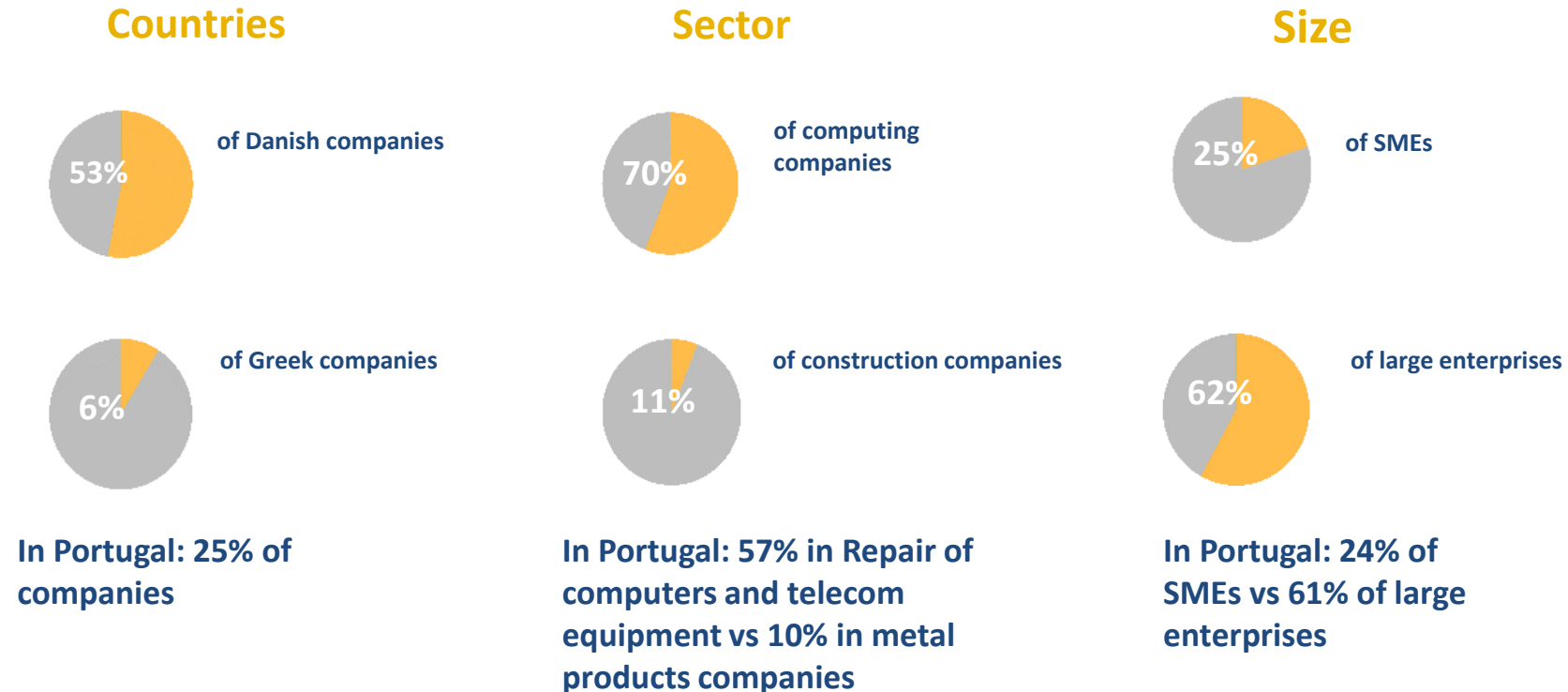
Anne-Marie Sassen, Deputy Head of Unit
DG CNECT A2 - Technologies and
Systems for Digitising Industry
Anne-marie.Sassen@ec.europa.eu

Disclaimer: The views expressed here are for further discussion with the MS. The EC cannot be held liable for any of the views expressed in this document.

Where do we stand today?

