eit Digital

ANNUAL
REPORT
2021

ECOSYSTEM

INNOVATION

EDUCATION

CONTENTS

FOREWORD

The year 2021 has once more been characterised by challenges imposed on us by the COVID 19 pandemic and related restrictions on travel and events. During a short period after the summer, we were able to organize several physical meetings and events, but unfortunately had to revert to online formats later in the autumn to conduct our business and engage with our partners and stakeholders. Despite these adversities, EIT Digital demonstrated once more that we are an effective organisation and agile ecosystem, capable also pioneering with digital networking tools. We were well prepared, swiftly adapted to changing circumstances and successfully maintained our operations based on our tested approach and experience from 2020.

This past year, the work of the Supervisory Board focussed mainly on the new EIT Digital Strategic Innovation Agenda SIA 2022-2024 that was adopted at our regular General Assembly on 7 September. Another significant element of the board's work lay in the improvement of our organisation's financial wellbeing. Sustainability is still high on the agenda and even though the COVID pandemic had a negative impact on our results, we succeeded to step up our efforts. An important contribution was made by the General Assembly's approval of a combined proposal on organisation streamlining and increased membership fees. The streamlining of the organisation was eventually concluded by the end of 2021, and I am happy that our partners agreed to further invest in EIT Digital through increased membership fees.

Towards the end of 2021, the Supervisory Board also started initial discussions on the future evolution of EIT Digital, including the post-year 15 relationship with the EIT. We have carefully looked to the value proposition and the cumulated assets to lay down the post-year 15 strategy for EIT Digital to be implemented gradually already from 2022. During 2021, we signed a new Partnership Agreement with the EIT to which all partners acceded by the Summer. This new agreement formed the basis to execute the first two-year Business Plan of EIT Digital, which added significant agility to our way of working.

In addition to our strong ties with the EIT, I am very pleased that we reinforced in 2021 alliances with several other EU bodies and institutions. EIT Digital and the European Innovation Council launched a year-long collaboration pilot aimed at creating new synergies between the two organisations. We signed a Letter of Intent with the European Commission's Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology towards collaboration in support of Europe's digital transformation. We also concluded an agreement with the European Investment Fund that allows more European students and learners to benefit from EIT Digital's training programmes. Last, but not least, EIT Digital was chosen by the European Central Bank as preferred partner for technology scouting, brokerage and training services.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude and acknowledgement to the EIT Digital partners, my fellow board members, our team, all students and entrepreneurs for our joint endeavour in 2021. This was another year characterised by fast adaptation, learning and delivering under challenging circumstances only a mission-oriented organisation as EIT Digital is able to cope with.

Linnar Viik
CHAIRMAN
EIT DIGITAL SUPERVISORY BOARD

CEO **STATEMENT**

Our motto for 2021, 'Accelerate Recovery', is of course inspired by the COVID-19 pandemic, but served as an overall guiding principle for our work, that focusses on building a strong digital Europe. As a pan-European ecosystem, we focus on including new partners ready to join our innovation and education activities. As a result, we further expanded our ecosystem, expanding the number of partners and increasing office locations, which helps to enhance the scale and impact of our activities.

Our innovation activities target digital solutions and ventures that address societal challenges in an inclusive manner, embedding European values; our education activities are inclusive by covering a wide range of topics and addressing a wide audience. The success of our approach is demonstrated by a growing community and enhanced delivery with strong impact across Europe and beyond.

The continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, with changing restrictions on mobility and assembly, left its footprint even in 2021. We responded to these challenges through the designated EIT Digital Business Continuity Team and ensured that our activities continued under these particular conditions without interruption and to the satisfaction of our partners. Towards the second half of the year, we were also able to increase presence in our locations, however towards the winter we had to mainly shift back to online.

The year 2021 was also characterised by the implementation of the new multiannual Business Plan 2021-2022 and the adoption of the new partnership agreement 2021-2027 at an extraordinary General Assembly. Another defining element of 2021 was the transition from Horizon 2020 to the new Horizon Europe framework programme. Combined with Brexit-related implications, we experienced several delays and were eventually ready just before the summer to conclude the process, sign the EIT grant agreement and ensure that our partners acceded to the new agreement. Due to these obstacles, some of our activities unfortunately got a late start.

The work of the Supervisory Board focussed in 2021 mainly on the new Strategic Innovation Agenda SIA 2022-2024, that was adopted at our regular General Assembly on September 7. Another important focus of the board was improving the financial sustainability of the organisation. An important contribution to this effort was made by the General Assembly's approval of a combined proposal on organisation streamlining and increased membership fees. The streamlining was concluded by the end of 2021. The Supervisory Board furthermore started end of 2021 initial discussions on the future evolution of EIT Digital, including the post-year 15 relationship with the EIT.

EIT Digital concluded in 2021 significant agreements on enhanced collaboration with other EU institutions and bodies. A Memorandum of Understanding with the European Commission's DG CONNECT on ecosystem support included joint efforts on the establishment of Digital Innovation Hubs, the advancement of Digital Skills, and support for the Digital Innovation & Transformation of Europe, but also featured potential joint activities within the framework of the new Digital Europe programme. EIT Digital signed a collaboration agreement with the European Innovation Council on joint venture creation and acceleration, won a contract with the European Central Bank on providing dedicated innovation and education services, and concluded a scholarship guarantee agreement with the European Investment Fund, supporting our Master School students.

We further strengthened the outreach to the broader European digital community and general public through our Makers & Shapers initiatives. These cover tier 1 media presence, but also the Makers & Shapers reports series, as well as the Makers & Shapers video conversation series. We achieved prominent presence in more than 400 Tier 1 and Tier 2 media with our thought leadership articles and commentaries. The latest report edition on 'Digital Technology and the Green Economy' was well received by EU institutional

stakeholders and opened the door for ongoing consultations with the Cabinet of European Commission Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans, in charge of Climate Change. The Makers & Shapers conversation series with key stakeholders from industry, research, investment and academia is becoming increasingly popular, reaching to date already an unprecedented audience of more than 500,000 viewers for the combined 2021 editions.

ECOSYSTEM

With a net plus of 60 partners, we can once more look back at a year of growth in our ecosystem. We notice a shift in our partnership structure in line with our strategy (SIA 2022-2024) and welcome a significant group of partners concentrating on the various aspects of venture creation and scaling.

The UK's secession from the European Union and its delayed accession to Horizon Europe forced us to seek mitigation measures, including a financial guarantee from the British government. As a result, EIT Digital maintained a strong presence in London and Edinburgh, with solid participation of our partners in the innovation pillar.

A positive development is the increasing stakeholder interest to establish EIT Digital representations. In 2021 we opened a new office in Tallinn, Estonia, and have made substantial progress in our work to establish offices in Greece and Slovenia.

EIT Digital has furthermore been engaged in the preparation of proposals for 12 European Digital Innovation Hubs, to be submitted in early 2022. These hubs will establish a pan-European bridge between various regional digital innovation hubs and support the innovation ecosystems across the continent.

INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

This past year, our main efforts concentrated on the implementation of a streamlined innovation funnel, consisting of the Stand Up, Start Up, and Scale Up elements, and moving the previous system of annual calls for the Innovation Factory to a continuous intake with quarterly deadlines.

In 2021, the Innovation Factory supported a total of 69 innovation activities in our five focus areas, aimed at launching 74 products and creating 43 startups (compared to 33 startups in 2020). The Innovation Factory supported the launch of 28 products and 16 ventures. An additional 46 products and 15 startups generated from 2021 innovation activities are expected for 2022.

In 2021, 18 new companies have joined the EIT Digital Accelerator with the objective to expand commercially across Europe and most often also with the desire to raise Venture Capital financing. Throughout the year, 67 companies have been supported, of which a large portion of companies have joined in 2020 and including companies that joined before 2021 and whose support periods still expanded into 2021.

The 2021 edition of the EIT Digital Challenge took place for the eighth consecutive year and achieved once more record figures. Our leading competition for digital 'deep tech' scaleups attracted 409 applicants from 10 different European countries. A noteworthy fact is that 45% of finalists feature women as founders or C-level executives.

Despite implications of the COVID pandemic, we were able to organise several DeepHacks in collaboration with partners from business and industry. Unfortunately, and to our great sadness, we were informed in late August that our colleague and DeepHack coordinator Jan Grotenberg passed away unexpectedly. He will be duly missed!

EIT Digital also supported the EU New European Bauhaus initiative and ran in the autumn a successful Acceleration Pilot call. Close to 150 companies applied to the call and EIT Digital selected the best 4 digital technology companies to receive international growth support by the EIT Digital Accelerator.

What's more, 23 new startups graduated from the 2021 edition of the EIT Digital Venture Program, the eight-week pre-acceleration program for entrepreneurial teams from Central and Eastern Europe, the Baltics and Southern Europe. As part of the program, the participants learn how

to develop and finalise their Minimum Viable Product (MVP), establish their startup company, and raise funds with investors.

The combined efforts of the Innovation Factory and Venture Program contributed to the growth of our equity portfolio. Together with the growth of several existing portfolio companies, the value of our equity portfolio increased by about 40%.

ENTREPRENEURIAL EDUCATION

Also in 2021, EIT Digital's education and training programs were affected by COVID-19 and related mobility and assembly restrictions. Most notably, the Master School experienced a negative effect on the number of applications for the 2022 cohort, with close to 300 new students acceding our programs.

In 2021, we continued to explore the possibilities of fostering scholarships and excelling our education offer together with our ecosystem and industries. A partnership was established with the Italian Fondazione Cassa Depositi e Prestiti, providing scholarships to up to 20 Master School students in Italy each year. With the European Investment Fund we signed an agreement allowing more European students and learners to benefit from EIT Digital's training programmes thanks to an EIF guarantee.

Due to the COVID pandemic, our Summer School program was once again moved online but enjoyed good participation. Organised by partners across Europe, including 5 from RIS locations, the 11 summer schools welcomed 375 learners, including 85 external paying participants.

The 2021 focus of the Professional School was to consolidate the current course portfolio and build and maintain timely and mutually beneficial relationships with existing knowledge partners involved in the design and delivery of the courses. A recent contract with the European Central Bank will further benefit the development of our professional programmes.

During 2021, EIT Digital also actively participated in collaboration with other KICs in the EU's Higher Education Institutions initiative. The initiative aims

to help higher education institutions ('HEIs') to design activities that will improve their entrepreneurial and innovation capacity. 24 pilot projects were supported in the first phase and additional 40 consortia in the second phase.

The global learners' uptake of EIT Digital professional self-paced courses on the Coursera platform experienced steady growth, with an average of +300 new weekly registrations and a total of over 24,000 unique learners for professional courses, including over 4,000-course completions.

THANK YOU

Despite continuous challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, 2021 has been a successful year for EIT Digital. This is thanks to the contribution of everyone in our community and I would like to express my deepest gratitude to everyone in the EIT Digital organisation and partnership. In these unprecedented circumstances all of you gave what it takes to sustain EIT Digital. This makes me proud to work in our organisation and gives me strong confidence in the next years for EIT Digital.

Willem Jonker
CEO EIT DIGITAL

HIGHLIGHTS 2021

PAN-EUROPEAN
ECOSYSTEM

EIT Digital has grown its ecosystem to 314 partners. More than 50 new partners joined in 2021.

ENTREPRENEURIAL
EDUCATION

Close to 300 new students enrolled in EIT Digital's Master and Doctoral programmes. In total more than 2,800 students have enrolled since 2011.

EIT Digital executed 11 Summer Schools with over 370 participants.

EIT Digital's Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) on Coursera are increasingly popular attracting close to 170,000 learners.

INNOVATION AND
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

16 new companies created as a result of innovation activities and 28 products and services commercially launched.

67 scaleups (18 new) supported by the EIT Digital Accelerator. More than €125M total capital raised for scaleups.

More than 400 innovative companies from 33 countries applied to the EIT Digital Challenge.

3 DeepHacks delivered, with 148 participants (including 31 EIT Digital students) from 35 different countries.

23 teams from Central and Eastern Europe, the Baltics and Southern Europe graduated from the EIT Digital Venture Programme.

Signing of EIF Skills & Education Guarantee agreement by European Commission Vice-President Margaritis Schinas, EIF Deputy CEO Roger Havenith, EIB Group Vice-President Kris Peeters, and EIT Digital CEO Willem Jonker.

STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS AND THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

In support of EIT Digital's mission to support the digital transformation of Europe and contribute to a strong digital Europe, EIT Digital's leadership engages in strategic stakeholder relations and contributes to the public debate on digital issues with a number of thought leadership activities. This engagement program, called Makers & Shapers, enhances the organisation's positioning as influencer and catalyst between industry, research, business and public institutions.

MAKERS & SHAPERS CONVERSATIONS

The importance of a strong digital Europe is widely acknowledged and best achieved by makers (industry) and shapers (authorities) working together to create a sovereign European digital reality with products, services and regulation that serve citizens, respect European values, drive innovation and provide equal opportunity for everyone.

As part of its 10-year anniversary, EIT Digital launched in 2020 the Makers and Shapers conversations, featuring

Director of the European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA) Jean-David Malo

SAP CEO Christian Klein

Investor and serial entrepreneur Hermann Hauser

Bolt co-founder Martin Villig

IMEC CEO Luc Van den hove

RISE CEO and KTH Chair Pia Sandvik

thought leading discussions with captains of industry, high-profile start-up executives, and investment experts (the Makers) as well as EU and national policymakers (the Shapers). In this series, they share their vision on key areas of digital innovation and the way forward to a strong digital Europe.

The Makers and Shapers conversations shall inspire entrepreneurs, and engage innovators, investors and policy makers in Europe's effort to be a major player in digital innovation. Our video journey is a testimony for the need to overcome fragmentation in Europe. It is a manifestation of the strength

of collaboration, gives a sense of belonging to a pan-European innovation ecosystem and strengthens confidence in a strong digital Europe.

From the Makers' side, our journey featured in 2021 Kinga Stanislawska, General Partner and Founder of Experior Venture Fund and Advisory Board member of the European Commission's European Innovation Council, Mambu CEO Eugene Danilkis, SAP CEO Christian Klein, Bolt co-founder Martin Villig, investor and serial entrepreneur Hermann Hauser, IMEC CEO Luc Van den hove, as well as RISE CEO and KTH Chair Pia Sandvik.

The Shapers' side was in 2021 represented by Jean-David Malo, European Commission Director of the Executive Agency for EIC and SMEs (EISMEA).

By early 2022, the Makers & Shapers conversations attracted more than 600,000 viewers. The series will continue in 2022 with an even stronger focus on startup investment and venture creation.

MAKERS & SHAPERS REPORTS

In the context of its activities in strategic innovation of Europe, EIT Digital decided to launch a series of studies focusing on main policy challenges emanating from digital transition of Europe. The studies follow a scenario-based approach to structure and assess the potential impact of specific policy measures and provide business and policy decision makers with instruments for the development of digital policy.

In 2021, EIT Digital produced the fourth report in this series, focussing on Digital Technologies and the Green Economy. This report analyses the potential of digital technologies to achieve green growth in Europe and raises the question whether Europe's accelerated digital transformation will help to reduce non-green energy use or whether an increasing digitalisation of business and industry will on the contrary enhance consumption of non-green energy in the overall economy. The study discusses opposing angles and opinions and presents policymakers with scenarios that support their decisions on regulatory frameworks

leading towards a sustainable digital future.

The first report on the Digital Transformation of European Industry was already published in 2019. It shed light on the serious challenges the digital transformation of industry puts to European economies and social welfare models. In order to support an informed debate on how to address these challenges, the report presented scenarios reflecting different labour and

taxation policy options, and analysing the impact on economic growth, jobs and social cohesion of Europe's economies and societies.

The second report on European Digital Infrastructure and Data Sovereignty provides an overview of policy motivations, trends, instruments, and the roles of various actors in defining the perception of and perspectives for Europe's digital sovereignty. As a bold conclusion, through coordinated action

between European Commission and EU Member States, Europe is called upon to better connect makers (industry) and shapers (authorities, citizens) to create the right policy instruments for a sovereign European digital reality with innovation and regulation that respect European values and rights while creating equal economic opportunity for all actors.

The third report on the European Approach to Artificial Intelligence explores the impact of Artificial Intelligence in general as well as in more specific application domains strategic for Europe: Health, Manufacturing, Climate, and Mobility. In all of these areas, it identifies general and sector-specific opportunities for and concerns about the further deployment of AI and concludes with an assessment addressing the impact on innovation potential, fairness, trust, and growth opportunities.

MAKERS & SHAPERS IN THE NEWS

An important element of EIT Digital's thought leadership mission is the presence of the organisation's leadership in the media. One pillar of media outreach concerns the organisation's activities, news about success stories from Innovation Factory, Venture Program or Accelerator, but also achievements of our students and graduates. The other pillar focusses on our reflections on current debates in the digital and technology sphere. With a series of opinion pieces and commentaries, EIT Digital engages in the debate by providing perspectives that are entangled from regulatory affairs and concrete legislative proposals. Our viewpoints aim at encouraging readers to understand the holistic picture of a debate, consider alternatives to mainstream opinion, and make a constructive contribution to the public debate.

Examples include our commentaries on European technology sovereignty and strategic autonomy, but also the European struggle with COVID-19 contact tracing apps, or the relationship between European Digital Infrastructure and Data Sovereignty.
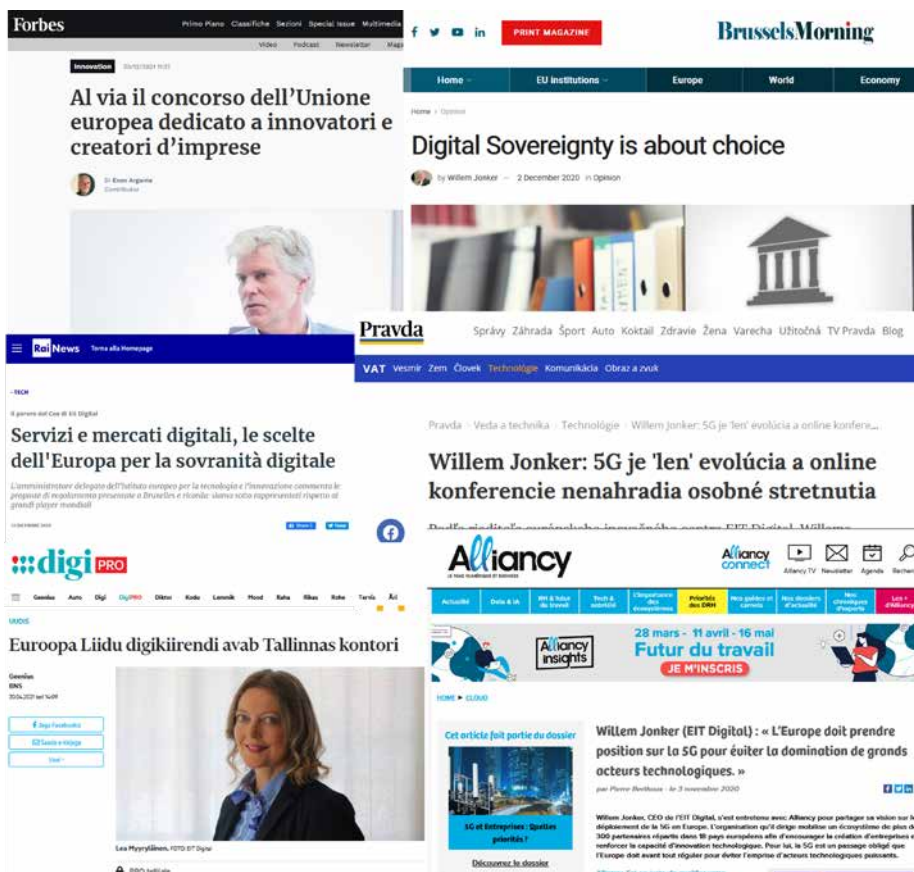
SPEAKING OPPORTUNITIES AND STAKEHOLDER EVENTS

International events, seminars and conferences are important platforms for EIT Digital to demonstrate thought leadership, present our success stories and inform about our activities with the goal to promote and enhance the footprint of EIT Digital in the innovation market and to support the long-term sustainability goals.

