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Europe's Network of Digital Innovation Hubs

# Feedback from the DIHNET WGs and approach to the breakout 1

1<sup>st</sup> July 2019, Begoña Sánchez

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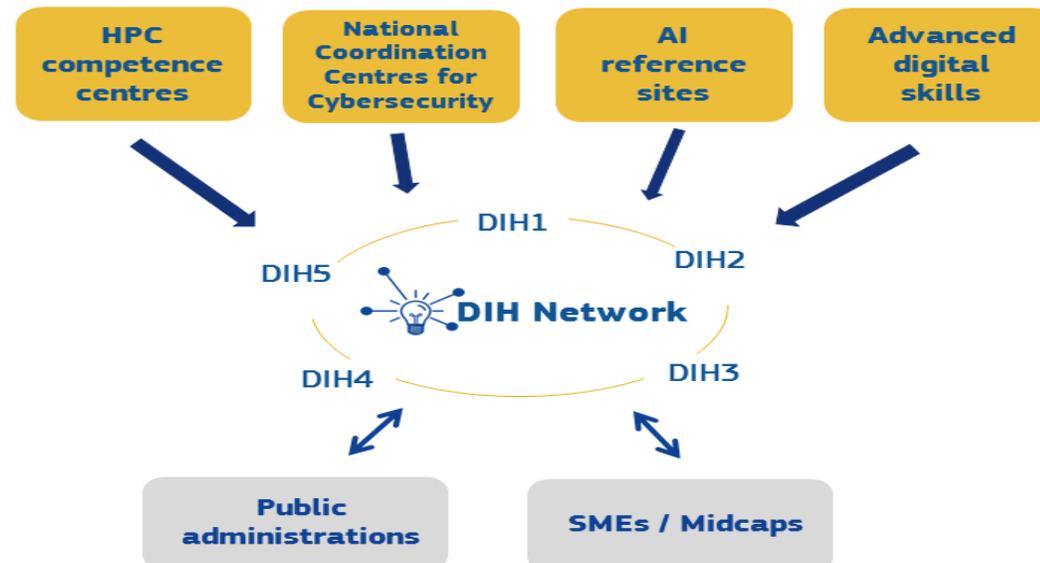
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# The Digital Europe Programme and EU DIHs

DIHs will diffuse digital capacities notably high performance computing, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, advanced digital skills across the economy enabling the digital transformation of the industry and public sector organisations.



# DIHs in Digital Europe



EU support for one DIH per region



Co-investment with Member States



Focus on SMEs and public services



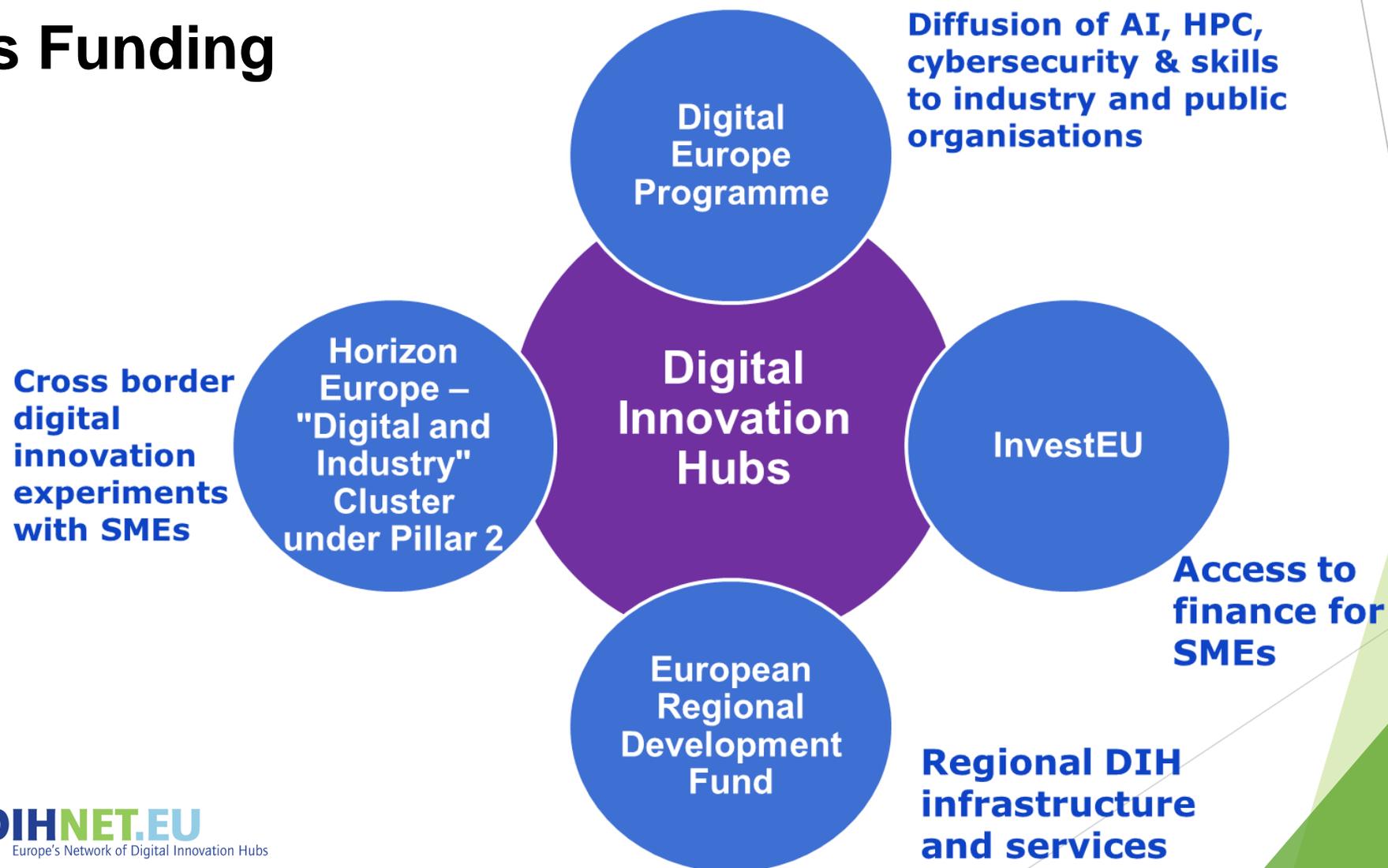
Focus on HPC, AI, Cybersecurity and Digital Skills



