



# Meeting of the group of Member States dedicated to European Digital Innovation Hubs

in the Digital Europe Programme



Live webinar (it is **not** recorded, to facilitate open discussion)  
You can ask questions through the chat

DG CNECT  
13 September 2022

#DigitalEuropeProgramme

# Welcome and agenda

10:00

- Welcome by Gosia Nikowska
- State of Play on the Network of European Digital Innovation Hubs
- Call 2 of European Digital Innovation Hubs
- Presentation of the Digital Transformation Accelerator
- Best practices discussion:
  - Experience on handling state aid
  - Sharing experience on co-financing EDIHs with RRF, ERDF, ...

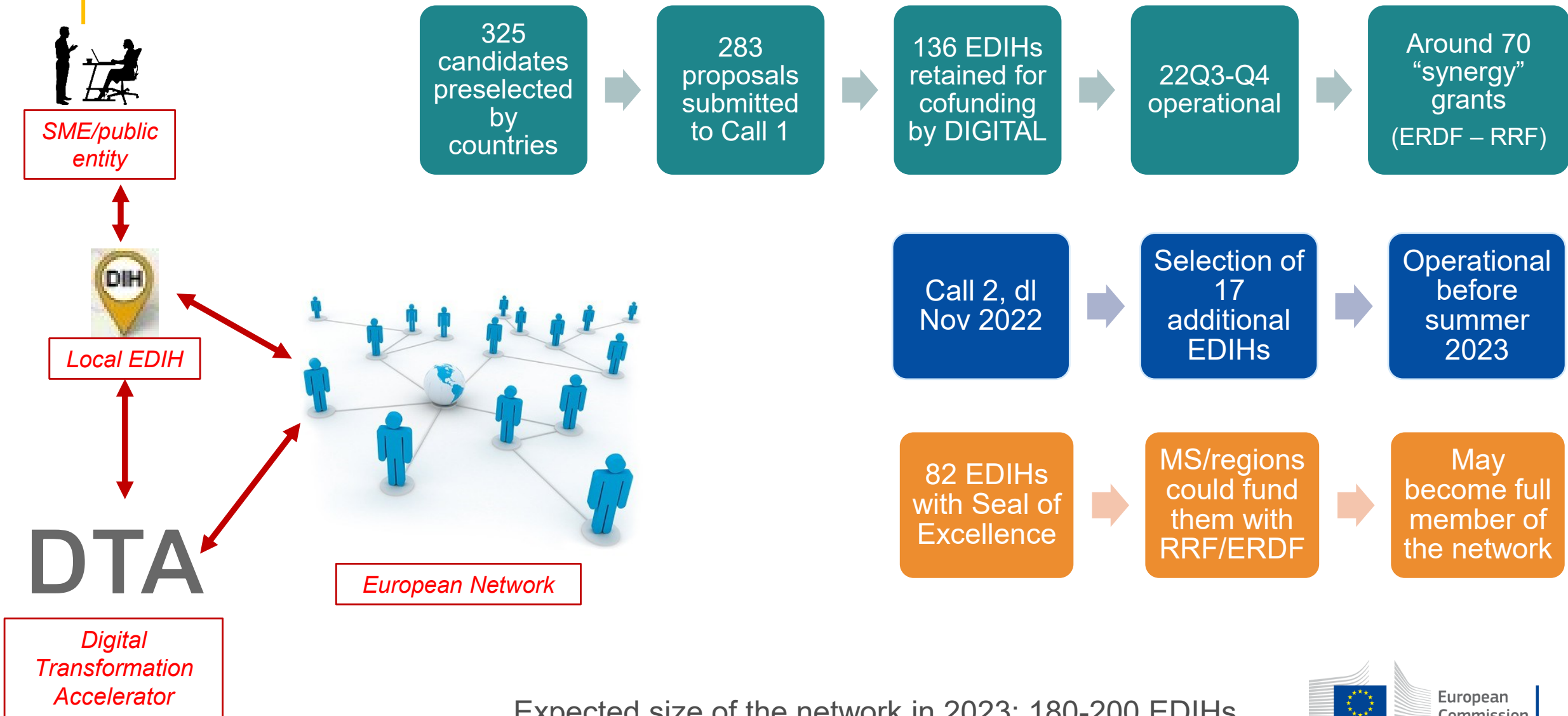
12:30

- Conclusions

A map of Europe and its surrounding regions, including parts of North Africa and the Middle East. The map is overlaid with numerous small blue dots, representing various locations or data points across the continent. The dots are most densely clustered in Western and Central Europe, with some scattered dots in the North Atlantic, the Mediterranean, and the Balkans. The map is presented as a view of a globe, with the Earth's curvature visible at the edges.

