



2010 - 2020
CELEBRATE
INNOVATION

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 6/2020

Dear partners and friends of EIT Digital,

We are happy to see that COVID-19 is on the retreat across Europe. The improved situation allows for borders to gradually open and makes cross-border travel possible again. Not only is this good news for EIT Digital, as it allows us to plan again essential business trips and small-scale events, but also for our desire to enjoy well deserved and hopefully relaxing holidays in these still unusual times.

In this last newsletter before the summer, we update you on the most recent developments.

We proudly launched our Makers and Shapers video journey, featuring the vision of key European players like Nokia's former chairman Risto Siilasmaa, Philips CEO Frans van Houten, Siemens' designated CEO Roland Busch, EU Director-Generals Roberto Viola and Anne Bucher, and EIF CEO Alain Godard on digital innovation and the way forward to a strong digital Europe. Makers and Shapers is an important contribution to inspire entrepreneurs, and engage innovators, investors, and policy makers in Europe's effort to be a major player in digital innovation.

We are also extremely happy to inform you that we can celebrate our 10th anniversary with a 10-fold growth of our ecosystem - from 30 partners in 2010 to over 300 partners today: a testimony to the strength of EIT Digital!

As part of the EIT's crisis response, we were successful to secure additional financial support for selected projects and ventures. We received requests for financial support for almost 10-fold the available budget; another demonstration of our added-value to the ecosystem.

Further acknowledgment of this added value are the record-high numbers of applications for both the EIT Digital Challenge and our Venture Program.

Shortage of digital skills is an important challenge for Europe. And especially in the domain of cybersecurity with the ongoing proliferation of digital technology (accelerated by the current COVID-19 crisis) that increases the exposure to cyber threats. With our entrepreneurial education programs we are contributing structurally to addressing the digital skills shortage in Europe and I am happy that we as EIT Digital can contribute even more extensively at a very early stage to increase digital knowledge with school teachers in order to motivate pupils at an early age to get engaged with technology.

With that I wish you a good holiday season! Relax, stay safe, take care, and see you again in the autumn!

Willem Jonker
CEO EIT Digital

Watch the videos of 20 top Makers and Shapers in our journey through digital Europe



As part of our 10th anniversary, the Makers and Shapers journey features thought leading conversations with captains of industry and high-profile startup executives (the Makers) as well as policymakers from EU Institutions and Authorities (the Shapers). They share their vision on key areas of digital innovation and the way forward to a strong digital Europe.

[Enjoy and share with your networks!](#)

EIT Digital increases ecosystem to over 300 partners



Partnership in EIT Digital appreciates unprecedented interest! Since 2010, our ecosystem grew from 30 partners to nowadays over 300 members from research, industry, and academia. A higher share of SMEs and - with 23 countries - wider geographic spread increased the diversity, inclusiveness and openness of our partnership.

Annual Report 2019 published



Our 2019 Annual Report, titled "Deepen and Scale", sets out EIT Digital's achievements across our pan-European ecosystem in the areas of innovation and entrepreneurial education. The report demonstrates evolution of our organisation, with significant growth of our ecosystem and scaling of our activities.

[Read more](#)

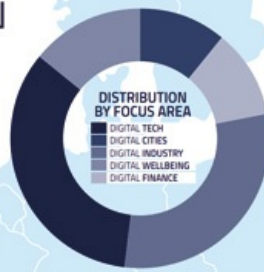
Record high interest in EIT Digital Challenge 2020

THE EUROPEAN CONTEST FOR DEEP TECH SCALEUPS

403 scaleups from 32 countries submitted their digital technologies for the EIT Digital Challenge 2020.

Most applications came from United Kingdom and Germany, followed by France, Italy and Switzerland.

Since its first edition in 2014, the EIT Digital Challenge has attracted over 2,500 deep tech companies from 35 countries.



