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# Sustaining Digital & AI Innovations: Getting ready for EDIH 2.0

INFO DAY EDIHs 2.0 candidates in Switzerland

16-12-2025

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DG CNECT, AI Office - Artificial Intelligence Innovation and Policy Coordination / A4

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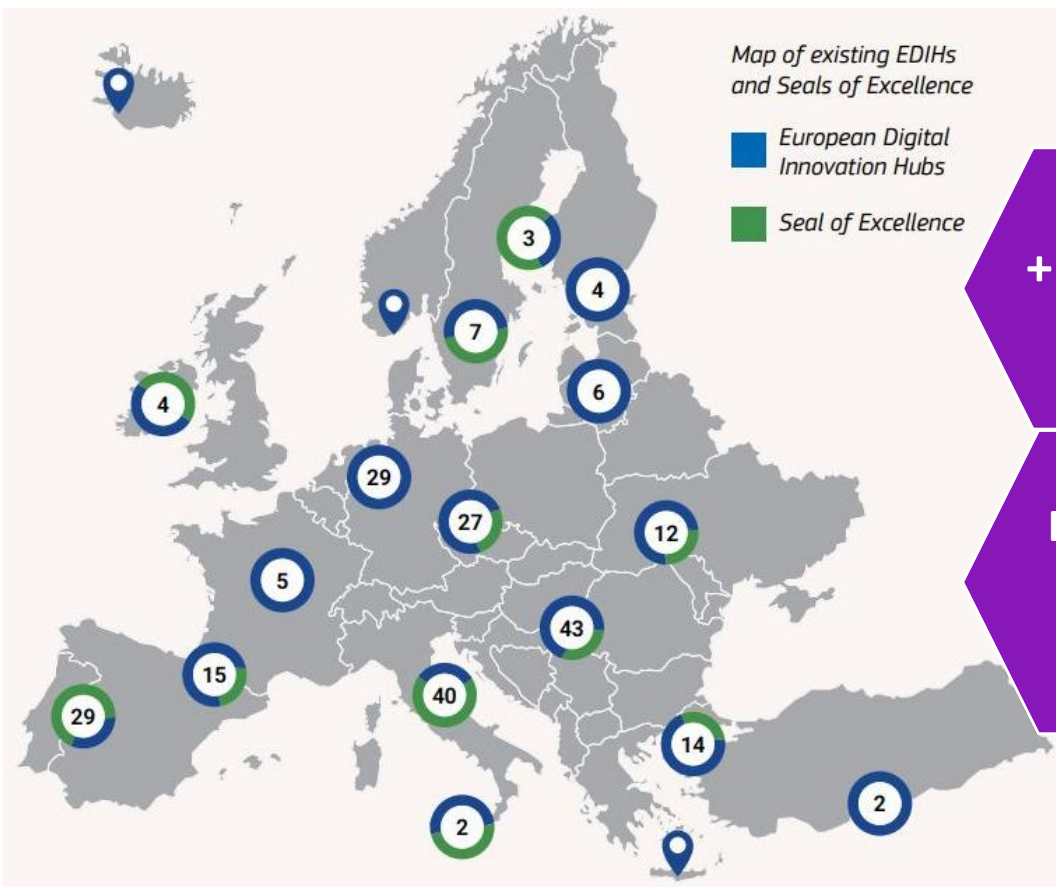
# Agenda Sustaining Digital & AI Innovations: Getting Ready for EDIH 2.0

- European Digital Innovation Hubs network (EDIHs) overview
- What are the EDIHs?
- What's new for EDIHs 2.0
- Zoom on:
  - ☐ Call objectives and expected outcomes
  - ☐ How to onboard AI dimension in your EDIH?
  - ☐ Budget
  - ☐ Price list
  - ☐ Ethics review & AI systems
- Useful links

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# EDIHs NETWORK OVERVIEW



+ 200 hubs

90% of  
EDIHs 1.0  
provide  
AI  
services

## From EDIHs 1.0 to EDIHs 2.0

**169** EDIHs (co-funded by DEP)

**76** Seals of Excellence (funded by national authorities)

**37 countries:** EU27 + Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Türkiye, Ukraine, Kosovo

- **Pan-European network** covering more over 90% of EU/EEA/ other associated countries.

