European Digital Innovation Hubs

Extension of the network to Associated Countries

Agenda of the meeting

1) Presentation of participants (3min per country)

2) The EDIH initiative

3) Selection process for the EDIHs

4) Next steps – actions from associated countries
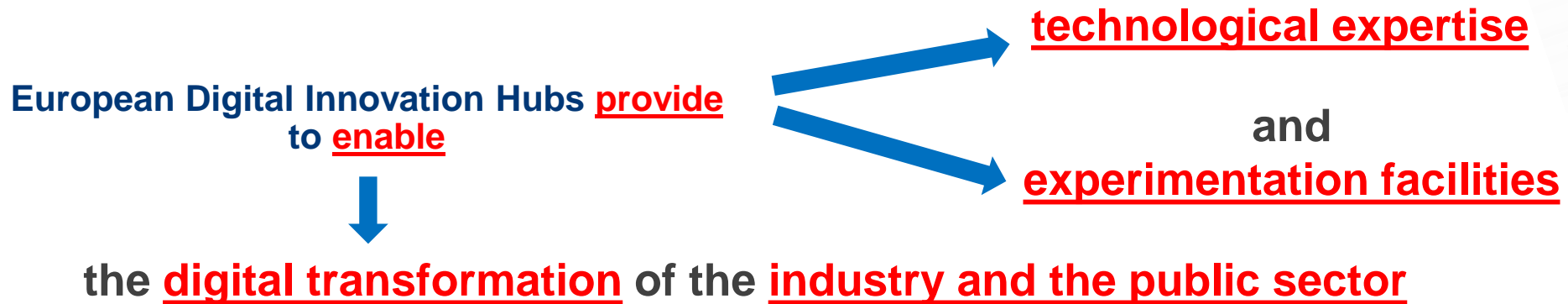
5) Questions and Answers

European Commission

1) Presentation of the participants

Your organization (ministry, agency)

Your role in the organization
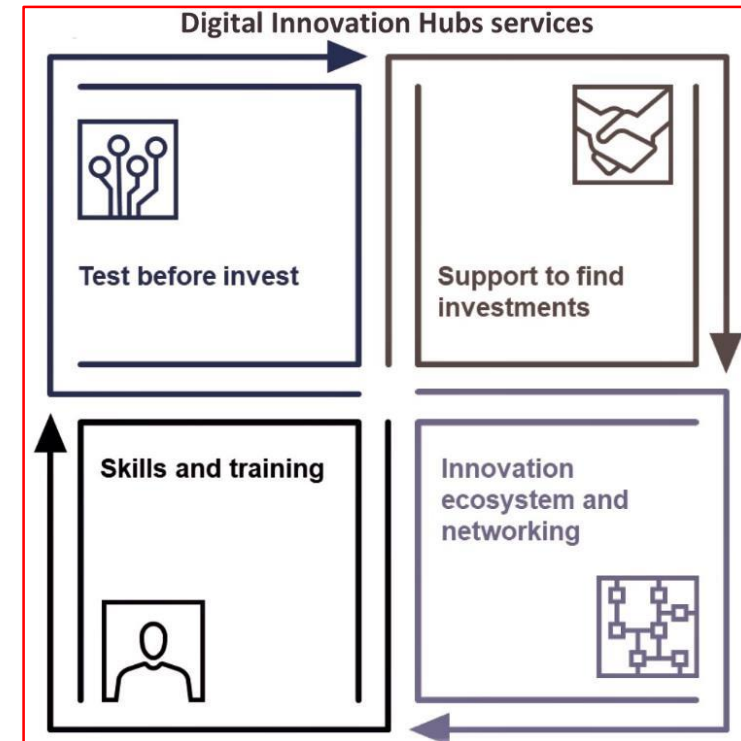
Information on digitalisation needs in your country and ongoing digitalisation initiatives (if any)

2) The EDIH initiative - What is an EDIH?

European Digital Innovation Hubs <u>provide</u> to <u>enable</u>

<u>technological expertise</u>

and

<u>experimentation facilities</u>

the **<u>digital transformation</u>** of the **<u>industry and the public sector</u>**

Typical participants:

- **Research and Technology Organisations, Technical Universities**
- *In collaboration with:*
    - **Industry associations**
    - **Clusters**
    - **Enterprise Europe Network**
    - **Accelerators/Incubators**
    - **Innovation agencies**
    - **Vocational training institutes…**

Digital Innovation Hubs services

Test before invest

Support to find investments

Skills and training

Innovation ecosystem and networking

European Commission

EDIH Services

Digital Innovation Hubs services
Test before invest | Support to find investments
Skills and training | Innovation ecosystem and networking

EDIH SERVICES

Offer support for digital transformation which is adapted to local needs, based on a specialisation

Build **regional ecosystems** of users and suppliers, strengthening local innovation environment

Connect to the **whole of Europe through the network**:

- Share best practices with other hubs
- Connect local SMEs to SMEs outside the region, building new value chains in Europe
- Seek synergies with innovators
- Disseminate digital capacities of Digital Europe Programme to local community

EDIH contribute to the country strategy for digitalisation

Given the importance of Artificial Intelligence and its wide applicability in all sectors, the European Commission expects that at least one of the hubs designated in each country will have expertise in AI

European Commission

The network of European Digital Innovation Hubs

The network today includes **EU countries + 3 associated countries** (Norway, Iceland and Lichtenstein)

Other countries have signed an association agreement or are in the process of signing/ratifying it.

