



Welcome to the third issue of the 2024 edition of the EIT Digital newsletter where we're featuring new projects and dynamic partnerships that are reshaping European innovation.

EIT Digital continues to **champion digital transformation** with two pivotal Strategic Partnerships projects: UNITE and RIVCircular. **UNITE** is revolutionizing healthcare through digital technology, focusing on personalized care and advanced data management, while **RIVCircular** targets sustainable practices across Europe's key industries.

The fifth installment of our **Grow Digital Insights** series explores the environmental and practical benefits of digital receipts. This innovation not only **supports sustainability** by reducing paper use and waste but also streamlines consumer transactions.

Keeping up with our thought leadership efforts, our latest report, "**European Women in VC: Beyond Returns**," supported by EIT Digital, showcases the impact of venture capital on societal change.

Furthermore, in a recent discussion with Commissioner Magaritis Schinas, EIT Digital's CEO, Federico Menna, **explored** Europe's digital skills crisis.

Stay tuned as we track these exciting developments, furthering our mission to lead digital education and innovation in Europe.

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## EIT Digital spearheads two major RIVs projects

EIT Digital is making waves with two groundbreaking initiatives under the Regional Innovation Valleys (RIV) program.

**UNITE: digitizing European healthcare** UNITE, led by EIT Digital, is all about revolutionizing healthcare through cutting-edge digital technologies. This initiative unites a powerhouse of innovation authorities from across Europe, including Denmark, Germany, and the UK, among others.

The project's goals? To enhance personalized care, develop advanced health data management systems, and tackle the healthcare workforce crisis.

**RIVCircular: pioneering sustainability in Europe** Switching gears to sustainability, RIVCircular aims to turbocharge innovation in the circular economy across key European regions like Madrid, Brandenburg, and Kosice. This project focuses on making industries like construction and textile manufacturing more sustainable through enhanced recycling practices and the digitization of processes.

By fostering cooperation across diverse regions, RIVCircular is paving the way for a greener, more sustainable Europe.

Stay tuned as we follow these transformative projects that promise to redefine the European innovation landscape.

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## Elevate your AI game with Disruptive AI

The EIT AI Community and EIT Digital proudly present: [Disruptive AI 2024](#).

**What's the Buzz?** EIT Digital is launching an exhilarating new initiative called the Disruptive AI programme, designed to fuel innovation in the European AI landscape. This is a unique chance for early-stage AI startups across Europe to accelerate their growth and shake up the industry.

**What's in It for You?** If you're at the helm of a European AI startup that's ready to disrupt the market, and you're between one and three years into your journey, this call is for you. Selected startups will dive into an immersive experience, receiving personalized mentorship to refine innovation strategies, enhance business plans,

and prepare for market dominance. Plus, you'll pitch to a wide audience of investors and strategic partners, gaining visibility and recognition within the EU AI ecosystem—all for free!

Don't miss your chance to be part of this game-changing initiative. Head over to [EIT Digital's application page](#) to submit your proposal and learn more about the programme specifics.

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## Grow Digital Insights: going green with every swipe

In a world where every choice can impact the planet, digital receipts are becoming more than just a convenience—they're a sustainability superhero.

**Paper Problem:** Italy alone churns out 35 billion paper receipts annually, knocking down 1.4 million trees (imagine 100 times the size of NYC's Central Park) and emitting carbon equivalent to 2,500 flights from Rome to Tokyo. It's not just about the trees; these receipts are coated in chemicals, rendering them non-recyclable and a hazard to the environment.

**Digital Solution:** Enter the era of digital receipts—a small change with big planetary payoffs. By switching to digital, businesses cut down on deforestation, energy use, and the toxic waste of traditional receipts. It's a win for your wallet and the world.

Startups like BILLD are pioneering this shift, with innovative fintech solutions that allow businesses to offer digital receipts right from their devices.

[Read BILLD's experts take on this issue](#), in the fifth instalment of the [Grow Digital Insights](#) series.

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## Dive into the future of VC with EIT Digital's latest report

Ready for a fresh take on venture capital? Check out the highlights from the "[European Women in VC: Beyond Returns](#)" report, sponsored by EIT Digital. This isn't just about investment—it's about impact.

**VC Impact:** Venture capital isn't just fueling startups; it's driving societal change. In 2023, a third of €53 billion raised by tech startups targeted ventures committed to sustainable goals, with the Nordics leading by investing 61% in impact-driven businesses.

**Why You Should Care:** This is where venture capital meets real-world impact. With a focus on sustainability and diversity, VC investment is shaping a more equitable economy.

Stay tuned for more insights, and remember, in today's VC landscape, inclusivity and sustainability are the names of the game.

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## Ariadne levels up: now on AWS and integrated with Cisco Meraki

EIT Digital's shining star, Ariadne, [has just expanded its horizons](#).

**What's New?** Ariadne, a trailblazer in AI technology, is now available on Amazon Web Services (AWS)! This leap to AWS means Ariadne is easier to access and more powerful than ever, ready to help businesses supercharge their operations,

boost productivity, and leverage massive data insights—all from the cloud. Ariadne has also rolled out a game-changing integration with Cisco Meraki for Indoor Navigation.

Companies using Cisco Meraki can now offer state-of-the-art navigation to their visitors without any additional hardware.

Congratulations to Dr. Georgios Pipelidis and his brilliant team for setting the stage for a more interconnected and efficient future.

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## EU Digital Decade report: progress and pitfalls

**The scoreboard is in:** The European Commission just rolled out the latest scorecard on Europe's digital progress, and it's a mixed bag. As we march towards the 2030 digital targets set by the Digital Decade Policy Programme (DDPP), this year's "**State of the Digital Decade**" report brings us a reality check.

**Key takeaway:** We need more investments in digital skills, top-tier connectivity, AI, and a robust startup ecosystem.

**Looking ahead:** The EU isn't just sounding the alarm; it's rallying for action. The Commission is pushing Member States to pump up their game plans, backed by hefty funding through the Recovery and Resilience Facility and other key financial pipelines.

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## Bridging Europe's digital skills gap: a conversation

## with Commissioner Schinas

Big things are brewing in Europe's digital landscape, and EIT Digital is right at the heart of it! In an enlightening conversation as part of the Makers and Shapers series, EIT Digital's CEO, Federico Menna, [caught up with Commissioner Magaritis Schinas, Vice President of the European Commission](#), to unpack the future of digital skills and governance in Europe.

**The Skills Gap Crisis:** Commissioner Schinas didn't mince words about Europe's pressing challenge: a glaring digital skills gap. With a transition to a greener, more digital Europe underway, the continent is short on the skilled personnel necessary for robust digital governance and cybersecurity.

**Innovative Solutions in the pipeline:** To tackle these challenges head-on, the Commission is putting out a hefty €65 billion budget for upskilling and reskilling initiatives, with €23 billion dedicated specifically to digital skills.

This conversation is just the beginning. Stay tuned for more updates as Europe gears up to close the skills gap and advance its digital sovereignty.



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