# Call 1 State of Play

# Network of European Digital Innovation Hubs



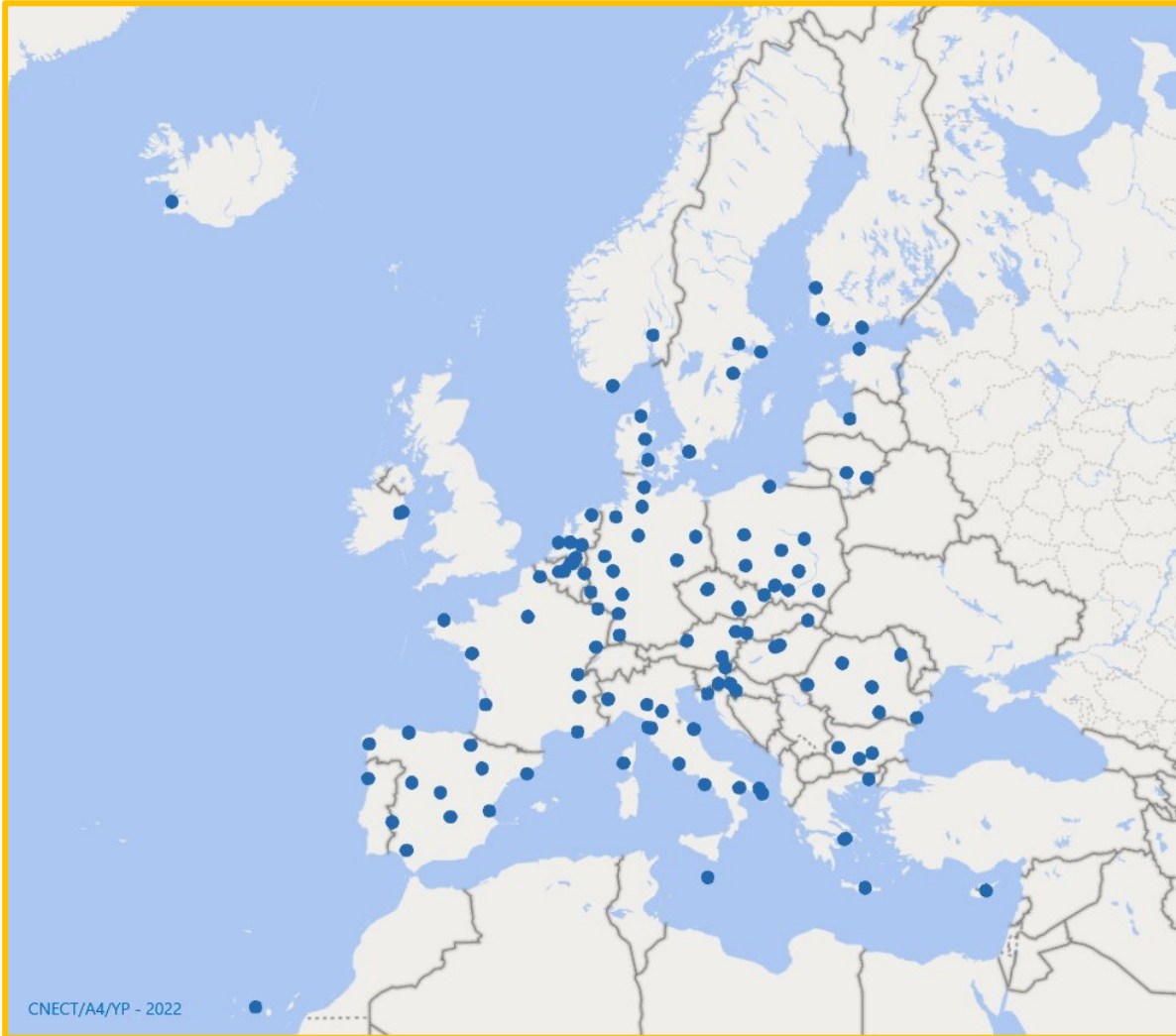
Expected size of the network in 2023: 180-200 EDIHs

