



# NEWSLETTER

## ISSUE 3/2021

Dear partners and friends of EIT Digital,

I hope this newsletter finds you in good health. With the summer season approaching and vaccination getting up to speed, the overall COVID-19 situation in Europe is improving. Despite these positive signs, during the remainder of the year caution will be required especially when it comes to the organization of larger events. As a result, we will not be able to bring our community together physically for our typical events like master school kick-off, graduation ceremonies, innovation days, challenge finals, summer schools and our annual partner event. Fortunately, we have meanwhile solid experience in organising these events on-line. I am therefore happy to already announce the date for our annual partner event, which will be September 14. Please reserve this date already in your agenda for the on-line EIT Digital partner event 2021. Further information will follow.

Next to the gradual transition out of the COVID-19 pandemic we experience the transition into the EU Horizon Europe program. I am happy to inform that a next step has been made through the signature of the Partnership Agreement between EIT Digital and EIT mid-April. Next step is the signing of the Grant Agreement 2021 between EIT Digital and EIT, which is envisaged in a couple of weeks. When it comes to signing, two more important signing events did take place. In April, we agreed with the European Investment Fund on a guarantee scheme that will allow more European students and learners to benefit from EIT Digital's education and training programmes. And we signed an agreement with the European Commission's DG CONNECT on close collaboration in a number of strategic areas. Both initiatives demonstrate the recognition of EIT Digital as a key actor in digital education and innovation in Europe.

Our flagship annual EIT Digital Challenge scale-up competition closed last week with yet another record of 409 submissions from 33 countries. A strong result and testament to the strong track record of our Accelerator and our competition finalists. Since its first edition in 2014, the Challenge has attracted over 2,900 deep tech companies from 36 countries. You will find two success stories of our EIT Digital Accelerator, whose experts helped French scaleup Velco raise €5 million funding and support German scaleup YAS.life to digitally transform European health insurance companies.

We also present the story of creative EIT Digital Master School students that protect fields from wild boars with the help of drones. And we are proud to see two of our Academy alumni being listed amongst Forbes' 30 under 30.

Take care and stay safe,

Willem Jonker  
CEO, EIT Digital

## European Investment Fund and EIT Digital team up to close digital skills gap in Europe



The European Investment Fund and EIT Digital signed an agreement that will allow more European students and learners to benefit from EIT Digital's education and training programmes, thanks to a new EIF guarantee.

The agreement has a maximum volume of €2.5 million and will allow EIT Digital to offer deferred payment schemes for students and learners participating in its courses. Around 500 people are expected to benefit from the scheme. Future students and learners will be able to apply for the new scheme from June 2021 onwards.

[Read more](#)

## EIT Digital and EU Commission's DG CONNECT sign agreement on close collaboration



EIT Digital and the European Commission's Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology signed on 29 April a Letter of Intent towards collaboration in support of Europe's digital transformation. Both partners recognise the common objective to contribute to Europe's digital transformation and emphasise their mutual support to build a strong digital Europe that fosters inclusive, fair and sustainable growth.

[Read more](#)