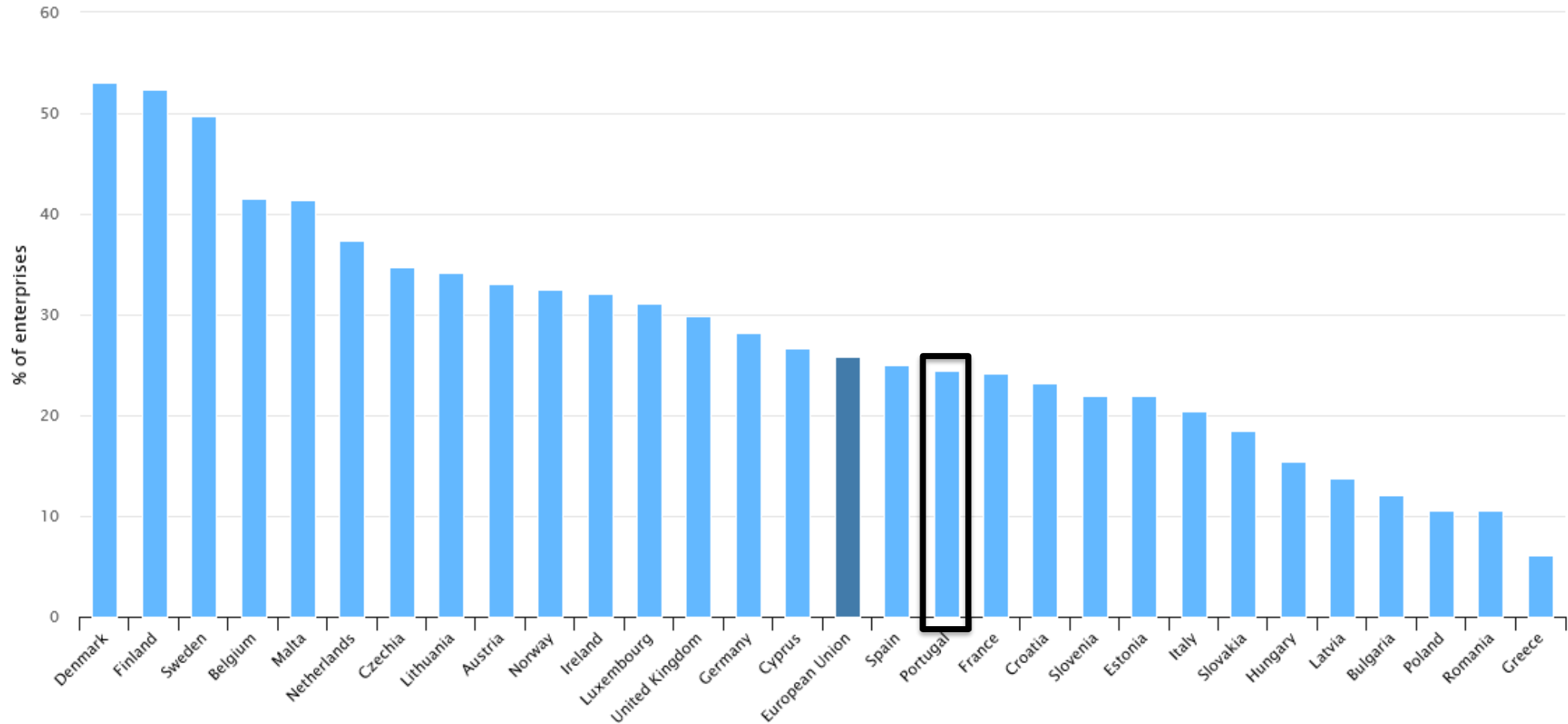
European companies are not making the most of all the opportunities digital has to offer

Highly digitised companies across Europe (2019)