Overview of EDIHs in Europe

Country	Budget in DIGITAL for 3 years (in 1 000 EUR)	Nr of hubs proposed	Number of Proposals submitted	Nr to grant agreement preparation	Reserve list	Seal of excellence	Below threshold	Success rate	Extra EDIHs to be funded by the country	Expected Nr of hubs to be funded in the 2nd Call
Austria	8.390	3-6	9	4		3	2	44%		
Belgium	9.273	3-6	11	6		5		55%		
Bulgaria	7.507	3-5	17	4		8	5	24%	8	
Croatia	5.299	2-4	5	4		1		80%		
Cyprus	2.649	1-2	2	1		1		50%		
CzechRepublic	9.273	3-6	6	5	1			83%		1
Denmark	6.182	2-4	5	3	2			60%		2
Estonia	3.091	1-2	1	1				100%		
Finland	6.182	2-4	7	4		3		57%		
France	34.883	12-23	15	10	2		3	67%		5-6
Germany	42.390	14-28	27	14	1	4	8	52%		2-3
Greece	9.273	3-6	13	4		3	6	31%		
Hungary	9.273	3-6	5	3	1		1	60%		2
Iceland	2.123	1	1	1				100%		
Ireland	5.740	2-4	4	2		2		50%	2	
Italy	33.559	11-22	41	13		17	11	32%	17	
Latvia	3.532	1-2	2	2				100%		
Liechtenstein	1.500	1								1
Lithuania	4.857	2-3	3	3				100%		
Luxembourg	2.649	1-2								1
Malta	2.649	1-2	1	1				100%		
Netherlands	12.805	4-9	6	6				100%		
Norway	6.182	2-4	2	2				100%		
Poland	22.961	8-15	25	11		7	7	44%		
Portugal	9.273	3-6	16	3		9	4	19%	6	
Romania	14.571	5-10	10	7			3	70%		1
Slovakia	6.182	2-4	7	4		1	2	57%		
Slovenia	3.532	1-2	3	2		1		67%		
Spain	26.052	9-17	26	12		11	3	46%	5	
Sweden	9.273	3-6	13	4		6	3	31%		
<b>Total</b>	<b>321.105</b>	<b>109 - 212</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>15-17</b>




# Progress

- 136 EDIH grant agreements are progressing well
- Main start dates being 1<sup>st</sup> of October, November, and January
- First grant agreements reached signature stage by EDIHs



# EDIHs Call 1

EDIH by technology (top 3)

-  Artificial Intelligence & Decision support (Sum)
-  High performance computing (Sum)
-  Cybersecurity (Sum)

