



# NEWSLETTER

## ISSUE 2/2022

Dear partners and friends of EIT Digital,

Our 2022 innovation and education activities in our ecosystem are in full swing! An obvious highlight is our successful 'Grow Digital' conference in Brussels. For the first time after two years, we were able to gather in person to show the delivery of our education and innovation activities, as well as discussing trends and outlooks in digital technology. The meeting of our network partners and important stakeholders during the conference was complemented by our annual General Assembly discussing amongst others the future evolution of our organisation.

Earlier in June, we also concluded successfully this year's second call for proposals under the [Innovation Factory](#). We are now preparing the third and final round for 2022 that is expected to start in early September.

We are also progressing with this year's edition of the EIT Digital [Venture Program](#). 40 teams from 10 RIS countries take part in this pre-acceleration program tailored to acquire practical entrepreneurial skills and get from idea to MVP. These days, the teams pitch their ideas at regional Demo Days to qualify for the final prizes. More on this in our next newsletter!

In June, the EIT Digital [Master School](#) concluded the intake of new students for the autumn term. Around 250 international students will join our programs across

Europe and start their 2-year entrepreneurial education at two different technical universities of rank.

Our 12 [Summer School](#) programs are about to start in July, gathering Master School students and professionals for a unique deep dive in Digital Innovation & Entrepreneurship.

Important developments are our strategic collaborations with other institutions. Concerning our ecosystem development, we are also pleased to announce that EIT Digital has successfully partnered with consortia from Finland, Sweden, Germany, The Netherlands, Spain, Italy, and Hungary, on the establishment of European Digital Innovation Hubs. The EDIHs will function as one-stop shops that help companies dynamically respond to the digital challenges and become more competitive.

On our start-up and scale-up related innovation activities, we recently launched the second part of our cooperation with the European Innovation Council. The EIC - EIT Digital Venture Building Programme provides EIC beneficiaries with EIT Digital support to build and boost their deep tech start-ups.

Last but not least, it makes us proud that more than 760,000 viewers have by now enjoyed this year's edition of the [Makers & Shapers conversations](#) with key stakeholders from Europe's digital sector. If you haven't watched them yet, maybe the vacation period is a good time for that?

With this, I wish you all a relaxing summer and hope to see many of you in the autumn!

Willem Jonker  
CEO, EIT Digital



## EIT Digital launches 2022 Challenge competition for deep tech scaleups

June 30 marks the launch of the 9th edition of the EIT Digital Challenge, the leading pan-European competition for digital deep tech scaleups. Winners will receive waived entry into the 12-month EIT Digital Accelerator Program worth €50,000 and will get access to dedicated services in international Access to Finance and Business Development.

Fast-growing European 'deep tech' companies with a differentiating product offering that leverages sophisticated, hard-to-reproduce digital technologies can apply until 19 September 2022. The 20 finalists will be invited to an exclusive event to pitch in front of a panel of experts and investors as well as participate in matchmaking sessions with invited corporates and investors.

[Read more and apply now!](#)



## Grow Digital conference gathers Europe's digital innovators and entrepreneurs in Brussels

After a two-year break, EIT Digital's flagship conference 'Grow Digital' brought hundreds of participants to Brussels to engage in discussions about the hot topics for digital Europe. How can we build successful tech ventures in Europe and what talent is needed for that? How can we better protect critical assets against cyberattacks? What role can quantum technology and metaverse solutions play for Europe's global competitiveness? Are digital transformation and sustainability two sides of the same coin? And which digital sovereignty does Europe need on the global market?

The conference featured prominent names, including ARM founder Hermann Hauser, EIC Director Jean-David Malo, Web3 Foundation CEO Bertrand Perez, GAIA-X CEO Francesco Bonfiglio, Talent Garden CEO Irene Boni, DG CNECT's Thibaut Kleiner, or Carlos Kuchkovsky from the EU Quantum Flagship, to name a few.