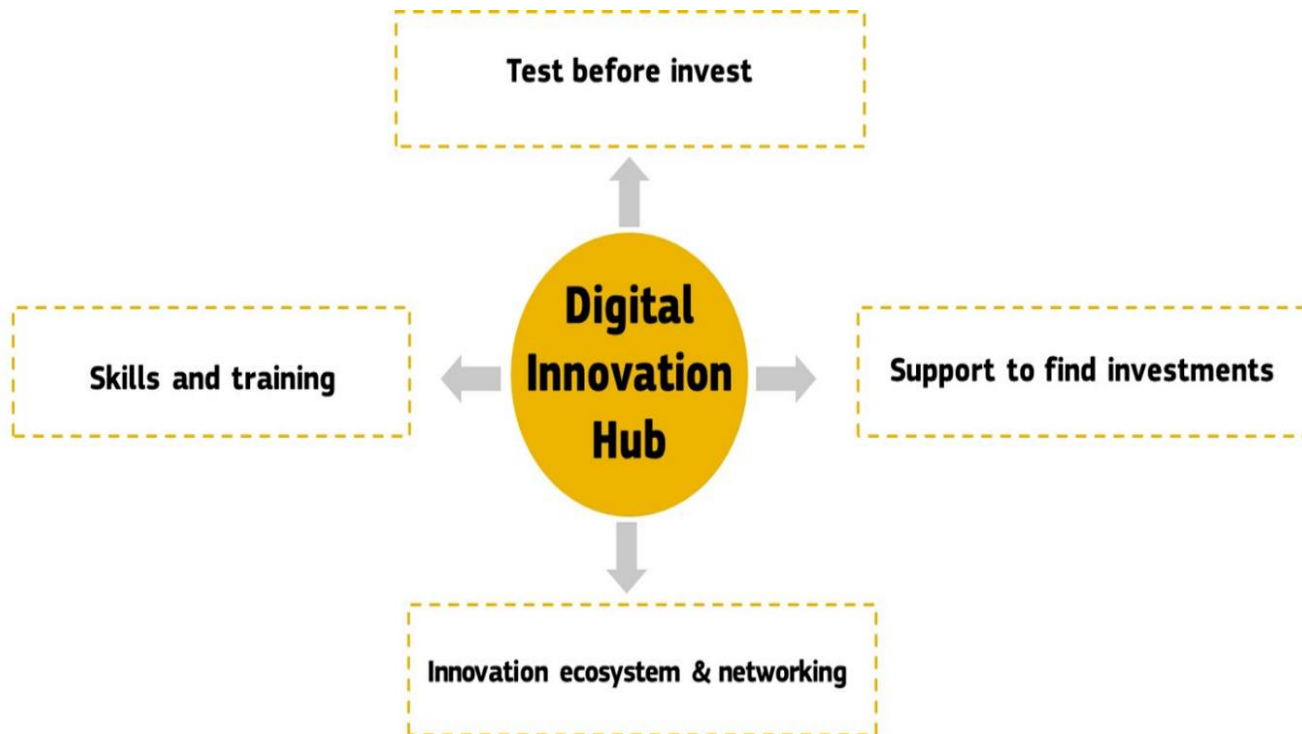


Enterprises with high level of Digital Intensity

Enterprises with High levels of Digital Intensity
Year:2019



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

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

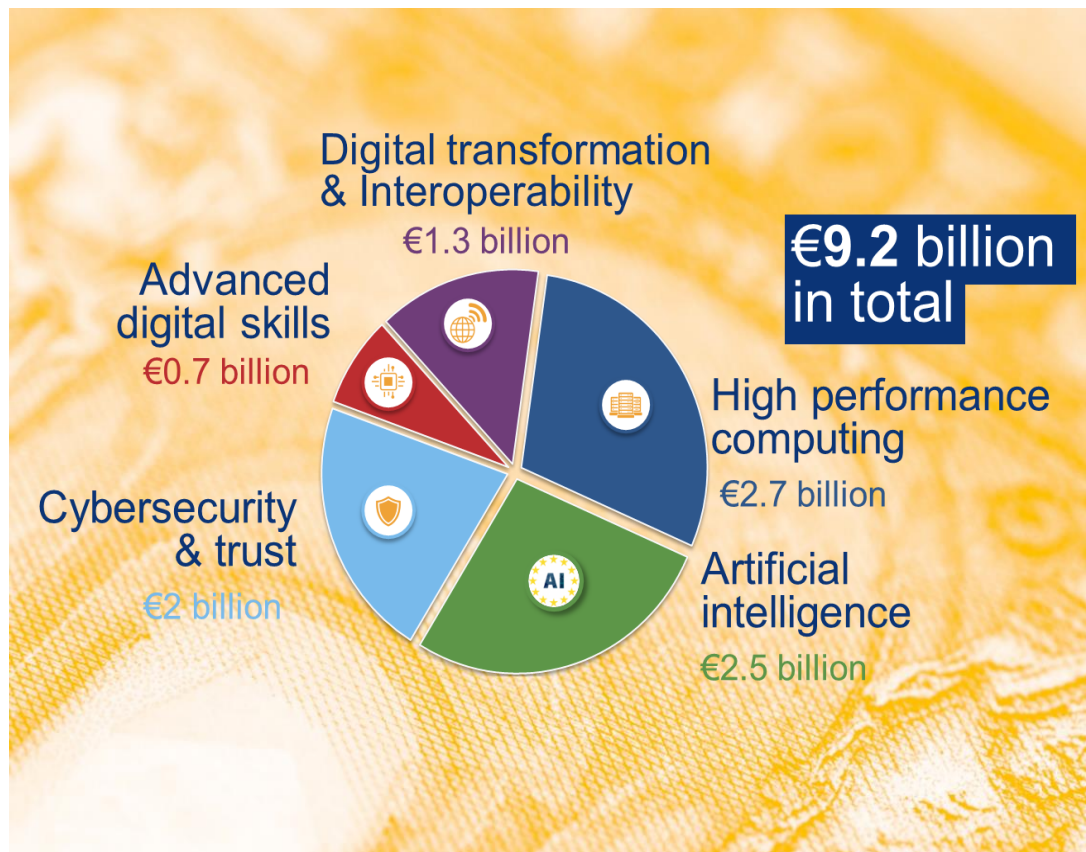
European Regional Development Fund: Investments allocated by the Member States to build-up or strengthen the Digital Innovation Hubs infrastructures in their territories and reduce the digital divide. ERDF can be used by Member States to co-invest on EDIHs in Digital Europe.

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.

