



# NEWSLETTER

## ISSUE 1/2023

Dear partners and friends of EIT Digital,

For the first time, I am writing these lines as newly appointed CEO of EIT Digital. Once more, I want to thank the Supervisory Board and its chairman Linnar Viik for their trust and look forward to leading our organisation in close cooperation with the EIT Digital Management.

EIT Digital is on a clear trajectory to strengthen its position as Europe's largest European ecosystem for digital innovation, entrepreneurship, and skills development. Our goal is to reinforce and grow our pan-European partnership of Corporates, Universities, SMEs and RTOs, expand our footprint through the establishment of new regional offices, support the European Year of Skills as well as the broader EU skills agenda with our outstanding entrepreneurial education programmes, and continue to bring cutting edge digital innovation to the market through our incubation, open innovation and venture creation programmes. Furthermore, we are preparing European tech scaleups to lift off and successfully grow in Europe and beyond, contributing to the realization of a strong Digital Single Market.

The news items in this edition are a clear testament of our strategy to make on the one hand our activities more customer-centric and on the other hand diversify our business model through increasing engagement in European projects and

collaborations. I am happy to see that this strategy is already paying off with several new activities and partnerships materializing in Q1 2023. As an example, in Q1 we have been awarded 3 new strategic European projects on AI and Cybersecurity which will start later this year, we signed a Letter of Intent with Plug and Play to jointly build strong deep tech ecosystems in Europe and we kicked off a new 3-year EU project aiming at delivering short-term training programmes for SMEs on AI, Blockchain and Cybersecurity. Our ecosystem expansion strategy is also delivering with concrete steps being made to open our new offices in Greece, Romania and Bulgaria.

I hope that you will join us in early June at our annual conference in Brussels to discuss key challenges and opportunities for Europe's competitiveness in digital and wish you all the best,

Federico Menna  
CEO, EIT Digital



## **"Open Innovation Factory 2023" supports European innovators to boost their digital startup**

From now and until 15 May, early-stage deep tech startups can apply for the "[Open Innovation Factory 2023](#)" programme to accelerate their growth and attract investment.

Focusing on five key areas - Digital Tech, Digital Industry, Digital Cities, Digital Wellbeing, and Digital Finance - the programme is set to propel innovation within the European digital ecosystem.

In addition to financial support of up to 400,000 euros from EIT Digital, selected applicants will receive assistance in attracting follow-up investors and customers, mentoring and coaching by seasoned industry experts and access to a pan-European ecosystem of over 350 partners from businesses, research institutions, investors, and the public sector.

An overview of the programme's objectives as well as concrete advice for successful proposals will be presented in the [Information Session](#) scheduled for April 5, 2023.

**Register now!**

A blue banner for the 'GROW DIGITAL 23' conference. On the left, there is a collage of images: a woman talking on a phone, a white robot head, and a drone. The main text in white reads 'GROW DIGITAL 23' with 'DIGITAL' and '23' stacked vertically. Below this, it says 'TECH THAT MATTERS', '6 & 7 JUNE 2023', and 'THE EGG, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM'. At the bottom left is the 'eit Digital' logo, and at the bottom right is the European Union flag with the text 'Co-funded by the European Union'.

## **Grow Digital 23 - Secure your early-bird ticket to hear the latest on Generative AI, Space Tech, Industry 5.0 and Cybersecurity!**

On 6 and 7 June 2023, EIT Digital organises its annual flagship conference in Brussels. Under the title '[Grow Digital 23](#)', expert speakers from business, research, investment and policymaking will discuss burning topics such as the impact of Generative and Emotion AI, opportunities for Europe's digital sector in SpaceTech, Industry 5.0 and Digital Security, but also the increasing demand for talent in Deep Tech.

