

Virtual INFO SESSION

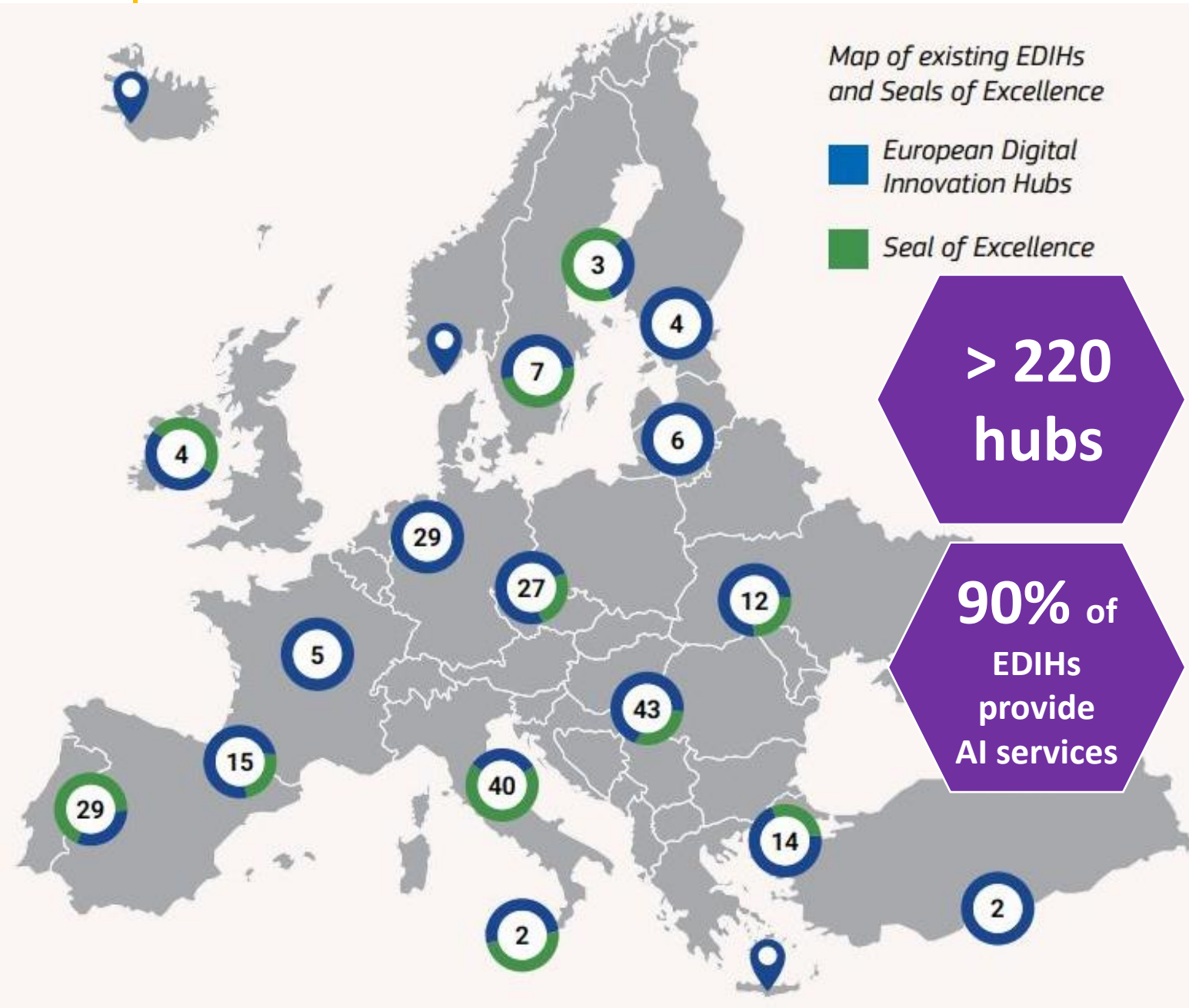
European Digital Innovation Hubs - Associated countries
(EDIHs with reinforced AI focus)
DIGITAL-2025-EDIH-AC-08