**Save the Date: EIT Digital conference 2021**

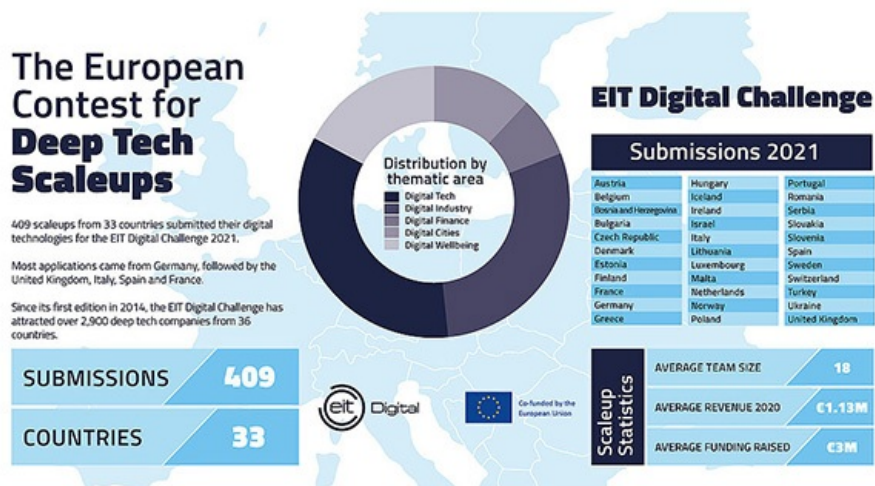


On 14 September 2021 EIT Digital will hold its annual flagship conference under the title 'Realising the European Digital Decade'. Our event will gather visionary speakers from industry, startups, investment and the academic world to showcase how our unique European innovation ecosystem drives the digital transformation and to reflect on the importance of close ties between education, innovation and entrepreneurship for a strong digital Europe.

Given current circumstances, our event will be held online.

**Save the Date!**

## Record high applications for EIT Digital Challenge



The application period for the 2021 EIT Digital Challenge ended last week with a record number of 409 submissions. The participants, competing in EIT Digital's five strategic focus areas, come from 33 countries. Most applications came from Germany, followed by the United Kingdom, Italy, Spain and France. The 20 finalists will be selected by 12 July and pitch in front of expert juries in late September. Winners receive a full year of tailored international growth support by the EIT Digital Accelerator to scale up their business and

the first-place winner in addition a cash prize.

[Read more](#)

## **EIT Digital Accelerator scaleup Velco raises €5m**



Supported by the EIT Digital Accelerator, French scaleup Velco raised €5 million in a series A funding. The company's connected solution helps two-wheeler brands, manufacturers and transport operators optimize fleet management, generate high value-added data for communities and fleet managers, detect accidents, track location and improve safety. The company already supports major players in urban mobility in France and is targeting the European urban mobility market with an ambition to become the European market leader by 2024.

[Read more](#)

## **Accelerator scaleup YAS.life turns health insurers into digital health companions**



Scaleup YAS.life helps health insurance companies build digital touchpoints with their customers. It has recently joined the EIT Digital Accelerator to lead the transformation of European health insurance companies into digital health companions.

[Read more](#)

## EIT Digital Master School students protect agricultural fields from wild boars with innovative drones



Wild boars are a threatening problem to farmers. They destroy land and crops and cause a lot of damage. EIT Digital Master School students and their startup Flox developed a solution using AI-controlled drones to scare off the intruders. Recently they received €30,000 grant to develop their MVP and plan to launch their innovative product in June.

[Read more](#)

## Two EIT Digital Entrepreneurial Academy alumni listed in Forbes 30 Under 30



Dora Palfi and Abdelhadi Azzouni, alumni of the EIT Digital Entrepreneurial Academy, are being listed in the prestigious Forbes 30 Under 30 Europe list. Palfi is listed with the co-founders of her social enterprise imagiLabs in the category Social Impact. She recently raised €250,000 in pre-seed funding. Abdelhadi Azzouni is listed in the category Technology. He has a EIT Digital Doctoral School PhD in computer science. The company he co-founded in 2019, PacketAI, uses machine learning for predictive monitoring and has raised €2.1M with investors including Aster Capital and BNP Paribas.

[Read more](#)

## Upcoming Events

June 1-3

[Executive Course: Digitalisation and Industry 4.0 in Food Processing](#)

June 7, 8 and 11

[Executive Course: Applied Data Science](#)

June 14

[Launch of the EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda 2021-2027](#)

June 15-16

[Executive Course: Cybersecurity for Industry 4.0](#)

June 21-24

[Executive Course: Blockchain for the Decision Maker](#)

June 21-23

[Executive Course: Product Lifecycle Management](#)

July 5-8

[Executive Course: Blockchain for Digital Manufacturing and Logistics](#)

## Working at EIT Digital

Interested in working for us?

[Check out our open vacancies!](#)



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