

EIT DIGITAL PARTNERSHIP MODELS

IMPORTANT: Transition from Horizon 2020 to Horizon Europe and Brexit

Transition from Horizon 2020 to Horizon Europe

The EIT Digital Business Plan 2021 will be executed under the new Horizon Europe Framework Programme that will run from 2021 till 2027. The transition from the legal framework underpinning Horizon 2020 to the legal framework underpinning Horizon Europe is still under discussion and is expected to be finalized in the course of this year. This transition may have implications for the Partnership models and for the requirements on the final EIT Digital Business Plan 2021 Activities. These implications will be made available to proposers through the EIT Digital 2021 Intranet Page as soon as they are communicated by the European Commission. While proposers can take the current legal framework and Partnership models underpinning Horizon 2020 as a starting point, they should be aware of the transition and its possible implications. Be informed that the EIT Grant Agreements will be derived from the overall Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement.

Brexit

The Withdrawal Agreement between the EU and the UK entered into force on February 1, 2020. Such Withdrawal Agreement provides for a transition period until December 31, 2020. Therefore, for 2020, the UK contributes to and participates in the implementation of the Union budgets, which means that UK entities remain eligible for grants and procurement procedures as if the UK was a Member State (Article 137 of the Withdrawal Agreement). For the UK's participation in the current Multiannual Financial Frameworks (MFFs), such as "Horizon 2020", applicable European Union law, including the rules on financial corrections and on clearance of accounts, shall continue to apply to the UK after 31 December 2020 until the closure of those programmes and activities (Article 138 of the Withdrawal Agreement).

However, as of March 2020, the long-term relationship between the EU and the UK remains subject of negotiations yet to come. If no agreement is reached by the end of the transition period, and the transition period is not extended, a no-deal Brexit would be the default outcome in 2021. Therefore, it is currently not predictable whether the EU's future relationship with the UK will be the same as with other Associated Countries.

If the UK will be an Associated Country under Horizon Europe, the eligibility of UK Partners will continue after December 31, 2020. If the UK will not be an Associated Country under Horizon Europe, in principle, all UK entities will be ineligible for EU funding and the participation of UK entities will have to follow the Horizon Europe Regulation for the participation of entities from third countries. In this case, the EIT will have to develop strict criteria based on the European Commission guidelines.

For the above-mentioned reasons, UK Partners can apply to EIT Digital 2021, but their eligibility will need to be further assessed and verified in the course of 2020, after the transition process to a stable relationship between the EU and the UK will be complete.

EIT DIGITAL PARTNER CATEGORIES

1. **Members.**
2. **Linked Third Parties.**
 - a. **Affiliated entities**, e.g. local subsidiaries or branches of member organisations.
 - b. **Entities affiliated with a legal link** with a member organisation for purposes unrelated to EIT Digital, e.g. national or regional ecosystem organisations.
3. **External Partners** (membership with limited duration, yearly).

RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

Partnership status opens access to the Digital Entrepreneurship Academy and Digital Innovation Factory, and the entire ecosystem for you to collaborate with. You are invited and expected to play an active role in creating a strong digital Europe.

- Partners have to pay **yearly membership fees** (see below).
- Members have **voting rights** in the EIT Digital General Assembly; Members and Linked Third Parties **participate in their local Node Strategy Committee meetings**.

EIT DIGITAL PARTNERSHIP FEES

The below are the Partnership fees applicable in 2020 as defined by the EIT Digital General Assembly in its meeting of September 11, 2019. Partnership fees applicable in 2021 will be defined by the EIT Digital General Assembly in the course of 2020.