30-April-2025

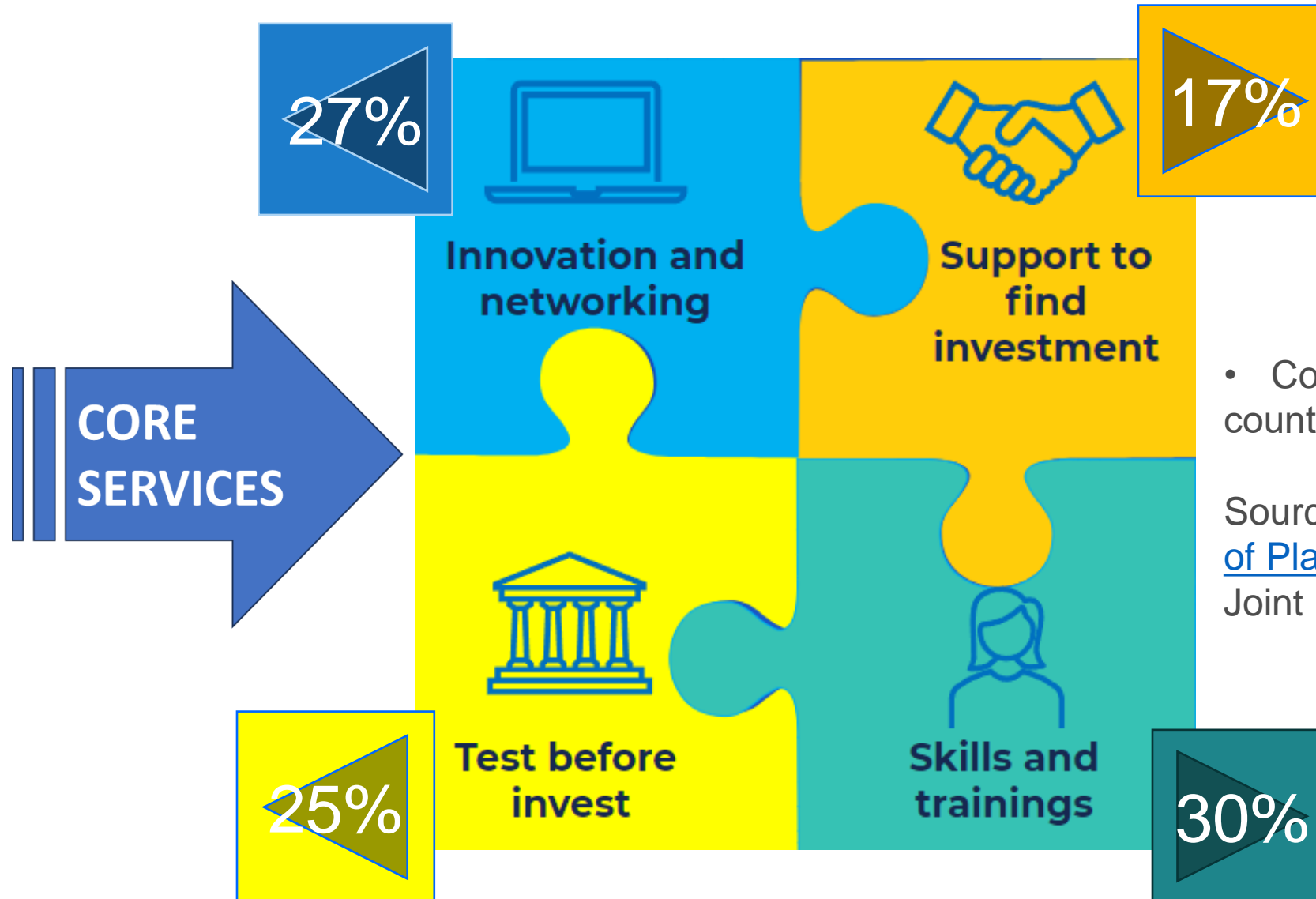
DG CNECT, AI Office - Artificial Intelligence Innovation and Policy Coordination / A4

EDIHs NETWORK OVERVIEW (1/3)

