



NCP_WIDE.NET Talks

“European Digital Innovation Hubs & Widening Participation”

Online Event, 7th September 2020, 10.00 to 11.30 CET

Concept

Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation is a horizontal pillar enshrined in Horizon 2020. In its successor programme Horizon Europe, it evolves into a widening package, with increased budget and promising impact. It encompasses a variety of capacity–building and networking measures destined mainly at research-based institutions of low performing R&I countries. The widening package aims to bridge the disparity in R&I performance amongst EU member states. It is closely linked to strengthening the ERA and therefore European innovation ecosystems.

Digital transition is key to Europe’s competitiveness and its transition into climate neutrality. In light of the next MFF 2021-2027 and through the **Digital Europe Programme**, Europe will be investing in strategic digital capacities and facilitate the deployment and adoption of digital technologies by citizens, business and public administration. One of the instruments of Digital Europe Programme, the **Digital Innovation Hubs (DIHs)** will be instrumental in the fulfillment of this goal.

Currently, EU companies and public organisations are not making the most out of digital opportunities. The level of digitization across the EU is uneven and varies according the organization’s size, sector and location. **Digital Innovation Hubs** in their capacity as innovation centers and one-stop shops will accelerate the uptake of digital technologies by SMEs and public organisations, ensuring that every organization, irrespective of size, sector and location fully exploits the benefit of digital innovation. Therefore, **DIHs** and the **Widening Package** underpinned by the inclusiveness element can have a synergistic effect to the benefit of the **European Research Area**.

In this respect, the NCP_WIDE.NET project organises an online event “**Digital Innovation Hubs & Widening Participation**” bringing together different actors that contribute to digital transformation of regions through Digital Innovation Hubs. The aim of the event is to highlight contribution to this initiative from two types of EU-funded projects namely a Teaming-2 project under Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation as well as dedicated DIH project funded under other parts of Horizon 2020.





Event Agenda

MODERATOR: Luca Marsili, NCP Support Team, APRE EU Liaison Office

Time	Subject	Speakers
10:00 - 10:05	<i>Introduction by Gianluigi Di Bello</i> , Head of APRE EU Liaison Office, EU Horizon 2020 National Contact Point, Future and Emerging Technologies, Access to Risk Finance - Spreading excellence	
10:10 - 10:25	Widening Participation and Spreading Excellence in Horizon Europe and its contribution to the European Research Area	Katarzyna Walczyk-Matuszyk , Deputy Director, National Contact Point for Research Programmes of the EU, Institute of Fundamental Technological Research Polish Academy of Sciences
10:25 – 10:40	Digital Innovation Hubs and Widening aspects	Anna PUIG-CENTELLES , Ph.D., Programme Officer, Technologies and Systems for Digitising Industry, DG CONNECT, European Commission
10:40 – 11:00	Building a Digital Innovation Hub (DIH) network based on experience and practice sharing	Sander VAN DER MOLEN , CIVITTA, Coordinator of the EU-funded project BOWI “Boosting Widening Digital Innovation Hubs”.
11:00 – 11:20	A Digital Innovation Hub in a Centre of Excellence	Diofantos HADJIMITSIS , Cyprus University of Technology, Coordinator of EXCELSIOR project
11:20 – 11:30	<i>Concluding remarks by APRE</i>	

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