Digital Innovation Hubs & Widening

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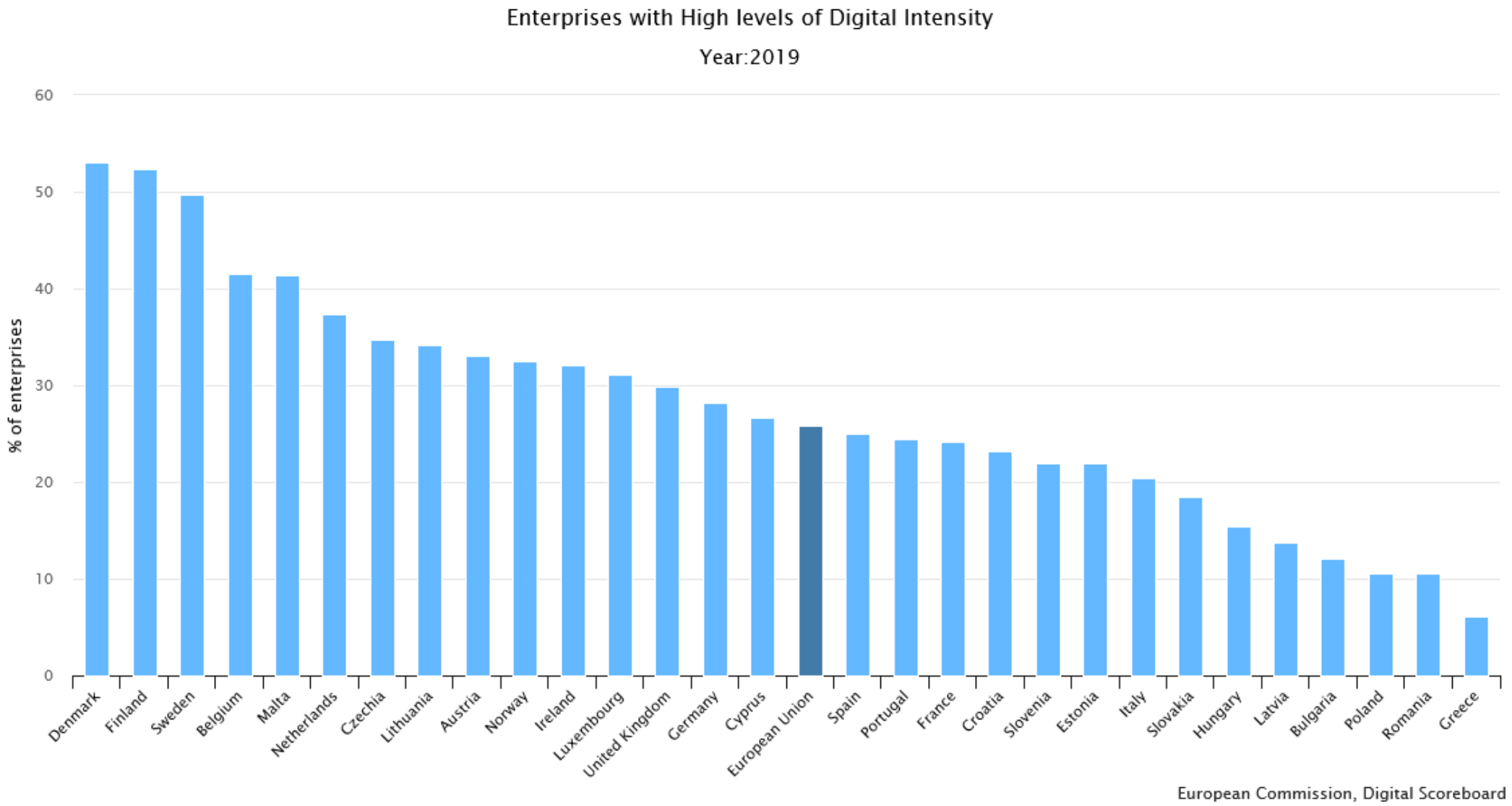
Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation

The interim evaluation of FP7 (November 2010) identified that some Member States, mainly those that joined the EU after 2004, had low participation rates in FP7 projects. Widening actions under the Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation part of Horizon 2020 address the causes of low participation by fully exploiting the potential of Europe's talent pool. It ensures that the benefits of an innovation-led economy are both maximised and widely distributed across the European Union. Synergies with European Structural and Investment funds are an important component.

