



2010 - 2020  
CELEBRATE  
INNOVATION

# NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 7/2020

Dear partners and friends of EIT Digital,

We are back from an unusually busy summer and the autumn will continue in the same pace!

Before the summer, we concluded the selection of our EIT Digital 2021 construction of activities. More than 50 proposals were accepted to launch with us a digital tech startup or product with the Innovation Factory or deliver entrepreneurial digital tech education programmes with the Entrepreneurial Academy.

The Accelerator could welcome 10 additional companies - and the first ever from Hungary! - to its portfolio of now 64 scaleups. And our pre-acceleration Venture Program selected 33 entrepreneurial teams with deep tech business ideas that will get our support to finalise their MVP and start their venture.

We also enjoy exceptional interest to join our ecosystem and are still busy processing the more than 150 new partner registrations. We are in discussions with the EIT on how this still cumbersome process can be accelerated in the future.

The Master School concluded the intake of our cohort for 2020/2021 and the Summer School successfully moved and ran 14 programs online.

In parallel, we continued to support our ecosystem in managing the consequences of the COVID-19 crisis. As part of the EIT's Crisis Response Initiative, we introduced a Venture Support scheme, launched 9 Innovation Activities dedicated to fighting the effects of the pandemic, and selected teams in four European regions to run pilots for COVID-19 contract tracing using physical tokens.

Tuesday, September 8, we had our General Assembly. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic we were not able to have our physical conference and partner event in Brussels like we are used to, and thus had our General Assembly on-line. Over 100 participants witnessed a smooth execution of the General Assembly and voting. The Assembly took important decisions including (re)appointing our Chairman Linnar Viik and various Supervisory Board members, as well as approving the draft Business Plan 2021. A proposal regarding membership fees did not make it. We look back at a very successful and engaged General Assembly and hope to be able to have our next General Assembly again physically in Brussels as part of our annual conference and partner event.

Despite current restrictions, we prepared numerous activities around our 10th Anniversary. Over the summer, we accelerated the rollout of our Makers & Shapers video journey, continued preparations for our online Anniversary Event on 29 October, and finalised work on our Anniversary Book that will be presented on that occasion.

A full program for this unusual year! With that, I wish you all the best and hope to see you, albeit virtually, at our Anniversary Event later in October!

Willem Jonker  
CEO, EIT Digital

## EIT Digital Anniversary, 29 October - Save The Date!



Join us at the end of October to celebrate EIT Digital's first 10 years, revisit our joint achievements and explore how our partnership will evolve going forward to make digital Europe even stronger.

- Celebrate with us 10 years of impactful digital innovation
- Enjoy the vision of Makers and Shapers for a strong digital Europe
- Discover the potential of entrepreneurial education
- Explore the strength of pan-European open innovation
- Join us to create Europe's digital ventures of the future!

For more information visit our [Celebrate Innovation](#) event page!

Register now!

**EIT supports 'Data against COVID-19'**

## activities



As part of its Crisis Response Initiative, the EIT supports EIT Digital ventures and innovation against COVID-19 with €7.6m that contribute directly to the European Union's response to the current pandemic. With requests close to €90m, the demand for financial support has been overwhelming. **Venture Support** provides targeted help to high impact and growth startups, scaleups and SMEs that are impacted by COVID-19 crisis, with the goal to adapt and accelerate within the post crisis economic reality. The **Innovation Activities** effort supports innovators developing solutions leveraging modern digital technology to model, communicate and influence behaviour to manage pandemic lifecycles and to make a significant impact.

[Read more](#)

## EIT Digital pilots COVID-19 tracing with physical tokens in stadiums, hospitals, schools, and concert halls



Out of more than 60 expressions of interest, EIT Digital set up four European teams that will test physical COVID-19 contact tracing tokens in real-life settings to address events and situations that are crucial for opening essential parts of Europe's economy. The tokens are easy-to-use, secure, privacy-preserving, and will serve as a complement to smartphone-based contact tracing solutions.

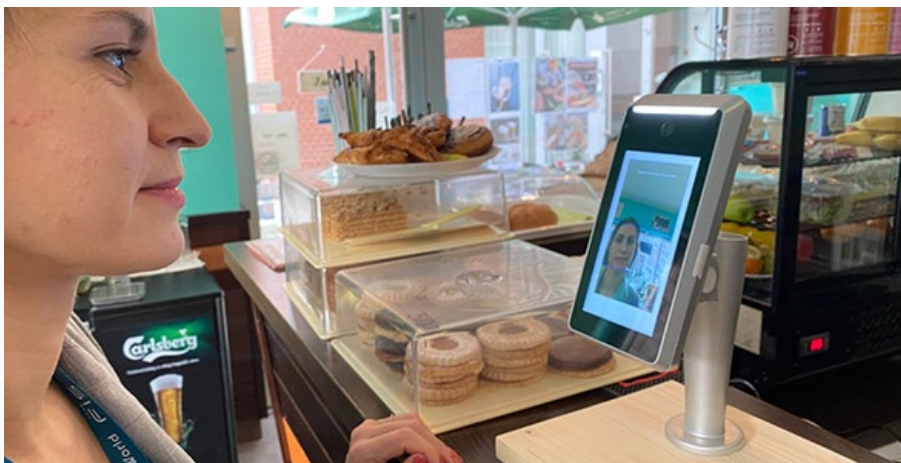
[Read more](#)

## New Venture Standup Events

Contributing to EIT Digital's 3-step venture support concept of

standup/startup/scaleup, we launch in September a new series of events that present EIT Digital's portfolio of early stage start-ups and entrepreneurial teams in pre-incubation stage to investors who either want to invest locally or get access to our unique European dimension. The Venture Standup series is by invitation only. Contact [your local Node](#) for more information!

## No cash, no cards, no phone needed. Pay with your biometrics!



Hungarian startup PeasyPay lets people pay by simply showing their faces and taking a picture of their palm, making payments faster and more convenient. Launched by EIT Digital within the “Pay with a Smile” Innovation Activity, the venture is operational in Budapest and started rolling out a pilot in Guadalajara in Spain. Further pilots are planned in Slovenia and the UK. By the end of the year, the solution will be rolled out globally.

[Read more](#)

## EIT Digital Master School welcomes 300-strong 2020/2021 cohort

Almost 300 new first-year students joined the EIT Digital Master School this fall. Due to disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the total number is lower than in previous years, but an impressive statement for the attractiveness of our programs, combining technical competence with skills in Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

## Great success of online Summer Schools



Mobility and meeting restrictions caused by COVID-19 forced our 14

EIT Digital Summer Schools to move fully online this year. Our agile organisers did not despair and made this new format a great success! Over 280 of our Master School students were joined by almost 60 external participants for two weeks of lectures, practical training, teamwork - and fun. Fascinating business ideas, like a smart lunchbox to fight obesity, were pitched to the contributing companies, and many of them may find their way to the market in due course.

[Read more](#)

## Upcoming Events

[Seminar: Business Growth \(Trento\)](#) - September 21-25, 2020

[European Research and Innovation Days](#) - September 22-24, 2020

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

[Masterclass: Data Science for Business Innovations](#)  
October 1-2 & November 24-25, 2020

[Masterclass: Business implications of Artificial Intelligence](#)  
5-7 October, 2020

[EIT Digital 'Celebrate Innovation'](#) - 29 October, 2020

[View all upcoming events](#)

## Working at EIT Digital

[Check out our open vacancies!](#)



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