Continuation of initiatives like I4MS

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

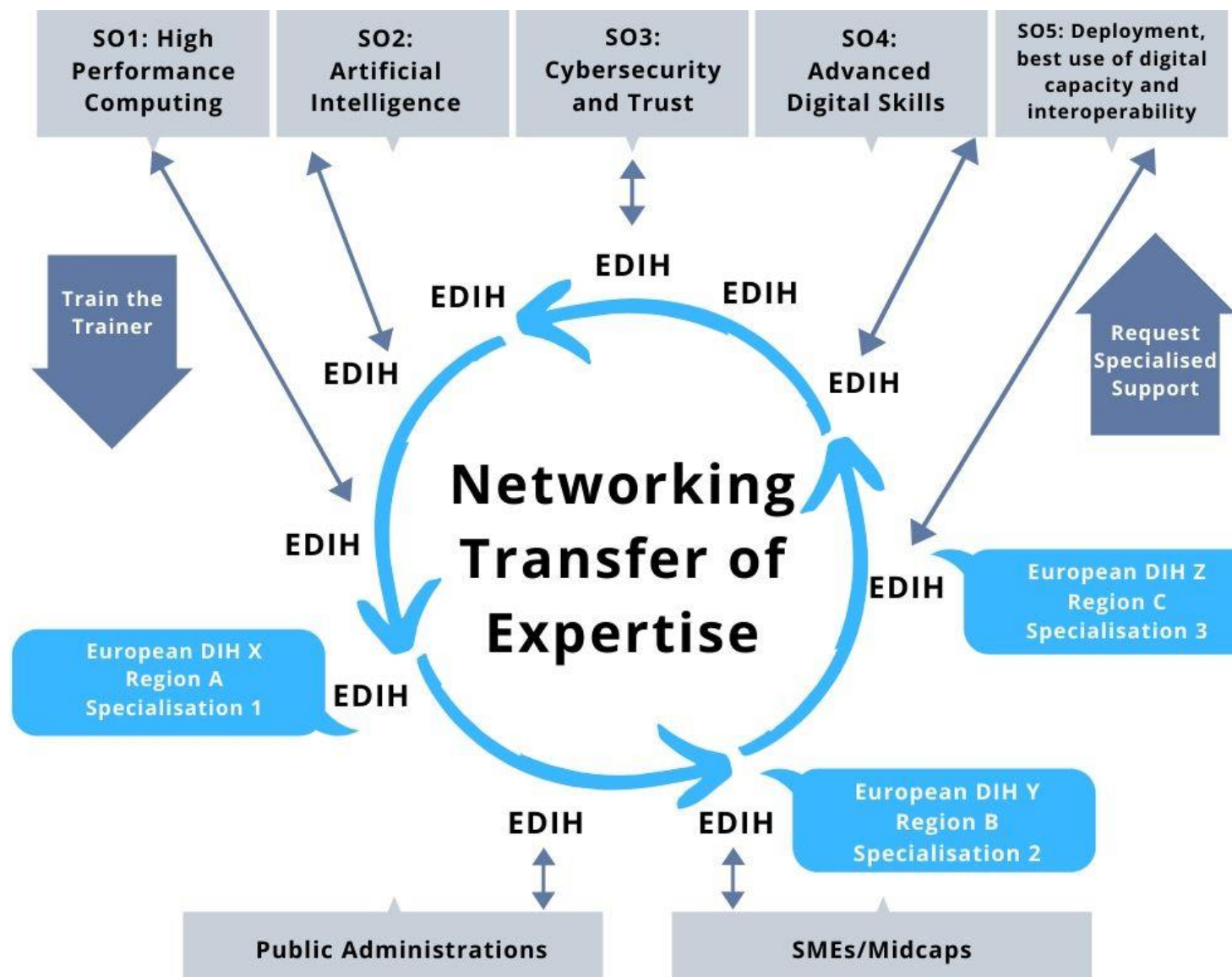
Ensure broad take-up of digital technologies across all regions of EU

- 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

Network of EDIHs



Capacity building of EDIHs:

- Grant for facilities and people to work in the hub, 50% co-funded EU/MS or regions (ERDF may be used)
- Access to European capacities for digital transformation in HPC, AI, Cyber
- Access to knowledge and facilities of other EDIHs
- Supported by "**Digital Transformation Accelerator**", 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.
 -



Specialisation/focus

Based on existing strengths and addressing future needs of the local industry or public sector organisations

At least one per country with expertise on AI.

Portugal can have 4-8 hubs.

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
	...		



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



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.



Exporting / Importing EDIH excellence :

- Based on complementary competence and infrastructure
- Help SMEs with expertise and facilities not locally available
- Help SMEs tap into other markets, develop EU value chains

EDIH capacity building:

- Exchange of experience, good practice, mirroring successful set-ups
- A more mature DIH helps a less mature DIH (cohesion)
- Learning from specialists in HPC, Cybersecurity, AI, Advanced training, areas of public interest through the DEP train-the-trainer approach
- Making use of the new solutions developed by the HPC, Cybersecurity Competence Centres and AI world class reference sites



2 Step Selection Process for EDIH network in DEP

Member States	European Commission	Candidate Entities
	Launches the expression of interest	
Propose candidate entities through an open and competitive process		
	Takes a Commission Decision on initial network	Are invited to an on-line networking event and have other networking opportunities
	Issues a restricted call for proposals	
		Submit proposals
	Evaluates proposals with external experts	
	Ranks proposals balancing geographical, technological and sectoral coverage, with advice of MS	
Endorse the ranked proposals (MS committee)		

Next steps

- Finalisation of budget discussion next Multi-annual Financial Framework
- Communication campaign with MS to mobilise community
- Designation of hubs by MS, possibly by October 2020
- Fully digital European Digital Innovation Hub networking event: 9-10 November 2020
- Restricted call: Q4 2020



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