After 2020, also 2021 was characterised by mobility and meeting restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. By and large all events had to be held online or at least in hybrid formats, yet unlike in 2020 there was a distinctive professionalism in execution and high acceptance by the audiences.

Excellent examples of engagements in third party events were The Ripple, the largest Transatlantic online networking event for the business community, The importance of EU-China co-operation in building a more sustainable and secure future, organised by the EU-China Business Association, the Future of Workforce Roundtable, organised

by IEEE, the Mastermind Summit, organised by the Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce, the Digital Scaleup Summit by Mind The Bridge, CzechInno Association's Smart Business Festival, Slovakian tech conference ITAPA '21, or the European Innovation Council's EIC Summit.

Many of these formats would have been difficult to contribute to if they were held as physical on-site events. Online allowed for a more flexible approach and more diversity in character and size of the events we contributed to.

EIT Digital considers these efforts an important element of its overarching mission: to create a strong digital Europe that is inclusive, fair, and sustainable.

Strategic
focus areas

EIT Digital has identified five focus areas that are strategic for Europe, with significant European relevance and leadership potential. They are where the organisation concentrates its investments: Digital Tech, Digital Cities, Digital Industry, Digital Wellbeing and Digital Finance.

These strategic focus areas enable EIT Digital to focus its expertise, critical mass and ecosystem – thereby increasing its impact. Each focus area is described as follows:

Digital Tech covers secure Internet of Things (IoT), data sovereignty and artificial-intelligence-based solutions. This core area addresses digital technologies that are the basis of the deep digital transformation of our economy and society. Europe needs to stay in the lead in the areas where it is currently strong (networking, 5G, IoT), play a leadership role in digital's next platform revolution (artificial intelligence) and establish broad trust in digital (cybersecurity, privacy).

Digital Cities is about supporting the sustainability of European cities by modelling the city as a data platform. These solutions address urban mobility, citizen inclusiveness and engagement, and city safety and involve the various city actors – government, city service providers, industry, citizens – making our cities participative, liveable and sustainable.

Digital Industry addresses the sustainable digital transformation of industry, from production to logistics to retail, based on data-platform solutions. Indeed, within the value chain, a large amount of data and knowledge is produced, captured and shared for digitising manufacturing, production or logistics processes, or consumer activities. This data is key in creating systemic changes in the market and introducing new innovation affecting the whole business domain.

Digital Wellbeing covers solutions for improving quality of life through sensing and data analysis. Slowing down healthcare costs is a key driver for innovation in the health domain. The objective is to lower the demand for treatment and long-term care, enabling young people, working professionals and the elderly to maintain a good quality of life.

Digital Finance is about building sovereign payment solutions in Europe. This area leverages technologies that enable transparency, efficiency, security and trust in financial transactions. It relates to the retail banking, insurance, asset management and corporate financial services industries.

The impact of EIT Digital is best understood by considering our pan-European programmes and their contribution to the focus areas.

The EIT Digital Entrepreneurial Academy produces T-shaped entrepreneurial digital talent focused on innovation through a blended-education strategy that includes a Master School, an Industrial Doctoral School and a Professional School, aligned with the focus areas. The Innovation Pillar is organized in a funnel. At the heart of this funnel is the EIT Digital Innovation Factory. It co-invests in the market uptake of deep tech (sophisticated digital technologies rooted in research) increasingly through entrepreneurship in each of the focus areas. Other programs such as the RIS Venture Program and the DeepHack complement the funnel, aligned with the focus areas.

The EIT Digital Accelerator is the last phase of the innovation funnel and provides growth support for European tech scaleups by helping them secure international customers and raising capital. These scaleups operate in markets aligned with our focus areas. Within the Accelerator, the EIT Digital Challenge is established as the flagship European competition for digital deep tech scaleups

Innovation
Standup – Startup

At EIT Digital, the innovation pillar focuses on building and scaling deep tech ventures in our strategic focus areas; an integrated effort captured in the "standup, startup, scaleup" innovation funnel.

The Innovation Factory is at the heart of this funnel and supports pan-European entrepreneurial teams together with EIT Digital partner organizations to create and boost digital innovations and new ventures in one of our strategic focus areas. Innovation activities bring together expertise from the EIT Digital ecosystem with partners contributing with technology, IP, talent, investments, and channels to access the market. The focus is on business impact and contribution to the financial sustainability of EIT Digital. The Innovation Factory is a flagship for organizations and individuals to create innovations and launch deep tech ventures in the digital space in Europe.

In 2021, the Innovation Factory supported the launch of 28 products and 16 ventures. An additional 46 products and 15 startups created within 2021 innovation activities are expected to be launched in 2022.

The Innovation Factory is complemented by the RIS Venture program in the startup phase. Specifically tailored to European countries with moderate or modest innovation scores as defined by the European Innovation Scoreboard, the RIS Venture Program supports entrepreneurial

Standup
Technology/Market selection
Team creation

Startup
Venture/MVP launch
Market Entry
Seed investment

Scaleup
Customer acquisition
Series A-B investment

DeepHack
Brokerage events
Standup events
I&E education
Summer schools

Innovation Factory
RIS Venture program
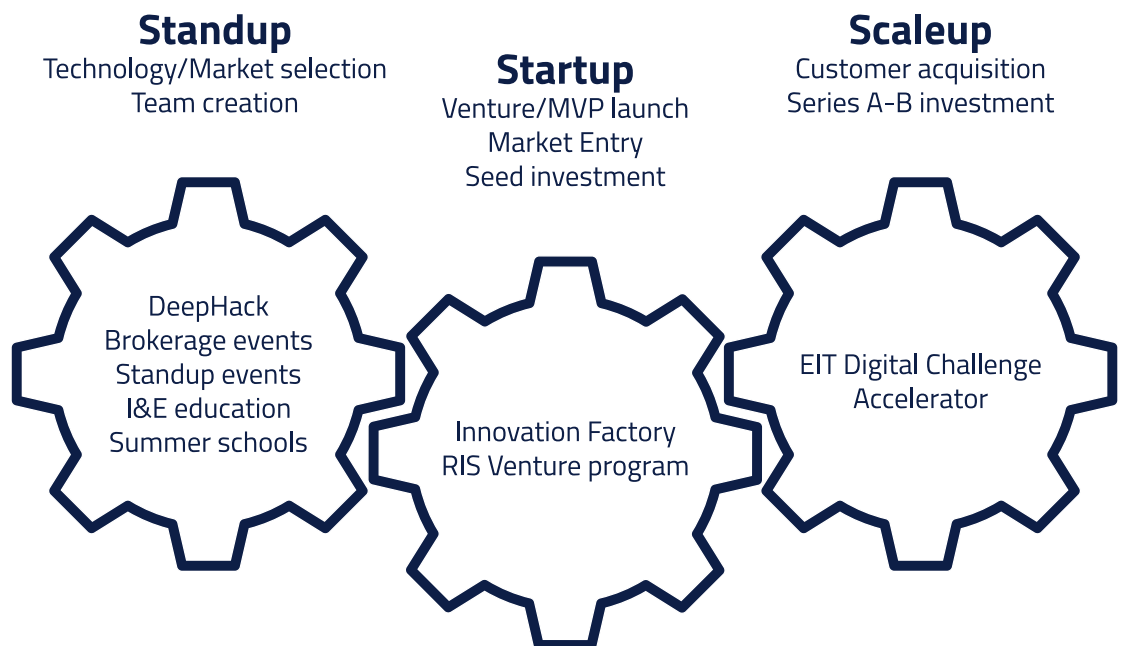
EIT Digital Challenge
Accelerator

Figure 1: The standup, startup, scaleup innovation funnel

teams in the digital space from 20 European countries to finalise their MVP, start their venture and raise funds.

The EIT Digital Venture Program was executed for the fourth consecutive year in 2021, in five regional editions: Baltics and Ukraine, Poland Czech Republic & Slovakia, West Balkans, East Balkans, Portugal & Malta, covering 20 RIS countries. EIT Digital received 230 applications; Of the 35 teams initially selected, 23 successfully completed the program, developed an MVP, incorporated a new legal entity, and applied, on time, to the Final Prize. Additionally, before the end of the Program, three of these ventures successfully raised €350,000 in seed funding from investors.

As a preparation for the startup phase, the standup phase includes the DeepHacks, matchmaking events and some of our education programmes. The DeepHack is an open innovation event in a challenge (hackathon) format. It leverages the EIT Digital ecosystem and focuses on solutions for complex digital tech problems and on building ecosystems around a technology. In 2021, three DeepHacks were organized by EIT Digital in an online format: Health and Safety Monitoring, Data-Driven Energy Efficiency and Digital Tourism. These events attracted 148 participants (including 31 EIT Digital students) from 35 different countries.

The scaleup phase takes over after the standup and startup phases and is centred around the EIT Digital Accelerator for scaling the ventures.

As an active member of the European Innovation Ecosystem, EIT Digital was in 2021 also involved in various Horizon Europe innovation projects aligned with our strategy:

- *QU4LITY* is creating an autonomous quality model and market platform to meet the industry 4.0 Zero Defect Manufacturing challenges, tested in 14 pilots and with Open Call experiments. The project will run until July 2022.

- *AI4EU* developed a European platform for Artificial Intelligence that acts as a broker, developer and one-stop shop providing and showcasing services, expertise, software, data, computing resources and access to funding. The project ended at the end of 2021.

- *Concordia* is addressing the fragmentation of security competence by building a community of a pan-European Cybersecurity Centers. Together with the partners, EIT digital is developing professional courses in Cybersecurity. The project is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2022.

Innovation
Scaleup

The EIT Digital Accelerator supports fast-growing deep tech companies in scaling their business across Europe. The programme is tailor-made and designed to meet the internationalisation and fundraising needs of European scaleups with typically 1-5m€ of revenues and looking to raise 3-25m€ of financing.

In 2021, 18 new companies have joined the Accelerator with the objective to expand commercially across Europe and most often also with the desire to raise Venture Capital financing. Throughout the year, 67 companies have been supported including companies that joined before 2021 and whose support continued in 2021.

The EIT Digital Accelerator support program has two main legs. The Access to Market (A2M) program supports scaleups in the commercial expansion across Europe, whilst the Access to Finance (A2F) program is geared to help these companies in raising €3M-25M of venture capital financing.

In Access to Market, the team supported the scaleups in our program with qualified lead generation through targeted introductions and some selected on-line matchmaking events. In 2022, the Accelerator has facilitated over 1,000 direct introductions to potential customers in various European countries, and beyond.

In Access to Finance, the team provided the scaleups with the required fundraising guidance, preparation and investor connections to raise Series A or Series B investments (from €3M to €1M). In 2021, the team supported 27 scaleups with fundraising and was able to directly facilitate investment deals for 3 scaleups, totalling €24.7

million. Case studies of two of them, Advitos (€20 million) and Velco (€5 million) are featured further in this report. Advitos was the largest fundraising round supported by the team so far.

In 2021, all companies that went through our program in the last three years, have raised far more than €130 million. And this only reflects amounts raised by those 15 scaleups that made the exact funds they raised also public.

For the eighth consecutive year, EIT Digital organized also in 2021 the EIT Digital Challenge, the leading pan-European scaleup competition. More than 400 companies from 33 eligible countries participated in last year's edition. Following a thorough Europe-wide selection process, the 20 best companies were selected for the finals, where they were interviewed and had the chance to pitch in front of an external expert jury. Three companies have been awarded a prize, corresponding to a full year of growth support from the Accelerator. Furthermore, the first prize winner has received a cash prize over €100,000.

As part of the New European Bauhaus initiative, launched by the EU Commission to enable the Green Deal transformation, the EIT Digital Accelerator launched a pilot call to identify the most promising high-impact digital technology ventures that develop innovative solutions making Europe sustainable, inclusive and improving citizen's quality of life. Close to 150 ventures from 27 European countries submitted their applications. Out of them the best four companies were selected to receive 12 months of tailored international growth support by the EIT Digital Accelerator worth €50,000 to scale up their business and boost social and economic impact for the European community.

The Accelerator also led and coordinated the EIT Community Booster, a joint Call by five Knowledge and Innovation Communities (Climate KIC, EIT Digital, EIT Manufacturing, EIT Food, EIT Urban Mobility) of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology to identify and support promising

New European Bauhaus-related ventures, supporting their growth and development from individual ideas to successful entrepreneurial projects. In total, 1029 applications were received, with the selection process scheduled to end in early 2022.

Twenty innovative companies will be selected as part of the new booster and receive funding from €1M to accelerate solutions and become international game-changers integrating three inseparable values: sustainability (from climate goals, to circularity, zero pollution, and biodiversity), aesthetics (quality of experience and style, beyond functionality) and inclusion (including diversity first, securing accessibility and affordability).

Education

Innovation requires talent equipped both with up-to-date knowledge of technology and understanding of the domains where the technology is deployed to successfully bring innovations to the market. Especially with digital, we see both a fast development of the technology itself, as well as that of its application domains.

The digital transformation of society and the economy poses significant challenges. Education is no exemption to this.

To be relevant, EIT Digital education programmes need to be state-of-the-art and at the frontier of technological and societal developments. This not only means that we have to permanently renew our programmes, but also that we have to make sure that our students are, during their education, immersed in the core application domains, amongst others through intense contacts with industry. It is here where our education programmes strongly benefit from our innovation activities, our partner network, and our office locations across Europe where our students have ample opportunity to work with the diverse actors in our pan-European ecosystem.

Digital technology disrupts many domains, including that of education. The two-year-long pandemic has established online education as a common element of many if not most education programmes. In 2021, like in the previous year, almost all our education programmes were held online due to the pandemic but still included the key elements providing the unique approach of EIT Digital's education: innovators need to have both technical, as well as entrepreneurial skills.

In 2021, we continued to explore the possibilities of fostering scholarships and excelling our education offer together with our ecosystem and industries. A partnership was established with the Italian Fondazione Cassa Depositi e Prestiti, providing scholarships to up to 20 Master School students in Italy each year. With the European Investment Fund, we signed an agreement allowing more European students and learners to benefit from EIT Digital's training programmes thanks to an EIF guarantee.

EIT DIGITAL MASTER SCHOOL

In 2021, despite reduced mobility caused by the global pandemic, the EIT Digital Master School managed to consolidate the number of students at similar levels to previous years. At the same time, the school has been taking steps to improve its financial sustainability by streamlining processes and reducing the average cost per student.

In the context of the EIT Digital sustainability strategy, an application fee was introduced for all Master School applicants in 2021. Besides contributing to financial sustainability, the application fee proved to improve the overall quality of the applications and significantly increased the conversion rate (i.e., the ratio between the number of enrolled students and number of applicants).

EIT DIGITAL INDUSTRIAL DOCTORAL SCHOOL

The EIT Digital Industrial Doctoral School (IDSL) fosters strategic university-industry collaboration by offering applied research doctoral projects that complement research with innovation. The school ensures greater impact and Education-Research-Business (ERB) integration, providing PhD students with the opportunity to help companies solve real-life challenges and create innovative products. The IDSL programme is developed in full alignment with EIT Digital's focus areas, local academic requirements, and industry interest.

With a focus on financial sustainability, the Industrial Doctoral School established a new partnership with the Scottish Informatics and

Computer Science Alliance (SICSA), securing funding from the Scottish Funding Council through the Saltire Emerging Researcher Scheme. This funding will be used in 2022 to finance the international mobility of approximately 10 EIT Digital PhD students based in either Scotland or the EU.

EIT DIGITAL PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL

The EIT Digital Professional School provides high-quality professional education to service the demand for upskilling professionals in using emerging technologies for their businesses. All executive courses are themed around one or more Focus Areas where EIT Digital sees significant societal and industrial challenges and opportunities for Europe to take a leadership position in the global digital economy. Beyond the practical entrepreneurial skills, the ambition is also to further foster innovation skills and business awareness among participants: learn to understand how the process of digital transformation works; understand how IT technology may impact the market and change business models.

All courses in the portfolio combine a broad-based, practical introduction to the main concepts and practices in each field explored (e.g., AI, blockchain, cybersecurity, data science), combined with practical learning and takeaways immediately applicable within the work environment. The proposed blended learning approach immerses participants in a rich experience, combining face-to-face in-class interaction with the most diverse online opportunities.

In 2021, the overall focus was to consolidate the current course portfolio and build and maintain timely and mutually beneficial relationships with existing knowledge partners involved in the design and delivery of the courses. In addition, a key priority was to appropriately test the market traction of the course portfolio through dedicated marketing campaigns, following a customer-driven approach. In addition, the School started a B2B outreach for scaling the activity toward companies with specific training needs and initiated some new collaborations to develop additional courses in 2022.

The global learners' uptake of EIT Digital professional self-paced courses on the Coursera platform experienced steady growth, with an average of +300 new weekly registrations and a total of over 24,000 unique learners for professional courses, including over 4,000-course completions.

EIT DIGITAL SUMMER SCHOOL

The EIT Digital Summer School is one of the most successful of its kind in Europe. All our summer schools focused on topics well-aligned with EIT Digital's Focus Areas and key enabling technologies outlined in our Strategic Innovation Agenda. The summer schools were organised by partners from various locations across Europe, including 5 from RIS locations (Estonia, Slovenia, Hungary, Italy, Spain). Due to the travel constraints imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the schools were delivered in an online format. The 11 summer schools welcomed 375 learners, including 85 external paying participants.

FUTURE OUTLOOK

For the next years, EIT Digital will work on adapting the education activities to achieve a sustainable model. We will find new paths of collaboration with additional instruments such as the HEI cross-KIC initiative and we will foster the connection with DGCNECT. Additionally, EIT Digital wants to extend the use of the EIT label to other education programmes, such as professional education.

2021 STATISTICS

MASTER SCHOOL

Students enrolled,	**265**
Students graduated	**243**
Programmes	**9**
Universities	**18**

INDUSTRIAL DOCTORAL SCHOOL

Students enrolled, end of year	**95**
IDSL track	**51**
New PhD students enrolled	**6**
Organisations participating	**57**
Number of locations	**11**

PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL

Courses	**10**

SUMMER SCHOOL

Participants	**375**
External paying participants	**85**
Business cases analysed	**60**
Number of summer schools	**11**

Digital Tech

Innovation Standup – Startup

Within the Innovation Factory, in 2021, 7 activities were executed in Digital Tech, launching 7 new products to the market and creating 5 new startups.