- **169** EDIHs (co-funded by DEP)
- **76** Seals of Excellence (funded by national authorities)
- **39 countries**: EU27 + Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Türkiye, Ukraine, Kosovo
- **Plus**: *Bosnia and Herzegovina and Moldova*



EDIHs NETWORK OVERVIEW (2/3)



- Covers **almost 90%** of countries' regions

Source: [EDIH Network. State of Play Report \(2024\)](#) by Joint Research Centre (JRC)

EDIHs NETWORK OVERVIEW (3/3)

□ Western Balkans, Moldova,
Turkey and Ukraine

- **18** EDIHs (co-funded by DEP)
- **16** Seals of Excellence (funded by national authorities)
- **9** countries: Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Türkiye, Ukraine, Kosovo, * *Bosnia and Herzegovina* and * *Moldova*

**Pre-selected entities
at the national level*



EDIHS CALL for the associated countries

DIGITAL-2025-EDIH-AC-08

COMPLETION of the Network of European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs) in Associated Countries

- **MD/BA**: DIGITAL-2025-EDIH-AC-08-COMPLETION-STEP

CONSOLIDATION of the Network of European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs) in Associated Countries

- **AL, MK, TR, UA**: DIGITAL-2025-EDIH-AC-08-CONSOLIDATION-STEP

[Digital Europe Programme \(DIGITAL\) for 2025-2027](#) was published on 28 March 2025. The Commission will allocate EUR 1.3 billion for the deployment of critical technologies through DIGITAL.

EDIHS CALL for the associated countries

DIGITAL-2025-EDIH-AC-08

COMPLETION of the Network of European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs) in Associated Countries

- **MD/BA: DIGITAL-2025-EDIH-AC-08-COMPLETION-STEP**

MD: 5 candidates

Digital Innovation Hub of Moldova - DIH of Moldova

Environmental, Social and Governance EDI - ESG EDIH

Inotek EDIH Cahu - IEC

InnoVest Moldova -IVM

North Digital Innovation Hub - NorDIH

BA: 3 candidates

Digital Innovation Hub ONEX

FUSIONX Hub

INTERA Technology Park

IMPORTANT: The pre-selection letter from your national authority must be attached to the application.

EDIHS CALL for the associated countries

DIGITAL-2025-EDIH-AC-08

CONSOLIDATION of the Network of European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs) in Associated Countries

✓ **AL, MK, TR, UA:** DIGITAL-2025-EDIH-AC-08-CONSOLIDATION-STEP

UA – 6 Seals of Excellence

[EUNITED](#) - EUNITED Digital Hub

[ZP EDIH](#) - Zaporizhzhia European Digital Innovation Hub

[EDIH Kyiv HiTech](#) - European Digital Innovation Hub “Kyiv Hitech”

[GC-EDIH](#) - Green Carpathian European Digital Innovation Hub for Digital and Green Transformation of Ukrainian Carpathian Region

West Ukraine EDIH - West Ukraine EDIH: accelerating digital transformation in West Ukraine region ([pending: info for EDIH catalogue](#))

WU-Hub - Western Ukraine European Digital Innovation Hub ([pending: info for EDIH catalogue](#))

AL: 4 Seals of Excellence

[NEST](#) - Network for Excellence in Smart Technologies

AGDT - Albanian Gateway for Digital Transformation ([pending: info for EDIH catalogue](#))

[AI4DigiT](#) - Artificial Intelligence for Digital Transformation in Albania Innovation Hub

ORCID - Open Research Creation and Innovation in Digitalization ([pending: info for EDIH catalogue](#))

TR – 4 Seal of Excellence

EDIH ANATOLIA - European Digital Innovation Hub – Anatolia ([pending: info for EDIH catalogue](#))

[Tech-Stop EDIH](#): Networking for Technological-Stop European Digital Innovation Hubs

DIGI4AGE - The Digital Health Innovation Hub for Healthy Living and Aging ([pending: info for EDIH catalogue](#))

SENSOR HUB - R&D&I and Networking Platform for Utilisation of Sensor Technologies ([pending: info for EDIH catalogue](#))

MK: 2 Seals of Excellence

[DigitMak](#) - European Digital Innovation Hub DigitMak

[SEEU TechPark](#) - South East European University TechPark - European Digital Innovation Hub

EDIHS CALL for the associated countries

DIGITAL-2025-EDIH-AC-08

-TIMELINE-

Consolidation of the Network of European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs with rei...