A strong European network of Digital Innovation Hubs

# DIHs in the next MFF (2021 - 2027)

## DIHs Funding



# Framework

- ▶ **Alignment.** More coherence and alignment between policy and funding instruments at EU, national and regional level is needed.
- ▶ **Coordination** among different policy levels, linking EU, national and regional levels.
- ▶ **Integration and simplification** for synergies.
- ▶ **Information:** A better picture of the funding available at different levels is needed.
- ▶ **Different needs for DIHs,** different “evolutionary stages”; roles and activities for EU DIHs.
- ▶ **DIHs collaboration/cross-border** needs to be a sustainable reality.

# Challenges

- ▶ Finding adequate funding schemes and opportunities for DIHs.
- ▶ Find funding for DIHs collaboration (other than H2020)
- ▶ Find ways to finance DIHs activities.
- ▶ Identify synergies among different funding schemes & link to S3.
- ▶ Attract private investments.
- ▶ Inspire best practices.
- ▶ Link funding instruments to policy implementation.
- ▶ Creating a learning mechanism between the initiatives.

# About WG1:Funding & Finance

*This WG will focus on exploring new funding sources to establish cooperation among DIHs and to facilitate the uptake of digital innovations by SMEs.*

Q1: What are your main challenges to finance DIH activities?

## ▶ EU funding:

- ▶ *Difficulty (for small DIHs) to find influential partners to create a strong consortium to be able to apply to EU calls and have real chances to win.*
- ▶ *The calls are difficult to spot because they appear under different initiatives (SAE, I4MS...)*
- ▶ *There are calls in which DIHs can apply but they are never directly targeted at DIHs, to finance their daily activities*
- ▶ *Legal difficulty to apply when the DIH itself has not a legal entity*

## ▶ Difficulty to find partners who want to finance the DIH activities (they are very interested in be partners but not in finance the activities)

## ▶ Worries about the sustainability of the DIHs after the end of the funding (national or European)

## ▶ Per countries:

- ▶ *Lithuania, Slovenia: financial support from the government for one national DIH: DIH Slovenia and DIH Lithuania*
- ▶ *Slovenia: several other DIHs offering services to SMEs are not funded and there is a lack of knowledge from the government about services offered by different DIHs in the country.*
- ▶ *Belgium: challenge to find adequate means from different sources in order to finance the global set of DIH activities. Currently funded by:*
  - ▶ regional governmental funding for the basis activities
  - ▶ private funding by the companies for the service type of activities.
  - ▶ VC funding for start-up & scale-up support
  - ▶ EU funding for the EU-wide networking (DIH networks as part of H2020)

Q2: What kind of private entities are partners of your DIH financing activities (different than SMEs) and what is their interest to be part of the DIH?

