



NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 4/2021

Dear partners and friends of EIT Digital,

It's good being back after the summer and I hope you had a wonderful time off! While we were able to take our holiday break, at the same time this summer was also a busy period. We organised 11 online Summer School programmes in Digital Innovation & Entrepreneurship, completed the Master School recruitment, delivered on various innovation activities, had impressive results with our Accelerator and the annual Challenge, prepared the Master School kick-off, the Challenge finals, three DeepHacks that will run this autumn, worked on the transition to Horizon Europe, built the Business Plan extension to 2022, and had our annual general assembly this week.

And last, but not least, we have been busy preparing our annual conference event, that will take place next week. We have a great line-up of speakers and can promise high quality in-depth discussions. I encourage you to [register now!](#)

As you notice, we still carry out most of our activities and events online. However, with increasing vaccination rates and better control over the public health situation, we are expecting that we can step up our program of on-site and face2face activities and events in 2022, featuring scaleup events, node events and on-site summer schools. Despite the expertise our ecosystem gained on collaborating virtually, we are convinced that meeting in person remains an essential element to reinforce our partnership and work together on our projects and activities.

Unfortunately, the summer period also brought sad news. As you may have seen, our colleague [Jan Grotenbreg passed away](#) unexpectedly and way too early at the end of August. Jan operated from our Silicon Valley Hub and was also responsible for our DeepHack Program. He will be deeply missed!

Before and during the summer, EIT Digital actively supported the EIT's Higher Education Initiative and more concretely the review and selection of the 23 HEI consortia that will now benefit from expertise, coaching, funding and access to the EIT's ecosystem to support their innovation capacity.

This autumn also features the traditional final of our EIT Digital Challenge scaleup competition. Once again, our Challenge team managed to increase the number of applications and we look forward to 20 great finalists competing for the awards – and joining our Accelerator.

Last, but not least, we are happy to inform you about two thriving companies from our ecosystem. Accelerator-supported scaleup ADVITOS successfully completed a €20m financing round whilst SARA Robotics, launched in 2019 as part of an EIT Digital innovation activity, raised €350K to further develop their robotic healthcare assistant.

Take care, stay safe, and I look forward to your attendance at [our annual conference](#) next week, Tuesday 14, online 11 AM CET.

Willem Jonker
CEO, EIT Digital



Realising the European Digital Decade

Register now for the EIT Digital Flagship Conference

14 September 2021

Join us on 14 September to explore the EIT Digital partnership and its impact on digital Europe! The program features inspiring keynote speeches by Mark Boris Andrijanic, Slovenian Minister for Digital Transformation (Presidency of the EU Council), and Philipp Baaske, Founder and CEO of German scaleup Nanotemper. Their contributions will be complemented by ambassadors of our ecosystem and their insights on the power of EIT Digital's approach to entrepreneurial education and digital innovation.

Register now!

EIT Digital Challenge **FINALISTS 2021** 20 outstanding deep tech scaleups



Finalists statistics

AVERAGE NUMBER
OF EMPLOYEES **27**

AVERAGE FUNDING
RAISED **€4M**

AVERAGE REVENUE
IN 2020 **€1M**

COUNTRIES
REPRESENTED **10**

20 outstanding Deep Tech Scaleups compete in EIT Digital Challenge Final 2021

On September 21, 20 scaleups from 10 countries will compete in the final of Europe's flagship scaleup competition in digital. The 3 winners will be awarded at the online event with international growth support totalling €250,000. The EIT Digital Challenge takes place for the eighth consecutive year and the 20 finalists, chosen out of 409 applicants, come from 10 different European countries.

Read more



ADVITOS completes €20m financing round with the support of EIT Digital Accelerator

Munich-based ADVITOS offers a highly technological solution for treating multiple organ failure – a common cause of death in intensive care units. The EIT Digital Accelerator has been supporting ADVITOS during this fund-raising with dedicated coaching and targeted introductions to a selected pool of investors interested in their space, size and geography.

[Read more](#)



SARA robot moves to the next level

Launched in 2019 as part of an EIT Digital innovation activity, SARA Robotics provides robotic healthcare assistants that improve the quality of life of elderly residents in nursing homes and reduce staff workload. The robot immediately raised interest from care institutions, but its deployment really took off during the COVID-19 pandemic and associated restrictions to enter care institutions and visit residents. 125 Dutch nursing homes accepted the offer to test SARA's functionalities in a free trial. As a result of this overwhelming interest, SARA Robotics now raised €350K to further develop the robot in collaboration with healthcare institutions.

[Read more](#)

HEI INITIATIVE Innovation Capacity Building for Higher Education

Pilot Call Results



Unlocking higher education's innovation potential in Europe

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) has announced 23 winning consortia for the EIT's HEI Initiative: Innovation Capacity Building for Higher Education Pilot Call for Proposals. 135 Higher Education Institutions (HEI) and 140 non-academic organisations from 32 countries will benefit from the EIT's HEI Initiative and will see up to EUR 27.5 million of funding supporting their innovation capacity.

Upcoming Events

September 14

[EIT Digital Conference 2021](#)

September 21

[EIT Digital Challenge Final 2021](#)

September 21, 24, 28 and October 1

[Executive Course: Data Science for Business Innovation](#)

September 24

[DeepHack: Health and Safety Monitoring](#)

September 28-30

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

October 8

[DeepHack: Data for Green Estonia](#)

October 11-13

[Executive Course: Ongoing Digital Transformation](#)

October 12-15

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

October 18-20

[**Executive Course: Sustainable Digital Innovation**](#)

October 19-21

[**DeepHack: Zero Emission Mobility**](#)

October 20-21

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

November 3-5

[**Executive Course: Applied Data Science**](#)

November 8-10

[**Executive Course: Product Lifecycle Management**](#)

November 16-19

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

November 22-24

[**Executive Course: Business Implications of Artificial Intelligence**](#)

Working at EIT Digital

Interested in working for us?

[**Check out our open vacancies!**](#)



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