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TEFs in the Digital Europe Programme

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The manufacturing research & innovation community



- Who we are
 - EFFRA
 - The Made in Europe Partnership
- TEFs in manufacturing:
 - most welcome
 - high interest in the community
 - complementarity to other initiatives needed

Based on your TEF-relevant experience, what are the most impactful actions the Manufacturing TEFs should deliver to innovators and how should the TEFs do so?

- Building upon previous work/infrastructure (programmes & initiatives)
- Flexible approach, complementarity; not a series of many new legal entities
- Providing a good meaningful service, tailor-made to European manufacturing, respecting its specificities
- Scope: testing mature solutions in an environment that is as close as possible to the real world
- Much can be done on remote basis!
- Activities must be geared towards concrete applications in business and industry, on the basis of context-dependent acquisition, selection and assurance of data quality
- Not offering only pure **infrastructure**, but attempting to go beyond and offering also
 - Real help, expertise, recommendation, ideas (also challenging the companies which come)
 - Offering also networking opportunities? In cooperation with EDIH

Based on your TEF-relevant experience, what are the most impactful actions the Manufacturing TEFs should deliver to innovators and how should the TEFs do so?

- Part of the offering should be:
 - Optimisation of production processes, quality control etc.
 - Sales and commissioning (identifying customer needs, configuration, facilitate machine ramp up etc)
 - Testing & validation for autonomous and self – learning systems
 - Development, design and engineering.
 - Use of AI in engineering and development, life cycle management
 - Maintenance, Supply chain management (Scheduling, logistic optimisation, raw material sourcing)
 - Human AI cooperation
 - Support in decision making (production planning, resource allocation, material usage)
 - Advise on regulatory and legal aspects

Some quotes from the Made in Europe stakeholder consultation

“Already today we need **simplified AI tool** sets for use in manufacturing environment that can be configured without highly skilled personnel (cookbook approach). Effective implementation of AI solution in brownfield (logistic) processes should facilitate a phased implementation that is planned in a holistic way”

“Embedding AI in products has a sensible pay-back as each product is improved. However AI in manufacturing it is often used for fault detection, in well controlled manufacturing applications that are almost zero-defect (defects occurring a few times a year). Advanced pattern recognition to detect out-of-bound situations requires huge amount of training associated to costs that SMEs do not recover easily”

What main challenge do you envision for the Manufacturing TEFs and how should it be tackled?

Challenges which might come up could be:

- Ability to offer something specific, tailor-made
- Work also with small amounts of data sets, which is common in manufacturing (unlike in other cases)
- Confidentiality
- Liability

Therefore, following will be important

- Ability to understand the companies which will ask for help, to understand their challenges; offer good solutions → the TEFs needs experienced staff
- Address from the very beginning confidentiality & liability questions

What would success look like for the Manufacturing TEFs in 7 years?

- Having a easily accessible point of contact - for all kind of organisations
- TEFs to be known and widely used
- Easy matchmaking between users and technology providers
- Having created trust: with sufficient showcases and problems solved
- Gaining insights which help the whole European manufacturing industries



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