DIGITAL-2025-EDIH-AC-08-CONSOLIDATION-STEP | Call for proposal

Opening date: 15 April 2025 | Deadline date: 02 September 2025 | Single-stage

Programme: Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL) | Type of action: DIGITAL Simple Grants

Completion of the initial Network of European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs)

DIGITAL-2025-EDIH-AC-08-COMPLETION-STEP | Call for proposal

Opening date: 15 April 2025 | Deadline date: 02 September 2025 | Single-stage

Programme: Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL) | Type of action: DIGITAL Simple Grants

TIMELINE

- Call opening: 15 April 2025
- Deadline for submission: 02 September 2025
- Information on evaluation results: November 2025
- Grant signature: February 2026

EDIHS CALL for the associated countries

DIGITAL-2025-EDIH-AC-08

- Scope-

Consolidate and complete the EDIH network to drive digital transformation

❑ based on the **needs** of Europe's **SMEs**, **mid-caps** and **public services**

❑ with a **reinforced AI focus**

✓ for their clients &

✓ for the EDIHs themselves

Key EDIH Objectives

- Each EDIH will act as **an access point to the European network** of EDIHs, helping local companies and/or public actors to get support from other EDIHs (and vice-versa)
- EDIHs become **a central point for companies and public sector** ensuring a flexible and seamless digital journey and referring them to the **services provided by these AI innovation infrastructures where appropriate**
- The EDIHs will also offer a **first-line AI help desk** to businesses and public sector organisations, with the help provided by the Digital Transformation Accelerator (DTA):
 - ✓ providing **basic information on compliance with the AI Act**
 - ✓ ensuring a broad **adoption of strategic technologies supporting the development of an AI continent**

Important note: The **AI help desk mission will be delivered** in close cooperation with the [AI Act service desk](#) being set up by the AI office.

