Partnerships with industry

The twin _green_ and _digital_ transition is at the core of the EU _industrial strategy_

Open strategic autonomy = EU's ability to make its own choices

Multi Country Projects

Chips Act
European Defence Fund

Technologies enabling new business models for circularity and decarbonisation

Horizon Europe

Digital technology for everybody

New technologies for the green transition

Broad deployment of digital capacities

European Commission

Introduction to the workprogramme

Workprogramme document(s) *(1) Main WP, (2) Cybersecurity WP, (3) EDIH WP, (4) HPC WP*

Expression of interest: this call is reserved to entities designated from the Member States (or consortia where the coordinator has been designated)

Initial Network of European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIH): this is the core objective

Award criteria: Relevance, Implementation, Impact

Call document
Proposal template
Annotated Model Grant Agreement

https://europa.eu/!HNkG6X
EDIH call on the Funding & Tenders Portal

https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/activities/get-funding-digital
https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/digital
https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/digital-2021-edih-initial-01;

Objective of the EDIH call

- **Select** the **Initial Network of European Digital Innovation Hubs** (EDIH) from all designated candidate entities resulting from the Expression of Interest.

- **Upgrade** these entities to **provide the complete set of services** of an EDIH, including the necessary infrastructure, in a specific geographical area, covering the needs of the local SMEs, small mid-caps and/or public sector organisations with respect to their digital transformation.

- **Network** these EDIHs **with each other and with other projects** selected in Digital Europe Programme developing capacities in High Performance Computing, Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, Advanced Digital Skills and accelerating the best use of technologies.

European Commission

Budget

Country	Projected budget from DIGITAL for 3 years (in 1 000 EUR)	Budget per year (in 1 000 EUR)	Recommended number of hubs
Austria	8 390	2 797	3-6
Belgium	9 273	3 091	3-6
Bulgaria	7 507	2 502	3-5
Croatia	5 299	1 766	2-4
Cyprus	2 649	883	1-2
Czech Republic	9 273	3 091	3-6
Denmark	6 182	2 061	2-4
Estonia	3 091	1 030	1-2
Finland	6 182	2 061	2-4
France	34 883	11 628	12-23
Germany	42 390	14 130	14-28
Greece	9 273	3 091	3-6
Hungary	9 273	3 091	3-6
Iceland	2 123	708	1

Country	Projected budget from DIGITAL for 3 years (in 1 000 EUR)	Budget per year (in 1 000 EUR)	Recommended number of hubs
Ireland	5 740	1 913	2-4
Italy	33 559	11 186	11-22
Latvia	3 532	1 177	1-2
Liechtenstein	1 500	500	1
Lithuania	4 857	1 619	2-3
Luxembourg	2 649	883	1-2
Malta	2 649	883	1-2
Netherlands	12 805	4 268	4-9
Norway	6 182	2 061	2-4
Poland	22 961	7 654	8-15
Portugal	9 273	3 091	3-6
Romania	14 571	4 857	5-10
Slovakia	6 182	2 061	2-4
Slovenia	3 532	1 177	1-2
Spain	26 052	8 684	9-17
Sweden	9 273	3 091	3-6

Fixed budget per country
Every EDIH is expected to have a budget between 1-2 M€ per year
(DIGITAL grant will cover 50%)
MS are free to propose more smaller EDIHs or less larger ones

European Commission

Evaluation process

Each country has its own budget!