Ukraine: **signed and ratified**

Albania / Kosovo / Montenegro / North Macedonia / Serbia / Türkiye : **formal association ongoing**

Bosnia & Herzegovina / Moldova / Georgia : **expressed interest in associating with DIGITAL and negotiations will soon start**

European Commission

EDIH – the network today
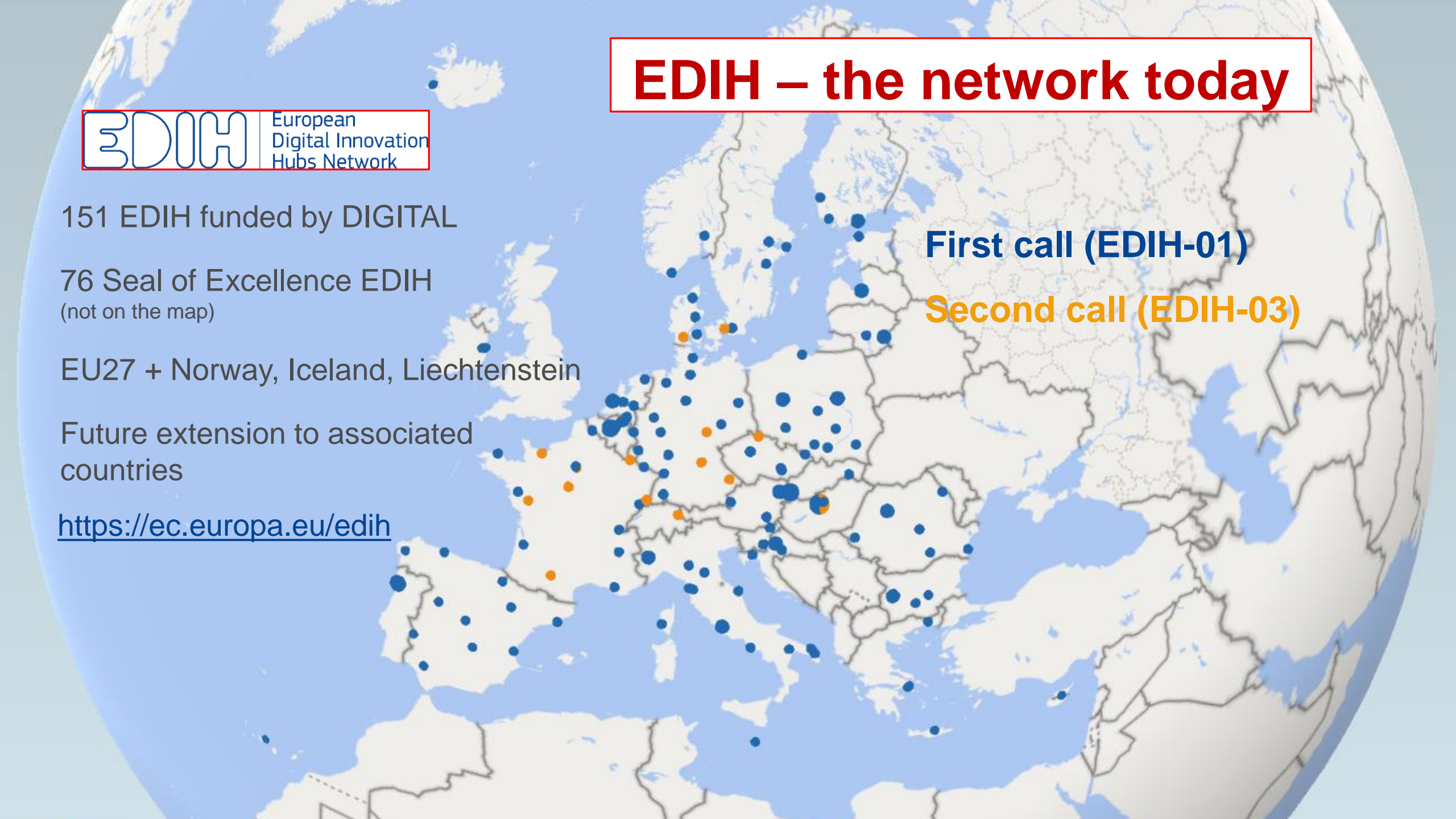
151 EDIH funded by DIGITAL

76 Seal of Excellence EDIH
(not on the map)

EU27 + Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein

Future extension to associated countries

https://ec.europa.eu/edih

First call (EDIH-01)

Second call (EDIH-03)

The structure of an EDIH

An EDIH can be organised in different ways:

- One single entity or a small consortium

- A new consortium or a pre-existing hub

Examples from https://european-digital-innovation-hubs.ec.europa.eu/edih-catalogue/

AIR-Andalusia	**Tuscany X.0**	**ENTIRE**
Coordinator: non-profit foundation	Coordinator: network of local companies	Coordinator: research institute
Partners: industry association, universities, private companies, chamber of commerce, municipality	Partners: industry association, universities, private companies, research institution, non-profit foundation	Partners: university, vocational training institution

The network of European Digital Innovation Hubs

We are working to open a call in early 2024 for associated countries.