Grow Digital 23 also offers you the opportunity to discover our Innovators Village with more than 30 selected startups and scaleups and their ground-breaking digital services and products. With its diverse audience from all over Europe, our

conference is a unique meeting place to expand your professional networks and reach out to expert decisionmakers from EU institutions present as speakers and amongst our participants.

Confirmed [speakers](#) include:

- **Jan Goetz**, CEO, IQM Quantum Computers
- **Eva Maydell**, Member of the European Parliament, Rapporteur on the Artificial Intelligence Act
- **Eric de Montgolfier**, CEO, Invest Europe
- **Kirsi Nuotto**, Chief Human Resources Officer, VTT
- **Liviu Stirbat**, Head of Unit for Industry 5.0, European Commission DG RTD
- **Natalia Olson-Urtecho**, Director, Governments, Plug and Play
- **Christiane Kirketerp**, Head of Unit Cybersecurity and Digital Privacy Policy, European Commission DG CNECT
- **Aude Jalabert**, Head of Brussels Office, Senior Director Public Policy, Infineon Technologies
- **Leopold Summerer**, Head of the Advanced Concepts and Studies Office, European Space Agency
- **Gabriele Mazzini**, Team Leader on the Artificial Intelligence Act, European Commission, DG CNECT
- **Dan Bogdanov**, Chief Scientific Officer / Director of the Information Security Research Institute, Cybernetica
- **Thomas Neubert**, Founder, Transatlantic AI eXchange

Early bird tickets are available until 16 April and EIT Digital partners enjoy a special discount!

[Register now!](#)



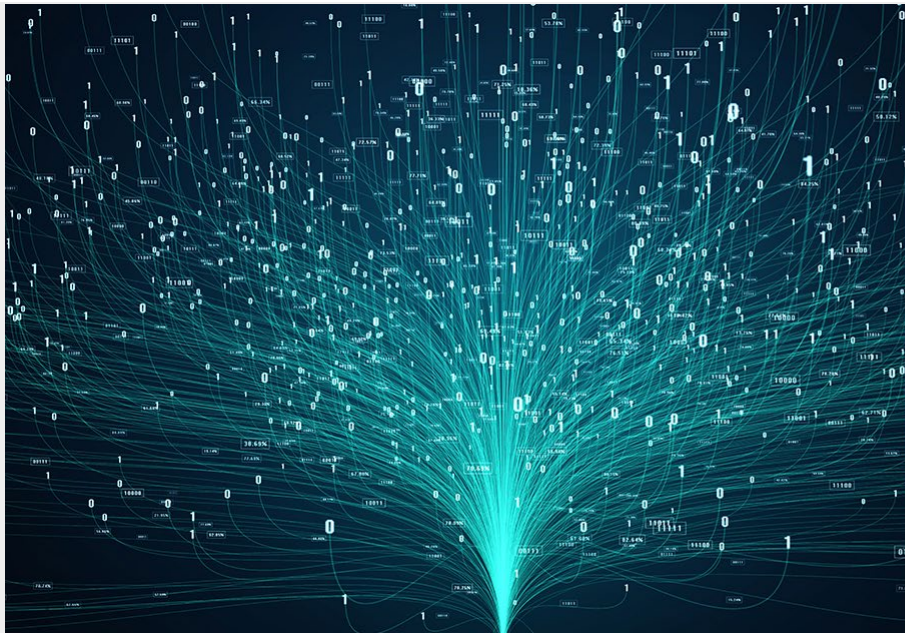
## EIT Digital wins EU project to foster symbiotic human-machine decision making

EIT Digital and 20 other partner organisations from 9 countries across Europe are set to develop a new generation of human-centric AI systems. The EU-funded project, codenamed TANGO, will kick off in autumn 2023 with a budget over €8 million.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) holds tremendous potential to enhance human decisions and avoid cognitive overload and bias in high-stake scenarios. To date, however, adoption of AI-based support systems has been minimal in settings such as hospitals, tribunals and public administrations.