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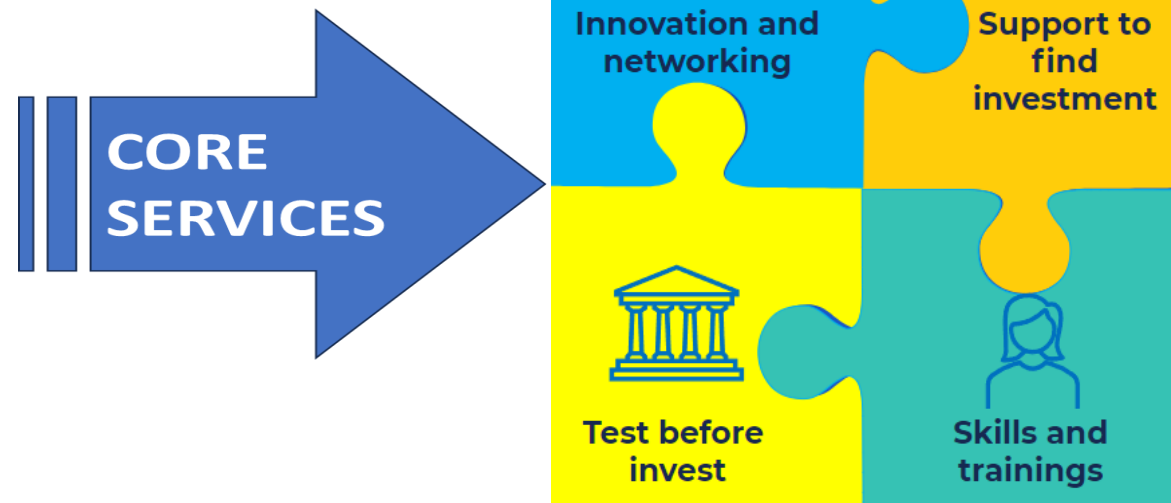
# WHAT ARE THE EDIHs?

EU & Member states supported regional “**one-stop shops**” that help **SMEs** and **public sector organisations** adopt and scale digital technologies with:

- local hands-on support
- access to a pan-European network of expertise

## 4 core service:

- **Test before invest:** try technologies via demonstrations, testbeds, pilots and sandboxes
- **Skills & training:** upskill or reskill staff and management for digital transformation
- **Support to find investment:** guidance to access funding and prepare investment cases
- **Innovation ecosystem & networking:** connect SMEs with partners (research, tech providers, peers) to accelerate adoption



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# WHAT'S NEW FOR THE EDIHs 2.0? (1/3)