More than 30 ground-breaking digital innovations and tech companies were at display at our Innovators Village, presenting their products and solutions.

Have you missed the event? Get a glimpse of the great atmosphere in our [photo album](#) or check out the [highlights video](#)!



## EIC and EIT Digital launch Venture Building Programme

The EIC - EIT Digital Venture Building Programme is an incubation bootcamp that allows innovators supported by the European Innovation Council to benefit from the support of EIT Digital to transform knowledge into impact and gain entrepreneurial skills to build and boost their deep tech start-up.

The Programme is dedicated to beneficiaries of the EIC Pathfinder, EIC Transition, and EIC Transition Seal Excellence programmes. In addition, the applicants' technology area should be aligned with one of the five EIT Digital focus areas: Digital Tech, Digital Industry, Digital Cities, Digital Wellbeing and Digital Finance.

Applications [can be submitted](#) until July 22, 2022!



## EIT Digital-backed startup Webio raises €3.8M to scale its Conversational AI platform

Irish startup Webio, part of the EIT Digital Equity Portfolio, has raised €3.8M (\$4M) in a series A funding round led by Finch Capital. Webio is a leader in Conversational AI in the credit, collections and payments industry.

The startup's technology enables leading UK and European companies to communicate conversationally with customers throughout their credit and collections journeys. Webio uses the power of Artificial Intelligence and machine learning in a 'blended approach' that lets automated bots work alongside contact centre agents.

[Read more](#)



## EIT Digital supported startup Touchlab raised €4.36M

UK startup Touchlab, a deep tech venture in EIT Digital's Innovation Factory roster, has raised £3.5m (€4.36m) in a funding round led by Octopus Ventures, one of Europe's largest early-stage investors and backed by Creator Fund and Techstart Ventures.

Touchlab is successfully pursuing an ambitious goal to give robots a human touch. While robots excel against humans in many ways, some tasks are difficult for them to replicate - grasping objects, for instance. In areas of tactile sensing and dexterity, robots have been inferior because they cannot detect tactile information and sometimes use too much force to achieve delicate tasks.

Touchlab will collaborate with EIT Digital to commercialize its tactile avatar telerobot in hospitals across Europe and break the chain of hospital acquired infections.

[Read more](#)



## **DCbrain, a scaleup supported by EIT DIGITAL Accelerator, closes €5M financing round**

Paris-based DCbrain is a deep-tech SaaS company offering a state-of-the-art optimization platform using AI and Hybrid AI algorithms outperforming by far the capabilities of existing network scheduling tools available in the market. The scaleup's platform is leading the market when it comes to optimising the configuration of complex networks, like those that supply chain companies are facing every day, saving costs through better planning and better usage of transportation capacities. With this new funding round, the company takes another step towards becoming the European leader in AI software for smart supply chains.

[Read more](#)



## Join the EIT Community AI Challenge!

EIT Digital and its partner KICs in the EIT AI Community are looking for corporates that want to tackle their digitalisation and sustainability transformation challenges with the help of AI solutions. Submit your challenge until 8 July and get matched by us with a suitable solution provider. Together you can win attractive cash prizes, awarded at the final event in November.

[Read more and apply now!](#) For any questions, contact [Orestis Trasanidis](#).



## Updated course portfolio of EIT Digital Professional School

Our professional education initiatives resume after the summer with a renewed offer of courses. From blockchain to AI, Big Data to corporate sustainability, EIT Digital's portfolio of professional classes is designed to provide professionals with the skills they need to drive digital transformation. Visit the portfolio website and register for the course of your interest!

[Read more](#)

## Upcoming Events

September 21

[Investing in Talent and Skills for the Future](#)

October 11-14

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

October 13, 2022

[Innovation Factory 2022 Brokerage Event](#)

## Working at EIT Digital

Interested in working for us?

[Check out our open vacancies!](#)



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