

# NEWSLETTER MARCH 2020

Dear partners and friends of EIT Digital,

I hope that everyone is in good health and that you, your family and friends are safe! As any organisation these days, EIT Digital makes huge efforts to ensure work can continue and necessary measures are taken. A small team, representing our organisation's different functions and capacities, coordinates these efforts, collects information and supports the management's decision making.

Our first priority will always be the health and wellbeing of our staff. Initial steps included cancelling all events, stopping all business trips, imposing work from home and closing our Colocation Centres in order to keep people safe and prevent further spreading of the virus.

At the same time, we are moving core processes online to ensure that work can continue wherever possible. Our approach distinguishes short- and medium-term measures: Immediate actions support ongoing activities that are part of our Business Plan 2020. We collect information on the potential impact of the crisis on innovation activities, but also students, and find – in collaboration with the EIT – solutions to mitigate the effects.

Our focus is on mitigating the impact on our call for Business Plan 2021 proposals, our venture program, our Master School recruitment and our Summer schools. More information on this you find in this newsletter. Let's put all our efforts behind this to limit the impact. In very short time, we were able to move the physical Brokerage Event online and I want to thank the team for their efforts and the successful execution of this event!

We are also investigating relevant activities and ventures in the EIT Digital ecosystem and the wider EIT community that might be able to help fighting the COVID-19 pandemic by mobilising our innovation power. Below you find a very first list of scaleups in our ecosystem that could contribute in this regard.

As you can imagine, the current crisis puts a lot of pressure on our organisation. I want to thank all my colleagues for their additional efforts in these unprecedented times and wish you all the strength

and health needed!

Willem Jonker CEO, EIT Digital

### Business (almost) as usual! - EIT Digital 2021 and Master School admission



Despite imposed restrictions, we are constantly working to make this year's <u>EIT Digital 2021</u> call for proposals a great success for European entrepreneurs and innovators. The whole EIT Digital team is mobilised to support you in building your proposals, connecting with European partner teams and facilitating your proposal submission by May 7 through a fully online experience.

The same applies for the EIT Digital Academy and its programs. Where possible, courses and seminars are held online. And the application deadline for new <u>Master School</u> students remains at April 17, 2020.

### EIT Digital Venture Program - Dare the Unexpected!



The EIT Digital Venture Program 2020 supports entrepreneurial teams from 20 countries with deep tech business ideas to finalise their MVP and start their venture. The program offers an eight-week Pre-Acceleration executed by five regional partners in Greece, Latvia, Poland, Portugal and Slovenia. Teams receive financial support of up to €25,000 in 3 stages, from MVP to incorporation up to finding a first investor. Deadline for application: 26 April!

Read more!

In times of 'social distancing', digital technologies support our wellbeing and keep our economies alive



The Coronavirus pandemic affects hundreds of thousands of people and disrupts everyday life. To adapt and succeed in this new world, companies, governments and private citizens make increasingly use of digital technologies and solutions. And the EIT Digital ecosystem provides some of the best!

Read more!

# Making the world accessible for the visually impaired



Imagine you are wandering around a foreign city trying to make sense of signposts in a language you do not speak. You feel lost in translation. This is how visually impaired people feel every day. EIT Digital Master School alumnus Jan Jaap de Groot turned a problem into an opportunity and launched a startup that provides an innovate smartphone app that scans barcodes and NFC labels on objects and reads out what they are.

Read more!

# Final chance to apply for EIT Digital Master School!



Studying at EIT Digital's Master School means being part of the largest network of European tech universities. Students choose 1 of 9 master programmes, study at 2 universities, and receive 2 degrees, an EIT certificate for Innovation and Entrepreneurship and become part of the EIT Digital ecosystem.

Apply until 17 April and spread the word!

#### Last seats available for the EIT Digital Summer School



Join one out of 16 Summer School programmes, spread-out all-over Europe, to skill up on new technologies and learn how to apply these for your business! A few seats are left, so pick yours and apply before 15 April!

Apply now!

#### **Open Vacancies**

- Co-Location Centre Manager (Budapest, Hungary)
- **Business Lawyer** (Brussels, Belgium)
- Sales Lead Education Programmes (Brussels, Belgium)

Read more!

#### **Events**

Virtual Seminar: Business Growth (Rennes) April 27-30, 2020

Virtual Seminar: Business Development (Budapest)

May 11-15, 2020

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

Save the Date: EIT Digital Annual Conference and Partner Event 2020. September 8 and 9, 2020. Brussels, the Egg.

View all upcoming events



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