## ❑ The Apply AI Strategy and the role of the EDIHs

Apply AI is about turning vision into practice

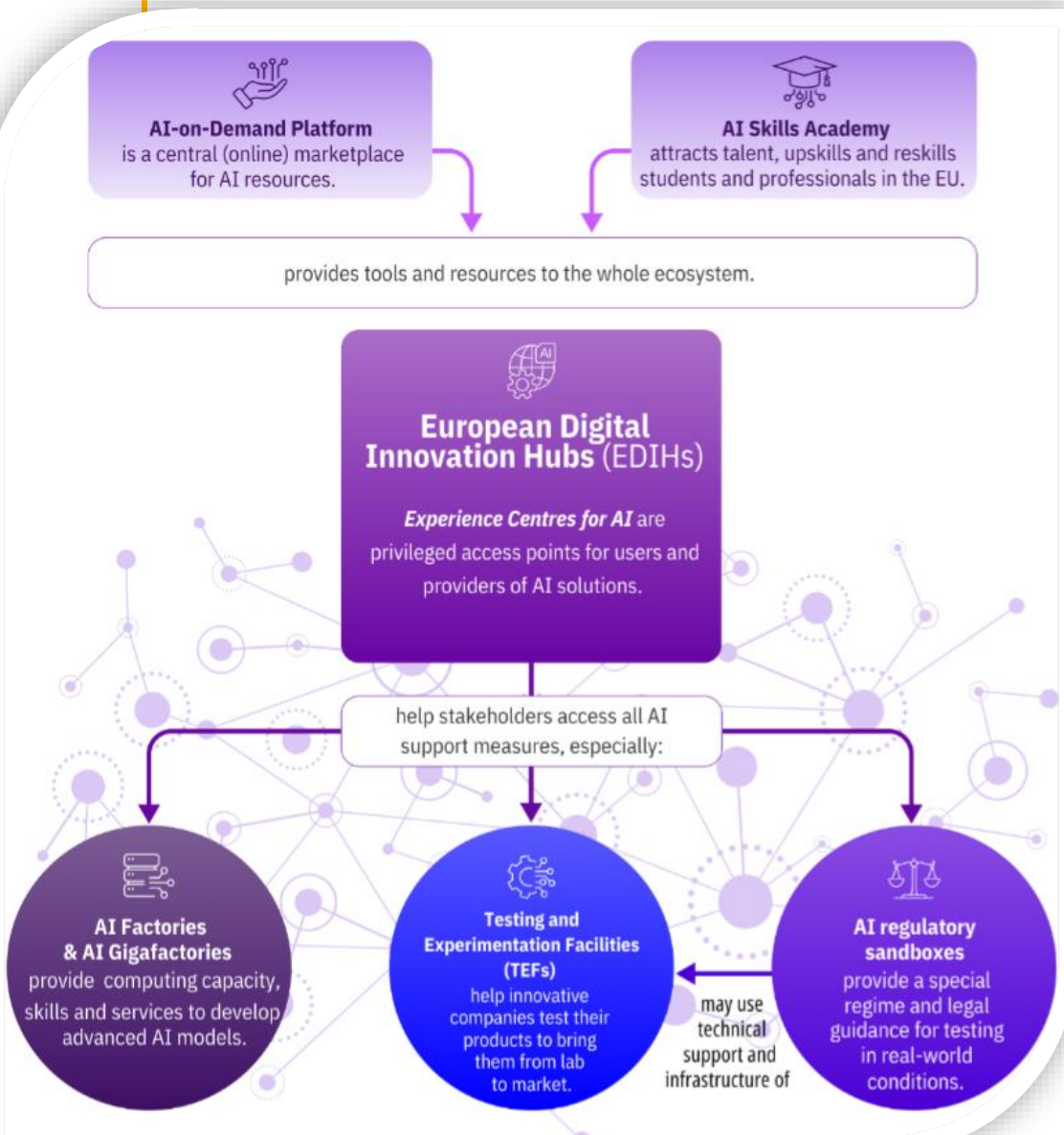
It focuses on deploying AI across Europe's economy.

EDIHs are key enablers (AI Experience Centres), acting as:

- **Entry points** for SMEs and public bodies seeking to use AI, also as 1<sup>st</sup> line AI Helpdesk;
- **Bridges** between local ecosystems with EU AI factories, data spaces & HPC resources;
- **Test-before-invest** centres to trial trustworthy AI solutions;
- Training hubs for AI literacy & skills



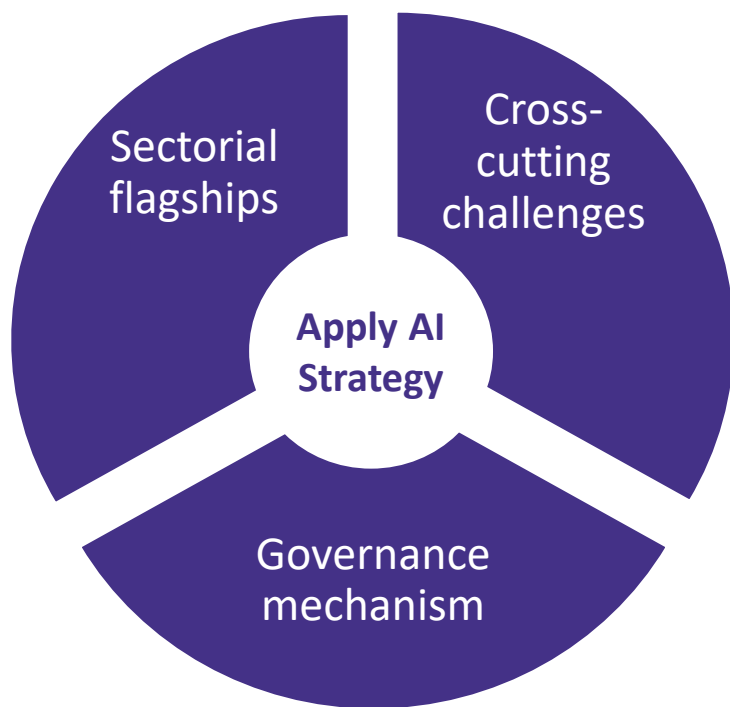
[Apply AI Webinars](#)