Key EDIH Objectives

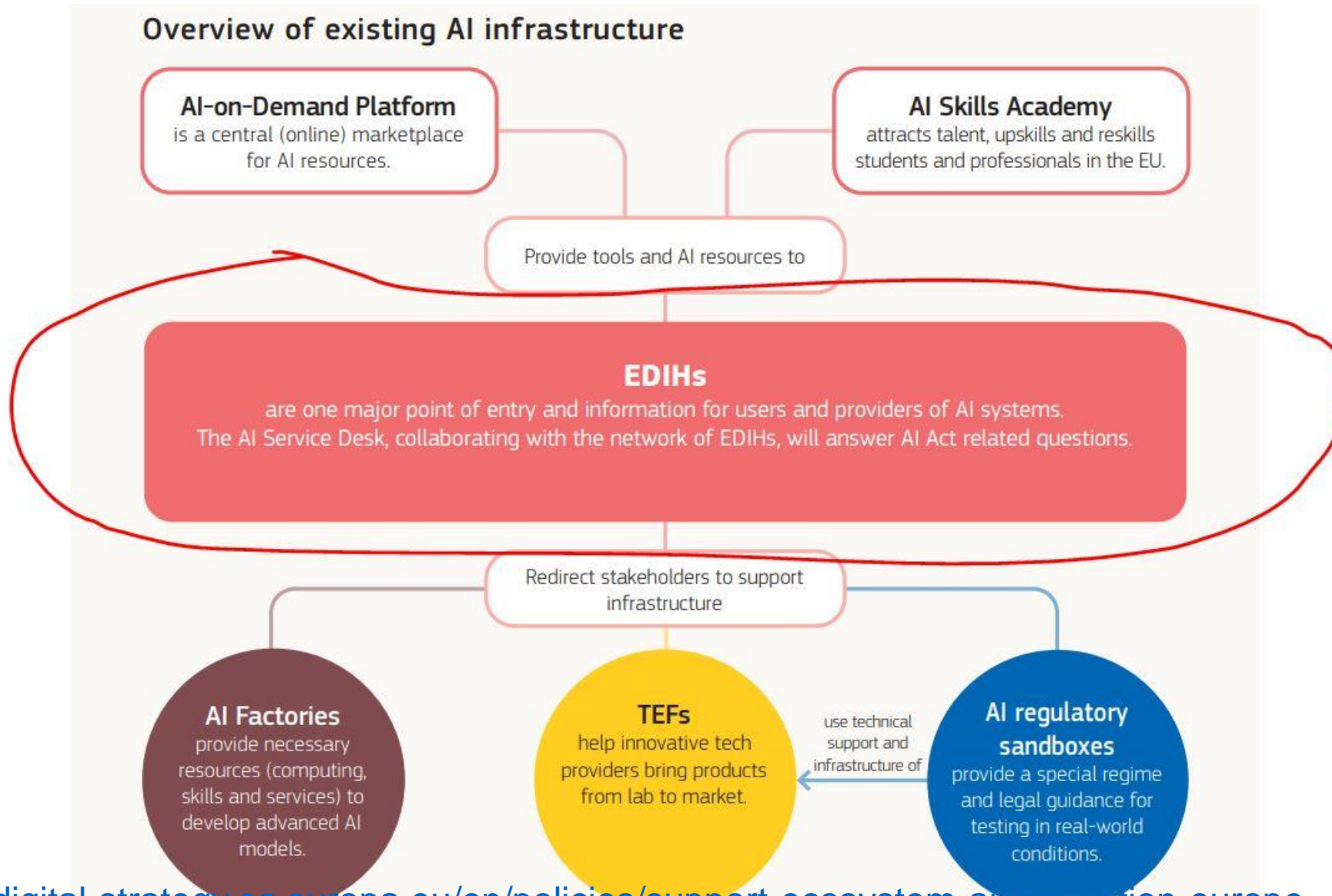
- Each EDIH will make available the **relevant experimentation facilities and demonstrators** related to its specialisation.
 - SMEs, mid-caps and the public sector will be able to demonstrate, prototype and test the technologies proposed, including where relevant their environmental impact, and the feasibility of applying these technologies to their business before further investing in it.
- **EDIHs complement and build synergies with existing regional and national initiatives**, bringing companies into contact with other companies of their value chain, seeking synergies with innovators and early adopters that test solutions in novel experiments and can foster the adoption of digital technologies, and notably AI, and **collaborate with the EU AI Innovation ecosystems**.

Overall AI dimensions of EDIH 2.0

- **Build your own AI toolbox & competences**, to support the wide deployment and uptake of European AI algorithms, solutions and tools
- **Organise a flexible AI journey**: one-stop-shop for companies looking for aid from the **European AI innovation ecosystem**
- **Collaborate with AI Innovation Infrastructures** *such as AI factories and AI Testing and Experimentation Facilities*
- **Own use of AI** for EDIH internal work and processes



A Landscape of AI Innovation Ecosystem* (1/2)



A Landscape of AI Innovation Ecosystem (2/2)

EDIHs will **collaborate** with the EU AI Innovation ecosystem and **become a central point for companies and public sector**

- **referring** them **to the services provided by the AI innovation infrastructures** where appropriate
- ensuring a **flexible journey** for European companies to **benefit fully from these AI innovation infrastructures**

*It means that EDIHs have to **map out** these infrastructures, establish contacts with them and help their customer benefit from the services provided by the other initiatives in a client journey perspective, with the objective of accelerating the deployment of AI technologies*

*This collaboration does **NOT** mean that EDIHs need to integrate a representative of each EU AI infrastructures in their own consortium*

*It should be **avoided that there is duplication of actions** of the other AI innovation infrastructures and the EDIHs, and therefore working arrangements will be agreed among them, where the focus of the EDIHs will be on their role as **multiplier** and **reaching out** to all regions in Europe*

❑ *Checklist: description of a flexible journey through AI Innovation Infrastructures (in particular, delivery and referral of AI services)*

Budget (1/3)