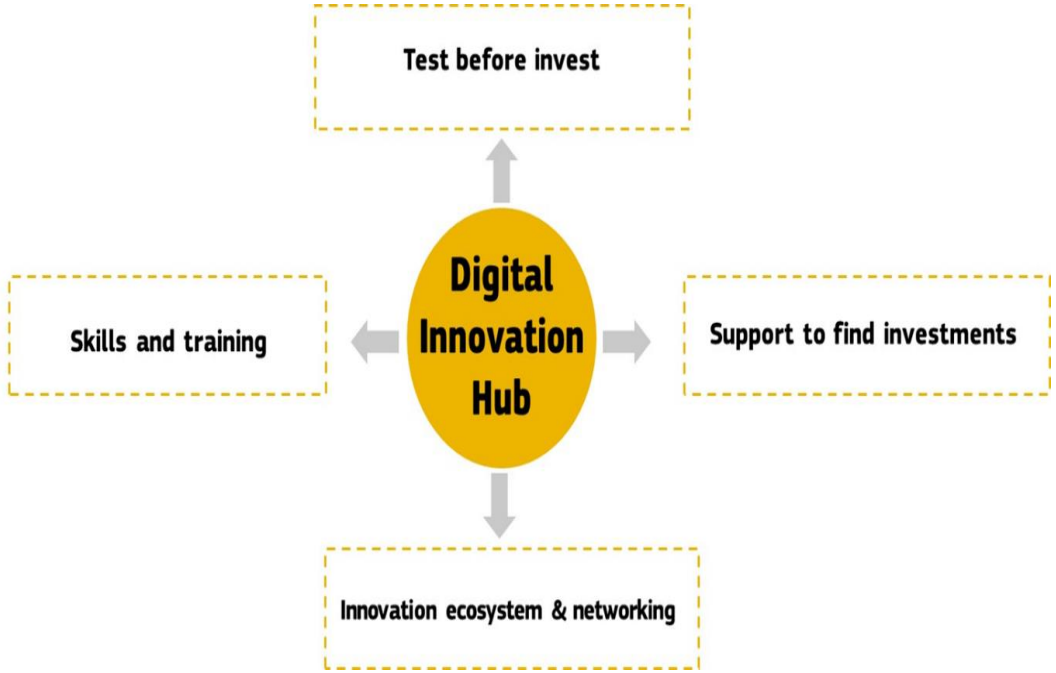
Other widening actions: **Digital Innovation Hubs**

Widening the network of Digital Innovation Hubs to all regions in Europe. Targeted regions are those industrial regions which are so far underrepresented in Smart Anything Everywhere and ICT Innovation for Manufacturing SMEs (I4MS).

Enterprises with high level of Digital Intensity



Digital Innovation Hubs provide technological expertise and experimentation opportunities to enable the digital transformation of the industry and the public sector