In the networking area, the activity MCU Fortifier launched the Security Embedded startup. The venture's main product is a software-based Trusted Execution Environment for low-powered and resource-constrained embedded systems. It is a secure software layer that can be installed on many low-end IoT devices, allowing other applications installed on the devices to run safely. Two of the activity partners, Atos and Reply, are the startup's first customers, acting as system integrators and distributing the product as part of their offer.

The SCOUT innovation activity continued the development of a scalable, manufacturer independent Secure Lifecycle Management Platform to protect and manage Industrial IoT assets from the cloud to the edge. Ingwaz, the startup launched in 2020 within the activity deployed the product in two pilots, in Italy and Sweden.

In the Data/AI area, the SmarTerp activity and the startup (Kunveno Technologos) that it has created launched an AI-powered tool for Remote Simultaneous Interpreting (RSI) — a modality of interpretation that has grown exponentially in the wake of the pandemic, helping human interpreters to cope with the isolation imposed by the coronavirus crisis.

AiDi (AI-powered software testing for Digital Infrastructures) has developed a software

application which applies AI and reinforcement learning to software testing. This way, it is possible to run multiple automation tests and test cases in parallel, leading to quicker, more complete and safer verification and validation. A startup, Hel.Day S.R.L, was formed in December 2021.

In 2021, the MateDub activity, which started in 2020, fine-tuned a learning mechanism to improve the workflow efficiency and the capability of processing video with multiple speakers and in a larger set of languages, to increase market penetration. Its main products are a web tool to quickly create high-quality voice-over projects and a powerful editor which uses AI to automatizes the multilingual subtitling process.

In cybersecurity, PrOTectME started to provide B2B cyber-risk management services to SMEs and help them to find the optimal combination of cybersecurity solutions (including cyber insurance) that can mitigate cyber risks. This enables even small companies to efficiently measure, understand, improve and certify their cyber-posture. A startup, ProtectMe S.R.L, was formed in July 2021.

The increasing number and complexity of cyberattacks that organizations have to face is also

the motivation behind Obviews. The activity produced a platform that dynamically analyzes multi-step attack scenarios to improve decision making by providing the most likely cyberattacks. The next phase of development will consist of industrializing the solution.

Eleven startups focused on Digital Tech were launched as part of the RIS Venture Program 2021.

PrOTectME

The evaluation of cyber risks is a fundamental instrument for governance, cost containment and maximization of ROI. The PrOTectME (Protecting Operational Technologies of Medium Enterprises from Cyber Risks) innovation activity has developed a solution, the RATING-OT tool, which automates the vulnerability assessment of cyber infrastructures and the quantification of cascading effects of cyber-attacks and incidents.

The tool then recommends the optimal combination of cybersecurity solutions (including cyber insurance) to mitigate the identified cyber risks. RATING-OT is available under license to companies wishing to independently carry out a continuous evaluation of their cyber posture. In small and medium enterprises, this can increase confidence in using new technologies and adopting increasing automation. The tool can positively impact managers' and workers' safety in daily operations, increasing efficiency and coordination.

The partners of the activity were ResilTech, Engineering, Cefriel, and BME. A startup was created within the activity to offer B2B cyber-risk management services. Exploiting the partners' know-how and existing assets, the start-up helps its clients to measure, understand, improve and certify their cyber-posture for Operational Technologies.

Launched in July 2021, the PrOTectMe startup has subsequently signed contracts with customers in automotive and Industrial Automation and Control Systems markets. A framework agreement was also signed between ProtectMe and RINA S.p.A., a leading certification authority, operating worldwide, with the aim of providing technical support for the assessment activities that lead to the certification of customers' infrastructures.

protectme-srl.com

Digital Tech

Innovation Scaleup

In the Digital Tech focus area, in 2021 the EIT Digital Accelerator scaleup programme supported eight scaleups from four European countries in the sub areas of data, cybersecurity and networking.

The portfolio companies supported by the EIT Digital Accelerator provided significant value for customers looking for cybersecurity solutions (IoT security, critical infrastructure security and prevention security), solutions supporting multi-channel communication and human-machine interaction, or for any kind of data analysis, data-management or data-reporting solutions.

A significant contribution to cybersecurity in cloud services is provided by Italian scaleup Cubbit. Today, 96% of cloud users working from small offices or at home, are not premium and six out of ten businesses in the EU are away from the cloud. Cubbit's solution transforms underutilized resources at the edge of the internet into next-generation B2B cloud services.

Cubbit enables SMEs to access the power of the cloud bundled with zero-knowledge encryption and all this two times more cost-efficient compared to datacentre-based solutions. In September 2021, Cubbit was named among the winners of the EIT Digital Challenge for deep tech scaleups and was awarded one year of international growth support by the EIT Digital Accelerator.

Another EIT Digital Challenge winner, German scaleup NECT, entered the Accelerator to fast-track its goal of becoming the leading European identity wallet, including identity verification and eSignatures. NECT is an AI-based identity verification solution for a secure, yet user-friendly authentication process. With just a smartphone, users can verify their identity in less than one minute anytime, anywhere with the same level of security as an in-person verification. Its Robo-Ident technology supports all European ID documents, has the lowest prices in the market and fully complies with all relevant regulations.

French scaleup Datategy, which operates in the data-analysis and data management sub domain, joined the Accelerator in October 2021, after winning another important contest: a call launched by EIT Digital as part of the New European Bauhaus initiative to identify the most promising digital technology ventures that develop innovative solutions. Around 150 ventures from 27 European countries submitted their applications and Datategy was one of just four companies that got selected.

The scaleup's collaborative and scalable AI platform enables enterprise customers to collect, cleanse, and analyse data from multiple sources and deploy predictive models for various use cases in a number of industries (e.g., utilities, manufacturing, health & biotech, transportation).

Webio CEO Cormac O'Neill

On the human-machine interaction front, German scaleup Structr created a platform that uses a mixture of low- and pro-code to enable applications to be developed extremely efficient, while their graph technology allows each development step to be visualised to support stakeholder involvement at each stage. Structr's solution is able to save up to 90% of development time depending on the complexity of the project. The scaleup joined the EIT Digital Accelerator at the end of 2020 to get support for scaling operations across Europe and targeting industries such as transport, construction, and telecoms.

Webio

Irish scaleup Webio joined the EIT Digital Accelerator in 2019. Webio offers an AI driven customer engagement technology platform that enables customers to communicate with companies using popular messaging apps and voice interfaces like WhatsApp, SMS, Messenger, Apple Business Chat, Android RCS, Amazon Alexa, and Google Home.

The company's technology works by helping to predict conversational outcomes by analysing in real time what is being said and the manner in which it is being said so that it can identify the best way to respond.

In June 2021, the company raised €1.5 million in investment in a pre-Series A funding round which was organized by EIT Digital and led by Finch Capital. EIT Digital and Enterprise Ireland also backed the investment, buying a €500,000 stake each in the company. The funding will go straight into deepening Webio's capabilities in conversational AI, doubling the company's R&D team, and expanding the sales and customer success teams to address the market demand.

While its customers have been predominantly in the Irish and UK markets, Webio has recently secured several key partnerships in Europe and the USA, laying the foundations for future growth.

"This investment is another step in our strategic development plans to fundamentally change how this sector works. Conversations about money are hard, they can be difficult to understand, and they can be stressful. We believe that the industry is poised for change and that Webio will deliver a future where these difficult conversations are made easier and managed better," the scaleup's CEO and co-founder, Cormac O'Neill, said.

www.webio.com

Digital Tech

Education

Digital innovation cannot take place without robust, secure and scalable infrastructures to facilitate it. All core digital technologies require a number of skills to be able to make an efficient use of them. Among others, the following skills are required: Fundamentals of Data Science, Statistics, Programming Knowledge, Data Manipulation and Analysis, Data Visualization, Machine Learning, Deep Learning, Big Data, Software Engineering, Model Deployment, Communication Skills, Storytelling Skills, Structured Thinking and not least, Curiosity.

The EIT Digital Master School contributes to this focus area offering programmes such as 'Embedded Systems', 'Cloud and Network Infrastructures' and 'Cybersecurity'. All of them, follow the principle of application-focused technical programmes and provide our students with both the technical knowhow and growth mindset to develop, grow, and consolidate the infrastructures.

Blockchain for the Decision Maker

The EIT Digital Professional School keeps European professionals at the forefront of today's fast-paced digital technologies. Part of the 2021 course portfolio was Blockchain for the Decision Maker, developed with Hungarian partner Budapest University of Technology and Economics (BME). The course took place onsite in November 2021 at the EIT Digital office in Budapest.

This professional course develops skills needed for evaluating and introducing blockchain-based solutions into participant enterprise systems. It started with a deep dive into blockchain essentials, looking at which services are best positioned for 'blockchainification'. Then, it used a combination of face-to-face training, group activities, and hands-on exercises to cover an array of specific blockchain solutions, processes, and concepts, including blockchain-based distributed ledger, business application patterns and process-driven transitions, and benefits and risks of using cloud-based blockchain-as-a-service options.

In addition, and to enhance the learning experience, the course included an opportunity to apply the new skills and knowledge towards solving real challenges within the 'bring your own problem' session. This is a unique opportunity to use blockchain proof-of-concept applications to the types of challenges participants face every day. The course targets professionals of the CIO/CTO level, product owners and managers, business solution architects, and also professionals at large with an interest in digitalisation and novel IT solutions. Florian Reitsma, COO, Freeway Entertainment Group B.V.: "Besides demystifying several misunderstood blockchain/Hyperledger and NFT concepts and, in some cases, unrealistic client expectations, I gained an arsenal of insights, arguments, and knowledge to help our clients understand the value-added of deploying blockchain technologies. I especially liked the brainstorming sessions as they created a safe background for all participants to exchange views and where abstract ideas and concepts came to life through case studies and numerous metaphors and analogies. I would highly recommend the course to business owners and managing directors for getting a solid understanding of applied blockchain technologies."

professionalschool.eitdigital.eu/blockchain-for-the-decision-maker

The EIT Digital Industrial Doctoral School supports deep digital transformation through communication, computing and cybersecurity technologies. The school is running research projects with several of the main tech and communication players, for instance Ericsson and TIM, covering the following topics: 5G (5G edge computing and integration challenges for 5G); networks (network architectures, network technologies for big data); quantum computing (quantum security of cryptographic primitives) and security (cryptographically secure, anonymity and authentication in large databases).

Ronja Jösch

The Industrial Doctoral School delivers talents able to combine deep knowledge in the technical domain with entrepreneurship skills as also proved by the inclusion of Abdelhadi Azzouni, one the school's alumni, in the Forbes 30 Under 30 Europe list in the category Technology.

The EIT Digital Professional School offers several courses within the Digital Tech focus area, covering various topics: digital transformation, big data, blockchain, security, artificial intelligence and data science. The 2021 EIT Digital Professional School portfolio included several courses in the focus area of Digital Tech. For example, the 'Blockchain for the Decision-Maker' and 'Blockchain for Digital Manufacturing and Logistics' are both courses taught by the Budapest University of Technology and Economics, focusing on the application opportunities of blockchain-driven solutions respectively for business opportunities and increasing productivity manufacturing and logistics sector. Likewise, the course Sustainable Digital Innovation by KTH Executive School helps managers integrate sustainability

I wanna be an expert in cloud computing

The trend towards cloudification is not just enabling new business models but also job opportunities. According to one study, cloud computing is expected to create 1.6 million new jobs. To fill these roles, companies are actively seeking experts and specialists who not only understand the fundamentals of networking and cloud computing, but who can use their knowledge to drive innovative new business models. The EIT Digital Master School appeared on German Ronja Jösch radar when she decided to continue her studies to a masters after finishing her bachelors in computer science. The EIT Digital Master School caught her eye because of its Cloud Computing and Services programme.

In her bachelors, she enjoyed the combination of both computer science and entrepreneurial thinking, but her interest in computer science grew even more after an internship working as a software engineer and completing her bachelor's thesis. To Ronja the EIT Digital Master School's 'Cloud Computing and Services Program' fitted well. She studied her first year of the two-year-long master program at Université Rennes 1 (France) and second at KTH (Sweden).

"I really love the idea behind the EIT Digital Master School of bringing innovation and computer science together. The School combines computer science with an entrepreneurial mindset instead of splitting them out as two separate entities as other schools do. That to me is the strength of the school".

Ronja Jösch did her internship at SVT, Sweden's Public Television, to which she also later wrote her master thesis about service meshes at the infrastructure team. In her thesis, she evaluated if service meshes in particular are beneficial to implement and if developers can use them to improve their work or not. Already while closing her studies at the EIT Digital Master School, she found herself a job at Amazon Web Services as an IT consultant professional services and validated in the same, the great job market opportunities of cloud computing specialists.

masterschool.eitdigital.eu

with digital solutions into their business planning and product development.

In 2021, EIT Digital held two online Summer Schools in the Digital Tech focus area: 'Internet of Things and Business Transformation' (Stockholm) and 'Digital Method for Media and Democracy' (Amsterdam). Each school had, on average, 35 participants working on business

challenges in teams of about six. Around ten business cases generated from industry - including EIT Digital Partners - were developed. Business cases came from a variety of sectors such as agriculture, energy management, manufacturing, environmental monitoring, and journalism. This shows the growing interest from the industry ecosystem toward the education programs and their tech-savvy talents.

Digital Cities

Innovation Standup – Startup

In 2021, within the Innovation Factory, the Digital Cities focus area had eight Innovation Activities, on mobility, data analytics and city safety. The outcome of these activities was the launch of six products and four new ventures.

The activity 'Neighbourhood drop-off' created a platform to support a citizen-based network for alternative delivery addresses to be use when the recipient of a parcel is not available, thus avoiding multiple delivery attempts, optimizing the process, decreasing delivery costs, and reducing the traffic polluting. The activity led to the creation of the Cosy Colis startup. Market commercialisation is scheduled for mid-2022.

After successful pilots, which were executed in 2021, the Last Mile Autonomous Delivery innovation activity continued to optimize and test its software platform for delivery robots in France and Finland. LMAD SAS was incorporated in 2020 and has worked with partners such as Nokia, EDF and DB Schenker to deliver parcels to end customers and employees of these companies.

Also in the mobility domain, the CityBeamer activity, led by a startup (CityBeamer B.V.) created in 2020 from a previous activity, further developed its tourist application and logistics platform, which is set to enable cost-reduction and profit margins increase for micro-mobility systems in cities.

In the city safety area, Ecowise Healthy Home Suites has built a platform for facilities operators to utilise buildings' physical characteristics and live data, to monitor and verify indoor health and safety conditions, while providing an energy efficient systems operation.

The innovation activity UDX-Urban Data Exchange developed a curated, high quality, and updated urban data repository, to support the creation of services in Smart Cities, including the collection of fresh IoT information from cities'
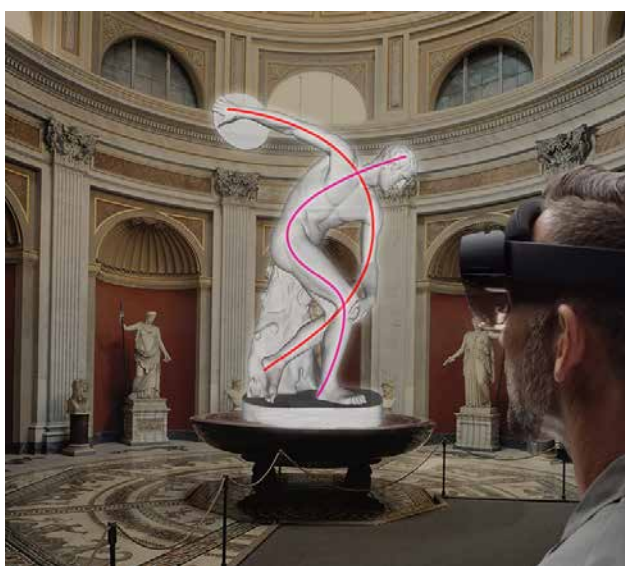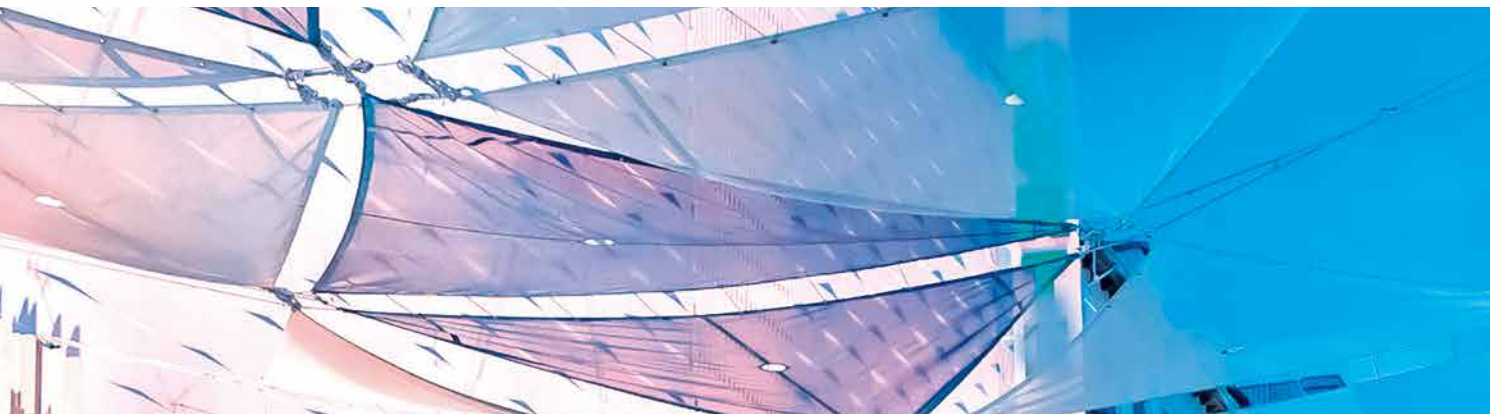
data lakes. A startup, Urban Data Collective Ltd, was formed in December 2020.

Activity CO_2 Marketplace focused on cities' environmental issues, building a system based on blockchain and smart contracts to promote a local e-market of CO_2 rights. A startup, CO_2 Marketplace, S.L, was formed in December 2021.

Another activity, ART- Augmented Reality for Tourism, addressed the growing need in the current health crisis for enhanced safety and protection measures for tourists. With ART Augmented Reality tools, tourists can explore cities effectively and interactively, while keeping out of danger. A startup, ART O.T.F S.R.L, was formed in April 2021.

The ART platform was at the centre of the online 'Digital Tourism' DeepHack, which was organised in November 2021, with the goal of creating innovative digital tourism experiences and solutions. The event attracted 43 participants from 18 countries. The winning team developed an Extended Reality solution to recreate a museum inside a user's own room.

ART

The ART (Augmented Reality for Tourism in a changing era) early bird innovation activity started in October 2020 within the Digital Cities focus area. Partners of the activity included TIM, Fifth Ingenium, Politecnico di Milano and TU Berlin. The ART team created a technological platform based on eXtended Reality technologies for tour operators, tourism and event managers to enhance the attractiveness of their touristic offer.