Proposals will be individually evaluated by three experts. A **candidate ranked list for each country** will be established based on the scores. "Ex aequo" prioritisation by 'Relevance' and then 'Impact'.
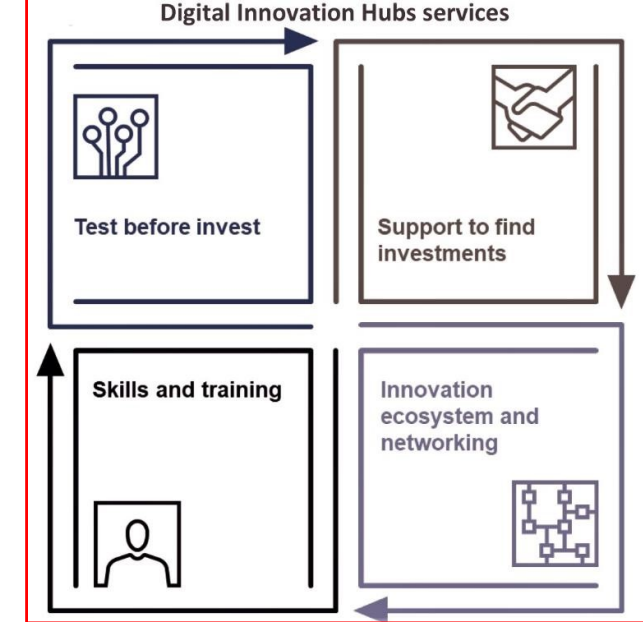
The EC, assisted by the external experts panel, will adapt the candidate ranked list to ensure:

- **at the country level:**
  - the existence of at least **one proposal per country with focus on Artificial Intelligence**;
  - the **geographical, technological and sectoral coverage** of proposals within each country, with the objective to guarantee a coverage as broad as possible;

- **at the level of the entire European network:**
  - the possibility to fund **cross-border transnational hubs** by all countries involved;