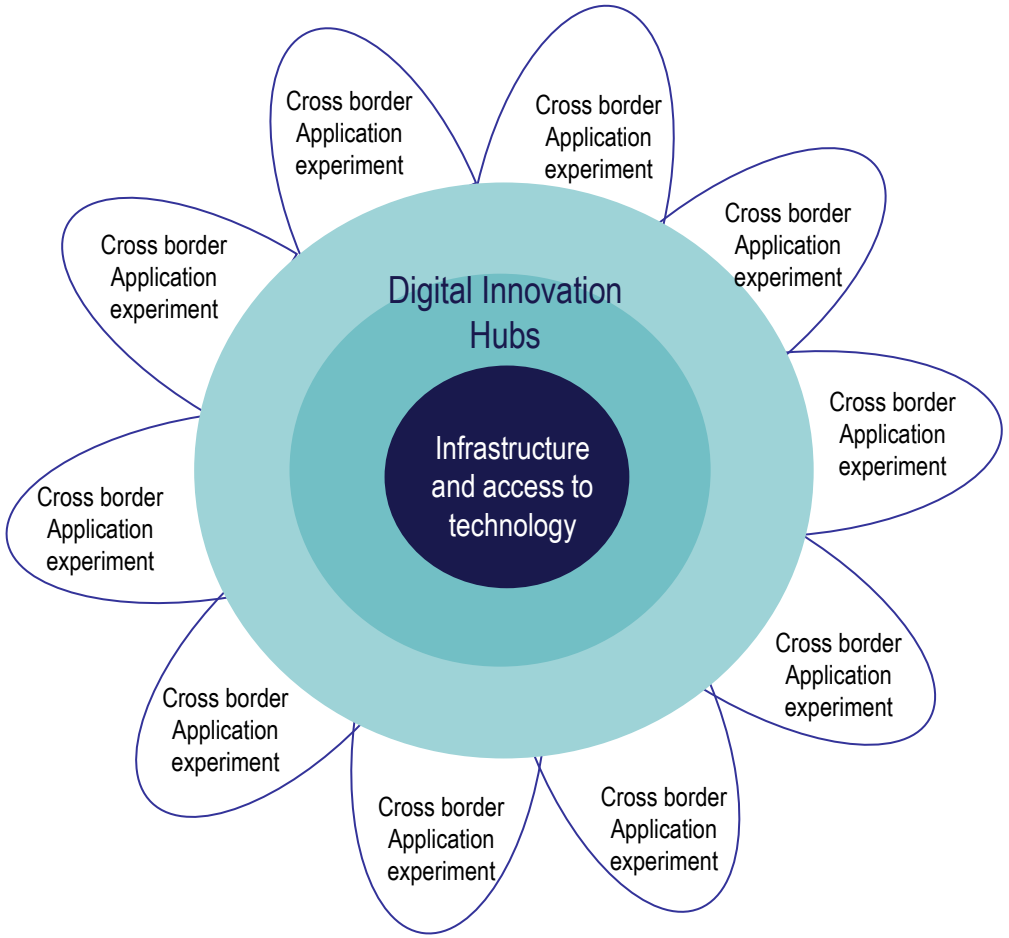


Focus area "Digitising and transforming European industry and services"

- DT-ICT-01-2019: Smart Anything Everywhere
  2 projects selected: BOWI and Smart4All
- DT-ICT-03-2020: I4MS (phase 4) - uptake of digital game changers
  1 project selected: DIHWorld

Total 24 million for DIHs on WIDENING

Critical mass of highly innovative experiments



Develop novel products or services, improve processes with digital technologies.

Bring together actors along value chain.

Suppliers to assist new users in customising and applying digital technologies in their environment

Facilitate cost-effective small-scale production

All proposed innovation actions may involve financial support to third parties (typically in the order of EUR 20000 – 100000 per third party)

DT-ICT-01-2019: SAE

“Smart anything everywhere" stands for the next wave of products that integrate digital technology. The challenge is to accelerate the design, development and uptake of advanced digital technologies by European industry - especially SMEs and mid-caps - in products that include innovative electronic components, software and systems, and especially in sectors where digital technologies are underexploited.

Innovation Actions, Areas

- Cyber-physical and embedded systems
- Customised low energy computing powering CPS and the IoT
- Flexible and Wearable Electronics
- Widening Digital Innovation Hubs: it addresses all three technology areas mentioned above and the technologies addressed in I4MS. It calls for Digital Innovation Hubs in industrial regions which are so far underrepresented in Smart Anything Everywhere and I4MS, and builds upon a mentoring programme developed by I4MS. These hubs should strongly collaborate with other Innovation Actions funded under SAE and I4MS, e.g. through joint highly innovative cross-border experiments

SMART4ALL

Topic: Area 2 - Customised low energy computing powering CPS and the IoT

Objective: To build capacity amongst European stakeholders via the development of cross-border experiments that transfer knowledge and technology between academia and industry. To help South Eastern Europe to find the path to market via new, innovative commercial products.

Experiments: 88 Knowledge and Technology Transfer Pathfinder Application Experiments:

- Knowledge Transfer Experiments (KTEs), which act as internships/traineeships, apprenticeships and short-term training programmes for unemployed people for vacant digital jobs.
- Focused Technology Transfer Experiments (FTTEs) and Cross-domain Technology Transfer Experiments (CTTEs), which are cross-border technology transfer experiments that bring together European companies, social partners, non-profit organizations and education, and intend to bring digital skills to labour force.

Application domains: underrepresented application domains, such as digitized transportation, digitized agriculture,

digitized environment and digitized anything frameworks, especially in relation to CPS

Budget for Open calls: 2.264.000€ (FSTP)

Consortium: 25 partners from Central, South and Eastern Europe, mainly from geographical areas that are underrepresented in European funding schemes and where is a lack of DIHs to support companies in their digital transformation. Such as: Hungary, Poland, Estonia, Slovenia, Cyprus and from Western Balkans: Albania, Serbia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Kosovo; among others.

