

# NEWSLETTER ISSUE 5/2022

Dear Partners and friends of EIT Digital,

The past two months have been extremely energizing and rewarding for EIT Digital. We have gathered more than 500 graduates of several EIT Digital Master School cohorts in Madrid to receive their diplomas and celebrate the conclusion of their two-year journey with EIT Digital. It was a great occasion to celebrate their success, commemorate their two-year studies at two recognized technical partner universities in Europe, and look forward to their bright future as digital innovators and entrepreneurs. I was amazed by their energy and enthusiasm! Congrats to all of them and also to the EIT Digital team in Spain for the perfect organization.

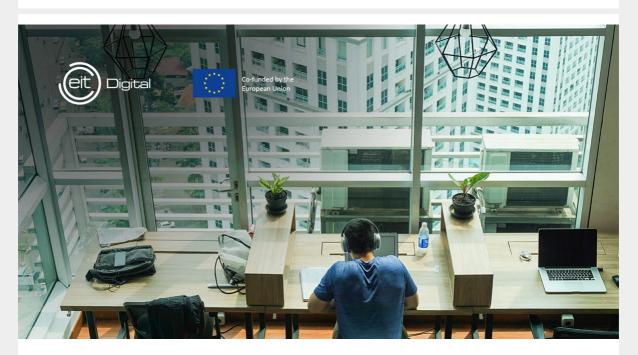
Another important step has been the hearing in front of the EIT Governing Board on November 24, where a delegation of the EIT Digital management team composed by me, Diva Tommei and Lea Myyryläinen, has presented our future plans to the highest decision making body of the EIT and managed to secure a solid financial support for the upcoming two years, which will allow us to deploy an ambitious Business Plan 2023-2024. At the same time, the coming two years will be crucial to ensure the long term future of EIT Digital which will need to further develop into a sustainable organization and therefore we will all need to focus even more on deploying impactful and sustainable innovation and education activities across Europe.

These days we are also finalizing the selection of the in proposals for this year's Innovation Factory intake. The call has been very successful, with 40 applications submitted for launching or boosting deep tech start-ups. The selected activities will start in January 2023 and will run for a period of six months.

At the beginning of December, we have also signed an agreement with our Partner Huawei to support EIT Digital Master School students in the cybersecurity track with scholarships and internship opportunities. This is another important recognition of our Master School as a top-notch digital Master's programme in Europe.

Lastly, as I look back upon the past year, I would like to thank the EIT Digital staff, Partners and friends for the valuable work and support in fulfilling our mission of building a strong digital Europe, inclusive, fair and sustainable. Thanks for an amazing year, and I wish you a very Happy Holiday season and a great start into the New Year.

Federico Menna Interim CEO



## EIT Digital Venture Program final stage winners raise close to €870,000 in private investment

At the end of September, 31 teams from Central and Eastern Europe, the Baltics and Southern Europe completed the pre-acceleration stage of the EIT Digital Venture Program.

After developing their Minimum Viable Product and incorporating their startup, the

teams started engaging with private investors - and ten of them raised in less than 3 months close to €870,000 in private funding. Based on this achievement, they received a €10,000 prize, bringing EIT Digital's total support to €25,000 each.

Polish start-up Restimo is one of many <u>Venture Program success stories</u>. Recently, the 2020 alumnus raised €255,000 to develop its RestHub application for the catering industry.

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### EIT Digital-supported start-up Snowpack raises €2 million investment

French company Snowpack, a start-up using privacy measures to achieve an entirely new level of online security, has attracted support from the French Government and EIT Digital's Innovation Factory - and announced a total fundraising of €2 million in November.

Launched a year and a half ago, Snowpack seeks to develop a network where the identity of users or devices and of the routes that data take to reach them is anonymous, providing security that is far superior to current cyphering methods.



### Spanish start-up Rentall makes product access easier and fosters the circular economy

With the support of the EIT Digital Innovation Factory, Spanish start-up Rentall Partners developed a "smart renting platform" which can be used for different vertical industries, such as consumer electronics and electric mobility.

Several big brand companies have already integrated the technology, allowing their customers to easily rent products for a monthly fee. At the end of the rental period, Rentall buys back the product and resells it to buyback companies.



### EIT Digital-backed VR platform lets NDD teens socialize virtually

Young people struggling with the isolation of neuro developmental disorders NDD can practice their social skills and receive online therapy through virtual reality platform XR4A.

XR4A is the outcome of an EIT Digital Innovation Factory partnership between FBK and Reply from Italy and iED from Greece. The platform immerses teens wearing a virtual reality (VR) headset in a serious game, designed to improve their social and emotional skills.

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### EIT Digital gathers close to 600 Master School graduates for festive celebration

After a two-years break, caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the EIT Digital Master School was finally able again to gather its graduates for a ceremony. On 26 November, close to 600 successful students of several cohorts, academic staff and the Master School team met in Spain's capital Madrid to hand over diplomas and celebrate the conclusion of our graduates' two-year journey with EIT Digital.



#### EIT Digital opens Master School admission for 2023

The admissions portal for the EIT Digital Master School is now open for all students who want to learn how to turn technology into business. Successful applicants can choose amongst seven two-year programmes. Upon graduation, they are awarded two Master's degrees from two top technical European universities, plus a certificate from the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT).

The application for 2023 entry is open until 3 February 2023, 18:00 CET.

Read more and apply now!



Huawei partners up with EIT Digital to support Master

#### **School students**

Huawei collaborates with EIT Digital to promote the sponsor programme of the EIT Digital Master School. Within the partnership, Huawei provides an economic commitment of up to €120,000 to finance up to 6 scholarships, worth €20,000 each, for students in the Cybersecurity Master School programme. The scholarship includes full coverage of university fees and a living allowance during the students' studies.

EIT Digital invites all partners to discuss similar sponsorship opportunities with the Master School team!

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#### **Apply now for EIT Digital Summer Schools 2023**

EIT Digital's eight 2-week and four 1-week Summer School programmes are open for Bachelor and Master students, young professionals, and others who want to deep-dive into emerging digital technologies, learn how to turn technology into business, and potentially launch digital tech startups. Any educational background is welcome!

Read more and apply now!



## EIT Digital successfully participates in eight European Digital Innovation Hubs

The European Commission recently announced the selection of European Digital Innovation Hubs across the EU. EDIHs are one-stop shops supporting companies to respond to digital challenges and become more competitive.

EIT Digital has successfully participated in or led eight of the winning consortia and will contribute to the activities of the EDIH's at different levels with the full set of the organisation's competences - from Acceleration services for startups, organisation of hackathons, and solution scouting to tailored training opportunities via our Professional School and Summer School course portfolio.



### **EIT Higher Education initiative launches €12 million** call for new proposals

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) has launched a new call under the 'EIT HEI Initiative' aimed at boosting innovation in higher education. The newly announced call will mobilise up to €12 million of EIT funding for Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and their partners. In the two earlier HEI calls have been awarded almost 50 projects out of which EIT Digital is supporting six.

**Read more** 

#### **Working at EIT Digital**

Interested in working for us?

Check out our open vacancies!











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