NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 4/2020

Dear partners and friends of EIT Digital,

Although it looks in Europe like we start getting at least some grip on the COVID-19 pandemic, it is definitely not behind us, there is still a long way to go, and it also becomes more and more clear that the world after COVID-19 will not be the same as before. Also, in EIT Digital we gradually come to grips with the COVID-19 impact and we deploy a variety of mitigation measures. At the same time, I also observe that such challenging times provide energy, fuel creativity and give a particular sense of purpose and relevance to our organisation.

Since our last newsletter, we took many initiatives to alleviate the effects of the pandemic on our organisation and ecosystem. We moved two Brokerage sessions for the EIT Digital Call 2021 online, give practical help to our partners and Accelerator scaleups in their efforts to continue business, succeeded in our virtual recruitment for the Venture Program by almost doubling the applications, kicked-off the 2020 Challenge competition, intensified marketing for the Master School through targeted online campaigns and financial support, decided to move our Summer School on-line, and arrange with our partner universities to conduct master programs online during autumn. Furthermore, we work with the EIT and the other KICs on the creation of an EIT level crisis package to mitigate the pandemic's impact on the EIT and KICs community.

And at EU level we actively supported the EUvsVirus Hackathon that took place last weekend. We are very proud that a team of EIT Digital Master School students won in the largest category 'Health and Life'. An excellent contribution from our community to fight COVID-19. And we do much more! The contributions of EIT Digital partners and alumni to combat the crisis feature prominently in the media!

The SARA robotic assistant for elderly care was covered by the BBC and Belgian partner Rombit's social distancing solution for Antwerp Port received international media attention. Two other concrete examples for the power of innovation to solve real-world problems by our EIT Digital community! Finally, this weekend, May 1-3, we ran our online DeepHack 'Data against COVID-19', yet another contribution to fight COVID-19 and future epidemics and pandemics.

With that, I wish you continued strength, thank you for the energy, creativity and engagement to our community, and ask you once more to stay safe and take care of each other.

Willem Jonker
CEO, EIT Digital

Deep Tech scaleups: apply now to the EIT Digital Challenge 2020!

European fast-growing startups in digital technologies are invited to take part in the 2020 edition of the flagship competition to win international growth support. The best five companies will receive prizes totalling €350,000 in cash and in kind. The application deadline is 7 June 2020.

Read more

Elderly care in times of social distancing: BBC features SARA robotic assistant

A great example of how EIT Digital-supported innovations are having a positive societal impact: SARA, a robotic assistant initially developed as part of one of our Innovation Activities (now a startup), was featured by the BBC as one of the technologies helping elderly people stay in touch during the coronavirus pandemic.

Watch the video

Electronic wristbands keep workers safe from virus

EIT Digital Accelerator alumnus Rombit signed a deal with the Port of Antwerp. Smart wristbands developed by the Belgian scaleup will help port workers maintain social distancing by giving warning signals if they get too close. In the future, a contact tracing functionality could also be added, allowing health officials to establish if an employee has been in touch with an infected person.

Read more

Unus Terra, a serious game from Finland, wins top prize at the EIT Digital DATA against COVID-19 DeepHack
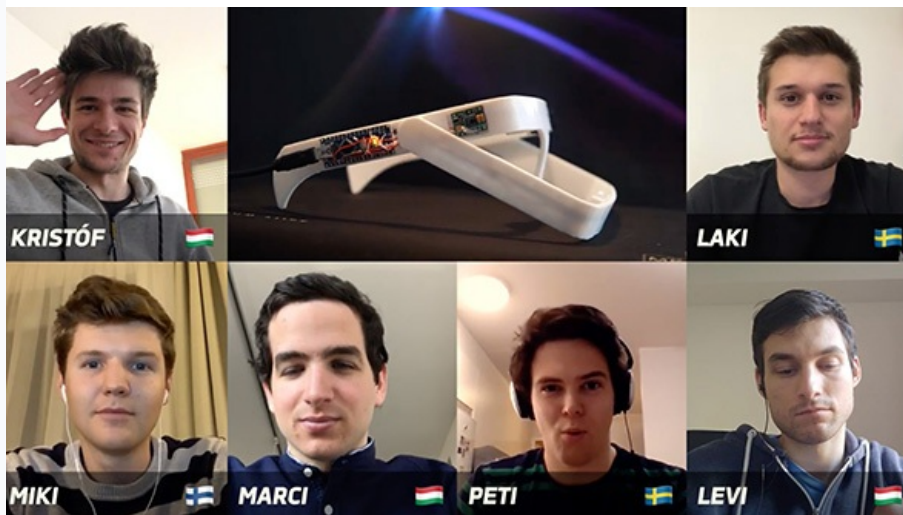

From 1-3 May, EIT Digital organised its first ever online DeepHack 'DATA against COVID-19' to develop digital solutions for epidemic and pandemic lifecycle management. The winning team "Unus Terra" from Finland developed a serious game against COVID-19 that stimulates behavioural changes in the real world by leveraging persuasive design principles. The second prize went to "Service coverage and capacity management", a tool to visualize and access ICU beds, and the third prize went to "AI-APP for COVID-19", an app to assess the risk of viruses spreading at events.

Read more

EIT Digital Master school students win #EUvsVirus hackaton with COVID-19

solution

A team of EIT Digital Master School students has won the EU hackathon #EUvsVirus with a unique COVID-19 solution: a 3D printed remote monitoring device that helps nurses to safely monitor multiple patients at the same time.

Read more

EIT Digital Entrepreneurship Academy ensures its unique education experience

Classrooms are empty. Teachers teach online. Students follow lectures from a distance via computer screens. COVID-19 has accelerated school systems applying online learning. "Our students have not lost a single part of their education", says Roberto Prieto, head of the EIT Digital Entrepreneurship Academy.

Read more

'Fighting pandemics with AI and Big Data' - Virtual panel debate on 13 May!

JOIN THE EVENT!
USING AI AND BIG DATA TO
FIGHT PANDEMICS –
NOW AND IN THE FUTURE

13 MAY 21:00-22:00 CEST,
ONLINE

EIT Digital is supported by the EIT,
a body of the European Union

Tracking outbreaks, diagnosing the virus and developing vaccines are just some of the areas where AI and big data can make essential contributions. Join us on 13 May for a transatlantic virtual panel debate to discuss the state of play, necessary investments and, not at last, privacy considerations.

Read more and register

Open Vacancies

- **Co-Location Centre Manager** (Budapest, Hungary)
- **Head of Human Resources** (Brussels, Belgium)
- **IT Specialist** (Brussels, Belgium)

Read more

Events

Virtual Seminar: Business Development (Budapest)
May 11-15, 2020

Using AI and Big Data to Fight Pandemics - Now and in the Future (Online)
May 13, 2020

Webinar: How to Boost E-commerce Sales, Reduce Costs and Improve Customer Experience with 3D and AR
May 13, 2020

Cyber Investor Days - B2B Matchmaking (Brussels)
May 13-14, 2020

View all upcoming events