Thanks to a web-based toolset with pre-built interactions and to a 3D editor, it is possible to set up and personalize immersive applications, allowing tourists to enjoy touristic destinations remotely or to enhance on-site experiences. Tour operators can create an engaging experience for their customers by showing remotely 2D-3D contents in 3D virtual environments. On-site, ART offers the opportunity to create AR multi-user experiences that combine artistic locations with virtual tour guides and digital contents.

Tourists can explore this new kind of experience using a traditional AR application for a smartphone or innovative smart glasses. The ART O.T.F. startup was incorporated in April 2021 to commercialise the solution. The MVP was validated through a pilot which took place in the first half of 2021. Nure, a cooperative which offers services for the cultural heritage sector, tested the platform at the archaeological park of Santa Lucia ad Assolo in Sardinia, Italy, and then became the first customer.

In November 2021, the ART team co-organized, with the support of EIT Digital and EIT Urban Mobility, the 'Digital Tourism' DeepHack to validate the technology and collect new scenarios from hackathon participants.

In 2022, the startup activities will mainly focus on business development and on adding new features, following customers' feedback.

outoftheframe.art

Digital Cities

Innovation Scaleup

In the Digital Cities focus area, the EIT Digital Accelerator supports scaleups leveraging digital technologies in the urban mobility, city analytics and safety domains.

The Accelerator has welcomed three new scaleups in this area into its 2021 program and has continued to support four companies that had joined in 2020.

A remarkable company in this focus area, fully in line with today's new paradigms of urban mobility is Velco, a French company developing an all-in-one fleet management solution for connected e-bikes and e-scooters in Europe. The company started its Access to Finance program at the Accelerator in the second half of 2020 and in March 2021 it was able to close a Series-A financing round of €5 million by French and Belgian investors.

In the urban mobility domain, the EIT Digital Accelerator also supports Vaimoo, an Italian scaleup that has developed a unique, comprehensive, and innovative e-bike sharing solution designed to offer sustainability, scalability and flexibility to operators while providing the best last-mile travel experience and usability to end-users.

Vaimoo manufactures its own e-bikes using recycled aluminium. They are GPS controlled and designed to prevent vandalism. In addition, their anti-puncture wheels combined with front disk brake set these e-bikes at the top of quality, resistance, and safety standards, thus resulting in cost-savings for operators. Vaimoo joined the Accelerator in July 2021. In the second half of the year, it started operating in Stockholm and increased its fleet to 500 e-bikes for the sharing service in Rotterdam.
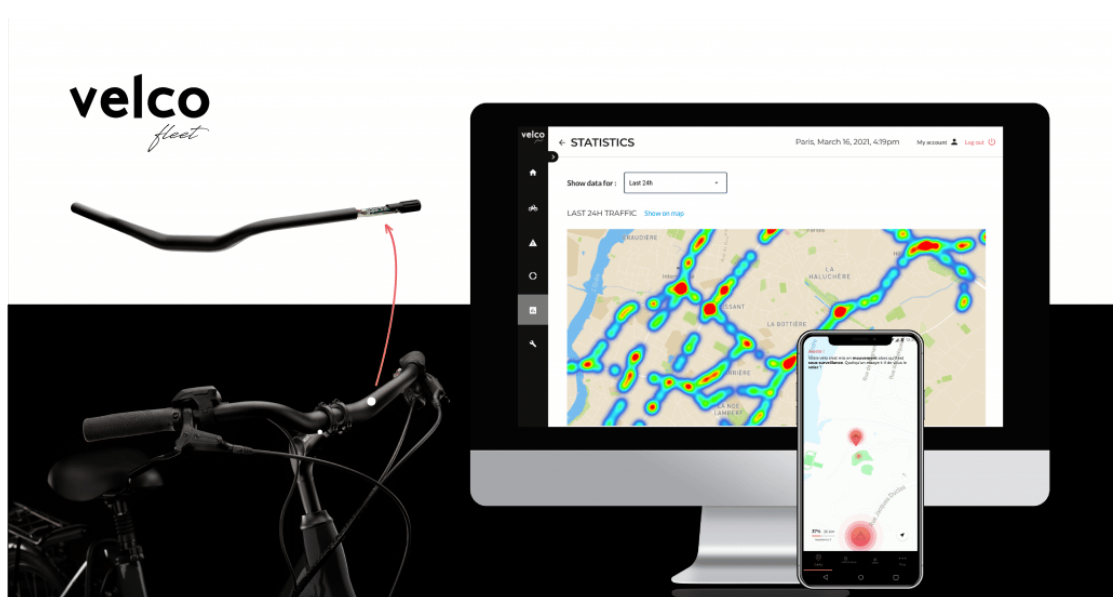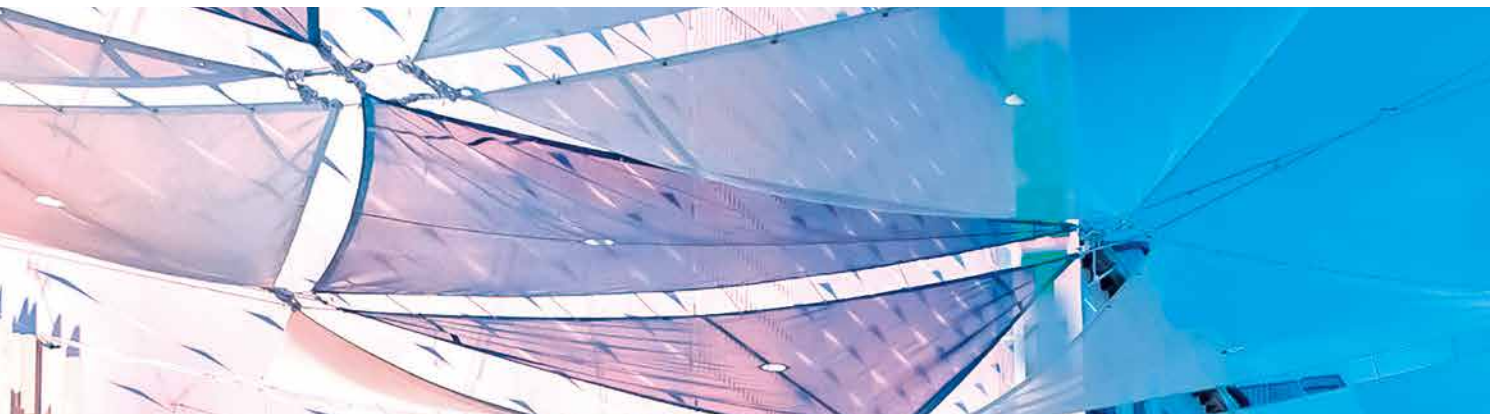
In the city analytics domain, another scaleup supported by the Accelerator, Boxie24, is disrupting the self-storage market by outperforming through digitalisation, analytics and automation with third-party full-service, on-demand storage management. Boxie24's storage and logistics digital management platform makes self-storage orders, deliveries, and retrievals affordable and easy for customers while providing a higher level of service and lower costs than traditional self-storage business models.

The scaleup now has more than 20,000 customers across 25 cities and 70 storage facilities in Germany, the Netherlands, Australia and the USA. Boxie24 was among the winners of the New European Bauhaus pilot call to identify the most promising high-impact European digital technology ventures and was awarded one year of international growth support by the EIT Digital Accelerator as a result.

Among the companies that joined the Accelerator in 2020 and continued to be supported throughout 2021, it's worth mentioning German scaleup Flynex. FlyNex helps companies in energy, waste, construction, and real estate run their projects by using drones to collect and distribute data quickly and accurately. This allows

corporations to save up to 90% of the costs that traditional data mining processes typically involve. The Accelerator introduce the company to more than 60 prospects, with several deals being discussed.

Velco

velco

Leveraging innovation and a strong recognition in the bicycle industry, French scaleup Velco aims to connect all types of two-wheeled vehicles (i.e., e-scooters, bikes, motorcycles) in urban environments.

The Velco software suite is connected to 3 products integrated into bikes, scooters and motorcycles to meet the challenges of theft prevention, road safety and vehicle reliability. The connected products (Wink Bar, Nuotrax and Onitrax) are integrated into the vehicles and feed back data, which is collected and exploited via customised platforms to meet the specific needs of professionals in terms of maintenance, after-sales service, business analysis, theft and loss management, user knowledge, reporting and performance enhancement.

Since March 2020, Velco has been actively supported by the EIT Digital Accelerator team in launching and coordinating its fundraising, which generated strong interest from multiple investors across Europe, resulting in a €5 million series A funding. The financing round included commitments from Banque des Territoires, the Belgian impact fund Inventures Investment Partners, and Velco's historical investors Go Capital, Pays de la Loire Participations, led by Siparex and family offices.

Boosted by the series A financing round, the company is strengthening its European presence, with the ambition to become the European market leader by 2024. In 2021, it opened offices in the Netherlands and Germany. In 2022, Velco plans to establish itself in the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Austria and the Scandinavian countries. Velco's team now consists of about 30 employees, with the goal to grow to 50 by the end of 2022.

velco.tech

Digital Cities

Education

Education is an important element in smart city development. Strengths in education, advanced training and certification, universities, e-learning infrastructure, lifelong learning, and innovation in educational technologies are all part of what defines a smart city. Smart cities recognize the need for educational programmes producing graduates with modern knowledge, practical skills and collaborative attitudes.

Knowing how to process and use this data in a way that creates value for city inhabitants requires the customer-centric approach and deep tech skills that are the trademark of EIT Digital Master School graduates. In this regard, some of the programmes offered by the EIT Digital Master School are very much in demand, such as Embedded Systems, Cloud and Network Infrastructures and Data Science.

The Industrial Doctoral School contributes to the digitalisation of cities, understanding it as a continuous, never-ending process of increasing complexity. The active PhD projects in this area are focused on leveraging city data for vital urban living, fostering autonomous driving in cities (vehicle-to-everything and AI for autonomous driving), safety in smart cities, municipality services, infrastructures and security. In 2021,

Digital Platforms for Smart Cities

City-data along with analytics and machine learning improves the engagement and inclusiveness of its citizens and visitors. Smart cities are in the quest to meet the challenges of developing and maintaining attractive, inclusive and safe urban environments. Mobility and transportation form a key area in cities that may integrate public, private, peer-to-peer, conventional, clean, or autonomous transportation with smart use of platform data.

The EIT Digital Summer School of Digital Platforms for Smart Cities brought over thirty EIT Master School students for two weeks together to work in groups on the business development process and business cases for digital retail. The business case was provided by the company LMAD (Last-Mile Autonomous Delivery). LMAD is an EIT Digital Innovation Factory originated startup founded in 2019. It has operations and product development both in Finland and France. Its partners include key players such as GIM Robotics and Forum Virium Helsinki. The startup is working on a unique digital platform that utilizes autonomous robots for solving the last-mile delivery problem in a logistics context.

The Helsinki Digital Platforms for Smart Cities lasted for two weeks during which the students worked together in multi-disciplinary teams. The Smart Cities business community and the startup ecosystem in Aalto University (an EIT Digital partner) and Helsinki city capital region provided real-life cases for the summer school. The cases stressed the importance of developing a concept that creates value for the target audience and is feasible from a business perspective.

The challenge provided by LMAD involved new use case scenarios for the platform and robot infrastructure. Few bottlenecks arise right from the introduction of delivery systems that utilize autonomous vehicles. They include legislation, user perception, technology restrictions, and getting partnerships.
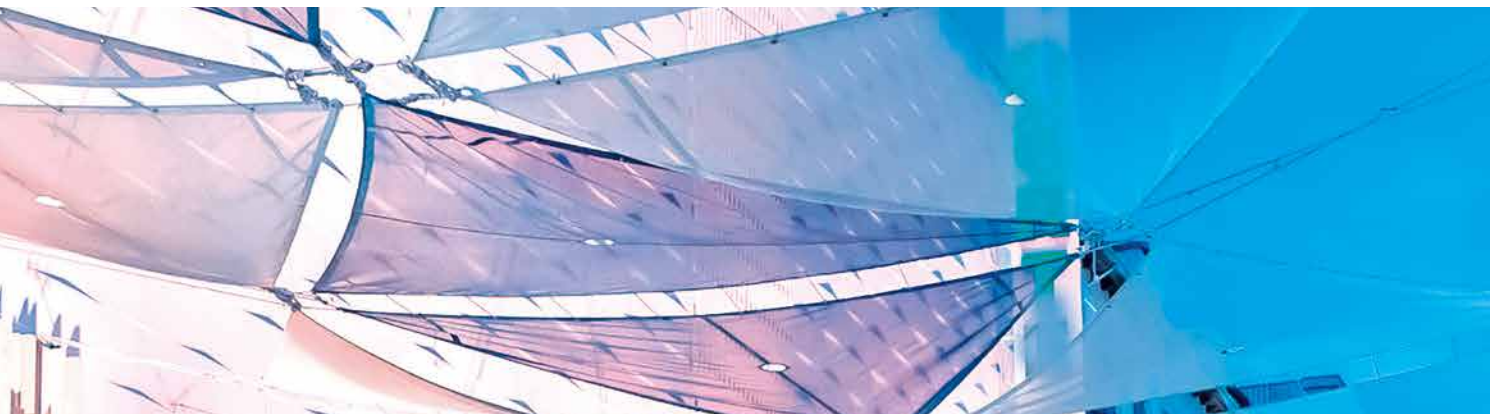
The options for the presented business cases were to either develop a go-to-market strategy in European cities or countries and define operating parameters for a potential rollout. Another way to come up with additional use cases for the information gathered by the robots, as they are equipped with numerous sensors and can be extended with additional ones as well.

www.lmad.eu

Stanley Kelder

a PhD position was filled for a new project on cyber-resilience of connected and autonomous vehicles.

EIT Digital held three online Summer Schools in the Digital Cities focus area: 'Reshaping Cities for a Healthy Environment' (Rennes), 'Digital Platforms for Smart Cities' (Helsinki) and 'Digital Transformation for Organizational Resilience' (Ljubljana). Each school had about 30 participants. Summer School participants work on business challenges in teams of six students. In total, 15 business cases originating from the industry ecosystem were developed.

The 'Reshaping Cities for a Healthy Environment' summer school was attended by 20 EIT Digital Master School students and it was highly appreciated by 13 external participants as well, despite the

Save the City! The interactive game of EIT Digital Master School student

Six hundred years ago, one of the world's worst floods in history threatened the existence of the Dutch city Dordrecht and its inhabitants. 2021 was the year to commemorate this event. The city uses an escape room-like gaming app called SavetheCity! to teach young people about this event. The start-up Interactive City Discovery, co-founded by EIT Digital Master School student Stanley Kelder, is the brain behind this app launched in March 2021.

Kelder says the app is innovative as it brings together the physical and the digital world.
The origin of the idea arose just before Kelder started his studies at the EIT Digital Master School programme Human Computer Interaction and Design. With the user in mind, Kelder started coding the app and sharing design ideas with his friend.

"My friend helped to think about the puzzles we wanted to embed in the app. In my second EIT Digital Master School year in Finland, at Aalto University, I was eligible for studying a class in gaming. I learned that the story behind a game is one of the most important success factors. If the story is not convincing, then the game is poor. The insights led to the creation of the escape room as we have developed it now."

During the product development process, the idea of the app had shifted from a puzzle app to explore new cities, to an exciting escape room like game based on a true historical story to not just learn about the city but also relive the becoming of cities. Telling the narrative of cities is part of the go-to-market strategy. Dordrecht is a good success story to convince other cities to have a tailor-made escape room game as well. The plan is to involve at least five more cities in 2022.

savethecity.app

online format due to the pandemic. During the first week, the topic of Digital Cities was introduced through lectures and business cases. Participants explored market and user profiles, as well as producing initial service concepts. They were also introduced to data analytics. Specifically, this course addressed market and user profiles and product and service concepts. It covered technological aspects, with participants performing market studies and competitor analysis, and exploring social and usability aspects of the proposed business cases.

Digital Industry

Innovation Standup – Startup

Within the Innovation Factory, the Digital Industry portfolio included in 2021 18 innovation activities distributed across the production and logistics domains. The activities delivered three new products and one new startup, while other results and achievements will become more prominent in 2022.

In the production area, IVSILA (Intelligent Vision System for in-line analyses of traditional bakery product) created an intelligent system that visually inspects production in real time: defective products are reported to the production line's information system, allowing the sorting of defective products and a real time correction of the production. The activity is now in the pilot phase, a leading German snack food company acting as pilot customer.

The activity 'No-man entry tank cleaning' created an add-on module for existing remotely operated cleaning and inspection vehicles that are in use in the oil processing industry. This innovative add-on software and sensor package offers an internal overview of the location of the tool in the tank and shows the travelled path inside the tank, making it possible to backtrack in case of danger. A startup incorporated in the Netherlands, iMundo, will explore the feasibility of extending the technology to other industrial cleaning applications.

Another activity, Aquaculture Insights, created a software application to manage and visualise the data being generated by various devices and sensors in use at a salmon aquaculture installation. The solution generates unique insights for salmon farmers and leads to significant savings by making more efficient use of feed.

Two activities were focused on creating and using digital twins to improve safety and sustainability.

Preventing industrial fires is the core mission of the Digital Twin for Safety activity. To achieve this, Digital Twin for Safety combines a novel very early detection UV sensor with an infrared sensor. A software backbone integrates the sensor's output and leverages data analytics for real-time hazard prediction and proactive risk mitigation. The activity led to the launch of a startup, Detectium, and deployed a pilot in a factory in Finland.

Green Digital Twins launched a collaborative, cloud-based platform for sustainability accounting with clear dashboard visualization. By using this platform when designing a product, process or industrial plant, businesses can make product-level environmental footprint and handprint KPIs as precise, reliable and easy to monitor as fiscal KPIs have been made by accounting software and practices.

WALDO (Widely Applicable Library for Detection of Outliers) has developed a comprehensive anomaly detection framework with a graphical

user interface and modular design, allowing customized solutions. A startup has been created and will improve and market the product in 2022.

In the logistics chain, the activity 'Blockchain Based Tracing and Tracking'(B2T2) developed a solution that makes the bureaucratic process required to transport containers to and from logistic nodes smarter. It addresses specifically the truck fleet market, offering a simple and efficient web-based interface to the systems that manage port operations. The TUIT startup, launched within the activity, successfully signed several trial customers in the Italian ports of Genova and Savona.

In the retail area, the activity ELLURE, which launched a startup in 2020, continued to promote its personalised liquid lipstick solution. In October 2021, it signed a contract with a major international retailer to pilot the technology.

TUIT

The B2T2 (Blockchain Based Tracing and Tracking) innovation activity developed a software platform to digitize the procedure required to transport containers to and from logistic nodes, with specific reference to port operations and road transport.

This platform provides certified event tracking, leveraging blockchain technology to improve the functionalities of road transport through synergy with existing information systems and ERPs. This leads to the creation of a single effective digital interface to support the operation of the hundreds of companies that operate in terminals and logistic hubs.

Activity partners included SIS, a company operating in the Port of Genova, Fundación Valenciaport, a research institution of the Port of Valencia, Infoport, TIM and DocSpace.

B2T2 started in September 2020 as an early bird activity. In 2021, the TUIT startup was launched within the activity with the aim of becoming the go-to digital partner of road transport operators for communication and document interchange in ports and inland logistics centres.