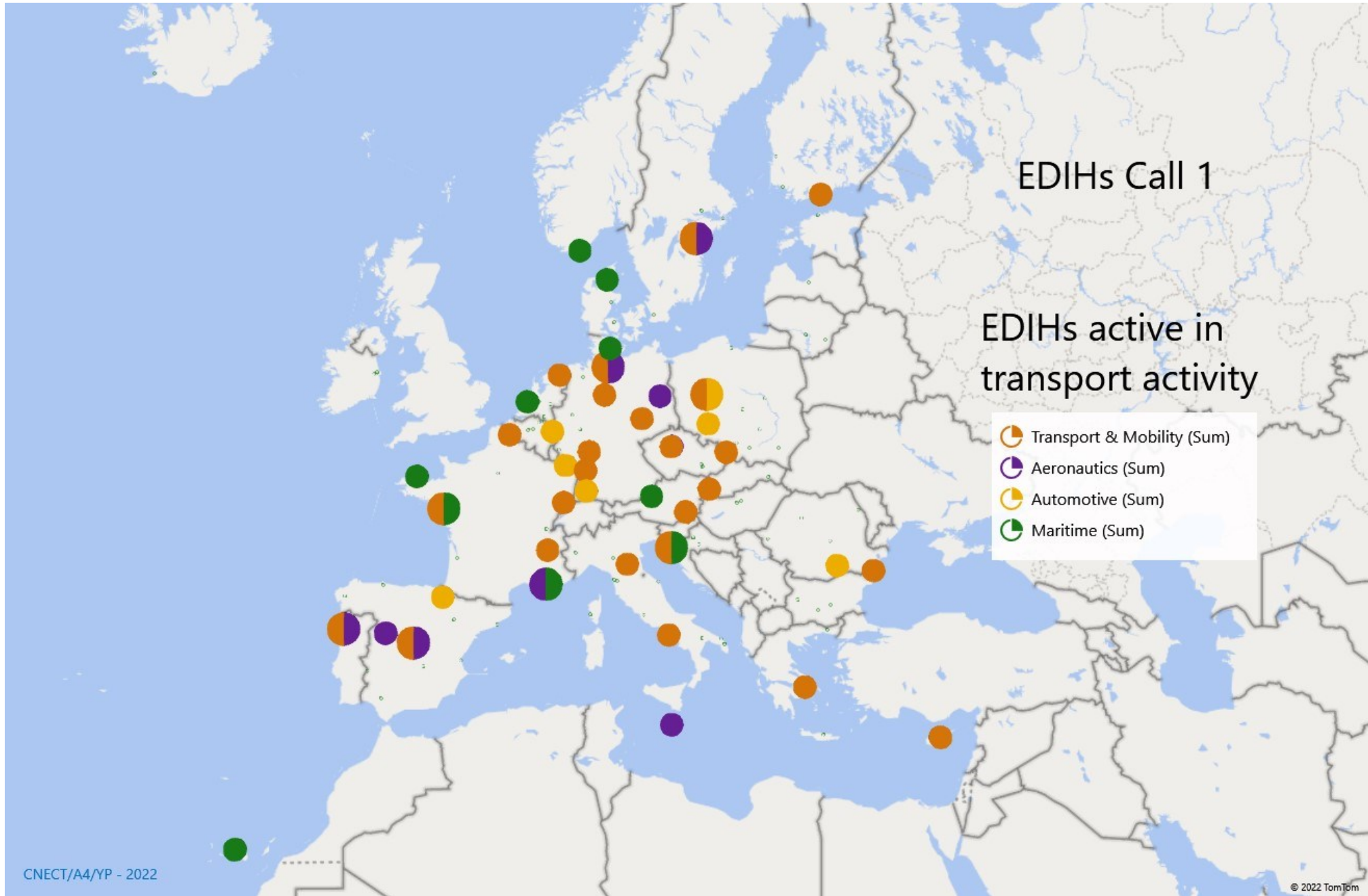
# EDIHs Call 1

## EDIH by sector (top 3)

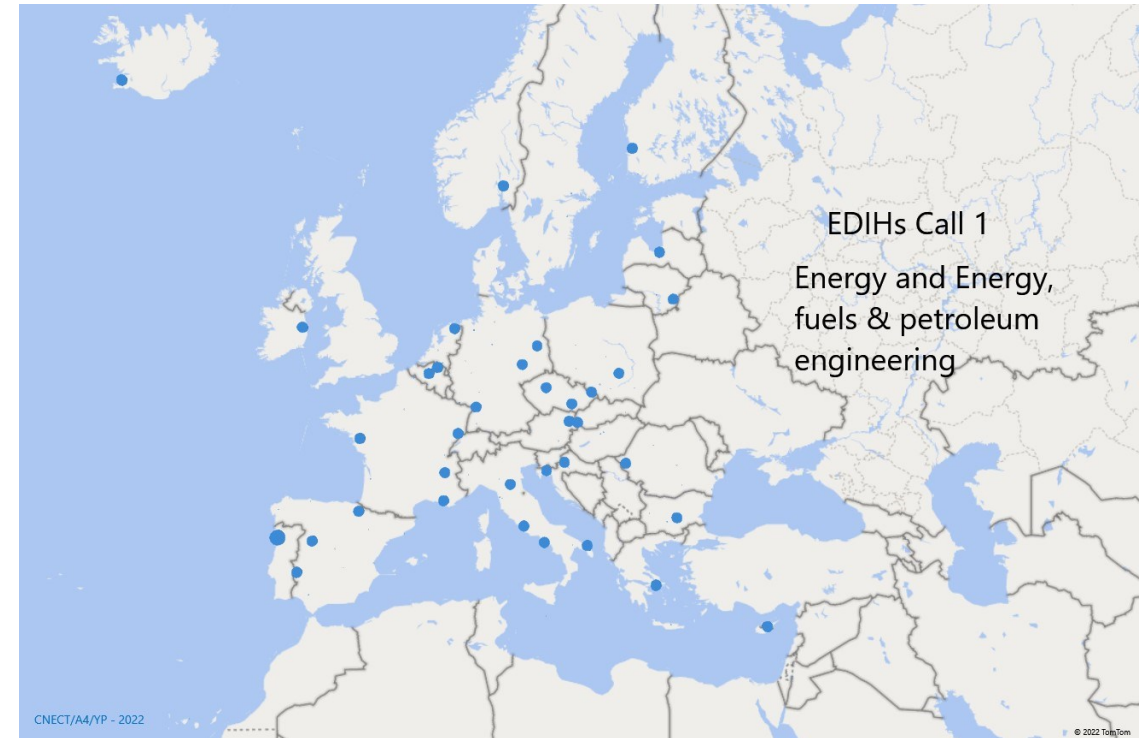
- Manufacturing and processing (Sum)
- Health care (Sum)
- Agricultural biotechnology and food biotechnology (Sum)