# WHAT'S NEW FOR THE EDIHs 2.0? (2/3)

## ❏ The Apply AI Strategy and the role of the EDIHs



- **AI First** : help businesses to consider AI as a useful solution to tackle their challenges while also considering the risks
- Support **adoption and integration of AI in 10 strategic industrial sectors** and the public sector
- **Tailored actions to sector specific needs** to harnesses the transformative potential of AI

- ✓ **enhance competitiveness**
- ✓ **further develop EU's technological sovereignty**



[Apply AI Webinars](#)

# WHAT'S NEW FOR THE EDIHs 2.0? (3/3)

- EDIHs are essential to **diffuse AI technologies** and **to support AI ecosystem** both for the companies building the technologies and for those making use of them
- Artificial intelligence is already a specific focus for the EDIH network
  - **9 out of 10 EDIHs already offer today services** related to these technologies
  - further prioritisation of **integrating AI technologies** into the vast majority of EDIHs' core activities
    - by delivering services that span from data acquisition and structuring to exploitation for greater competitiveness, in combination with other digital innovations
    - AI technologies will allow the EDIHs to provide more effective services, from automating routine tasks to enabling advance data analytics to monitor the Digital Maturity of their clients, which can offer deeper insights and drive better tailored services.
  - The EDIHs will also **leverage AI solutions to significantly enhance their own activities**

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# DIGITAL-2026-EDIH-AC-09-COMPLETION-STEP: CALL OBJECTIVES

## COMPLETE the EDIH network with EDIHs in Switzerland to accelerate Europe's digital & AI transformation

- ❑ **Needs-driven support** for SMEs, mid-caps and public services coming from a deep understanding of local and regional realities
- ❑ **Stronger AI focus** - enabling adoption by clients and upgrading hubs' own capabilities = **Gateways** connecting users to the **EU AI innovation ecosystem**
- ❑ Bring new energy and specificities to the wider EDIHs network



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

# EXPECTED OUTCOMES

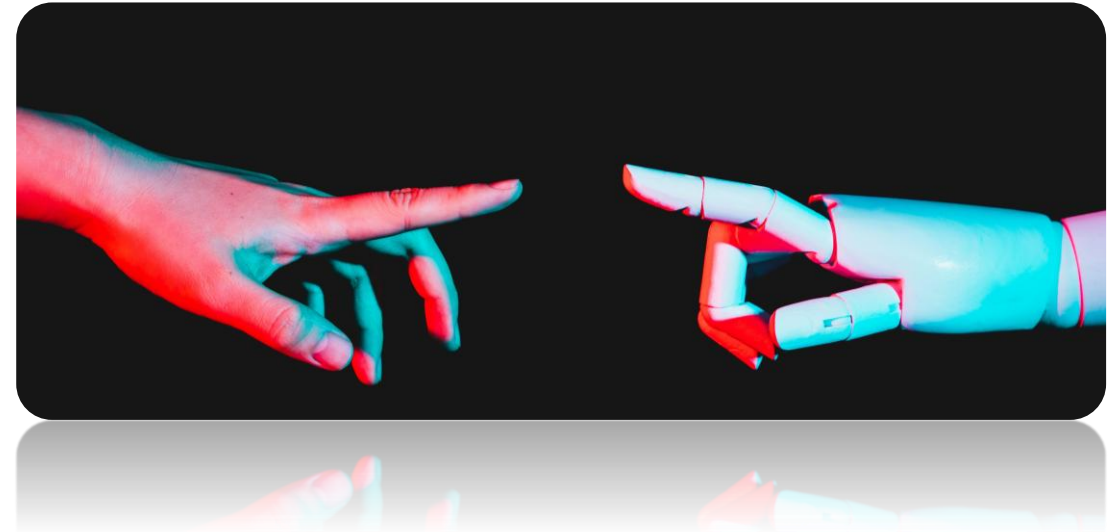
- The EDIHs will act as a **multiplier, scaling and spreading** digital capacities, including key digital standards
- To the extent possible, the EDIHs should use the AI solutions of European start-ups and SMEs and/or those provided and stemming from EU projects, including from the [AI-on-Demand Platform](#).
- Carry out **Digital Maturity Assessments** (DMAT) for their clients
  - using the tools provided by the Commission and Digital Transformation Accelerator (DTA)
  - not all services need to be preceded by a Digital Maturity Assessment: however, EDIHs are encouraged to use it as often as practically possible
- Deliver services leading to greater digitalisation of their clients

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# How to onboard AI dimensions in your EDIH?