  - the coverage of **specific technologies and sectors which are not sufficiently covered** by the entire network;
  - the coverage of the **public sector, with the objective of reaching a coverage of at least 10%** of the hubs providing services to the public sector.
  - In case the geographical, technological and sectoral coverage of a country is incomplete, **proposals which have a significant overlap in scope with higher ranking proposals may not be ranked** in the candidate ranked list.

- All the proposals in the **final ranked list**, for which there is no budget available will be awarded a **Seal of Excellence**.
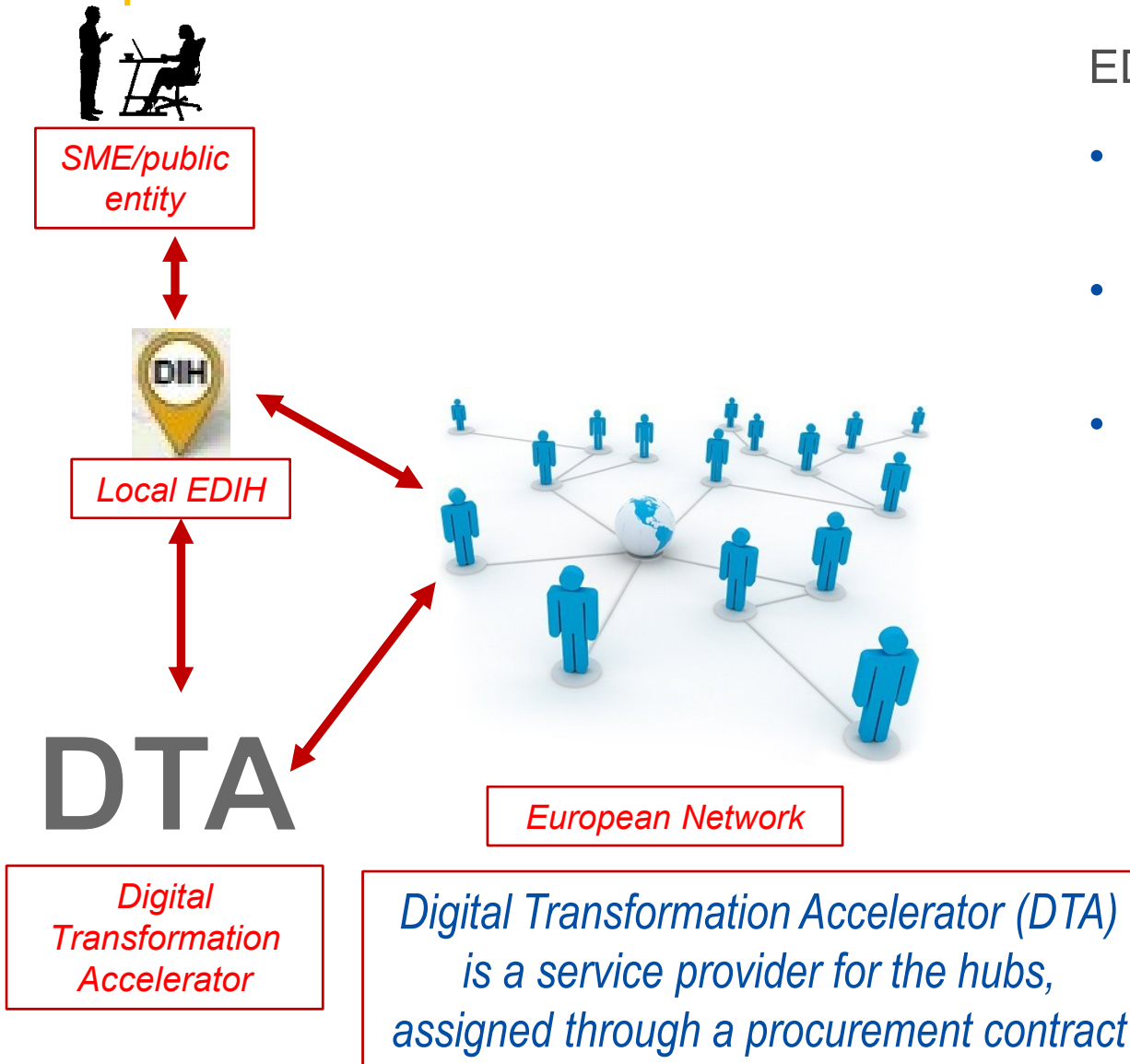
European Commission