The company specifically addresses the needs of truck drivers and fleet management companies, by integrating truck fleet information systems into so-called Port Community Systems (the digital systems that manage operations, trace and track containers, handle transactions, and monitor the situation in ports).

Currently, TUIT's services are being tested by 350 companies operating inside the Genova and Savona ports, handling approximately 800 journeys a day.

tu-it.com

Innovation Scaleup

In the Digital Industry focus area, the EIT Digital Accelerator supports scaleups that are driving digital transformation in the production, logistics and retail sectors. In 2021, the Accelerator has welcomed seven new ventures in this area and has continued to support eight companies that had joined in 2020.

Connecting Food

CONNECTING FOOD

Deep tech scaleup Connecting Food won the first prize at the EIT Digital Challenge 2021, receiving €100,000 in cash and one year of free EIT Digital Accelerator support to raise funds, sign new customers and expand internationally.

Founded in 2016 by agribusiness experts, the company has offices in Paris, France and Milan, Italy. Connecting Food offers a digital transparency platform which creates value for agri-food players and restores consumers' confidence in the quality, safety, and sustainability of the food they eat. The platform is based on the blockchain, a distributed ledger that facilitates secure data sharing and renders information immutable.

On top of that, the scaleup has developed a digital auditing module that provides real-time traceability of products and audits their quality. This enables Connecting Food's customers to be more transparent about their food's origins, as well as improving and automating their internal processes and supply chain.

On the end consumer side, a QR code printed on the product's packaging enables shoppers to discover the product's entire journey to their home, from farm to fork.

The company went from six employees in 2018 to more than 30 today, signing big customers, such as Coop Italia, the largest retailer in Italy, and Herta, the leader in pre-packaged deli meats in France. It is now planning to expand its client base and scale in other European countries. To do that, it will be raising a Series A financing round with the support of the EIT Digital Accelerator.

connecting-food.com

Among the new ones, British-Greek scaleup Pobuca joined the Accelerator in July 2021 in the retail domain. Based in Athens and London, Pobuca defines itself as a Customer Experience (CX) company. The company has developed Pobuca Experience Cloud, a customer data platform & CRM for brands and retailers that helps them measure, design, and improve Customer Experience (CX) and achieve key objectives of increased customer satisfaction, loyalty and advocacy.

They offer turn-key solutions; from consulting services to solution design, customization services, after-sales technical support, and marketing managed services. With Pobuca Experience Cloud, clients get a complete view of their customers, allows them to engage customers with personalized campaigns, offer them omnichannel customer service and increase their loyalty.

Pobuca's solution is based on Microsoft Cloud technologies: the company is a Microsoft Gold partner and has twice been recognized as Microsoft Country Partner of the year.

Another company supported in the retail sub-area is Homeland, a French scaleup providing a unique digital solution to the pain points of the traditional condominium real estate market. The company's platform has developed in-house tools to digitize the administrative procedures and tasks related to the management of a building, intending to bring more transparency to the co-owners, free up time to the managers of the property, and enabling clients to reduce costs associated with property management. Thanks to its proprietary SaaS platform, condominium

managers become more efficient and up to twelve times more productive than traditional players. Homeland represents a unique offer for an industry that has not undergone its digital transformation yet.

Since May 2021, Homeland has been actively supported by the EIT Digital Accelerator in its fundraising activities by identifying and contacting potential investors throughout Europe.

In the production domain, French scaleup Stimio has developed an AI driven digitalization platform for railways and other asset-intensive industries. Stimio's technology allows automation of inspection operations on heterogenous and long-life wagons and trains. Powered by Edge AI, it provides operators/customers with a secure, reactive, power efficient solution relying on modelling railway assets to streamline the maintenance process.

In logistics, Schrott24, a company based in Graz (Austria), offers a one-stop-shop solution to industrial scrap metal sellers, connecting them with specialized buyers across Europe & Asia, also taking care of transport and payment. The model is entirely asset-light and monetizes thanks to an arbitrage business model.

Education

Education and skills needs in the area of Digital Industry are covered by several EIT Digital Master School programmes including topics fully aligned with the challenge of Industry 4.0.

From Summer School case study to Innovation Activity

❋ **DriveTrust**

Tolga Varol from Turkey and German-Russian Roman Prytkov had a dream to change the world with IT. Technology and entrepreneurship fans Prytkov and Varol met at the EIT Digital Master School, where they jointly sowed the seeds for their startup DriveTrust during the Summer School part of their master's studies. Before they had finished their master's, they had already raised €1.5 million in funding when their Summer School project had become an EIT Digital Innovation Activity, seeing them partnering with big European companies.

Together with two other team members, Prytkov and Varol came up with an idea which they called DriveTrust. The idea was originally inspired by the car industry emission scandals.

"We wanted to think about how to prevent pollution and promote environmentally-friendly driving. That was too complicated. We then came up with a smart tracking device that could analyse driving behaviours and help drivers to improve in order to support traffic safety and eco-friendly driving."

DriveTrust is not the only company that makes driving-behaviour tools. The difference is that DriveTrust's solution is cheaper, more accurate and customisable. Varol says: "As far as our research has shown, the competing products offer a maximum of two or three variants. In our case, without additional customisation costs, it is possible to have five to six variants in terms of AI accuracy, long and short-range connectivity and optional V2X (vehicle to everything)." "We have a modular approach", Prytkov adds. "We can easily customise products to the customer's needs. Our competitors mostly offer a one-size-fits-all solution."

drivetrust.eu

are done. A new wave of global technology will change global production. Internationalization, in all aspects of business and industry, will be the norm. Future workers will need to be highly trained in the emerging technologies but also, as importantly, in the values associated with using those technologies. In the future, we must not only possess the ability to develop the technology but also to know whether, when, and where to use that technology.

DriveTrust founders Roman Prytkov and Tolga Varol

EIT Digital Master School programmes Autonomous Systems, Embedded Systems and Human Computer Interaction and Design widely cover the main competences underpinning Industry 4.0 and the skills needed for the digital transformation of industry.

The Industrial Doctoral School offers applied research projects in which deep tech is helping to revolutionise the manufacturing industry across the whole value chain. The current thesis topics are focused on both the production side (data driven solutions, factory floor solutions,

Industry 4.0 refers to the fourth industrial revolution. It calls for a dynamic transformation of how all aspects of business and production

predictive maintenance) and retail side (customer insight understanding, product customisation, product service customisation, automatic offer portfolio). In 2021, EIT Digital has recruited a new PhD student who will develop a method for the deployment of deep learning algorithms with applications in autonomous systems and industry 4.0.

EIT Digital held two online Summer Schools in the Digital Industry focus area: 'IoT Platforms for Industry 4.0' (Munich) and 'Big Data for Industry 4.0' (Bologna). Each school had an average of 35 participants. The Summer Schools work on business challenges in teams of about six participants. In total, 10 business cases originating from the industrial ecosystem were developed.

An integral learning objective of the Summer School 'IoT Platforms

for Industry 4.0' in Munich was to teach participants how to develop their own IoT device using Arduino microcontrollers and connect them to one of the leading industrial IoT platforms such as Siemens

MindSphere. This was offered as a specific programme in addition to the industry keynote speeches and innovation and entrepreneurship lectures that accompanied the business cases.

EIT Digital Master School student wants to shake up the construction industry

Tim Brinkman, today an EIT Digital Master School alumnus, wanted to make the building industry more sustainable by taking it into the digital age. He had been mulling over the idea for years,

"The construction industry is emitting the most CO_2 of all sectors. At the same time, it is the least digitalised industry. I believe in digitalisation and I believe we can do more for the climate and be efficient at the same time."

While taking the specialisation year of his two-year EIT Digital Master School Data Science program studies at EIT Digital's partner university at KTH in Stockholm, Brinkman attracted a fellow-student Haseeb Asif to the sustainable building sector project. This resulted in the startup, Construqt.eu. The company is both a consultancy and a sales platform for sustainable building materials with the aim its algorithms consult architects and engineers.

"Did you know that architects are spending about 60 hours each time trying to find accurate building materials? Imagine what it would take if they wanted to find sustainable building materials. With our smart tool, they can easily find and compare sustainable-labelled building materials. Our platform could expand like an Amazon platform for building materials."

Suppliers who want to be on the platform have to be sustainable. The automated part of Construqt.eu's offering delivers a list of wanted products based on architects inquiry. The company has started its operations from the Dutch and Nordic markets.

"These countries are ahead of other countries, in terms of the number of sustainable suppliers and on matters around legislation and mindset. In the Netherlands, for example, there is a strong focus on circular construction, meaning reusable materials. That is our market. In the Nordics, the focus is on biobased materials: that is what we offer as well."

Tim Brinkman

Digital Wellbeing

Innovation Standup – Startup

Within the Innovation Factory, in the Digital Wellbeing area, eight Innovation Activities launched in 2021 four new ventures and seven new products into the market. Three activities focused on children's wellbeing and in promoting a healthy lifestyle among the European population.

Revolab

Lithuanian startup Revolab, a winner of the 2020 EIT Digital Venture Program, has developed a platform to keep track of users' overall physical wellbeing via a home blood test kit.

Following simple step-by-step instructions, users collect a finger-prick blood sample and ship it back to Revolab. The results are available within 24 hours on the app and web platform. More than 30 different blood tests are currently available such as complete blood count (CBC), glucose level, thyroid panels, STD tests or enzyme markers if you are at risk of cancer or other conditions.

In 2021, the company has grown fast and achieved impressive results. In a very short timeframe, they went from inception to closing a seed round, signing six-digit pre-order deals, getting CE and FDA clearance. In 2022, it will expand to the US.

The startup has signed a deal with Kilo Health, one of the leading digital health and wellness companies globally with millions of customers in the US, which will sell Revolab's kits as part of a cardiovascular condition management solution. Initially, the plan is selling on the East Coast, in the states of New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania. A further expansion to the West Coast is scheduled for June 2022.

At the same time, the startup keeps on enhancing its technology for reading blood test results. The goal is to develop an automatic tool that translates test results into a language that people can easily understand.

www.revolab.eu

IDRO B.V, a Brussels-based startup, developed a smart patch that uses biochemical analysis to ensure dynamic personalized coaching, helping athletes to progress and optimize sports performance. Several tests have proven the reliability and accuracy of the sensor used, and the technology has raised interest from 50+ exercise physiologists and professional athletes across Europe.

The Greenhabit activity relies on gamified digital coaching, rooted in behavioral change with data driven personalized content, to stimulate mental, social and physical health. The startup Greenhabit Med Tech B.V. that was launched within the activity targets both the

Revolab co-founders Ovidijus Kalinas and Jekaterina Kaliniene

corporate wellness and the clinical healthcare markets. For the former, the startup has signed deals with three large distributors in the Netherlands. For the latter, deployment by healthcare providers to treat Diabetes Type-2 and other chronic diseases is planned.

The Combating Child Obesity activity uses Cognitive Behavioural Therapy in digital form to learn and predict children's personalized eating patterns. This knowledge is then applied to intervene at key moments to lastingly improve their eating behaviour. Clinical and public field pilots have been run in the Netherlands, Belgium and France and in 2022, the roll-out to the consumer and business markets is planned.

In the occupational health domain, UltraAI has developed a web-application embedding advanced algorithms focused on the monitoring and diagnosis of lung diseases. By exploiting advanced artificial intelligence algorithms, the system can analyse ultrasound data in a few seconds and assess the data according to a severity index associated with pulmonary damage.

Four activities developed solutions aimed at helping elderly people to stay healthy and independent.

Algoa Progress offers medical device software for personalized treatment planning for osteoarthritis. It assists clinicians' daily activities by predicting and quantifying healthy patients' OA risk evolution and provides a visual demonstration of the prediction and the best prevention strategy. A startup, MSK-Technologies Oy, was formed in October 2021.

SARA++ has expanded the range of applications of the SARA robotic assistant for elderly care that was developed in a previous activity. The updated software platform can now be installed on various existing robot hardware.

The FREJA innovation activity has continued the work that began with a previous activity, which led to the creation, in 2020, of the Robotics Care startup. In 2021 the activity developed HUGIN, an "extension" to the Freja robotic shower which facilitates the monitoring of the usage patterns of health care equipment in patients' homes.

The activity 'Machine Learning pre-screening to predict abnormal Alzheimer's biomarkers from MRI in Preclinical Alzheimer's Disease' has developed a family of machine learning algorithms that can predict the presence of abnormal Alzheimer Disease biomarkers based on MRI scans. This AI-based solution improves participant recruitment for clinical trials of AD prevention, thus allowing pharmaceutical companies to improve their efficiency and cut costs. The Betascreen startup was created in November 2021 to launch the product into the market.

Digital Wellbeing

Innovation Scaleup

Digital deep-tech technologies are providing significant impact for the health and quality of life of our citizens. In 2021, the Accelerator has signed up three new highly innovative digital wellbeing companies, all looking to raise significant funding. In addition, the Accelerator has continued to work with five additional digital wellbeing companies that signed up for our internationalization services in 2019 and 2020 and for which the support period was continuing in 2021. These eight companies came from various countries: Bulgaria, Belgium, UK, France, Germany, Norway and even a remarkably successful one from Iceland.

Among these companies stands out Advitos, for which the Accelerator has structured a large fundraising round of €20 million, including a €10 million co-financing from the European EIC Accelerator. Advitos is a Munich-based company, developing a multi-organ device that enables simultaneous support of all three main detoxification organs (liver, lungs, and kidney) for critically ill patients. Clinical studies have demonstrated that this technology is sharply improving the survival rate of patients, from an extremely low 10% for severely sick people to up to 50%. The Access to Finance team has supported this fundraising round during all the steps, from the company preparation down to reaching out to a selected set of relevant investors across Europe.

ADVITOS

ADVITOS
Bridging Life

Munich-based scaleup ADVITOS developed and markets the ADVOS multi-device (ADVanced Organ Support), a highly technological solution for treating multiple organ failure which can support the simultaneous dialysis of three organs - kidneys, liver & lung - and adjust for blood pH balance.

Multi-organ failure causes the deaths of approximately half a million intensive care patients in Western Europe and the USA every year. This is about 60 percent of all deaths in intensive care units. Pilot trials on critically ill patients have shown that the ADVOS therapy increased survival in severe organ failure from 20% up to 50%. The ADVOS therapy is CE marked, recognized by international experts, and is already in use in the intensive care units of more than 20 hospitals throughout Germany, including several leading university hospitals.

The company joined the EIT Digital Accelerator at the end of 2019 with the objective to scale its business in Europe and grow on a global scale. The EIT Digital Accelerator supported the scaleup's fundraising with dedicated coaching and targeted introductions to a selected pool of investors interested in their space, size and geography.

In June 2021, ADVITOS announced the completion of a €20 million financing round led by Crédit Mutuel Equity via its two subsidiaries Crédit Mutuel Equity Germany and Crédit Mutuel Innovation. In addition, ADVITOS received funding from the European Union's European Innovation Council (EIC) Fund as part of the EIC Accelerator Pilot blended finance program.

www.advitos.com

Another ground-breaking deep tech company supported in the MedTech space is Holocare, a Norwegian scaleup developing 3D holographic medical imaging for surgeons. HoloCare's platform converts standard 2D CT / MRI images into highly accurate, interactive 3D spatial and internal view of organs, offering a powerful new window through which teams of physicians can view and interact with a 3D representation of the organ, rotate it to view different structure angles, and reach a more detailed understanding of each patient's unique anatomy.

The collaborative planning and live-surgery software tool lets doctors identify complications before surgery and dramatically improve surgical outcomes and the speed of recovery for patients – easing healthcare costs and hospital waiting lists. HoloCare is deeply engaged with medical centres of excellence in Scandinavia, the UK, the DACH region and Portugal. Top surgeons across Europe envision HoloCare becoming a standard for pre- and live-theatre imaging tools.

Another company supported in this space is CheckPointCardio, a Bulgarian scaleup providing a solution to monitor remotely patients suffering from heart failures. It serves as a decision support tool for healthcare operators, calculating patients' risk level and providing timely alerts, allowing a higher patient/medic ratio. CheckPoint Cardio's solution is being deployed in collaboration with 32 leading European universities and has already been used to monitor more than 50,000 patients to date, with hundreds of lives saved.

Digital Wellbeing

Education

Digital health technologies hold a promise to enhance patient-related outcomes, support health care staff by reducing their workload, and improve the coordination of care. As key users of digital health technologies, health care workers are crucial to enable a meaningful digital transformation of health care. Digital health literacy and digital skills should become prerequisite competencies for health professionals to facilitate the implementation and leverage the potential of digital technologies to improve health.

The EIT Digital Master School programmes on 'Embedded Systems', 'Data Science and Human-Computer Interaction and Design' provide students with the skills and competencies required in the Digital Wellbeing focus area. For example, the development of secure embedded systems and knowledge of human-computer interaction principles are crucial for developing digital devices for medical applications.

The EIT Digital Industrial Doctoral School supports applied-research projects, in which digital technologies bring a real impact to the quality of life, health and wellbeing. The active projects focus on cognitive computing for cognitive disability, artificial intelligence techniques to support clinical decisions, emotion recognition via non-invasive sensors, in-body communication systems for implantable miniature devices. Two examples are the projects in partnership with the Eindhoven University of Technology and Imec, which aim to develop miniature in-body wireless

Assisting healthcare workers in the fight against COVID

The startup ENTREMO was financed and launched in the framework of the EIT Digital initiative to face the COVID crisis. Its CEO and Co-founder, Peter Lakatos, is an EIT Digital Master School alumni. ENTREMO assists healthcare workers by introducing smart digital solutions in manual processes. The IoT connected and the sensor-equipped device is worn by patients in non-intensive care, enabling nurses to utilize their time more efficiently.

Measuring vital signs, body temperature, oxygen saturation and respiratory rate are the most indicative signs of COVID-19 health statuses. This way it is also possible to keep a more detailed history of a patient's status.

ENTREMO provided a business challenge to the Summer School in Coventry. Two trends in healthcare are quite apparent: people are becoming more willing to take control of their health, and digitalization is sweeping through the industry.

The pandemic has shown that manual processes and slow paperwork are already obsolete practices in healthcare, and we need more efficient ways to track our health. With the rising popularity of fitness watches, people are getting easier access to their health status and are learning more about the underlying principles. ENTREMO summer school challenge was based on the following questions: "How would you change the way B2C telemedicine monitoring works in the next 10 years? How would you equip people to be more connected to their GPs or more integrated into the centralized healthcare system?". Summer school participants came up with a product idea, also focus on its market entry possibilities and business potential of such a booming IoT revolution.

www.entremo.com

communication systems for secure joint power delivery and implantable applications.

EIT Digital staged two online Summer Schools within the Digital Wellbeing focus area: 'e-Health Personalized Prevention' (Tallinn) and 'Data Visualisation and Connectivity for Healthcare' (Coventry). Each school had, on average, 40 participants working on business challenges in teams of five. In total, approximately 15 business cases were developed from the industry, including EIT Digital partners.

The Summer School 'Data Visualisation and Connectivity for Healthcare' in Coventry particularly excelled in the implementation of the online format via studios and a control room to improve the digital experience among the participants. This summer school also succeeded in the recruitment of external participants via sponsorships provided by the university. In total, 23 external paying participants attended the summer school in Coventry.

