



AI DIH
network

AI DIH NETWORK

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON THE
CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Frequently asked questions

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SCOPE OF THE CALL

1. What is the Call for Digital Innovation Hubs on Artificial Intelligence?

The call for Digital Innovation Hubs on Artificial Intelligence aims to select 30 Digital Innovation Hubs (DIHs) from at least 8 different Member States or countries associated to Horizon 2020 to create a network with focus on Artificial Intelligence and a blueprint for cross border collaboration.

The DIHs Network will support cooperation among DIHs, contributing to create a community that can increase European competitiveness. Being part of the network, each DIH could be able to enhance its capabilities to support business innovation, by strengthening its relationships with other DIHs and learning how to integrate cooperation schemes in its business model.

The selected DIHs will be involved in the definition and, possibly in the signature, of a Cooperation Agreement among (at least) 10 hubs.

DEFINITIONS

2. What is a “Digital Innovation Hub (DIH)”?

Digital Innovation Hubs (DIHs) are regional multipartner cooperations, with technical universities or research organisations at the core. They act as one-stop-shops where companies –especially SMEs, start-ups and mid-caps– can get access to technology-testing, financing advice, market intelligence and networking opportunities. A Digital Innovation Hub (DIH) can help ensure that every company, small or large, high-tech or not, can grasp the digital opportunities.

3. What is the Letter of Commitment?

The letter of Commitment is the document that all the selected DIHs should sign during the kick-off meeting of the preparatory action - foreseen around March/April 2019 in Brussels - to confirm their willingness to take part in the activities included in the programme and to engage in cooperation and networking activities with other DIHs.

4. What is the “Cooperation Agreement”?

The Cooperation Agreement represents a co-drafted document resulting from the development of a concrete action plan that should be signed - by the end of the programme - by (at least) 10 DIHs part of the network.

While the action plan defines the actions that will foster collaboration and networking among DIHs, the co-created cooperation agreement will formalise this collaboration.

In order to reduce potential disputes and facilitate cooperation in good faith, the cooperation agreement should address liability, risk compliance, confidentiality and labour issues, outline the scope/modes of cooperation, specify the rights and responsibilities and determine the applicable/governing rules.

5. What is the European catalogue of Digital Innovation Hubs?

The European catalogue of Digital Innovation Hubs provides comprehensive information on the digital innovation hubs in Europe to help companies get access to competences needed in order to digitize their products and services. The catalogue gives European DIHs a platform to communicate their expertise to potential customers by showcasing their services on a European level. The catalogue is available at the following link: <http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/digital-innovation-hubs-tool>

6. What is “cross border collaboration” in the context of this project?

Cross border collaboration is the collaboration between DIHs located in different EU Member States.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA – APPLICANTS

7. The DIH I represent is not located in one of the 28 EU members States. Can I participate in the call?

Yes, the project is open to DIHs located in one of the 28 EU Member States or in countries associated to Horizon 2020.

8. The DIH I represent is not included in the European catalogue of Digital Innovation Hubs. Can I participate in the call?

In order for a DIH to participate, it is mandatory to be registered in the [European catalogue of Digital Innovation Hubs](#) by the call’s deadline on 21 December 2018. If you decide to submit a request for registration in the catalogue, please do so as soon as possible and send us the confirmation of your request.

9. The DIH I represent is not yet registered in the European catalogue of Digital Innovation Hubs. What is the catalogue’s registration procedure?

To register your DIH in the catalogue, you should follow the procedure laid-out at the following page: <http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/digital-innovation-hubs-tool> (via link “Propose a new hub”).

As specified in the text of the call, it is mandatory for your DIH to be registered in the catalogue by the call’s deadline on 21 December 2018. If you decide to submit a request for registration in the catalogue, please send us the confirmation of your request at info@ai-dih-network.eu

10. Is it the project only open to DIHs with a focus on Artificial Intelligence?

The project is open to DIHs having selected “Artificial Intelligence and cognitive systems” as a technological focus when registering in the European DIH catalogue. Focus on additional technologies that can prove a future interaction with AI, e.g. Robotics, Cyber-Physical-Systems (CPS), Internet of Things (IoT), Digital Art & Design, Modelling and Simulation, Medical Technologies, Digital Manufacturing, etc., will be considered as an asset.

HOW TO APPLY

11. What are the criteria for assessing the application?

Applications will be assessed according to the following criteria:

1. Vision, mission and value proposition (25%)

- Mission oriented to support relevant industries and regions for the digitisation of European industry
- Artificial Intelligence and cognitive systems” as technological focus on the JRC DIH catalogue. Focus on additional technologies that can prove a future interaction with AI, e.g. Robotics, Cyber-Physical-Systems (CPS), Internet of Things (IoT), Digital Art &

Design, Modeling and Simulation, Medical Technologies, Digital Manufacturing, etc., will be considered as an asset.

- Motivation and value proposition for collaboration and for being involved in the action

2. **Business model and networking potential (35%)**

- Business model clearly outlined Networking and collaboration plans included in the strategy plan
- Participation in existing collaboration initiatives and/or efforts to establish collaboration with either other hubs or similar digital initiatives

3. **Collaboration (30%)**

- Relevance of the collaboration models established by the DIHs for the implementation of specific technologies and issuing of services in the AI sector
- Collaboration agreements with key regional innovation partners as well as networking agreements
- Sustainability in the long-term in the collaboration structures eventually in place will be highly considered as asset

4. **Ecosystem (10%)**

- Size of addressable SME market and engagement of SMEs.
- Quality of digital and physical infrastructure existing in region for cooperation schemes.