The TANGO project aims at developing the theoretical foundations and computational framework for synergistic human-machine decision making, paving the way for the next generation of human-centric AI systems.

[Read more](#)



## EIT Digital and X2.0 partner up to support the growth of European deep tech startups

X2.0 Europe is a deep tech growth programme, co-funded by the European Union, that aims at scaling up 50 EU deep tech startups by providing a customised, industry-focused, growth programme that will act as a catalyst in delivering market-ready applications and technology solutions in five key impact areas: Manufacturing & Circular Economy, AgriTech, HealthTech & BioTech, Smart Cities and Sustainability, and Data & A.I.

EIT Digital joins the X2.0 project as Impact Builder and enters a short list of Service Providers available to participating startups. Following a matchmaking process, EIT Digital will offer specific cross-border growth support to selected startups and help them in their efforts to develop business, scale up, and internationalise.

[Read more](#)



## EIT Digital joins forces with Plug and Play Partners to build strong European deep tech ecosystems

Earlier this month, Plug and Play Tech Center and EIT Digital signed a Letter of Intent, outlining common objectives to support Europe's digital transformation by building new digital ecosystems and promoting digital education and skills, innovation infrastructure, and the creation of high-quality jobs. The collaboration between the two organisations will focus on developing synergies to support the digital transformation and serve the needs of the European digital community.

The collaboration will cover areas such as the joint support for digital innovation ecosystems and capabilities, community building, supporting inclusiveness and gender balance in digital, as well as innovation for the European digital economy. Plug and Play and EIT Digital intend to share business opportunities, best practices, lessons learned, and results from projects and programmes.

[Read more](#)



Co-funded by the European Union 



Co-funded by the European Union 



## EIT Digital and FedEx select four cities to scale green mobility projects

Four cities from Turkey and Europe have been awarded \$240K (€223K) to implement solutions that accelerate the transition towards cleaner, greener, and smarter mobility as part of the first Sustainable Cities Climate Impact Challenge, co-organised by EIT Digital and EIT Climate-KIC, and sponsored by FedEx.

Selected from a pool of 43 applications from 19 countries, the cities of Hackney (UK), Espoo (Finland), Olot (Spain) and Karasu (Turkey) will receive grants of up to \$70,000 (€65,000) to implement their pilot projects. The selected proposals stood out for their innovative approaches, strong city government support, and replicability to scale to other cities.

[Read more](#)





Co-funded by the  
European Union



**SME4DD**

Training SMEs for the Digital Decade  
EU funded project

## EIT Digital wins EU project to train SMEs for the Digital Decade

Following a European Commission call for proposals under the Digital Europe programme, the EIT Digital-led consortium entailing partners from four EU countries and including three EIT Digital partners will during the next three years deliver short-term training programmes for Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises with a focus on three digital technology areas of strategic importance for Europe: Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain and Cybersecurity.

The SME4DD project aims at increasing the number of men and women able to design, develop and deploy digital solutions in the economy and across sectors. As such, SME4DD will contribute to reducing the existing gap in advanced digital skills in Europe and increase Europe's competitiveness.

[Read more](#)

## Upcoming Events

April 4, 2023

[Launch of Finnish AI Region \(FAIR\) EDIH](#)

April 19 and 26, 2023 / May 3, 2023

[Open Innovation Factory 2023 - Brokerage Event](#)

April 21-23, 2023

[DeepHack: Smart Industry - Transforming manufacturing with Edge Computing and Cloud Data Integration](#)

June 6 and 7, 2023

[Grow Digital 23 - EIT Digital annual flagship Conference](#)

## Working at EIT Digital

Interested in working for us?

[Check out our open vacancies!](#)



This email was sent to you.

You received this email because you are registered with EIT Digital.

Did someone forward you the mailing? [Subscribe here!](#)

EIT Digital IVZW, Rue Guimard 7, Brussels, 1040, Belgium



Co-funded by the  
European Union