Coordinator: Technological Educational Institute of Western Greece

BOWI

Topic: Area 4 - Widening Digital Innovation Hub

Objective

- To create a DIH widening network that supports the collaboration of new DIHs in regions where SAE and I4MS technologies are underrepresented and well-established DIHs that are highly experienced in these technologies.

Experiments: 60 Bottom-up Projects as Cross-border Experiments and 9 Proto-hub Activation Projects.

Application domains: Communication systems, multimedia processing, autonomous driving, HW security, and industrial internet (Industry 4.0)

Budget for Open calls: 4.800.000€ (FSTP)

Consortium: 11 partners

Coordinator: UAB Civitta, private company from Lithuania

DT-ICT-03-2020: I4MS

Accelerate design, development and uptake of advanced digital technologies by European industry – especially SMEs and mid-caps. Manufacturing SMEs and mid-caps need support in using secure digital technologies in production processes, products and business models to enable personalised products and to facilitate cost-effective small-scale production.

Innovation Actions, Areas

- Smart modelling, simulation, and optimisation for digital twins
- Laser based equipment in advanced and additive manufacturing
- Innovative Artificial Intelligence in manufacturing
- Cognitive autonomous systems and human-robot interaction
- Widening Digital Innovation Hubs: Experimentation through DIHs in regions which are so far underrepresented in Smart Anything Everywhere and I4MS, building on the work by projects “Smart Factories in new EU Member States” and “DIHELP”. The objective addresses all technology areas mentioned above and the technologies addressed in Smart Anything Everywhere and related areas. The hubs should strongly collaborate with other Innovation Actions funded under the Hubs part of the Focus Area, e.g. through joint highly innovative cross-border experiments.

DIH-World

Topic: “Widening Digital Innovation Hubs “ (5)

Objective

- To support the uptake of advanced technologies by European industry, especially SMEs and mid-caps, most notably in sectors where digital technologies are underexploited

    By enlarging and accelerating the establishment and development of DIHs

    By consolidating and reinforcing the existing DIHs networks and I4MS ecosystem

Experiments: 8 SME-driven starting with the project + >30 in Open Calls

Application domains: metal, textiles, craft industries, construction and agri-food

Budget for Open calls: 4.275.000€ (FSTP)

Consortium: 41 partners from 26 countries - 27 DIHs

Coordinator: CARSA, an SME from Spain

DIHs Catalogue

European Commission

Digital Innovation Hubs

Search

Enter any search term

Countries

None selected

Evolutionary Stages

All selected (3)