- **Build your own AI toolbox & competences**, to support the wide deployment and uptake of European AI algorithms, solutions and tools
- **Becoming first-line AI help desk** to businesses and public sector organisation by:
  - providing basic information on compliance with the AI Act as well relevant sources of further information
- **Organise a flexible AI journey**: one-stop-shop for companies looking for aid from the **European AI innovation ecosystem** (being able to map the AI innovation ecosystem is “a must”)
- **Collaborate with AI Innovation Infrastructures** *such as AI factories and AI Testing and Experimentation Facilities*
- **Own use of AI** for EDIH internal work and processes



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# BUDGET

**DEP funding rate is 50%.**

The remaining % coming from other sources:

- National/regional budget
- Private: EDIH own funding, client payments, sponsorship etc.

The budget covers a **3-year period**

EDIHs are **no profit** entities. This will be checked by the Commission at the end of the project.

## 3. Available budget

The estimated available call budget is **EUR 8 000 000**.

Specific budget information per topic can be found in the table below:

Topic		Topic budget
<b>DIGITAL-2026-EDIH-AC-09-COMPLETION-STEP</b>		<b>EUR 8 000 000</b>
Country	Projected budget from DIGITAL for 3 years	Recommended number of hubs to be funded
Switzerland	2 666 666 to 4 000 000	2 to 3



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# PRICE LIST: a requirement in your proposal

Proposals have to **include a list of the services** to be provided to SMEs and public sector, **available online**.

- The list will **enumerate the services by category**, indicating:
  - target clients, the nominal service price, the amount of State aid passed on by the EDIHs and the remaining amount that the clients have to pay, if applicable
  - A first list is a requirement in the proposal

This list is necessary to comply with the State aid regulations, even when the services will be offered for free or at a discount

☐ *Checklist: inclusion of a price list by category, with indications as applicable*

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# Ethics review and AI systems

- Proposals may have to undergo an ethics review
  - may be made subject to **specific ethics rules** (which become part of the Grant Agreement in the form of ethics deliverables, *e.g. ethics committee opinions/notifications/authorisations required under national or EU law*)
  - For proposals involving **development, testing, deployment, use or distribution of AI systems**: the ethics review will in particular check compliance with the principles of human agency and oversight, diversity/fairness, transparency and responsible social impact, while the experts performing the technical evaluation will assess the **robustness of the AI systems** (i.e. their reliability not to cause unintentional harm)
    - EDIHs developing/distributing AI systems: to be detailed
    - EDIHs recommending AI systems from other developers/distributors: describe why it is not applicable

☐ *Checklist: fill the ethics form and justify how you will deal with AI systems*

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# Helpful Links and Information

## About DEP & the Call for Switzerland

Digital Europe Programme – WP2025

**Official CALL TEXT DIGITAL-2026-EDIH-AC-09-COMPLETION-STEP**

### About EDIHs

Knowledge Hub | European Digital Innovation Hubs Network

(working with EEN, services best practices, ...)

Frequently Asked Questions: EDIH – DMA – DTA - KPI

Success Stories and Good Practices: Guidelines for EDIHs

### FAQ

### Submit a proposal

Proposal roles and access rights

Submit a proposal - IT Guide

Submit a proposal — Electronic Submission System - Online Manual

DEP Model Grant Agreement & **Annotated Grant Agreement**

Online Manual for Funding and Tenders Portal

### Previous webinars on EDIH 2.0 Call

- Access to materials: Link 1 & Link 2
- FAQ on EDIH 2.0 Call
- Know your national contact persons (upcoming for Switzerland)

### European AI Innovations Ecosystem

Web site - Leaflet



# CONTACT



DG CNECT, AI Office  
Artificial Intelligence Innovation and Policy  
Coordination / A4  
[CNECT-DIH@ec.europa.eu](mailto:CNECT-DIH@ec.europa.eu)