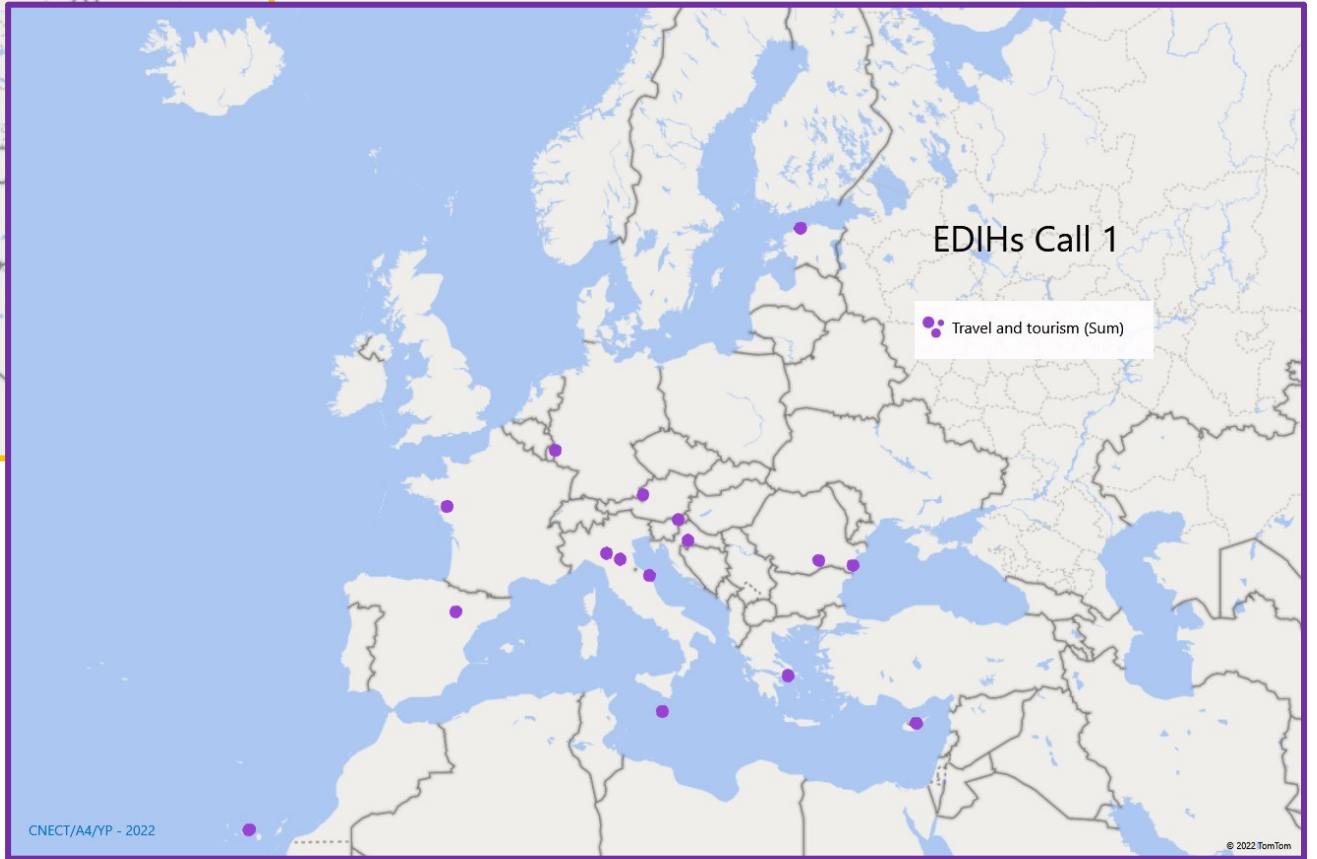






# EDIHs in sectors currently under pressure





A map of Europe and its surrounding regions, including parts of North Africa and the Middle East. The map is overlaid with numerous small blue dots, representing various locations or data points across the continent. The dots are most densely clustered in Western and Central Europe, with some scattered dots in the North Atlantic, Scandinavia, and the Mediterranean region.

## Call 2

# Why a second EDIH call?

(1) DIGITAL budget still available

In some countries, the budget from Digital Europe programme was not fully spent (not enough proposal above threshold), so the **country coverage was not complete**. **This call will allow those potential EDIHs who did not manage to succeed at the first instance to reapply a second time.**

(2) NATIONAL budget still available

Other countries expressed the intention to **fund further hubs using National budget**, on condition that they are evaluated above threshold (Seal of Excellence). **In this second call, a Seal of Excellence will be awarded to the proposals that will be evaluated above threshold, even if no budget is available in Digital Europe Programme for the country.**

# From the (2<sup>nd</sup>) call document

The selection of the EDIHs will follow a two-step process: first, an Expression of Interest will request **Member States to designate potential EDIHs** through a national process, and secondly the European Commission will launch two restricted calls for proposals in which only designated potential EDIHs are eligible to participate. **This will allow those potential EDIHs who did not manage to succeed at the first instance to reapply a second time.** All those entities selected after the two restricted calls will form the Initial Network of European Digital Innovation Hubs.

A **Seal of Excellence** will be awarded to those potential EDIHs that passed the threshold in a call, but which cannot be funded because of lack of budget available in Digital Europe Programme.