EIT DIGITAL CHALLENGE



SUBMISSIONS 2020

Albania	Greece	Portugal
Austria	Hungary	Romania
Belgium	Ireland	Serbia
Bulgaria	Israel	Slovenia
Czech Republic	Italy	Spain
Denmark	Lithuania	Sweden
Estonia	Luxembourg	Switzerland
Finland	Malta	Turkey
France	Netherlands	Ukraine
Georgia	Norway	United Kingdom
Germany	Poland	

Submissions	403
Countries	32

Submissions growth YOY +44%

AVERAGE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES	20
AVERAGE REVENUE 2019	€1.1M
AVERAGE FUNDING RAISED	€4M

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

The EIT Digital Challenge 2020 established a new record: 403 scaleups from 32 countries applied to the 7th edition of Europe's flagship deep tech competition in digital. Out of 20 finalists, the high-profile jury will in November award the 5 winners with international growth support from the EIT Digital Accelerator for an entire year, worth €50,000. Additionally, the first-place winner will receive a cash prize of €100,000.

[Read more](#)

EIT Digital Venture Program attracts more and more entrepreneurs



More than 300 entrepreneurial teams from over 20 European countries applied to the 2020 edition of the EIT Digital Venture Program, resulting in 33 winning teams. The program supports entrepreneurial teams in pre-MVP and pre-company stages and includes incentives of up to €25,000 cash support and a pre-acceleration plan.

[Read more](#)

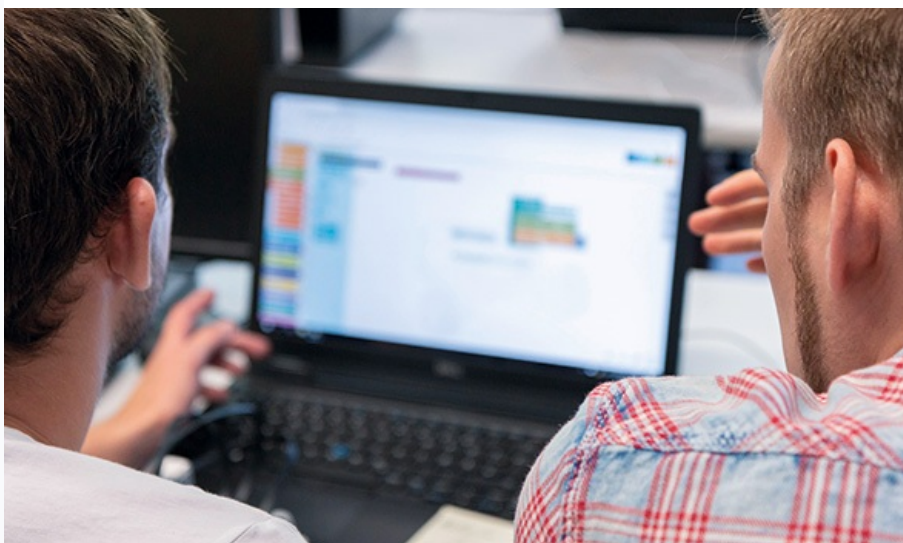
To overcome Corona restrictions, SARA connects elderly with families and friends



The COVID-19 pandemic led to severe restrictions for elderly homes. For weeks and months, residents weren't able to meet their friends and families, increasing the already existing problem of isolation and loneliness. To ease their longing for social contacts, SARA Robotics - a startup by EIT Digital partner Brightcape - introduced a new feature for their Social & Autonomous Robotic Health Assistant - an option for video calls and displaying pre-made videos. The benefits of SARA raise increasing interest. In addition to existing three customers, more than 100 Dutch institutions signed up to borrow and test the SARA robot.

[Read more](#)

EIT Digital trains 3,000 teachers in cybersecurity



Europe's primary and secondary level pupils need to understand the basics of cybersecurity. To empower their teachers with the necessary skills, EIT Digital and Fraunhofer IAIS roll out a blended learning programme that will be offered in selected European countries from December 2020 onwards.

[Read more](#)

Events

[Masterclass: Get ahead in the Ongoing Digital Transformation](#)

August 19-21 & November 24-26

Boost the impact of digitalisation! Codedesigned with KTH Executive

School in Stockholm, this Professional School blended course helps you to better plan and prioritise your organisation's digital transformation.

[Seminar: Business Growth \(Trento\)](#) - September 1, 2020

[Seminar: Business Modelling \(Rennes\)](#) - October 2, 2020

[View all upcoming events](#)

Interested in working for us?

[Check out our open vacancies!](#)



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