What is an EDIH?

Digital Innovation Hubs services
- Test before invest
- Support to find investments
- Skills and training
- Innovation ecosystem and networking

Each EDIH will:

- **provide services** based on a specific focus/expertise; select SMEs on a transparent basis

- **make available the relevant experimentation facilities** related to its specialisation

- **offer a seamless service** with Enterprise Europe Network and Startup Europe

- **act as interface with the European Commission** to support the implementation of specific sectorial, SME or eGovernment policies

European Commission

Network of 200+ European Digital Innovation Hubs "EU-local" approach

SME/public entity

Local EDIH

DTA

Digital Transformation Accelerator

European Network

Digital Transformation Accelerator (DTA) is a service provider for the hubs, assigned through a procurement contract
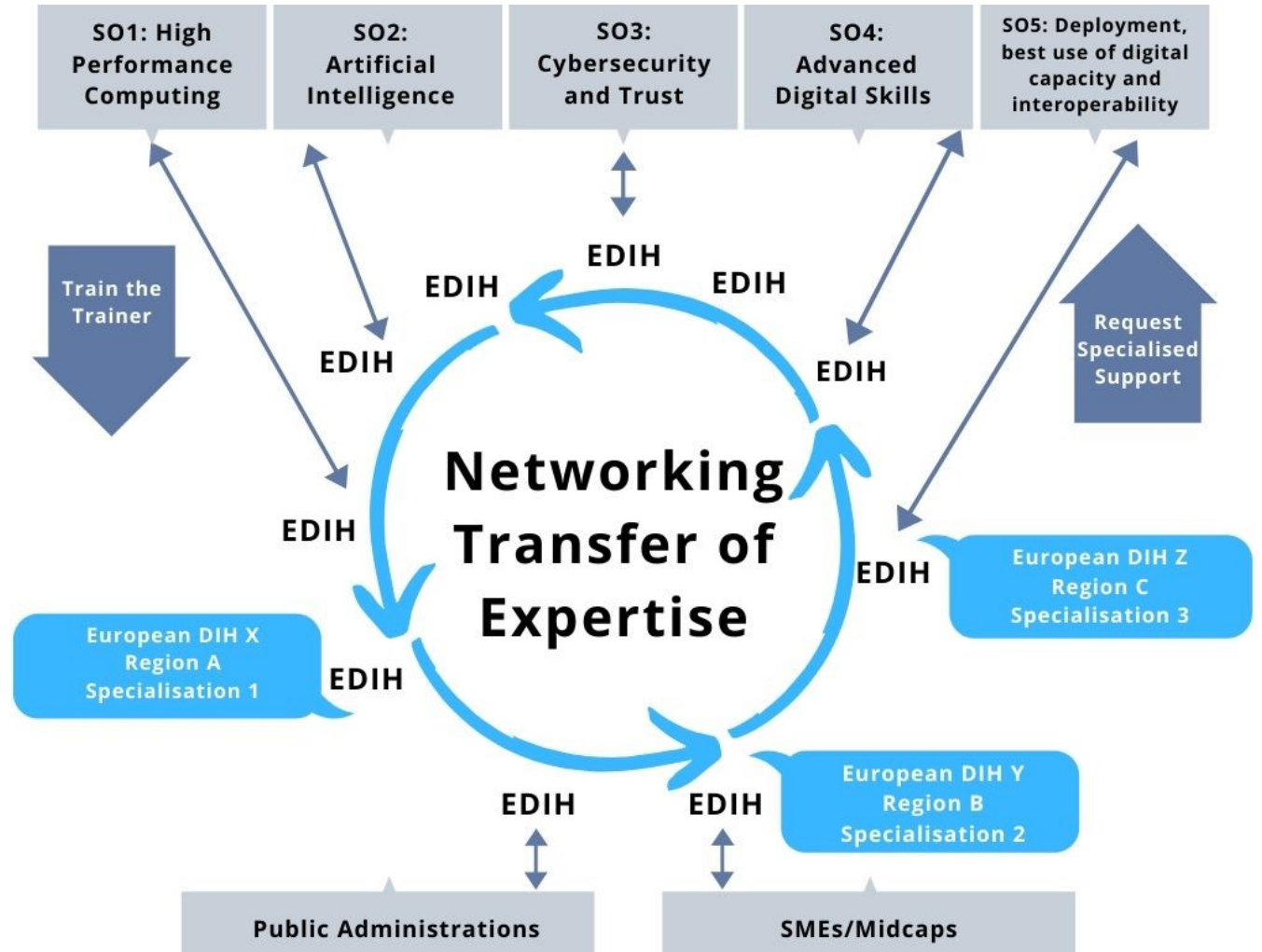
EDIHs will:

- Offer support for digital transformation which is adapted to local needs, based on a specialisation

- Build regional ecosystems of users and suppliers, strengthening local innovation environment

- Connect to the whole of Europe through the network:

  - Share best practices with other hubs

  - Connect local SMEs to SMEs outside the region, building new value chains in Europe

  - Seek synergies with innovators, include artistic experimentation to find new uses of digital

  - Disseminate digital capacities of Digital Europe Programme to local community

Train the trainer - ensure the best use of DIGITAL capacities

- EDIHs will act as a **multiplier** and **widely diffuse** the use of all the digital capacities built up under the different specific objectives of DIGITAL

Why do EDIHs want to collaborate?

- They **do not have the required expertise/facilities** to help their customers (because specialised in something else)

- They want to **serve all European companies** that can benefit from their expertise

- They want to **learn from others** in the network and show others their best practices

- They want to **achieve economies of scale** and invest in common services and facilities with other EDIHs

- They want to **support their local SMEs** to become part of European value chains