- ▶ Not every DIH has private entities as partners
- ▶ For those with private entities as partners. The profiles and interest are:
  - ▶ *Large and Consolidated Companies:*
    - ▶ Part of their Open Innovation Approach: LC cooperate with DIHs, where they share their challenges to be solved with the technology provided by startups. If the matching works, a commercial relationship is established between both.
    - ▶ Support their value chain: Their interest is to support their supply chain in the region, support SMEs in their digital transformation in order to gain in competitiveness.
  - ▶ *Financial entities*
  - ▶ *VCs that are looking for investment opportunities for start-ups & scale-ups.*

Q3: Is there any public support for the establishment of a DIH in your region/country?

- ▶ Italy : the Industry4.0 policy supported the creation of DIH creating a Network of different stakeholders where there was a specific activities for each of them (PID, DIH and CC)
- ▶ France: no direct support for DIHs' activities but:
  - ▶ *The Nouvelle-Aquitaine regional council has already carried out since 2013 its own "factory of the future" programme aiming to help regional SMEs in their digital transformation <https://www.usinefutur.fr/>.*
  - ▶ *The government will launch soon a call for "Les plateformes d'accelerations vers l'industrie du futur". The objective of these centers seems to be completely in line with the objectives of DIH defined by the commission.*
  - ▶ *Regional governments supports clusters and other DIH actors but not as "DIH"*
- ▶ Spain, Croatia: there are national initiatives, however they do not translate into funding for DIHs yet.
- ▶ Spain: support from the regional government (ex. Extremadura or Galicia) through Regional Structural Funds for financing personnel and part of the activities.
- ▶ Lithuania:
  - ▶ *The Economy and innovation ministry launched project "Smart InoTech for industry. National Agency for Science, Innovation and Technology MITA is the project coordinator and 5 DIH from Lithuania are involved. Project budget 2,2 million euro*
  - ▶ *The Economy and innovation ministry is preparing a new program for DIH the name "Digital Innovation Hub" a call should start at the end of 2019 preliminary budget 18,3 million euro*
- ▶ Belgium: regional governmental funding for the basis activities, which translates in our governmental KPIs on regional impact
  - ▶ *KPI 5: incubation trajectories; KPI 6: new spin-offs; KPI 7: collaboration projects with national universities; KPI 8: collaboration projects with national industry; KPI 9: participants of training programs.*



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# Approach to the breakout 1

# Breakout session 1 - Six Working Groups

1. Criteria and characteristics for the selection of EU DIHs
  - ▶ Moderator: **Begoña Sánchez** Rapporteur: **Gintaras Vilda**
2. The role and activities for EU DIHs
  - ▶ Moderator: **Maria Roca** Rapporteur: **Pierre-Damien Berger**
3. EU DIHs as spider in the regions. Challenges in linking the regional digitization to the European level
  - ▶ Moderator: **Reinhard Lafrenz** Rapporteur: **Christian Blobner**

# Breakout session 2 - Six Working Groups

## 4. The EU DIHs as linking pin to the other DEP pillars

- ▶ Moderator: **Andrea Halmos**      Rapporteur: **Anne-Marie Sassen**

## 5. Linking and synergies of DEP with other initiatives and funding

- ▶ Moderator: **Kristina Karanikolova** Rapporteur: **Geraud Guilloud**

## 6. How to make the EU DIH network sustainable

- ▶ Moderator: **Olivia Uguen**      Rapporteur: **Mátyás Lazáry**

# Organization of Breakout 1: The Digital Europe Programme and EU DIHs

- ▶ There are 6 flipcharts in and in front of the room with individual topics
- ▶ Each participant will be initially assigned to one of the six breakout groups, but can move to others during the breakout session to contribute to several groups. Because of restricted time, we **don't** expect everyone to contribute to all groups.
- ▶ The breakout has 2 phases:
  1. Open brainstorming: Every participant can add ideas to one flipchart and then move to other flipchart(s) of interest (ca. 20-25 min)
  2. Prioritization: Every participants receives three colored stickers upfront (one color per flipchart /topic area) and can stick them to his/her personal top 3 “ideas”

# Questions to participants

1. List the top three ideas (activities/needs/challenges/...) on a mid-term time scale of 3-10 years
2. Add suggestions to each idea how to practically address the individual topic and how to measure success (KPIs)
3. Add to each idea potential barriers for success

# Breakout 1

## The Digital Europe Programme and EU DIHs

- ▶ All 6 rapporteurs present each in 2 min each the top 3 insights



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# Thank you

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