The app that makes objects to speak for the visually impaired

Imagine you are wandering around a foreign city trying to make sense of the signposts in a language you do not speak. You feel lost in translation. This is how blind or visually impaired people must feel every day, thought Jan Jaap de Groot. The inspiration struck him when he was walking in the halls of the Université Paris-Saclay when he started his EIT Digital Master School programme Human-Computer Interaction and Design and being a non-French speaker could not understand all the words although he could read the words.

Visually impaired and blind people encounter the most problems inside their homes. For example, being unable to distinguish a tomato paste can from a similarly shaped can of beans. If they could scan a barcode that tells them what they would otherwise see via a voice app, their lives would be a lot easier.

Jan Jaap de Groot continued his research on the possibilities of making an app for the visually impaired. This work became the basis for his social startup Speechlabel. Speechlabel is both the name of the company and the app that visually impaired and blind people can use to scan objects via special stickers to learn what they are. The user, or a friend or relative creates labels in either an iOS or Android smartphone app by scanning the barcode or NFC labels on objects.

When a product is scanned, its name can be voice-recorded and typed as a label in the app, and the smartphone works as a scanner for the barcoded products. For objects without barcodes, one can make dedicated sticker labels. Speechlabel sells also washing and dryer machine resistant NFC buttons that can be used on clothing, so people can sort their clothes by themselves. The app recognizes the thirteen most common types of barcodes and all common types of NFC tags.

speechlabel.com

speechlabel 〰️➤

Digital Finance

Innovation Standup – Startup

Within the Innovation Factory, in 2021, the Digital Finance portfolio included 10 activities covering different aspects of the industry, delivering five new products and two new startups.

Ai for Alpha

Using complex artificial intelligence and machine learning models, French startup Ai for Alpha has developed a robust tool that identifies key variables to be considered on an investment decision, helping asset managers to build better performing portfolios.

Ai for Alpha's machine learning models are trained on 20 years of historical market data. By analysing more than 150 factors, ranging from market prices to volatility, market sentiment, macroeconomic features, technical analysis, evolution of rates, and others, the software estimates the probability of the markets moving towards a bull or bear regime.

The startup was founded in November 2020, within the Augmented Asset Manager early bird innovation activity. In 2021, it focused on raising funds and growing its customer base.

The founding team brought together reputable investment professionals and distinguished data scientists, capable of immediately signing first-class clients, such as investment bank Société Générale, asset manager Homa Capital and wealth manager Meilleur Placement.

Lombard Odier (the asset management arm of the Swiss banking group) acted both as a partner and first customer, teaming up with Ai for Alpha to test the tool internally within its own allocation process. This enabled the startup to validate the pertinence of the solution to an extent which would not normally have been possible.

The venture also quickly generated interest from investors, closing its first round of private funding from a group of French business angels.

aiforalpha.com

In the Retail banking and Insurance subarea, the Bump Out startup, created in 2020 within the AIDE Artificial Intelligence Damage Estimation innovation activity, continued to develop its software application. This provides intelligent damage assessment for the (micro-)mobility market. The latest version of the app is able to assess scooter damages based on images provided by a user, which is a useful feature for scooter rental companies that need to optimize their fleet management and damage reporting process.

In the Asset Management subarea, the Augmented Asset Manager activity launched the Ai for Alpha startup. Using complex artificial intelligence and machine learning models, Ai for Alpha has developed a robust tool that identifies key variables to be considered as part of an investment decision, helping asset managers to build better performing portfolios. Ai for Alpha has closed its first round of private funding from a group of French business angels and is focused on scaling its customer base.

AI For Alpha CEO Béatrice Guez

The PMEx startup, launched in 2020 to create a supervised private exchange market for non-listed companies, also raised funding in 2021. Furthermore, it released So Smart, a search engine that provides investors and investment advisors with added value information, benchmarking and ranking unlisted companies.

Making information widely available and simplifying decision making is also a core element of the Finance4Hope innovation activity. Finance4Hope created a digital platform that facilitates access to public aids for SMEs, companies and self-employed at a key moment when the EU is launching the largest stimulus package ever with Next Generation EU funds.

Innovation activity Cryptosentiment Advisor developed a solution that collects in near-real-time information from multiple sources to estimate the evolution of the cryptocurrency market. This web-based dashboard helps crypto traders to improve their decision-making process in a market characterized by high volatility.

Blockchains and Smart Contracts are no longer just buzzwords and are starting to be implemented in a number of practical applications. The Map Project has developed a blockchain-based media trading platform to automatically manage the content, creators' legal rights and payments using smart contracts. A startup, MAPFilm Ltd, was formed in June 2021.

Bringing low-cost card payment acceptance to small and micro merchants, replacing traditional payment methods such as cash, was at the core of the Personal Payment Terminal innovation activity. Its main outcome is a smartphone and tablet solution which enables merchants to accept card payments without buying any additional hardware.

The Zertrace startup, launched in 2020 within the Trusted Handshake activity, continued in 2021 to fine-tune its trusted certificates solution, which uses blockchain to trace, in a transparent way, the validity of all certificates chained end-to-end in the logistics and manufacturing process, thus preventing fraud and misuse.

Three startups have been incorporated in Digital Finance under the RIS Venture Program.

Digital Finance

Innovation Scaleup

In the Digital Finance focus area, the EIT Digital Accelerator supports European scaleups that are driving the digital transformation of the financial industry.

United Signals

United Signals, a German specialist for paperless and easy-to-use client solutions, joined the EIT Digital Accelerator in February 2021. With products like digital onboarding, electronic contracts, and client portals, the scaleup supports companies of all industries.

Due to white-label capabilities and the flexible low-code approach of the solution, the company's software can be implemented easily and fast. It turns any complex contracting process into an optimal and paperless process. It perfectly integrates new needs with existing system landscapes.

The scaleup's SaaS platform solution is unique in its ability to handle complexity, to truly digitize and streamline workflows and processes regardless of the number of stakeholders, independent tools and/or legacy systems.

The company has become the official partner of the association of independent asset managers in Germany (VuV). It has already established the market standard for digital customer onboarding in the Asset- and Wealth Management space in Germany.

During the acceleration period, EIT Digital introduced United Signals to more than 20 relevant and high-value European corporates in the finance and insurance industry. Multiple conversations opened the door to concrete business opportunities and the connection between Deutsche Telekom and United Signals has already led to the scaleup joining Deutsche Telekom's Techboost program.

Techboost is Deutsche Telekom's answer to spotting relevant European technologies that have a big chance of serving their customer base. It offers access to their customer network and EIT Digital is confident United Signals will benefit from these interactions, enabling them to scale even faster than they are already doing.

www.united-signals.com

In 2021, the EIT Digital Accelerator supported two new Digital Finance scaleups, from Germany and the United Kingdom, respectively.

The first company was United Signals from Germany, digitalizing all paper documentation through its white-label multi-language solutions for digital onboarding, electronic contracts, and client portals. The solution is already used by leading banks in Germany (incl. DAB BNP Paribas, V-Bank, Comdirect) and has been selected by the Association of Independent Asset Managers to become a new market standard.
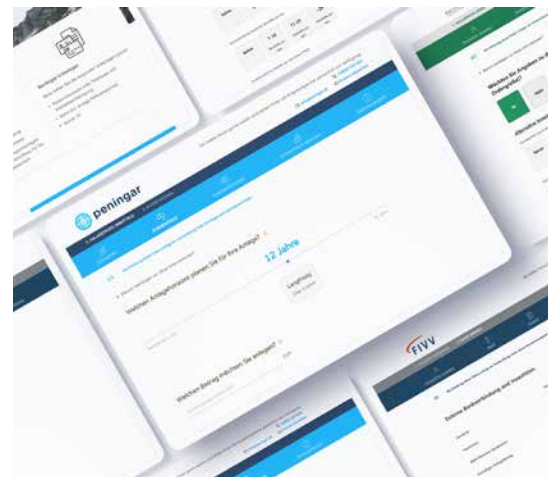
The other company was Neotas from the UK, leveraging a variety of data from open sources, social media, deep and dark web to deliver insights that help customers dramatically reduce customers' risk of fraud, money laundering and bad hires. Tighter national and EU regulations mean European businesses must do more in-depth background checks on their customers and employees while simultaneously protecting their privacy. Neotas makes this job easier and safer, giving businesses access to the wealth of

information available in today's digitally interconnected world to ensure regulatory compliance and protect their operations and investments.

The Accelerator has also continued supporting CashDirector, a company that joined at the end of November 2019, after winning the EIT Digital Challenge. Following its participation in the EIT Digital program, CashDirector has doubled its recurring revenue and entered three new European markets: France, Italy, and Germany. During this time, the number of users on CashDirector's Digital CFO platform has increased by 30% and monetization of the existing client base has been significantly improved.

In addition, the company secured contracts with three new banking partners, and signed cooperation agreements with two thousand accounting offices, creating an ecosystem for SMEs, banks, and certified public accountants that strongly benefits each participant. Through this ecosystem, CashDirector has acquired over five thousand current account clients and sourced approximately one hundred loans per month for its banking partners. This year, CashDirector plans to launch operations in the US after successfully obtaining the SOC2 certification needed to work with US based Financial Institutions.

Digital Finance

Education

Finance rules the world, but soon technology will rule finance. As fintech moves from an upstart movement into the mainstream, readying students for the future of finance is vital. The finance industry is shifting dramatically as new technology innovations take over.

The world of finance will no longer be banks or investment firms working off spreadsheets and in-person advisement. Customers will increasingly demand the ability to bank from anywhere on their phone. And within financial institutions, technology disruptions like blockchain, and AI, and the evolution of big data are creating new business models to adapt to quickly. There's a shortage of talent with the right skills to integrate new technology into existing systems within industries disrupted by technology.

Breaking the mould in EIT Digital's FinTech master school

Sanya Shoaib never worried too much about how things were done before. Entrepreneurship is nothing new to Shoaib, who has launched two startups in her home country Pakistan. That experience showed her that her country needed to develop in the area of FinTech. "I did feel the lack of financial technology and financial options in my own country," she said. "I felt the dire need to learn more about finance and technology."

She firmly believes that FinTech will be the Next Big Thing - and globally: "Look around: Everything from our daily conversations to ordering groceries is digitised and aided by technology. But finance is the only sector that still hasn't gone completely cashless or entirely dependent on technology," she says.

EIT Digital Master Schools' FinTech programme prepares students for this big thing. It uses a combination of face-to-face workshops, group activities, and hands-on exercises to cover FinTech basics, job-specific skills, and the impact of AI, blockchain and other developing technologies.

Traditionally, FinTech has been dominated by men, but of course, this did not matter to someone like Shoaib. "I believe it's not just the FinTech field that is facing this issue," she said. "It's almost every industry that has a gender bias." While she acknowledged that FinTech is a particularly male-heavy field, she maintained that things are changing. "Women-led FinTechs have developed at a slightly quicker rate than businesses started only by men, with more cash being channelled into female-led startups," Shoaib said.

She was pleased to find wide diversity among the students in the EIT Digital Master School. Sanya Shoaib will finish her first year of the programme, at University de Rennes. "The teachers are among the most experienced and helpful that I have ever learned from," she said. "It has been an unforgettable experience." Her second year will be at ELTE University in Budapest.

masterschool.eitdigital.eu/fintech

Sanya Shoaib

The Digital Finance focus area is covered by several EIT Digital Master School programmes, for example, 'Cybersecurity and Data Science', which provide education in key topics in the Digital Finance area (e.g., model checking and system validation). Additionally, a dedicated Master School programme in Fintech was launched in 2020 with the goal of providing students with the right skills and competencies to link finance with digital technologies such as machine learning, data analytics, biometrics or blockchain. Graduates from the Fintech

programme will be able to create new possibilities to address credit and risk management, identity management, information security, secure payments, or portfolio management.

The Industrial Doctoral School proposes applied research projects for a creative reshaping of services in the Digital Finance area, focusing on creating better, faster and more secure solutions to improve customers' experience. The thesis topics focus on: the future of retail banking (improving customer relationships, a cashless society and micropayments); modernising corporate banking and insurance tech (point-to-point risk distribution, cybersecurity and blockchain); and digitalising wealth asset management (artificial intelligence and machine learning for investment decisions). In 2021, two new PhD candidates were hired for thesis topics in the Digital Finance area.

Data Science for Financial Problems

The Summer School 'Data Science for Financial Problems' in Budapest particularly excelled in the involvement of the following EIT Digital Innovation Activities to provide use cases: Ai Square Connect, Dynasec Netherlands, Pipple, Insomnia Consulting Sociedad. As example, the description of the case study from 'Insomnia Consulting Sociedad' is provided.

Problem and Opportunity: Self-employed customers often have a high potential to receive funds that support the digitization of their processes but are overlooked by other consultants because of small margins. Additionally, they lack the awareness, access, and time to deal with funds themselves. Meanwhile, a huge amount of funds exists within the EU, which only 9% of companies access and from these companies 80% are the same in each iteration of funding.

Solution provided by the Summer School participants: the probability of granting funds is calculated based on business/fund specific KPIs. Then, self-employed businesses throughout Europe with a high potential of receiving funding are identified and approached. The 'Insomnia Digital Innovation Hub' will support the application process, monitor the funding period and submit necessary reports to the fund's owner. If requested, the Hub can also support the usage of funds to digitize their processes. In return the Hub will keep an average of 15% of the funding for the administrative work.

summerschool.eitdigital.eu

EIT Digital held two Summer Schools in the Digital Finance focus area: 'Data Science for Financial Problems' (Budapest) and 'Disrupting Finance with Digital Technologies' (Madrid). Each school had, on average, 30 participants working on business challenges in teams of five. In total, approximately 10 business cases were generated from the industry (including EIT Digital Partners). The Summer School 'Data Science for Financial Problems' particularly excelled in the implementation of the online format via studios and a control room to improve the digital experience among the participants. This summer school also succeeded in the recruitment of external participants via sponsorships provided by the university. In total, 10 external paying participants attended the summer school in Budapest.

Blockchain technology was also the topic of the Blockchain for the Decision Maker and Blockchain EIT Digital Professional School course held in November.

Pan-European
ecosystem

BERLIN
Germany, Austria, Czech Republic, Poland

Despite continued impact of COVID-19, the Berlin Node successfully strengthened its ecosystem by welcoming 7 new partners from Germany, Poland and Austria.

Overall, the relevance of digital technologies in the region served by the German Node is experiencing a boost in the post-pandemic and this is especially visible in the growing interest of the German market towards Digital Wellbeing solutions creating opportunities for EIT Digital and its ecosystem.

A regional edition of the Venture Program 2021 was run under the umbrella of the Berlin Node covering Poland, Czech Republic and Slovakia. The program attracted 45 teams out of which 7 were selected for the growth package and 4 eventually selected for the final prize and incorporated the venture with equity for EIT Digital. The EIT Digital Accelerator performed well in the German Node, signing up five new scaleups and supporting successful Access to Finance activities such as the 20M EUR fundraising deal of Advitos.

After successfully navigating through a challenging year, EIT Digital Germany is ready to further develop its partnerships, especially in its connected RIS countries, and to engage in new collaborations with supporters and investors, to be a strong partner for a further accelerated digital transformation during the economic recovery.
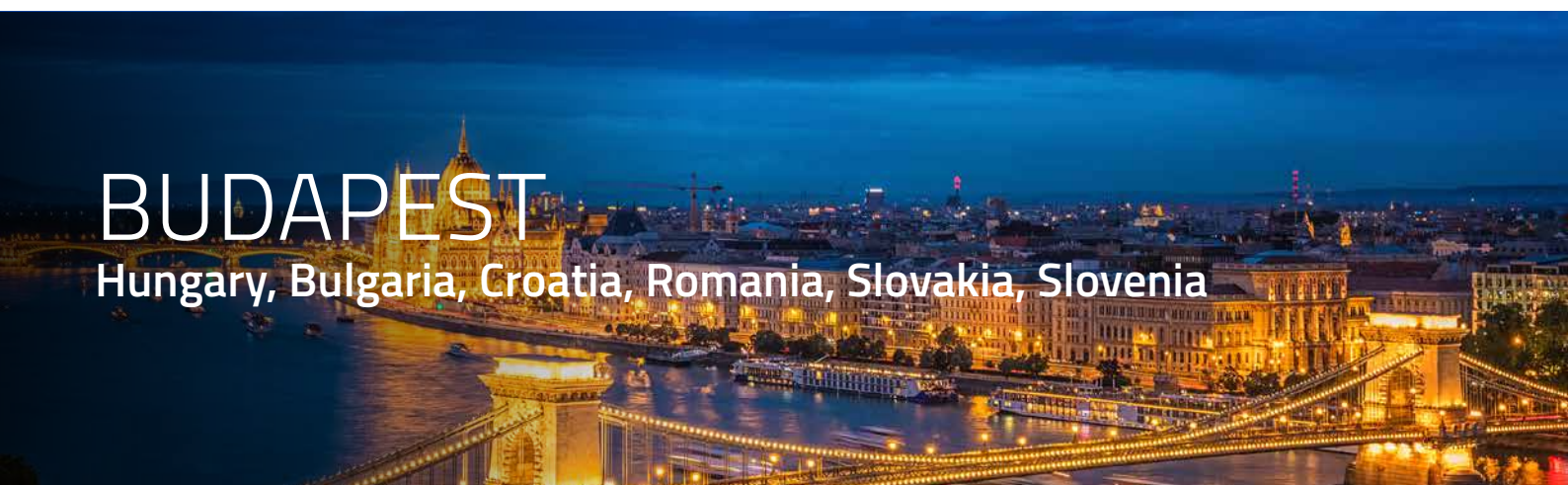
BUDAPEST
Hungary, Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia

2021 was about solidification and further growth and preparation for our SIA 2022-2024. By attracting new partners, the Budapest Node strengthened its regional reach and expanded its footprint in both academia and industry.

As of late 2021 the Budapest Node ecosystem consisted of 26 partners (universities, a research organisation, large industry partners, medium enterprises, and small innovators), in total from five countries (Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia). A significant effort was spent across the year to integrate the new partners in the EIT Digital ecosystem and facilitating their participation in our ongoing activities.

The Budapest Node regularly mobilises its ecosystem and the innovation ecosystem in its reach by organising high-impact events. In 2021, the Budapest Node organised 19 public events (online and offline) that hosted over 600 external participants (mostly online).

In 2021, we successfully applied for financial support from the Hungarian government as co-funding for the operations of the Budapest Node. Some of the highlights were the Summer School on 'Machine Learning for Financial Data in Digital Finance', the EIT Digital Master School Kick-off, and the Professional School course on "Blockchain for the Decision Makers" held physically at the Budapest office.

EINDHOVEN
Netherlands, Belgium, Luxemburg

In 2021 the Eindhoven Node was able to build on the growth of the previous year.

Consolidating the number of partners that participated in innovation activities, the Node showed a growth in number of created ventures, and a greater number of students chose to either start or graduate at one of the Dutch universities participating in the EIT Digital Master School.

Benelux partners engaged in 16 innovation activities out of which in 10 cases they took the responsibility as leading partner. This resulted in seven new ventures. At yearend the Node counted 51 partners (universities, a research organisation, large industry partners, medium enterprises, and small innovators), based in Belgium and the Netherlands.

With 60 students in the Master School, the Node experienced an increase of students that chose to study in the Netherlands. Within the EIT Digital Summer School, a brand-new programme on the topic of 'Digital Methods for Media and Democracy' took place for the first time.