If Member States or regions **decide to fund those entities**, once they are in operation they will also be able to use the label “European Digital Innovation Hub” and **will be full members of the network.**

17 “coverage” proposals +  
“Seal of Excellence” proposals  
(total expected: 40-45)

# From the (2<sup>nd</sup>) call document

This second call complements Call 1 and is therefore only opened for:

- 1) Designated potential EDIH for participating countries which have not submitted proposals in the first call namely **Liechtenstein and Luxembourg**; (2 EDIH)
- 2) Designated potential EDIH for participating countries in which the coverage after the first call was not complete, namely:
  - a. **Czechia**: Liberec and Hradec Králové region (1 EDIH)
  - b. **Denmark**: Greater Copenhagen; Southern Denmark on Smart Energy (2 EDIH)
  - c. **Germany**: Bavaria, Sachsen-Anhalt, Thuringen (2-3 EDIH)
  - d. **France**: Normandie, Centre-Val-de Loire, Paris Ile de France, Grand Est, Occitanie, La Réunion. Coverage of the outermost regions of France should be taken into account, if relevant (5-6 EDIH)
  - e. **Hungary**: Artificial Intelligence; High Performance Computing with a maximum EU funding of 875 000€ (2 EDIH)
  - f. **Romania**: Sud-Vest Oltenia (1 EDIH)

3) **Designated potential EDIH aiming at getting the “seal of excellence”**. These proposals will **not receive any funding of Digital Europe Programme**, but their countries have the intention to support them with national funding. With the Seal of Excellence they will have the possibility to become full members of the EDIH network. EDIHs which have already received a Seal of Excellence after the first call do not need to reapply. This possibility is open for: Bulgaria, Italy, Portugal, Poland, Spain and Sweden.



# Advice for EDIH that will resubmit

You can encourage the EDIH that will resubmit to:

- Read carefully the **ESR**
- **Improve the proposal** to address the comments in the ESR
- Take advantage of the increased size limit (70-page) to provide **further details**, but be **concise and concrete**

## Member States experts

Member States have been asked to confirm or renew the national experts who will support the Commission and experts in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Call evaluation

Please send to [CNECT-DIH@ec.europa.eu](mailto:CNECT-DIH@ec.europa.eu)

the list of new experts by **16/9** at the latest

# Funding of EDIH with the Seal of Excellence

EDIHs with the “Seal of Excellence” will not be funded by the European Programme but might receive funding from the National Recovery Plan, Regional Funds, ...

- Proposals submitting to Call 2 for the Seal of Excellence have to use the same criteria as in Call 1 (so, **no need to “adapt” the proposal**). the source of funding will not be considered for the evaluation, as it is outside of the control of the EC.
- Proposals will have to briefly explain where public funding will come from (e.g., National Recovery Plan), and if public funding does not cover 100% of the costs, they will have to **explain how to be financially sustainable** (e.g. private investment, SMEs paying part of the services’ costs, etc.)
- If you do not know yet whether you can finance all the national EDIHs with public funding, ask the proposals to develop flexible funding scenarios relying on external sources of finances.

# Timeline DIGITAL-2021-EDIH-03

## • Call 2 – for designated entities

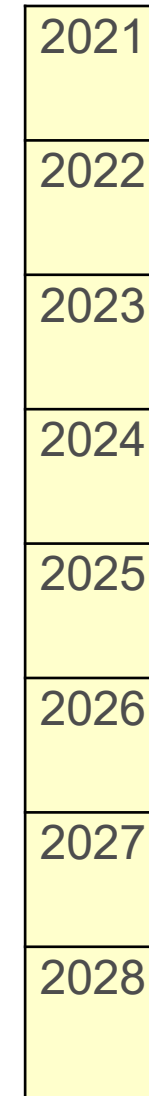
- Open: 29 September – 16 November
- Evaluation: 21 November to 16 December 2022
- Information on evaluation results: January 2023
- Signature of the grant agreements: April 2023 to summer 2023

Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
Jan 2023
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun

**Timeline is very compressed**  
**The call will stay open only 7 weeks**

# Timeline – the entire programme

- Call 1 EDIH operational (36-month contract) →
- Call 2 EDIH (36-month contract) →
- Call 3 EDIH (36-month contract), probably not needed
- **NEW 2024/2027 WORKPROGRAMME**  
(financial commitment not yet available)
- Call 2024 EDIH (48-month contract) →



## **Continuity!**

Under the future workprogramme, a new call will be setup. All hubs in the initial network will be invited to submit a new proposal for another 4-year grant. Detailed information will be available after the financial commitment

# Ensuring delivery

# Regular KPI feed & monitor

- The Digital Transformation Accelerator will ensure KPI collection of the digital maturity
  - (more on this in David Vidal's presentation)
- Contractual monitoring after 1 ½ year and after 3 years
  - Commission assess performance of the EDIH against grant objectives, possibly involving external experts. Costs are reviewed, and cleared against achievements. The process is open to Member States and funding organisations. They can use the result of the Commission assessment or organise another review to clear the achievements.

A map of Europe is shown on a light blue globe. The map is white with black outlines for countries and major cities. Numerous small blue dots are scattered across the European continent, representing various locations. The dots are more densely packed in Western and Central Europe and more sparse in Northern and Eastern Europe. A white rectangular box is overlaid on the left side of the map, containing the text "Thinking ahead" in blue.