Overall budget

Fixed budget per country

Flexibility for proposals inside
the country budget

Topic		Topic budget
DIGITAL-2025-EDIH-AC-08-COMPLETION-STEP		EUR 2 000 000
Country	Projected budget from DIGITAL for 3 years per Country	Recommended number of hubs to be funded
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1 000 000	1
Moldova	1 000 000	1

DIGITAL-2025-EDIH-AC-08-CONSOLIDATION-STEP		EUR 9 000 000
Country	Projected budget from DIGITAL for 3 years per Country	Recommended number of hubs to be funded
Albania	818 000	1
North Macedonia	818 000	1
Türkiye	3 682 000	1-4
Ukraine	3 682 000	1-4

Budget (2/3)

Sourcing

- **DEP funding rate is 50%**
- The remaining % must be covered through other sources:
 - National/regional budget
 - Private: EDIH own funding, client payments

Budget envelopes are allocated per country

The budget covers a **3-year period**



Budget (3/3)

Funding & sustainability

- The total public funding for this action may be up to 100% of eligible costs
 - 50% coming from the Digital Europe Programme,
 - 50% coming from the mix of sources of funding:
 - ✓ Member States/regions, sponsorship, fees or payments from clients

IMPORTANT: the EDIH must not be profit-oriented (i.e. surplus of revenues + EU grant over costs). This will be checked by the Commission at the end of the project.

Proposals will describe **their co-funding sources** (e.g. public funding and remaining amounts to be paid by customers) and how they will achieve economic sustainability for their operations

- ☐ *Checklist: clear description of the “other” 50% (e.g. the expected cofunding)*
- ☐ *Checklist: budget table is an integral part of the evaluation*
- ☐ *Checklist: additional deliverable on the economic sustainability of the EDIH, to be submitted 18 months after the start*

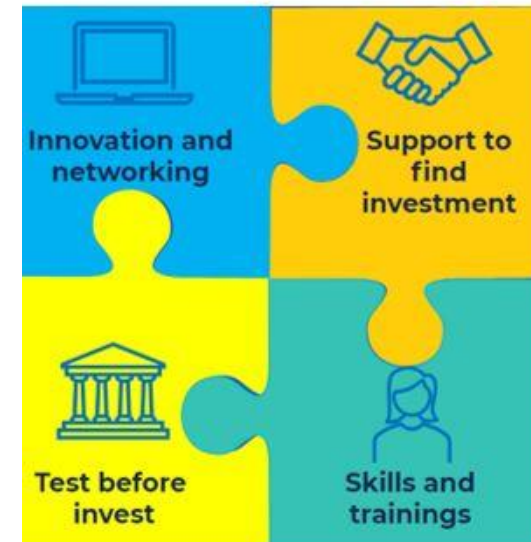
EDIH expected services

Each EDIH is expected to provide all four types of services

- **Test before invest:** providing access to technical expertise and experimentation facilities, **in particular to AI-related services.**
- **Training and skill development:** offering training sessions to SMEs and public services for upskilling and reskilling of the workforce, **including on the adoption and use of AI technologies.**
- Support to identify and facilitate **access to potential financing sources** to support digital transformation.
- Foster an **innovation ecosystem and networking opportunities**

These services can however have **different weights** in the portfolio.

- Services will be provided on an open, transparent and non-discriminatory basis
- Services based on a specific focus and expertise, **with particular focus on support to development, training deployment and uptake of European AI technologies**
- This specialisation can be strengthened over time and should make use of existing local competencies in this area



Expected outcomes

- The EDIHs will **act as a multiplier** and widely diffuse the **use of all the digital capacities** built up under the different specific objectives of the Digital Europe Programme and including the **effective use of key digital standards** (*that is, not necessarily AI*)
- To the extent possible, the EDIHs should **use the AI solutions of European start-ups and SMEs and/or those provided and stemming from EU projects, including from the AI-on-Demand Platform**
- Carry out **Digital Maturity Assessments for their clients**
 - *using the tools provided by the Commission and DTA*
 - *not all services need to be preceded by a Digital Maturity Assessment: however, EDIHs are encouraged to use it as often as practically possible*
- Deliver services leading to greater digitalisation of their clients as well as **to their adoption of AI**

Price List: a requirement in your proposal

Proposals have to **include a list of the services** to be provided to SMEs and public sector, and make available online

- The list will **enumerate the services by category**, indicating:
 - target clients, the nominal service price, the amount of State aid passed on by the EDIHs and the remaining amount that the clients have to pay, if applicable
 - A first list is a requirement in the proposal

This list must comply with the State aid regulations, even when the services will be offered for free or at a discount

In case the price list will be modified in terms of e.g., new services, updated prices or discount conditions, the new price list will be made public online and will be included in the periodic report.