Towards the end of the year, the Eindhoven Node renewed the lease agreement for its office, providing the opportunity for further optimization of the office space and maintaining its presence at close vicinity of the ecosystem at the High Tech Campus in Eindhoven. The Antwerp office in Belgium experienced the first full year, expanding the local Belgian ecosystem and laying the foundations for further growth.

HELSINKI
Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania

For the EIT Digital Helsinki Node, the year 2021 was characterised by expansion of the ecosystem into the Baltics, establishing the Tallinn office and welcoming 3 new partners from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

The Helsinki Node focused on broadening its footprint in the ecosystem by connecting more industrial partners from Finland and the Baltics. It welcomed three new partners (Thinnect OÜ, Lithuanian Innovation Centre and Magnetic Professional Ltd), all industrial partners.

During 2021, the Helsinki Node organised 27 events such as Innovation Talks, an Innovation Day, Talent Match events for students, and investor events, bringing together over 800 participants. Several events targeted EIT Digital Master School students, engaging them at our office with our community and thus helping them in their studies. As a highlight, the Talent Match in October brought together 7 companies with 45 students looking for internships.

Helsinki Node partners engaged in 6 innovation activities, taking the lead in 3 of these. As a result, 2 new startups were created in the region (Detectium Oy and MSK-technologies Oy). In 2021, the most prominent focus area for the Helsinki Node was Digital Industry. The Helsinki Node also established closer relationships with seed and angel investors to support EIT Digital's venture creation in the Innovation Factory. Four specific investor events were organised to bring together EIT Digital startup activities and investors.

LONDON
United Kingdom, Ireland

During 2021, the UK Node continued the strong momentum developed in prior years and demonstrated the enduring opportunity for collaborative EU-UK innovation in the post-Brexit period, capitalising on the large deep tech and venture capital sectors which exist in the UK.

Twenty organisations from the UK joined EIT Digital as new partners in 2021 of which sixteen were business ventures and four leading universities A total of twenty-four UK-led proposals, directly leveraging deep tech, were submitted to the EIT Digital Innovation Factory in 2021 of which six were selected for funding in 2022. The successful proposals brought more than €600,000 of committed investment from UK private investors which focus on deep tech enabled ventures. The UK Node continued to fully embed the Edinburgh office into EIT Digital's ecosystem through broad participation by Scottish entities in the Innovation Factory and Entrepreneurial Academy. In conjunction with the Scottish Funding Council, EIT Digital also deployed the Saltire student exchange program under which technology-focused PhD students from EU countries will study in Scottish universities and a corresponding number of students from Scotland at EU universities. During 2021, the UK Node also completed the incorporation of EIT Climate-KIC into the EIT Digital office in Central London to establish a combined physical space which enables close cross-KIC collaboration.

MADRID
Spain, Portugal

2021 was the year of ecosystem consolidation and efficient integration of relevant stakeholders into the EIT Digital objectives.

On the innovation front, 2021 activities with Spanish partners created eight new start-ups and produced 10 new products. These efforts show the real value provided by the Madrid office for collaboration, engagement, and inspiration. On the education front, the node has continued with the Master School and Doctoral School activities, offering support to all students affected by the pandemic situation.

The Madrid Node has also seen a consolidation at activity levels and impact: performing its business acceleration activity, consolidating its access to finance services, coaching new companies.

The Spanish partners already included the IMDEA Software Institute, UPM, ATOS, Indra, Ferrovial, Telefonica, Innovalia, CI3, INESC-TEC or DTX Collab, to name a few. In 2021, some new relevant industrial and entrepreneurial partners joined: Ferrovial Aeropuestos España (ES), Insomnia Consulting (ES), EIDOLON (ES) and FoodinTech (PT), among others.

PARIS
France, Switzerland

EIT Digital and its French partners turned 2021 into a great year for digital innovation and deep tech startup creation in Europe.

The Paris Node took advantage of France's exceptional digital dynamics to reinforce EIT Digital's role in Europe.

In 2021, EIT Digital's Paris Node hosted around 120 events involving more than 3,000 businesspeople, entrepreneurs, venture capitalists, researchers, students, and individuals from public organisations coming from all over Europe. The Paris Node strengthened EIT Digital's interactions with investors, organising events involving major venture capitalists.

With a total of 50 French partners, EIT Digital continued to enhance the attractiveness of its offering. It welcomed seven new industrial partners – including four startups created within EIT Digital Innovation Factory and three SMEs. These partners particularly appreciate the strength of EIT Digital's European ecosystem which helped them develop their international activities with European partners.

STOCKHOLM
Sweden, Denmark, Iceland

In 2021 EIT Digital's Stockholm Node attracted four new partners; advanced Swedish companies interested in innovation collaboration. Large Enterprises like SAAB find the deep tech talent development in collaboration with university partners particularly interesting.

The business focus of the Innovation Factory activities generates new ventures as well as enables investment in startups. Node Partner LogicalClocks, spun out of EIT Digital innovation activities by KTH, attracted a €5M investment. Gleechi, also a partner spun off from Innovation Activities with KTH, attracted a €2.5M investment. Two new spinoffs of the Innovation Factory, Ingwaz and Home Care Automation, were able to successfully run customer pilots within the ecosystem, which has triggered concrete investment negotiations. The Stockholm Node organized and hosted 27 events, mobilizing more than 900 participants from partners and the vibrant local digital ecosystem. Events included a Nordic Venture Stand-up Event, which brought early-stage investors to meet the Nordic and Baltic startups from the Innovation Factory. At the Summer School in Stockholm, industrial partners offered inspiring business challenges to the participants. Partner companies have also participated in other Master School education activities and reached out to EIT Digital students to find their much-needed digital talents for internships and recruitment.

TRENTO
Italy, Cyprus, Greece, Malta

In 2021, the Trento Node grew its ecosystem and welcomed new partners from Italy and Greece, expanded its activities in the innovation sector and attracted additional financial means to support Italian students in the EIT Digital Master School.

14 new partners joined the Trento Node ecosystem in 2021, reaching a total of 65 partners by the end of the year. Innovation activities led by Italian partners resulted in the development of 17 new products and 10 new start-ups in the areas of digital cities, digital industry, digital tech and digital wellbeing. Moreover, 10 venture creation and boost proposals led by Trento Node Partners were selected to be part of the 2022 Innovation Factory portfolio.

The Trento Node also substantially expanded its activities in Greece and laid the groundwork for the establishment of a regional office in collaboration with Greek partners and stakeholders. In 2021, the Trento Node participated in two European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs) calls. Both applications, by EDIH Lombardy and EDIH Trentino, passed the national filter and were accepted for the European call. To further support EIT Digital's education activities, the Trento Node signed a collaboration agreement with Fondazione Cassa Depositi e Prestiti which led to the financing of 18 scholarships for students of the EIT Digital Master School.

SAN FRANCISCO
SILICON VALLEY

Since its establishment in 2014, the EIT Digital Silicon Valley Hub pursued its mission to establish a true two-way bridge between the European ecosystem of EIT Digital and the Bay Area ecosystem.

In 2021, the office focused its efforts on rationalisation of its operations and spending to benefit the organisation's financial sustainability. COVID-19 restrictions defined the type of activities and projects that the EIT Digital Silicon Valley Hub has executed in 2021.

Events and meetings took place mostly online; nevertheless, connections with EU representatives (e.g. the EU Delegation in the US) were reinforced, paving the way to new collaborations to be implemented in 2022. Three DeepHack events were implemented, including a Transatlantic DeepHack on AI in collaboration with the German American Business Association (GABA).

The EIT Digital Silicon Valley Hub also led several cross-KIC initiatives, like the EuropeSV meetings, the events done in collaboration with The Ripple as well as some preliminary discussions with cities, local governments, consulates and corporates to prepare activities for 2022.

COMMUNICATIONS

In 2021, the work of the communications function focussed on three main targets: demonstrate the impact of EIT Digital through success stories and tangible case studies; present EIT Digital as a thought leader in digital innovation; and contribute to the long-term sustainability of the organisation by supporting marketing and sales.

Throughout the year, the Communications team consolidated its processes and effectiveness, building on structural changes in 2020 that assigned communication team members directly to EIT Digital's executive management. This vertical alignment ensured immediate translation of the requirements and objectives of the organisation's leadership into targeted communications output. In 2021, vertical reporting lines were complemented by improved horizontal collaboration and reconciliation amongst members of the communication function.

Due to restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, EIT Digital decided to organise its Annual Conference 2021 as online-only event with a shortened agenda. Under the title "Realising the European Digital Decade", the audience was invited to discover how we turn ground-breaking digital tech innovations into market success; to find out how we support European deep tech scale-ups to become global digital champions; to learn how we grow digital talents into Europe's tech entrepreneurs of the future; and to hear more about Europe's leading ecosystem for open innovation and digital venture creation. With around 700 live online participants and more than 460 views of the recording, the conference was a big success and exceeded participation numbers of the last on-site event in Brussels in 2019 substantially.

Most other events, whether pan-European or at local levels, were held online, too. This includes the finals of the EIT Digital Challenge scaleup competition and the Node-level Innovation Days.

EIT Digital's streamlined communications strategy led in 2021 to less, yet more targeted media outreach. The communications team concentrated on outlets with a clearer relation to the organisation's core mission and highest potential to reach target audiences. This strategy helped enhance our outreach for high-priority topics, such as our Innovation Factory call 2022, but also thought leadership contributions on contact tracing technologies or EU digital sovereignty as well as the Makers & Shapers series, presenting 33 conversations on the future of digital Europe with leaders from business, industry and policy. With this approach, EIT Digital continued to deliver strong media coverage results in 2021 with more than 400 articles published on EIT Digital activities.

EIT Digital's social media activities focused in 2021 on growth on all networks and generating engagement via the use of digital storytelling tools and more video content. Furthermore, the communications strategy put special focus on RIS countries through various media features and social media campaigns. Following a radical consolidation of Social Media accounts in 2020, the number of individual users increased with more than 5,500 to more than 65,000 across platforms.

In 2021 a major revamp and content clean-up of the EIT Digital websites took place. A new design, new structure, merging of pages, removing and reducing content and moving pages/content to PDFs in order to have a cleaned-up website. This radical modernisation led to an increase of individual visitors to 500,000 users and 1.4 million page views throughout the year.

HUMAN RESOURCES

2021 was a challenging and exciting year for Human Resources at EIT Digital. To support the organisational development, EIT Digital HR strives to attract and recruit a workforce whose background and experience meet the key needs and requirements of the organisation. In 2021, we were proud to bring on board a number of strongly motivated, diverse and committed team members, driven by their impact on the EIT Digital mission and sustainability.

Due to the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, 2021 was another special year for the EIT Digital HR. We continued paying particular attention to employees' wellbeing, overall organisational cohesion and interaction in order to address challenges and implications caused by COVID-19.

It was important, that during 2021, EIT Digital continued building on its performance-driven culture, fully supported by managers and employees. Driven by HR, EIT Digital applies a well-structured and efficient performance management process. It includes harmonisation of targets and KPIs, a transparent and consistent approach to employees' performance appraisal, ongoing feedback, as well as clear and concise communication.

Diversity and inclusion are top priorities for Europe and EIT Digital. EIT Digital's strategy aims at promoting gender diversity at all levels of the organization and during the whole employee's lifecycle at EIT Digital: from the first interactions during the recruitment phase, till the engagement and development phases. In 2021, we achieved further progress in attracting high potential female employees with deep technology skills and capabilities as part of our workforce and as members of our leadership team. EIT Digital's endeavour is to maintain its unique identity, recognised by its inclusive work culture, versatile and diverse workforce. We commit to attract and retain people from multiple cultures, of different origins, nationalities, races and ethnicities, genders, abilities, beliefs, backgrounds and experiences. In 2021, we counted 22 nationalities, 38% female representation among our workforce and 33% female representatives in the leadership roles of EIT Digital. Our gender balance in recruitment has improved since 2019, when we had 40% female representation among new hires to EIT Digital. In 2021, we achieved a 55% female representation among new recruitments.

Operational excellence remains in focus of EIT Digital HR. In 2021, we successfully dedicated our efforts to streamline and simplify HR operations, mainly targeted on payroll services across multiple EIT Digital locations.

As part of the EIT Digital HR agenda in 2022, we will further develop our workforce to strengthen the skills, expertise and behaviours required to build a strong digital Europe which is fair, inclusive and sustainable.

	2019	2021
Male	60%	45%
Female	40%	55%

Have you been involved with EIT Digital in some capacity? Do you work in any of the EIT Digital nodes? Have you worked for one of EIT Digital's partners on an innovation or education activity? Do you teach EIT Digital students? The Alumni Foundation is there for you. Register at alumni.eitdigital.eu and access benefits such as the Alumni Directory, job opportunities (alumni.eitdigital.eu/jobs) and networking events.

ALUMNI

2021 has been a year with ups and downs for the EIT Digital Alumni. A year that started off with many innovative online events and concluded with some good opportunities to meet in person. Although gathering our members has been tricky due to the ongoing pandemic, it did not limit our community to come together to network and learn from each other.

The EIT Digital Alumni community currently consists of over 2,000 innovators spread around the globe. We aim to create a vibrant, active and successful alumni network for EIT Digital and our mission is to keep strong connections among fellow alumni and the EIT Digital ecosystem. We organise meetups, maintain an engaged community, support career development, and connect our members with companies, public institutions and academia.

While locked at home, the EIT Digital Alumni organised a second series of our online knowledge sharing events, the Tuesday Afterworks. We also selected our Start-up of the year 2021 and participated in an online hackathon battling the spread of fake news. Once things reopened, our alumni hosted various successful events in Helsinki,

Madrid and Berlin and gathered with over 80 members in Stockholm for the flagship event of our community, the Annual Meeting.

2021 also marked the election of a new EIT Digital Alumni Board, various meetings to design our future and an opportunity to meet and train our most active volunteers. Another highlight was the launch of our renewed website with a freshly updated design and new features. Regardless of the limited opportunities to promote our community and attract new members, the EIT Digital Alumni managed to expand their reach and engage with more recent alumni.

Thanks to ongoing efforts in building new partnerships and sponsorships, we have also been able to bring new value to our members. All alumni registered

on our website can enjoy a number of valuable discounts and exclusive offers helping to further advance their career. The website also offers opportunities to join offline- and online events as well as an extensive job portal.

As the EIT Digital Master School graduation has been postponed during the pandemic, we're expecting an increased number of full alumni to join our community in the coming year. In the meantime, we aim to continue our international expansion and build on our nine local hubs in Europe, North America, and Asia. We are also looking forward to resuming our physical events and meeting with many of our Alumni during the 2022 Annual Meeting in Athens, Greece.

www.alumni.eitdigital.eu

FINANCIAL
REVIEW

The 2021-2022 Business Plan was assigned to 168 partners that have reported costs against 131 KIC Activities.

The Grant Agreement 2021 and associated Business Plan were signed on June 14, 2021 for a total budget (KIC Added Value Activities) of €60,723,602.76. The KAVA budget was estimated with a maximum EIT contribution of €34,533,512.89 or an EIT Grant single reimbursement rate of 56.87%.

This budget was the basis for the Internal Agreements Grant 2021 that were signed with the partners.

In September 2021, the Business Plan Addendum was submitted to EIT to reflect the evolution of the KIC Activities over the first eight months (as reported by the partners in their budget change requests) as well as to extend the Business Plan into year 2022. This resulted in Amendment 1 of the Grant Agreement 2021 signed on December 13, 2021 converting it to Grant Agreement 2021-2022 and Business Plan 2021 into Business Plan 2021-2022 . A second Business

Plan Addendum was submitted to EIT in January 2022 to include the budget required for the implementation of KIC activities in 2022. Amendment 2 of the Grant Agreement 2021-2022 was signed on March 23, 2022 for a total budget of €127,845,749.36 (EIT funded KAVA budget - €116,338,196.61, non-EIT funded KAVA budget - €11,507,552.75). The KAVA budget was estimated with a maximum EIT contribution of €66,440,744.08 or an EIT Grant single reimbursement rate of 57.11%

The actuals over 2021 reported by the partners on March 31, 2022 are €54,194,532.65 or 42.4% of the overall biannual budget. EIT grant claimed is €34,232,014.24 or 51.5% of the total EIT grant planned for 2021-2022 period.