12. What is the deadline for the call for Digital Innovation Hubs on Artificial Intelligence?

There is only one deadline for the call for Digital Innovation Hubs on Artificial Intelligence and it is on 21 December 2018 at 6.00 PM (CET).

13. Can I submit more than one application (with the same applicant) to the Call for Expressions of Interest?

Each DIH can present only one Expression of Interest for being included in the DIH network preparatory action. Please consider that you can edit your contribution once submitted. Only the most recent submission will be considered for evaluation.

14. Is it possible to complete the application form in a language other than English?

No, the application form must be completed in English.

15. Are there any standard forms or templates to be used for applications to the Digital Innovation Hubs on Artificial Intelligence call for Expression of Interest? Where can I find them?

The application can be submitted fully online, filling in the standard application form available on the “EU survey” platform, at <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/DIHsNetwork>. The application form includes five main sections: General information; Vision, mission and Value proposition; Business model and networking potential; Collaboration; Ecosystem.

16. How can I submit a proposal?

The application form can only be submitted electronically, filling-in the application form available at <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/DIHsNetwork>. Please follow the instructions 'How to apply' under the call notification.

17. Will late applications (submitted after the deadline of the call) be considered in the selection process?

All applications must be completed and submitted before the call's deadline, as specified in the call text. Any applications submitted after the call expiration date will be considered inadmissible.

18. When will the selection results be published?

The selection process will be completed by March 2019. The contact person of the selected DIHs (as reported in the application form) will be informed about the outcome via email.

19. Is it mandatory to sign the Cooperation Agreement?

No, it is not mandatory to sign the Cooperation agreement.

20. What is the purpose of the Letter of Commitment? Is it mandatory to sign it?

Yes, it is mandatory to sign the Letter of Commitment. By signing the Letter of Commitment, during the initial kick-off meeting foreseen in Brussels around March/April 2019, the selected DIHs confirm their willingness to take part into the programme and their intention to engage in future cooperation with other hubs.

21. What does the coaching and mentoring programme entail?

The coaching and mentoring programme will be tailored according to the selected DIHs training needs. The programme will be delivered via a combination of tools, including webinars, remote coaching and mentoring sessions, knowledge sharing events and complementary training material, all delivered also through the online platform. We will also provide at least one on-site training session per each selected DIH.

22. What do you mean by regional workshop? Where will they be organized?

The regional workshops are regional events involving representatives of DIHs from several neighbouring regions and local ecosystem representatives and will combine different activities. Ideally, these workshops would take place at the premises of DIHs taking part in the project. Regional workshops include assistance from our dedicated team, learning opportunities, coworking moments and key interventions from target experts on digitisation, innovation, business modelling, legal aspects etc. Further, we believe that the workshops would offer a perfect occasion for DIHs to network among them.

Our support will focus on:

- Enhancing the engagement with the local DIH;
- Getting a better understanding of the DIHs' cooperation needs and possible barriers for their networking;
- Providing the result of the as-is analysis together with needs and possible barriers for DIHs' networking in order to strategically decide where and how to organise the workshop;

- Providing general expertise on technical and organisational matters (guidance to prepare the agenda, the list of speakers and participants, etc.).

23. What are the benefits of participating in the project?

The selected 30 DIHs will receive tailored training and coaching on collaboration and networking. They will benefit from technical assistance services. These services will be a combination of written materials (e.g. manuals, brochures) and training, coaching and mentoring sessions delivered by our expert team. Support by our experts will be provided both through our platform and via email/conference call. In addition, each of the selected DIHs will benefit from at least one in-class training session. Furthermore, for each of the training module, a set of materials, including PowerPoint presentations, best practices documents, business plans etc., as well as dedicated tools/exercises will be offered. Finally, through the platform, the selected hubs will get access to all recorded webinars, materials and tools used to train DIHs in similar projects, ensuring that a basic learning framework is made available to them since the beginning of the project.

24. What are the DIH's costs directly covered by the project?

The project will cover:

- the travel costs related to the participation into the kick-off meeting with the 30 selected Digital Innovation Hubs that will be held in Brussels around March/April 2019;
- the travel costs of those DIH representatives that will be invited to a final workshop to present the outcome of their activities carried out through the demonstration phase (final workshop foreseen in Brussels around the end of 2019);
- for the regional workshop, the costs incurred by the hosting DIH for the organisation of the regional workshop as well as the travel expenses incurred by the other neighbouring selected DIHs to take part into the regional workshop.

25. Will I receive funding for my DIH by participating in the project?

No, you will not get any direct funding for participating to this project. The objective of the project is to foster and support the collaboration between a network of Digital Innovation Hubs focusing on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Europe, through which companies then, especially SMEs, can have access to expertise, development and testing facilities of digital technologies, as well as finance and innovation services.

26. Where can I find further information on the call for Expression of Interest and the project?

You can find additional information about the call on the press release published by the European Commission at the following link: <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/call-digital-innovation-hubs-artificial-intelligence>

or you can contact us to info@ai-dih-network.eu with any other question or queries.