☐ *Checklist: inclusion of a price list by category, with indications as applicable*

Proposed templates



List of services and prices

Service title & description	Service category [TBI, ...]	Target Client [SME, ...]	Type of services [event, individual, collective, class, ...]	Nominal price [fixed €, min-max €, ...]	State aid amount in €	Unit of measure [€, €/day, €/hour, ...]	Planned duration (optional)	Price remaining to be paid by client



Summary of your KPIs & targets

KPI title & description	Type of KPI [output KPI, outcome KPI, impact KPI]	Reference to description in Part B (page or section)	Category [TBI, ...] & related service	Targeted clients (SME, PSOs, ...)	Type of services [event, individual, collective]	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Target Year 3	Total Target

For example: an “Access to investment” service could have the following 3 KPIs:

- **Output KPI:** Number of SMEs receiving the service
- **Outcome KPI:** Number of SMEs who apply for investment after getting the service
- **Impact KPI:** the Total amount of Investment raised

KPIs for EDIHs with an AI focus

Proposals should define their indicators as well as their targets per indicator

The following indicators will be used to evaluate the performance of the hub:

- **Number of entities** which have used the European Digital Innovation Hubs' **services, by user category** (businesses of different sizes, public sector entities, etc.), **sector, location, by technology and type of service received** (test-before-invest, training, access to finance, networking)
- Specific sub-indicators have to be proposed when the services are **related to develop and uptake AI solutions, and will include a description of which European AI Innovation Infrastructures have been used** (such as the AI-on-Demand platform) or referred to (such as the AI Factories)
- **Number of entity referral to European AI Innovation Infrastructures**
- For access to finance: amount of additional investments successfully triggered (e.g. through venture capital, bank loan, etc.)
- Number of collaborations foreseen with other EDIHs and stakeholders outside the region at EU level, and description of jointly shared infrastructures / joint investments with other EDIHs

Additional KPIs

A set of additional impact indicators will be collected and analysed with the support of the Digital Transformation Accelerator:

- **Increase in digital maturity** of organizations that have used the services of the EDIH network
 - Digital maturity will be defined on the basis of a questionnaire assessing the categories of digital strategy and readiness, intelligence and automation, data and connectedness, sustainable and human-centric digitalisation
 - EDIHs will administer the questionnaire at the start of the engagement with a client, and later after having delivered services, and report without delay the results to the DTA repository
 - An updated simpler questionnaire is being developed by the Joint Research Centre.
- **Increase in number of companies benefiting from the use of European AI technology**

Expected deliverables

The following **deliverables will be mandatory** for all EDIHs:

- **additional deliverable on dissemination and exploitation**
 - to be submitted in the first six months of the project
 - In exploitation, the proposal will describe how the EDIH ensures sustainability of its operations
(as in Calls 2022-2023)
- **additional deliverable on the economic sustainability** of the EDIH
 - to be submitted 18 months after the start (new)

☐ *Checklist: additional deliverables:*

☐ *latest M6: dissemination and exploitation*

☐ *M18: economic sustainability*

Ethics review and AI systems

- Proposals may have to undergo an ethics review.
 - may be made subject to **specific ethics rules** (which become part of the Grant Agreement in the form of ethics deliverables, *e.g. ethics committee opinions/notifications/authorisations required under national or EU law*)
 - For proposals involving **development, testing, deployment, use or distribution of AI systems**: the ethics review will in particular check compliance with the principles of human agency and oversight, diversity/fairness, transparency and responsible social impact, while the experts performing the technical evaluation will assess the robustness of the AI systems (i.e. their reliability not to cause unintentional harm)
 - EDIHs developing/distributing AI systems
 - EDIHs recommending AI systems from other developers/distributors: describe why it is not applicable