European Commission

Types of networking

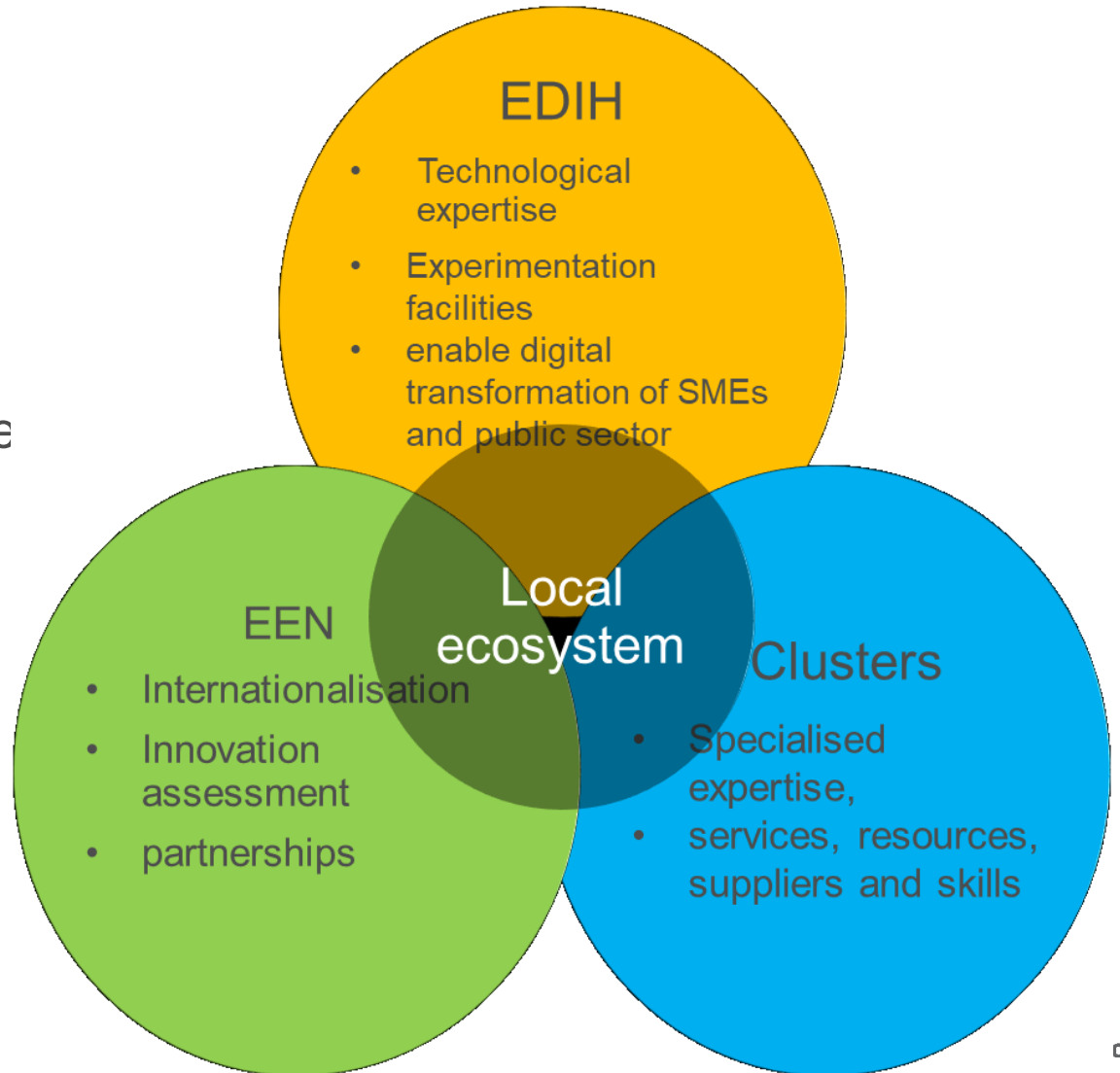|		
	Structural	• Common services • Joint investments in infrastructure • Based on trust and win-win situations
	One off	• Based on specific needs of customers • Through match-making facilitated by the Digital Transformation Accelerator
	Exchange of best practices	• Through subnetworks sharing certain interests, e.g. technological, sectorial, demographics, etc • Organised by the Digital Transformation Accelerator

European Commission

Collaboration with Enterprise Europe Network/Clusters

Synergy potentials:

- Local/regional embedding of the networks

- SME strategy –
key focus on digitalization: providing a seamle

- Common commissioner for DG GROW
and DG CNECT acting as **Team Breton**

EDIH
- Technological expertise
- Experimentation facilities
- enable digital transformation of SMEs and public sector

EEN
- Internationalisation
- Innovation assessment
- partnerships

Local ecosystem

Clusters
- Specialised expertise, services, resources, suppliers and skills

Impact and expected outcomes

- **Main outcome: a balanced network of EDIHs**

- Impact indicators to evaluate the performance of the hub
  - Number of **businesses and public sector entities, which have used the EDIH**. Where relevant, this will include a description of which Digital Europe capacities have been used.
  - **Amount of additional investments** successfully triggered
  - **Number of collaborations** foreseen with other EDIHs and stakeholders outside the region at EU level, and description of infrastructures jointly shared / joint investments with other EDIH.