Technical Competences

None selected

Services Provided

None selected

Focus on TRL

None selected

Market sectors

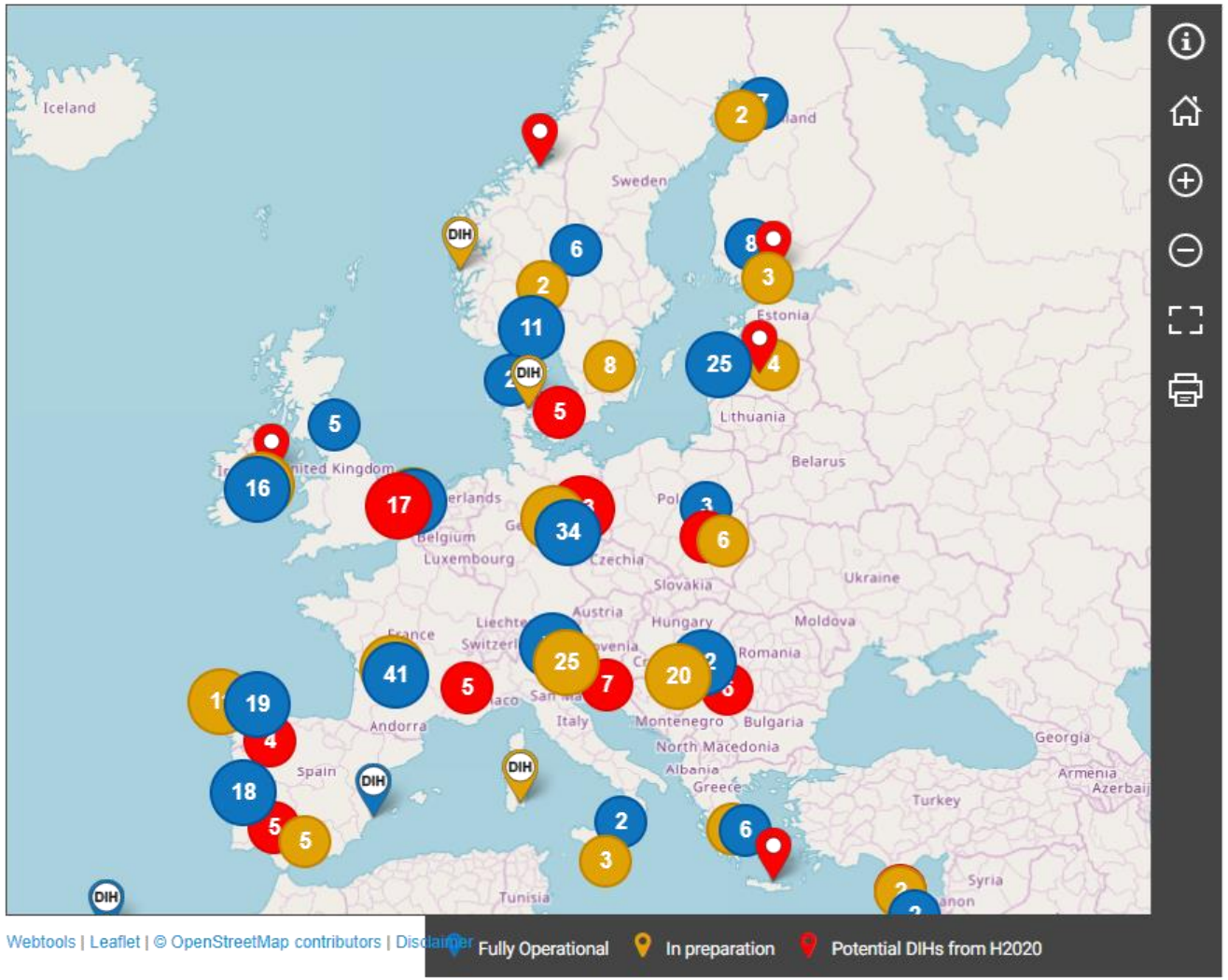
None selected

DIHs in H2020 projects

SEARCH

Contact us in the following email: JRC-B3-DIH@ec.europa.eu

Click on the following link if you want to propose new HUB.



Register to the **DIHNET.EU Community** the **interactive communityof the JRC DIH catalogue**to find more information and to connect with other DIHs.

Funding programmes in the next MFF (2021-2027)

Allocated at European level

Horizon Europe: Support to SMEs and mid-caps to experiment with highly innovative digital technologies in a cross-border setting. European Digital Innovation Hubs and others may apply for these grants, and cascade a large part of the funding to SMEs

Digital Europe: Support to the facilities and personnel of the European Digital Innovation Hubs, to build capacity in Europe to diffuse digital innovations across SMEs and administrations.

InvestEU: Incentives and risk reduction programmes to help companies find follow-up investment to further complete their digital transformation. The work of the digital innovation hubs will diminish the knowledge gap that exists.

Allocated at national level

European Regional Development Fund: Investments allocated by the Member States to build-up or strengthen the Digital Innovation Hubs infrastructures in their territories and reduce the digital divide. ERDF can be used by Member States to co-invest on EDIHs in Digital Europe.

European Agriculture Fund for Rural Development: Investments allocated by Member States to foster knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas. EAFRD can be used by Member States to co-invest on EDIHs in Digital Europe.

Continuation of initiatives like I4MS

More information

Open calls from EU projects on Digital Innovation Hubs: to promote to the stakeholders
https://dihnet.eu/opencalls/

Digital Innovation Hubs
https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/digital-innovation-hubs

Digital Innovation Hubs in Digital Europe Programme: contact persons in the MS and info days
https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/european-digital-innovation-hubs-digital-europe-programme-0

Practical handbook for investing in DIHs
https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/dae/document.cfm?doc_id=66604

Implementation details of European DIHs in Digital Europe Programme
https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/dae/document.cfm?doc_id=62936