If by that time not all the countries will be ready, we will open a further call later on.

Let's be as fast as possible, but not faster

Funding and number of EDIHs

Country	Budget 2024 - 2027	Number of EDIHs
Albania	0,5 M€	1
Kosovo	0,5 M€	1
Montenegro	0,5 M€	1
North Macedonia	0,5 M€	1
Serbia	1 M€	1
Türkiye	3 M€	3
Ukraine	3 M€	3
TOTAL	**9 M€**	**11**

Budget must be allocated (Grant signed) by the end of 2024

European Commission

3) Selection process for the EDIHs

Member States / Associated Countries	European Commission	Candidate Entities
Propose candidate entities		

Countries have to organize an open and transparent process to select potential EDIHs

*They will inform the EDIHs with a **designation letter, and inform the Commission of the entities coordinating the designated EDIHs***

December 2023 (or earlier)

Selection process for the EDIHs

Member States / Associated Countries	European Commission	Candidate Entities
Propose candidate entities		
	Issues a restricted call for proposals	

Jan/Feb 2024 (or earlier)

From the Workprogramme text:

The selection of the EDIHs will follow a two-step process: first, an Expression of Interest (see topic 1.1) will request Member States to designate potential EDIHs through a national process, and secondly the European Commission will launch two restricted calls (see topic 1.2) for proposals in which only designated potential EDIHs are eligible to participate.

European Commission

Selection process for the EDIHs

Member States / Associated Countries	European Commission	Candidate Entities
Propose candidate entities		
	Issues a restricted call for proposals	
		Submit proposals

Call deadline: April 2024

How to submit a proposal? see the Online Manual for the "Funding & tender opportunities" portal
https://europa.eu/!3fnFgG

We will organize preparatory webinars starting in 4th quarter 2023

European Commission

Selection process for the EDIHs

Member States / Associated Countries	European Commission	Candidate Entities
Propose candidate entities		
	Issues a restricted call for proposals	
		Submit proposals
	Evaluates proposals with external experts	
	Ranks proposals balancing geographical, technological and sectoral coverage	

June 2024

EDIH are supposed to be a tool to implement the country digitalisation strategy, so experts will evaluate the proposals on the basis of standard criteria (relevance, implementation, impact) but also on the basis of the coherence with the specific digitalisation strategy of the country.

We will ask Associated Countries to name a country expert for the evaluation

European Commission

Selection process for the EDIHs

Member States / Associated Countries	European Commission	Candidate Entities
Propose candidate entities		
	Issues a restricted call for proposals	
		Submit proposals
	Evaluates proposals with external experts	
	Ranks proposals balancing geographical, technological and sectoral coverage	
Endorse the ranked proposals		
	Prepares Grant Agreement	

4th quarter 2024

Preparing a grant agreement is time-consuming:
- Registering all participants in the EC database (takes time!)
- Verifying their financial viability (need to provide financial documents!)
- Address recommendations from evaluators (e.g. to fix mistakes)

European Commission

Selection process for the EDIHs

Member States / Associated Countries	European Commission	Candidate Entities
Propose candidate entities		
	Issues a restricted call for proposals	
		Submit proposals
	Evaluates proposals with external experts	
	Ranks proposals balancing geographical, technological and sectoral coverage	
Endorse the ranked proposals		
	Prepares Grant Agreement	
		Sign Grant Agreement
	Issues pre-financing	**Start project**

December 2024

European Commission

Where is the information?

- List of contact persons in Member States and Associated Countries: **https://europa.eu/!4wvBnq**

- Catalogue of European Digital Innovation Hubs: EDIH network web portal
 https://european-digital-innovation-hubs.ec.europa.eu/edih-catalogue

- Recording and presentations from the first EDIH Information Day **https://europa.eu/!qHwwUR** Old but good

- FAQ and other guidance documents **https://europa.eu/!Xu37yW**

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

- Regulation establishing the Digital Europe Programme **https://europa.eu/!KYQMdB**

European Commission

4) Next steps – what is needed?

By Sept.2023 (next meeting):

-**Plan to preselect candidate entities through open and transparent process**

-**Tentative list of candidate entities**

-**3-slide Summary of digitalisation strategy for the country (the template will be sent by email)**

As soon as possible:

- Association agreement signed and ratified

For the evaluation:

-**Propose experts for each country (by Jan2024)**

-**Final list of candidate entities (provide designation letters)**

5) Questions and Answers

For further information please contact:

CNECT-DIH@ec.europa.eu