**Thinking  
ahead**



# Connecting ecosystems: 2 points in case

## • Artificial Intelligence

- 75% EDIHs with (some) AI expertise
- ~ 60 EDIHs with partners that are also part of AI initiatives (AI-on-demand platform, Network of Excellence, R&I projects. Testing&Experimentation Facilities yet to come)
- ~ 20 EDIHs without common partners in AI initiatives

## • High Performance Computing

- ~ 50 EDIHs with partners that are also HPC CC
- ~ 40 EDIHs with knowledge on HPC
- ~ 40 EDIHs with no knowledge on HPC

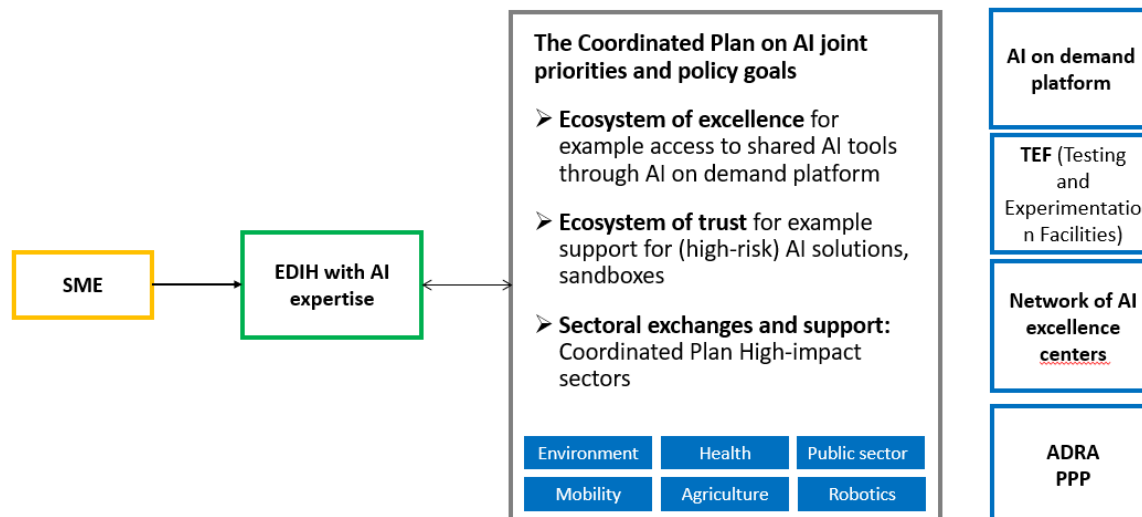
Launching an early reflection on Call-1 EDIHs... to be continued

# Collaboration AI European ecosystems - EDIH

In order to reach out to all SMEs that can benefit from AI

## AI European ecosystems

- AI-on-demand platform, Network of Excellence, R&I projects, AI Act, possible national sandbox, ...
- Testing&Experimentation Facilities on AI: *soon (early 23)*
- Make available tools, solutions, services, infrastructures ... to researchers, innovators, startups mainly



## EDIHs

- Mix of generalists and AI specialists (technology/sector)
- One stop shop for digital transformation at regional level
- Mix of services, from basic training to advanced technology deployment
- “At least one EDIH per country with AI expertise”

→ Selection and task list for presentation/discussion at the high-level meeting of the group of MS early December