- A set of additional impact indicators will be collected and analysed with the support of the Digital Transformation Accelerator:
  - Increase in **digital maturity of organisations** that have used the services of the EDIH network.
  - **Market maturity and market creation potential of innovations**, as defined in the JRC's Innovation Radar methodology.

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Targets for the overall network

Nr. of businesses and public sector entities which have used the European Digital Innovation Hubs' services

	2021	2022	2023	**2024**	2025	2026	2027	**2028**
N. of businesses and public sector entities which have used the EDIH services (cumulative)		3.600	9.600	**17.600**	33.600	57.600	89.600	**129.600**
N. of businesses and public sector entities which have used the EDIH services (per year)	0	3.600	6.000	**8.000**	16.000	24.000	32.000	**40.000**
N. of businesses and public sector entities helped by each EDIH (per year)		16	30	**40**	80	120	160	**200**
N. of EDIHs	0	180	200	**200**	200	200	200	**200**

European Commission

The Digital Transformation Accelerator

Capacity building of EDIHs:

> ***Capacity building*** *= you get knowledge, skill and resources to make use of opportunities*

- **Access to European capacities** for digital transformation in HPC, AI, Cybersec, Robotics…
- **Access to knowledge and facilities** of other EDIHs (and of other initiatives like EEN)

- **Supported by the "Digital Transformation Accelerator", a central node that animates the network**
  - Networking events
  - Training the hubs ("train the trainer" events)
  - Best practice sharing
  - Interactive map of digital capacities
  - Collaboration with other relevant initiatives
  - Collaboration with other hubs **not funded by DEP**
  - **….**
- **The DTA provides services & tools for building digital capacity**

European Commission

The Digital Transformation Accelerator

Community building and training

guidance for hubs
training services and material
matchmaking support
community building events

Train the trainer
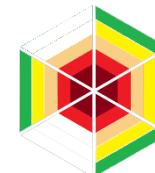
on HPC, Cybersecurity, AI…

Connect to relevant initiatives

Startup Europe, EEN, Horizon Europe projects, NCP, other hubs, etc.