☐ *Checklist: fill the ethics form and justify how you will deal with AI systems*

https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/how-to-complete-your-ethics-self-assessment_en.pdf

Part B – Technical description

1. RELEVANCE

1.1 Objectives and activities

1.2 Contribution to long-term policy objectives, policies and strategies — Synergies

1.3 Digital technology supply chain

1.4 Financial obstacles

2. IMPLEMENTATION

2.1 Maturity

2.2 Implementation plan and efficient use of resources

2.3 Capacity to carry out the proposed work

3. IMPACT

3.1 Expected outcomes and deliverables — Dissemination and communication

3.2 Competitiveness and benefits for society

3.3 Environmental sustainability and contribution to European Green Deal goals

Scope of the proposal in terms of geographical coverage, sectoral coverage, target groups, **services offered**
Includes the **description of services** and facilities foreseen and the **price list** for those services

Relevance for **EU policy objectives**, such as a Europe fit for the digital age, the European Green Deal, etc.
Relevance for **national or regional policy objectives**, including digital & AI strategies, Smart Specialization Strategies
Foreseen collaboration with (e.g.) **European AI Innovation ecosystem**, Enterprise Europe Network, Startup Europe

1.4.1 How the EDIH ensures its funding of the other 50%?
& 1.4.2 how the EDIH triggers co-investments to support clients (SMEs and public administrations) in **overcoming financial obstacles?**

Not applicable

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On which experience is the EDIH based?
(such as previous achievements and learns from past experience to ensure an efficient implementation)

Project plan

Staff and resources available: both as **individual partners** and as a **consortium with complementary expertise & functions**

Reflect on the roles of each partner (beneficiary, affiliated, associated, subcontracted partner)

Part B – Technical description

1. RELEVANCE

- 1.1 Objectives and activities
- 1.2 Contribution to long-term policy objectives, policies and strategies — Synergies
- ~~1.3 Digital technology supply chain~~
- 1.4 Financial obstacles

2. IMPLEMENTATION

- 2.1 Maturity
- 2.2 Implementation plan and efficient use of resources
- 2.3 Capacity to carry out the proposed work

3. IMPACT

- 3.1 Expected outcomes and deliverables — Dissemination and communication
- 3.2 Competitiveness and benefits for society
- ~~3.3 Environmental sustainability and contribution to European Green Deal goals~~

Key Performance Indicators – specific targets in terms of
(e.g.) services and trainings foreseen, customers, collaborations
Communication and outreach measures tailored to the needs of your specific target audiences

Short, medium and long-term effects
How will the target groups **benefit concretely** from the project and what would change for them in terms of their digital maturity
Is there an impact on the society at large?
Please be specific & use the lessons learnt of past EDIH operations!

not applicable (to avoid repetition with sub-criterion 1.2)
[confirmed]

Helpful Links and Information

About DEP

[Digital Europe Programme – WP2025 - Official Call text EDIHs EU/EEA](#)

[FAQ](#)

[Financial Regulation: 2021/694 EUR-Lex | Synergies between shared and direct management funds – Commission notice](#)

About EDIHs

[Knowledge Hub | European Digital Innovation Hubs Network](#)

[\(working with EEN, services best practices, ...\)](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions: EDIH – DMA – DTA - KPI](#)

[Success Stories and Good Practices: Guidelines for EDIHs](#)

About EDIH 2.0 Call

[A one-stop shop for the Call EDIH2.0 EU/EEA, including:](#)

- Webinar 20/02/2025 - [Recording & Slides](#)
- Webinar 21/03/2025 - [Slides](#)
- [FAQ on EDIH 2.0 Call](#)
- [Know your national contact persons](#)

Submit a proposal

[Proposal roles and access rights](#)

[Submit a proposal - IT Guide](#)

[Submit a proposal — Electronic Submission System - Online Manual](#)

[DEP Model Grant Agreement & **Annotated Grant Agreement**](#)

[Online Manual for Funding and Tenders Portal](#)

European AI Innovations Ecosystem

[Web site - Leaflet](#)



CONTACT



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