# Collaboration HPC CC- EDIH

In order to reach out to all SMEs that can benefit from HPC

## HPC CC

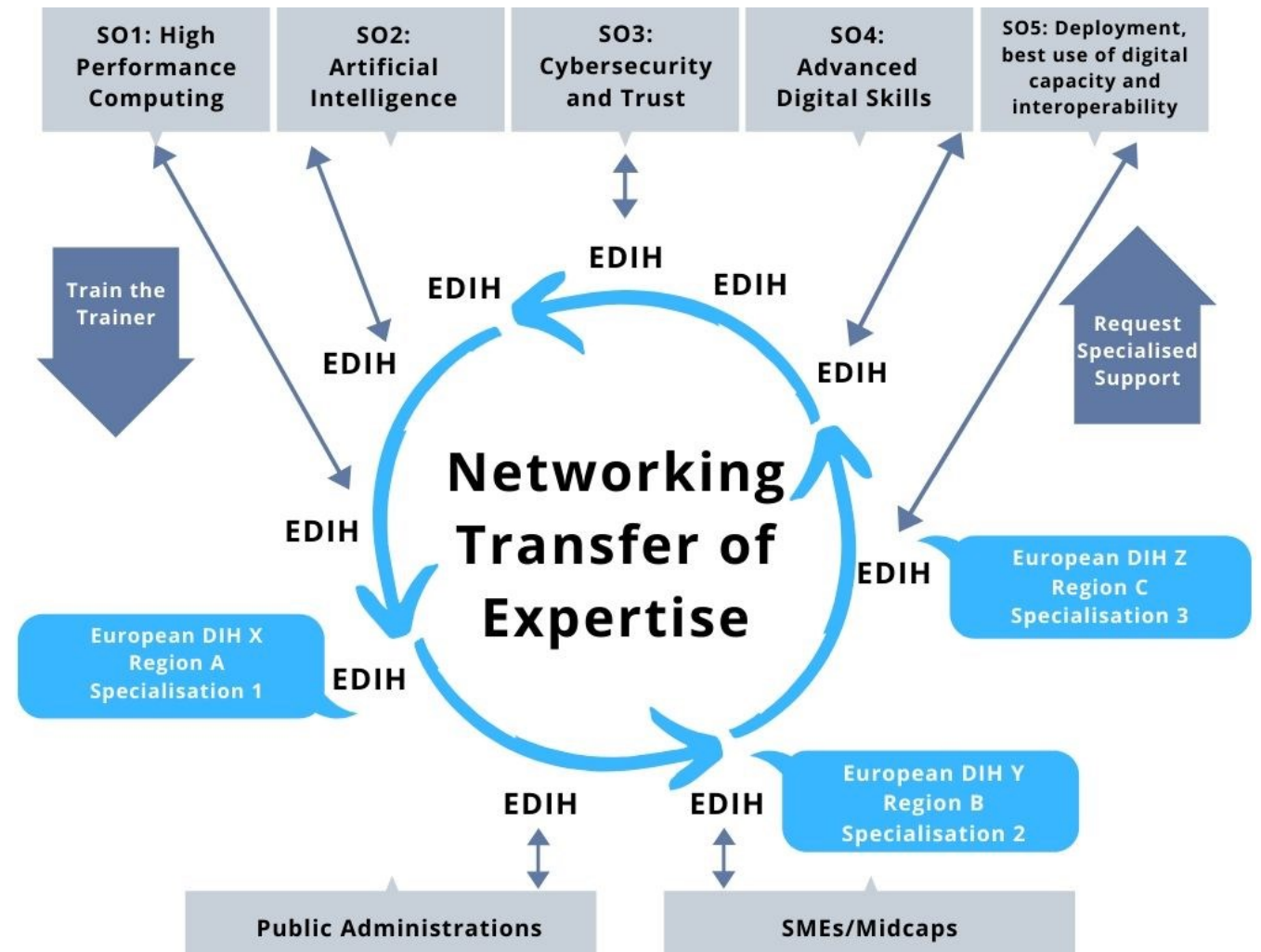
- Specialists, around 33 in Europe
- Make available services, tools, solutions, etc
- Work with the 80 EDIHs that have competences on HPC. They will support the HPC center in their outreach to SMEs and they might develop common services for SMEs.
- Will also train EDIHs with less competences in HPC what they need to know to identify needs of SMEs.
- Will participate as **trainer** to the “train the trainer” workshops which will be organised by Digital Transformation Accelerator that supports the network of EDIH.

## EDIHs

- Generalists, very soon 136 in Europe
- One stop shop for digital transformation at regional level: with among other things information, pointing to added value of using HPC, facilitating towards EU projects, etc
- Raise HPC awareness at regional level
- If sufficient HPC Competences: provide HPC services, also using the services made available by the HPC CC
- If the service cannot be provided by an EDIH, the customer should be referred to a hub with expertise on HPC (one of the 95) or to the HPC CC
- Give feedback to HPC CC on how SMEs used their services, suggestions for improvement
- Basic training offerings for end users

# Networking - ensure the best use of DIGITAL capacities

- EDIHs will act as a **multiplier** and **widely diffuse** the use of all the digital capacities built up under the different specific objectives of DIGITAL.
- Networking is organised by the Digital Transformation Accelerator





**Questions?**

# Information sources

List of the hubs selected in Call 1 <https://europa.eu/!Xckxyj>

Webinars on EDIH <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/cycle-workshops-european-digital-innovation-hubs>

Work Programme 2021-2023 <https://europa.eu/!GcRDpB>

General Model Grant Agreement for the Digital Europe programme <https://europa.eu/!nxBvji>

Annotated Model Grant Agreement <https://europa.eu/!4KGHKX>

List of contact persons in Member States: <https://europa.eu/!4wvBnq>

Online Manual for the “Funding & tender opportunities” portal <https://europa.eu/!3fnFgG>

FAQ and other guidance documents <https://europa.eu/!Xu37yW>

Specific guidance for EDIH-EEN-Clusters cooperation <https://europa.eu/!gvWyWP>



# **The Digital Transformation Accelerator**

*David Vidal*



# Observations & Best Practices

*Cliona Hickey*





# Observations & Best Practices

*Dr Paola Martini*



# Observations & Best Practices

## *Pedro Cilinio*



# Observations & Best Practices

## *Eva Curto*



# Conclusions



# Thank you!

## Contact:

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

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