Area / Segment	EIT contribution	Partner contribution	TOTAL KAVA BUDGET	EIT contribution	Partner contribution	TOTAL KAVA COST
1. Education	**€ 4,948,292.60**	**€ 3,896,440.40**	**€ 8,844,733.00**	**€ 8,113,309.87**	**€ 2,969,176.94**	**€ 11,089,312.67**
1.1 EIT Digital Master School (MSL)	€ 2,484,492.60	€ 2,102,103.40	€ 4,586,596.00	€ 6,017,762.10	€ 1,502,206.34	€ 7,519,968.44
1.2 EIT Digital Industrial Doctoral School (DSL)	€ 974,300.00	€ 1,374,337.00	€ 2,348,637.00	€ 724,297.63	€ 1.098,203,67	€ 1,822,501.30
1.3. EIT Digital Professional School (PSL)	€ 110,000.00	€ 0.00	€ 110,000.00	€ 96,794.28	€ 24,691.00	€ 121,485.28
1.4. EIT Digital Summer School (SSC)	€ 480,000.00	€ 420,000.00	€ 900,000.00	€ 437,469.52	€ 343,344.36	€ 780,813.88
1.5 (EDS) Education Development Support	€ 899,500.00	€ 0.00	€ 899,500.00	€ 836,986.34	€ 731.57	€ 844,543.77
2. Innovation and Research	**€ 15,651,310.92**	**€ 19,381,042.61**	**€ 35,032,353.52**	**€ 11,948,577.41**	**€ 15,509,607.56**	**€ 27,529,841.97**
2.1 TEC (Digital Tech)	€ 4,060,884.78	€ 3,587,444.00	€ 7,648,328.78	€ 3,290,633.58	€ 2,677,531.47	€ 5,968,165.05
2.2 IND (Digital Industry)	€ 2,985,252.63	€ 3,449,952.00	€ 6,435,204.63	€ 2,053,587.00	€ 2,725,865.68	€ 4,779,452.68
2.3 WEL (Digital Wellbeing)	€ 2,317,595.34	€ 2,905,327.08	€ 5,222,922.42	€ 1,671,831.67	€ 2,059,040.42	€ 3,730,872.09
2.4 CTS (Digital Cities)	€ 2,935,061.75	€ 3,343,775.53	€ 6,278,837.28	€ 2,563,784.53	€ 2,902,062.72	€ 5,465,847.25
2.5 FIN (Digital Finance)	€ 2,485,516.43	€ 6,094,544.00	€ 8,580,060.43	€ 1,560,524.59	€ 5,143,773.78	€ 6,775,955.37
2.6 IDS (Innovation Development Support)	€ 867,000.00	€ 0.00	€ 867.000.00	€ 808,216.04	€ 1,333.49	€ 809,549.53
3. Entrepreneurship	**€ 903,500.00**	**€ 227,500.00**	**€ 1,131,000.00**	**€ 2,289,684.51**	**€ 5,901.32**	**€ 2,295,585.83**
3.1 ACC (Accelerator)	€ 556,000.00	€ 205,000.00	€ 761,000.00	€ 1,869,033.17	€ 5,901.32	€ 1,874,934.49
3.2 IBD (Industry Business Development)	€ 347,500.00	€ 22,500.00	€ 370,000.00	€ 420,651.34	€ 0.00	€ 420,651.34
4 Management	**€ 3,010,353.00**	**€ 1,271,264.00**	**€ 4,281,617.00**	**€ 5,687,511.50**	**€ 351,975.74**	**€ 6,192,068.21**
4.1 MGT (KIC Management)	€ 1,084,350.00	€ 459,150.00	€ 1,543,500.00	€ 2,561,775.18	€ 200,851.00	€ 2,762,626.18
4.2 CLI (Nodes and CLCs)	€ 1,926,003.00	€ 812,114.00	€ 2,738,117.00	€ 3,125,736.32	€ 151,124.74	€ 3,429,442.03
5 Communication, Dissemination and Outreach	**€ 267,446.00**	**€ 554.00**	**€ 268,000.00**	**€ 505,957.90**	**€ 5,173.58**	**€ 511,131.48**
5.1 MKT (Communications, Dissemination and Outreach	€ 267,446.00	€ 554.00	€ 268,000.00	€ 505,957.90	€ 5,173.58	€ 511,131.48
6. EIT RIS	**€ 5,035,768.24**	**€ 1,008,844.00**	**€ 6,044,612.24**	**€ 2,076,493.22**	**€ 572,957.66**	**€ 2,649,450.88**
6.1 EIT Digital RIS	€ 5,035,768.24	€ 1,008,844.00	€ 6,044,612.24	€ 2,076,493.22	€ 572,957.66	€ 2,649,450.88
7. Cross-KIC	**€ 4,716,843.00**	**€ 404,444.00**	**€ 5,121,287.00**	**€ 3,610,479.83**	**€ 316,662.48**	**€ 3,927,142.31**
Cross-KIC Artificial Intelligence	€ 160,000.00	€ 0.00	€ 160,000.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00
Cross-KIC Child Obesity - TI	€ 551,605.00	€ 140,444.00	€ 692,049.00	€ 385,343.63	€ 150,587.91	€ 535,931.54
Cross-KIC CLC Consolidation	€ 90,000.00	€ 0.00	€ 90,000.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00
Cross-KIC Common Outreach	€ 955,000.00	€ 57,000.00	€ 1,012,000.00	€ 647,981.41	€ 0.00	€ 647,981.41
Cross-KIC Digitized Production - TI	€ 380,000.00	€ 196,000.00	€ 576,000.00	€ 172,561.03	€ 84,550.34	€ 257,111.37
Cross-KIC EIT RIS	€ 13,600.00	€ 0.00	€ 13,600.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00
Cross-KIC EIT-EIB Collaboration	€ 20,000.00	€ 0.00	€ 20,000.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00
Cross-KIC EIT-EIC Collaboration	€ 50,000.00	€ 0.00	€ 50,000.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00
Cross-KIC EIT-EIF Collaboration	€ 25,000.00	€ 0.00	€ 25,000.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00
Cross-KIC Human Capital	€ 54,000.00	€ 11,000.00	€ 65,000.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00
Cross-KIC Resource Efficient Society	€ 31,188.00	€ 0.00	€ 31,188.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00
Cross-KIC Shared Services	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 535,453.65	€ 0.00	€ 535,453.65
Cross-KIC Sustainable Cities - TI	€ 380,000.00	€ 0.00	€ 380,000.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00
Cross-KIC Water Scarcity - TI	€ 103,700.00	€ 0.00	€ 103,700.00	€ 97,924.00	€ 2,034.19	€ 99,958.19
Cross-KIC Western Balkans	€ 25,500.00	€ 0.00	€ 25,500.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00
Cross-KIC Strategic Access to Finance	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 86,198.00	€ 73.90	€ 86,271.90
Cross-KIC Strategic Education	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 23,120.00	€ 74,687.42	€ 97,807.42
Cross-KIC Strategic Regional Innovations	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 11,386.52	€ 0.00	€ 11,386.52
Cross-KIC Strategic Synergies	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 522,522.70	€ 135.07	€ 522,657.77
EIT House	€ 493,000.00	€ 0.00	€ 493,000.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00
HEI Capacity Building	€ 1,384,250.00	€ 0.00	€ 1,384,250.00	€ 1,127,988.89	€ 4,593.65	€ 1,132,582.54
GRAND TOTAL	**€ 34,533,513.75**	**€ 26,190,089.01**	**€ 60,723,602.76**	**€ 34,232,014.24**	**€ 19,731,455.28**	**€ 54,194,533.35**

OUTLOOK

The year 2022 will be the second year of our two-year Business Plan 2021-2022. This biannual format entails a new way of work and allows for flexibility in the way we plan and conduct our activities. One very concrete outcome is the revised setup of the Innovation Factory, with continuous intake of proposals and three cut-off dates throughout the year. The multiannual format of our Business Plan will also allow us to catch up with the work on some of our 2021 activities that were subject to a late start due to late signing of the Partnership Agreement with the EIT.

In this coming year, we will discuss with the EIT further alignments with the Horizon Europe framework programme which may affect the contractual setup as well as the nature of the EIT KIC interaction. Another important element of our work concerns the strategic discussion in the Supervisory Board on the mid-term evolution of EIT Digital. This includes in particular the post year-15 relationship with the EIT, i.e. the relationship of the first-wave KICs

that were launched in 2010 with the EIT from 2025 onwards. Discussions on this with the EIT will start in the spring of 2022.

At a strategic and operational level, the coming year will also see first concrete steps in the implementation of agreements in the framework of our relationships with the European Investment Fund EIF, the European Innovation Council EIC, and the European Central Bank ECB in the areas of Innovation & Entrepreneurship as well as Entrepreneurial Education.

ECOSYSTEM

In 2022, we aim to further expand our ecosystem, especially through expanding our presence in RIS countries. We envisage the opening of several new offices in those countries, especially in Slovenia, Slovakia, and Greece. In addition to the geographic expansion, we will also focus on expanding our relationship with the investors community, amongst others through the establishment of an investor network. Next to that we will, together with other KICs, reinforce our Silicon Valley Hub that was severely impacted by the COVID pandemic. To strengthen the European dimension of our work, we streamlined the organisation with a focus on a more regional approach. In these regions, integrated teams of directors and ecosystem leads will work together to step up wider partner engagement, leading to a further increased participation in the EIT Digital innovation and education activities. Finally, I am happy to inform you that for the first time after two years, we will

organise a physical annual conference in Brussels, as well as a physical annual General Assembly.

INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

In this upcoming year, we will intensify our efforts to build and scale deep tech ventures in our strategic focus areas through further steps towards a fully integrated innovation funnel, starting from Stand Up activities, via Start Up activities to Scale Up activities.

An essential element of these efforts is the Innovation Factory. Throughout 2022, EIT Digital will be looking for European teams with powerful entrepreneurial drive to jointly launch or boost early-stage digital deep tech startups. For the first time, and as a result of our new two-year Business Plan, we foresee a continuous intake of proposals throughout the year with three pre-defined cut-off dates.

Another focus of our work will lie in strengthening the participation of private investors, both in early-stage activities of our Innovation Factory as well as in later stage investments in our equity portfolio and Accelerator companies. The enhanced engagement of investors is a core element of EIT Digital's sustainability strategy.

In 2022, EIT Digital and EIC will start implementing its agreement to join forces on strengthening the European innovation ecosystem. This year-long collaboration pilot aims at creating new synergies between the two organisations, enabling their supported startups, scaleups, and teams to

benefit from each other's programs, services, and support activities. The EIC-supported startups, scaleups and entrepreneurial teams approved to the pilot will have access to the EIT Digital Accelerator scaleup program as well as the EIT Digital Innovation Factory services and the EIT Digital ecosystem. The EIT Digital portfolio and alumni startups and scaleups can apply to the EIC Accelerator services and funding through the 'Fast-track' scheme. EIT Digital and EIC are complementary organisations in the European innovation ecosystem and their activities will strongly benefit from such deeper integration and collaboration.

In line with our MoU signed with DG CONNECT, EIT Digital will also be engaged in three Horizon Europe flagship innovation projects that are closely aligned with our strategy. QU4LITY is creating an autonomous quality model and market platform to meet the industry 4.0 Zero Defect Manufacturing challenges, tested in 14 pilots and with Open Call experiments. Concordia is addressing the fragmentation of security competence by building a community of a pan-European Cybersecurity Centers. Together with our partners, EIT Digital develops professional courses in Cybersecurity. And AI4Europe aims at developing an AI on-demand Platform that will act as a community resource for the research, innovation, entrepreneurship and education community in Europe, facilitating experimentation, knowledge sharing and the development of state-of-the-art AI-based solutions and technologies.

With a reinforced team of Business Developers, Access to Finance and Access to Market specialists, the EIT Digital Accelerator will in 2022 step up the intake of deep tech scaleups and delivery on success fees. These efforts will be supported by a number of proven instruments, amongst which the EIT Digital Challenge competition, the New European Bauhaus calls, and the joint EIC Venture Acceleration Programme are worthwhile mentioning.

Finally, we will further build on and extend our Equity Portfolio to solidify our long-term financial stability and sustainability.

ENTREPRENEURIAL EDUCATION

The EIT Digital Master School will in 2022 operate under a new cost model that supports its sustainability and will enable it to operate in two years from now almost self-sufficient. With decreasing impact of the COVID pandemic, the school will once more intensify efforts to raise the number of new students and extend our network of partner universities.

The Summer School will return to on-site formats in 2022 and run a total of 11 courses across Europe. Worth mentioning is the success of a special Summer School edition in Tallinn that already succeeded to attract 35 external participants due to a collaboration with SECCLO - Erasmus mundi program.

The Professional School suffered in 2021 severely from the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions on potential participants' mobility. We are confident that the improved situation and newly established agreements with collaboration partners will lead to positive development in 2022 and a substantial increase both on intake and conducted courses.

CONCLUSION

Following a period of substantial changes to our organisational structure and contractual arrangements, we look forward to a year of implementation, execution and impact.

Our main focus rests with a strong delivery on the Business Plan 2021-2022 and the work with our Supervisory Board on our mid-term strategy, including the post year-15 relationship with the EIT. We also anticipate further adaptations of our work as a result of remaining adaptations to the Horizon Europe program and the delayed accession of several 3rd countries, particularly the UK.

I want to thank everyone in our organisation, our partner organisations, and our ecosystem that contributed to the preparation and mitigation measures for our 2021 operations. Also 2022 will be an exceptional year. At the same time, we see the challenges of the transition to Horizon Europe being addressed with our concerted efforts, and we also see the beginning of the exit from the COVID-19 pandemic. It will require still effort and resilience from all of us to fully recover from the pandemic, yet by teaming up as a community we will be able to 'Accelerate Recovery'.

Willem Jonker
CEO EIT DIGITAL

MANAGEMENT **COMMITTEE**

Willem Jonker
CEO

Chahab Nastar
Chief Innovation Officer

Roberto Prieto
Chief Education Officer

Matthias Bertele
Chief Financial Officer

Guillaume Toublanc
Node Director Paris

Tuan Trinh
Node Director Budapest

Victor Lemmens
Node Director Eindhoven

Lea Myyryläinen
Node Director Helsinki

Jesus Contreras
Node Director Madrid

Göran Olofsson
Node Director Stockholm

Diva Tommei
Node Director Trento

Morgan Gillis
Node Director London

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Inria
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A

Aalto University
Aalto University EE
ABB AS
ABB Oy
ABC Accelerator
Abstract SRL
Ace Aquatec Ltd
Achmea Insurance
Achmea Risk Insurance
Actelligent Company Limited
Advanced Technology Systems
AGS
Ai For Alpha SAS
Ai Square Connect
Airas Intersoft
Alkit
Alter Way
AM-flow
Amey UK
Amiko
Apptension
Apsys
Ariadne Maps GmbH
Artefacto
ATHENS TECHNOLOGY CENTER SOCIETE
ANONYME INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL
ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS
Athonet SRL
ATOS
ATTRIBUTIX Korlátolt Felelősségű Társaság
AV Living Lab

B

BarcelonaBeta Brain Research Center The
offical (BBRC)
Bestmile SA
BGI
Bicore
Birmingham City University
Bitwear SRL
Bitwise Limited
Bookit
BookIT Finland
Bosch - Engineering Center Budapest
Bright Cape
Bright Cape Holding
Budapest University of Technology and
Economics (BME)
Bump Out BV

C

Campden
Canon Production Printing
Cap Digital
CAPALONGA LTD
Car Sharing Mobility Services
CEA
CEFRIEL
Chino
Ci3

CITY
CityBeamer
CNR
Comau
COMET GLOBAL INNOVATION SL
Connected Kerb Ltd
Consultora de Telecomunicaciones Optiva
Media SL
CPCardio
Creando Redes

D

Data-Moove
Datacon
Datacon BSS Solutions
Degetel
Demetrix
Digital Catapult
Digital Knowledge Observatory Foundation
DocSpace
DTx Colab
Dublin City University
Dynasec NL

E

E-Group
EcoWise Ekodenge Limited
Edison SpA
EIDOLON SL
ELLURE AB
ELTE
ELTE-Soft
Emphasis DigiWorld SA
Energenius Srl
ENGIE
Engineering
Engineering D Hub Spa
Enigio
Enter Espoo
Ericsson Hungary
ETIQ AI
Eurapco
Eurecom
evopro Innovation
Experientia
Expert System
Exprivia
EY Netherlands

F

F-Secure
FAM
Farmad NV
FBK
FCA Italy
Ferrovial
Ferrovial Aeropuertos España SA
Ferrovial Construccion
Ferrovial Mobility
FIAT (CRF)
Fifth Ingenium

Fiware
Fondazione Fenice Onlus
Fondazione Politecnico di Milano
Foodintech, Lda.
Forum Virium
Found.ation
Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der
angewandten Forschung e.V.
Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-
Nuremberg
Fundación 29 de Febrero
Fundación Valenciaport
Future Cities Catapult
Futurice

G

GE Healthcare Limited
GENESIS Biomed
Genoa University
GEOMOTION GAMES S.L.
GFT IT Consulting
GFT Italia
GFT Technologies
GIM
Gleechi
Great Sway Enterprises AB
Greater London Authority
GreenDelta GmbH
Greenhabit
Grendel Games
Gtec medical engineering GmbH
Guardtime OÜ

H

Heriot-Watt University
HEXAGON VENTURE SRL
HIT
HOME CARE AUTOMATION EUROPE AB
HOP Ubiquitous

I

IB Lab GmbH
iD4Car
IDRO BV
IKNOWHOW INFORMATICS SA
Ikune Oy
Images et Réseaux
IMDEA
IMEC BE
IMEC NL
Indra
Indra Business Consulting
Indra Producción Software
Indra Soluciones Tecnológías de la
Información
INESC TEC
INFOPORT VALENCIA SA
Ingenico Group
Ingwaz AB
Inno Group
Innovalia Associati

INRIA
Insomnia Consulting Sociedad Limitada
Institute of Entrepreneurship Development
Insurgent Studios Limited
Integrated Systems Design and
Development SL
Intermodalics BV
IOX-Tech
Itä-Suomen yliopisto (University of Eastern
Finland)
ITOM

J

JCP Connect
JIC
JRC

K

Kinetic Analysis
KIT
Kites
Krakow Technology Park
Kreator
KTH
KTH Executive School

L

Latitudo40
Levvel
Liberbank
LINKS
Lmad
Logical Clocks
Lombard Odier Asset Management
Lurtis Rules

M

Management Innovation
Mativation
Mellon Technologies
MetFilm Production
Minut
MOG Technologies
MOL Group
MOL Limitless Mobility Ltd
Moviemall AB

N

Neighbourhood Drop off
Nobleo Autonomous Solutions B.V.
Nobleo Control
Nobleo Embedded
Nobleo Intelligent Solutions B.V.
Nobleo Projects
Nobleo Technology
Nokia Germany
Nokia Hungary
Nokia Networks Finland
Nordic Electronic Partner Västerås
Nova Veolia
NWO-I - Institute CWI

O

OASC
OKKAM
Olivetti
Onera BV

OPTOPARTNER
OTP Bank Nyrt
OTP eBIZ

P

Paris Europlace - FI
Pavol Jozef Safarik University in Kosice
PeasyPay Zártkörűen Működő
Részvénytársaság
Peltarion
Pharmi
Philips Consumer Lifestyle
Pipple
Plovdiv University Paisii Hilendarski
PMEX
Politecnico di Milano
Politecnico di Torino
Poste Italiane

Q

Quantia Consulting SRL
Quantitative Risk Research

R

Recycle2Trade Ltd
Reply
Reply Consulting SRL
ResilTech
RIoT Secure
RISE
RnBGate
ROBOTICS CARE
Robotnik Automation
Rulex Innovation Labs

S

Saab AB
SAI BV
Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies
Santer Reply
SARA BV
SB Telecom Europe LTD
Scottish Funding and Higher Education
Council
Scuola Normale Superiore
Seacon Europe Ltd
Semantum
SIA
Signify
SIS SRL
Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava
Soben
Sorbonne Université
Startup Wise Guys
Stichting Health Base
STMicroelectronics
Swansea University
Systématic

T

T.NET SPA
Tachyflow
TalTech
Tampere University
Tampere Universiy of Applied Sciences
(TAMK)
TeamDev

Technip
Teicos
Telecom Italia
Telefonica
Tentop Ltd
The IDCO Limited
Thinnect OÜ
Tieto Estonia AS
Tieto Finland
Tractebel Engineering S.A.
Translated
TU Berlin
TU Eindhoven
TU Munchen
TUIT

U

U Bologna
U College London
U Coventry
U Helsinki
U Ljubljana
U Rennes 1
U Surrey
U Trento
U Turku
U Twente
Uhuru United Ltd
UNIT9
UNIVERSITATEA BABES BOLYAI
Université Côte d'Azur (UCA)
Université Paris-Saclay
Universiteit Antwerpen
University of Amsterdam
University of Barcelona
University of Edinburgh
University of Glasgow
University of Minho
University POLITEHNICA of Bucharest
UPM
Urban Data Collective Ltd

V

Viewport Studio
Vireum Oy
VISIOPROCESS SAS
VRM Technology DAC
VTT

W

Waire Health LTD

X

XANTA-Tech
Xpand Group

Y

YIT

Z

ZERTRACE BV

ABOUT
EIT DIGITAL

EIT Digital is a Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), an EU body and integral part of Horizon Europe.

EIT Digital believes in making and shaping a competitive digital Europe that is inclusive, fair and sustainable, and it aims at global impact through European innovation fuelled by entrepreneurial talent and digital technology.

EIT Digital embodies the future of innovation by mobilizing a pan-European multi-stakeholder, open-innovation ecosystem of top European corporations, SMEs, start-ups, universities, and research institutes, where students, researchers, engineers, business developers and investors address the technology, talent, skills, business, and capital needs of digital entrepreneurship.

EIT Digital builds the next generation of digital ventures, digital products and services, and breeds digital entrepreneurial talent, helping business and entrepreneurs to be at the frontier of digital innovation by providing them with technology, talent, and growth support.

www.eitdigital.eu

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