Impact assessment and roadmapping

help EC collect and analyse KPIs

Online presence, communication, tools and support

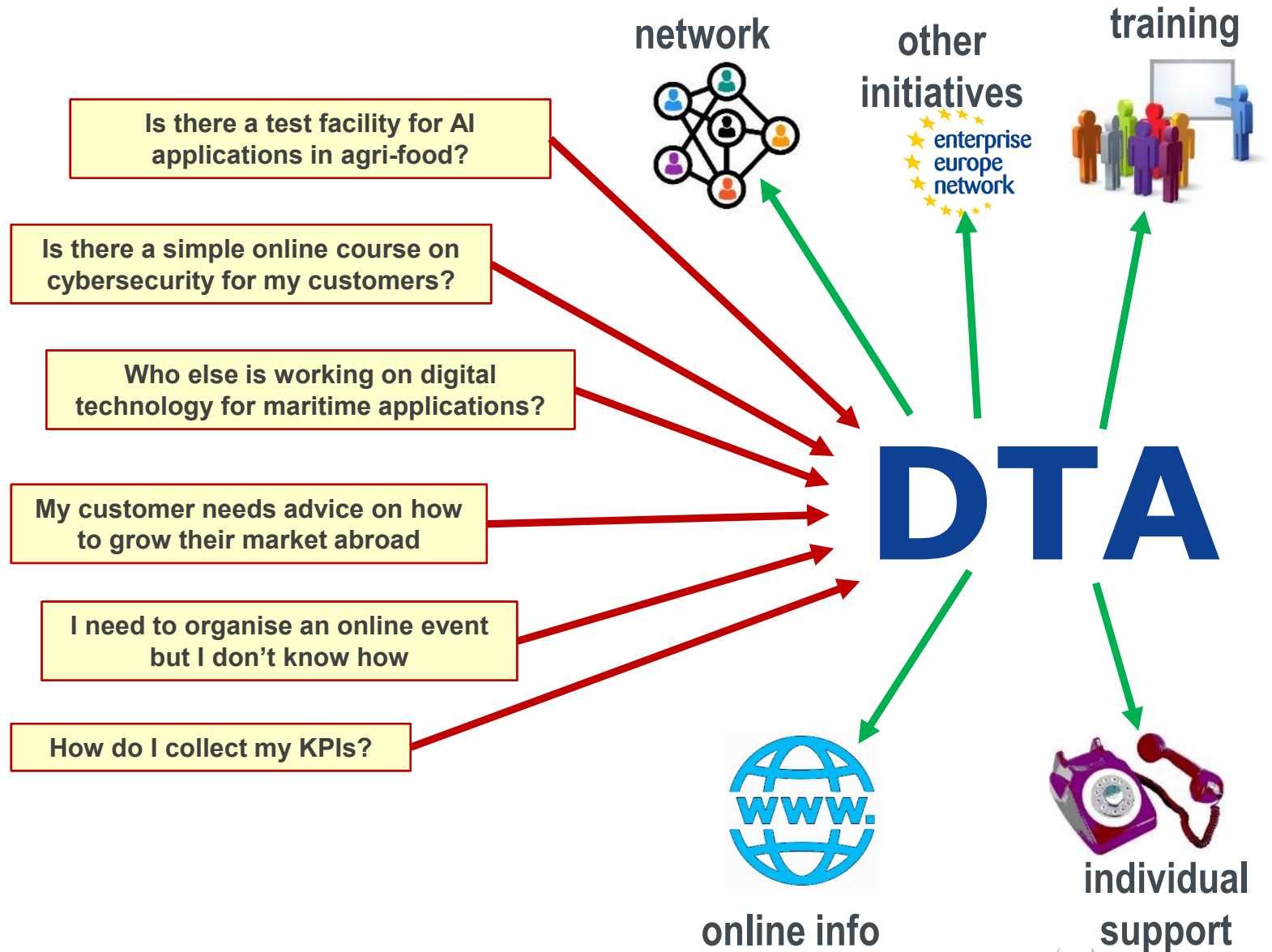**high-quality multi-lingual web portal, success stories, catalogue, media presence, IT tools**

In collaboration with the JRC

In practice…

Most daily work for local SME and public services

My hub

Is there a test facility for AI applications in agri-food?

Is there a simple online course on cybersecurity for my customers?

Who else is working on digital technology for maritime applications?

My customer needs advice on how to grow their market abroad

I need to organise an online event but I don't know how

How do I collect my KPIs?

DTA

network

other initiatives

enterprise europe network

training

online info

individual support

European Commission

Timeline

It is our intention to select as many EDIHs as possible in Call 1. Funding for 75% of EDIHs is foreseen + 20% budget flexibility

- Call 1 – for designated entities

  - Open: 17 November – 22 February

  - Evaluation: 14 March to 29 April 2022

  - Information on evaluation results: End of May 2022

  - Signature of the grant agreements: earliest end of September, latest 21 November 2022

- Call 2 – for designated entities, second chance

  - Open: Q3 2022 – Q4 2022

- Call 3 – only in case the network has gaps. Will be a fully open call.

  - Open 2023

Nov
Dec
Jan 2022
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
Jan 2023

European Commission

Documentation available

- **European Digital Innovation Hubs** https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/activities/edihs

- **European Digital Innovation Hubs in Digital Europe Programme** -Draft working document – update 25-01-2021   https://europa.eu/!Tv43JN

- **Practical Handbook on Digital Innovation Hubs** as policy instruments to boost digitalisation of SMEs   https://europa.eu/!tH89cf

- **FAQ** http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/dae/document.cfm?doc_id=68322

- Specific guidance document for collaboration between EDIH, EEN and Clusters

- **Webinars on various topics** https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/cycle-workshops-european-digital-innovation-hubs

Newsletter

- Subscribe to Information on upcoming events and further news from CNECT A4 unit at the following link: Europe's eusurvey Newsroom (europa.eu)

Thank you

Contact

✉ CNECT-DIH@ec.europa.eu

European Commission