Members or Linked Third Parties with a legal link (2.b above)

- €25,000 for large enterprises, research institutes and universities
- €10,000 for mid-size SMEs
- €5,000 for other SMEs

Linked Third Parties - affiliated entities (2.a above)

- € 1,000 for Linked Third Parties affiliated to a member

External Partners (membership with limited duration, yearly)

- €12,500 for large enterprises, research institutes and universities
- €5,000 for mid-size SMEs
- €2,500 for other SMEs

Organisations including SMEs are defined according to the below criteria (in line with the European Commission definition):

- Medium-sized SME: < 250 staff headcount and turnover < €50m or balance sheet < €43m
- Small SME: < 50 staff headcount and turnover < €10m or balance sheet < €10m
- Micro SME: < 10 staff headcount and turnover < €2m or balance sheet < €2m
 - o Micro SMEs admitted before 31-12-2017 are exempt from the payment of the EIT Digital partnership fee.
- In case of a KIC Partner with affiliated entities, the sum of the staff headcount, turnover and balance sheet defines the status.

APPLYING FOR PARTNERSHIP

In order to start the partnership process and request further information:

- Organisations should fill in the [questionnaire](#) for new organisations
- Once the questionnaire is filled in, organisations will be contacted by the relevant local Node / Co-Location Center (CLC) and should liaise with their Node / CLC to complete the process. Please see the Country to Node / CLC mapping below for reference.

Country by alphabetical order	Node / Co-Location Center (CLC)
Austria	Berlin
Belgium	Eindhoven
Bulgaria	Budapest
Croatia	Budapest
Cyprus	Trento
Czech Rep	Berlin
Denmark	Stockholm
Estonia	Helsinki
Finland	Helsinki
France	Paris
Germany	Berlin
Greece	Trento
Hungary	Budapest
Ireland	London
Italy	Trento
Latvia	Helsinki
Lithuania	Helsinki
Luxemburg	Eindhoven
Malta	Trento
Netherlands	Eindhoven
Poland	Berlin
Portugal	Madrid
Romania	Budapest
Slovakia	Budapest
Slovenia	Budapest
Spain	Madrid
Sweden	Stockholm
Switzerland	Paris
UK*	London
All other H2020 Associated Countries: Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine	Brussels Office

OVERALL PARTNERSHIP PROCESS

- The **Prospect Partner** fills in the [questionnaire](#) for new organisations.
 - once the questionnaire is filled in, the Prospective Partner will be contacted by the relevant local Node / Co-Location Center (CLC) and should liaise with their Node contact to complete the Partnership process.
- The Node Director and/or **Node contact provides clarifications** to the Prospect Partner and documents related to the below topics:
 - the EIT, EIT Digital, Business Plan and the proposal submission process.
 - the types of partnership (Member, Linked Third Party, External Partner).
 - the associated costs.
 - the Application Package Template Documents; including templates for the Letter of Intent (LoI), Membership / Partnership Criteria Document, Accession Letter and a link to generate the Partner Information Form (PIF) online.
- Partner create the PIF online and will **receive the Partner Identification number**.
- The Prospective **Partner provides the filled in templates** to the Node Director with:
 - the signed Letter of Intent (LoI) which explains the Partner's capabilities and potential contribution to the EIT Digital ecosystem.
 - the Membership / Partnership Criteria Document demonstrating compliance with the Partnership criteria from Partner by Node Director (assisted by Node Assistant).
 - In the case of a Linked Third Party (LTP), also a letter from the Member to which it is linked to endorse the entry (LTP Support Letter).
- The **Node Director reviews** and suggests improvements to these documents.

This step is important as the Partnership application will be accepted or rejected by the Node Strategy Committee (NSC) and EIT Digital Supervisory Board (SB) also based on the content of the documents and completeness of the information. Required information provided to the Node Director but not formalised in documents by the Prospective Partner as requested may not be taken into account.
- The **Node Strategy Committee gives its support or not** to the Partnership application:
 - The **Application Package is sent out** to the Node Strategy Committee Members.
 - The **Node Director shortly presents the Prospect Partner** and its motivations for requesting Membership at the next Node Strategic Committee meeting. Please note that a written procedure may be applied.
 - NSC Members formed by the existing Partners in the Node, discuss the application based on criteria which includes the quality of the application and information, alignment with EIT Digital's ecosystem and membership criteria as well as financial robustness of the Prospective Partner.
 - NSC Members vote and either **recommend the application for submission to the EIT Digital Supervisory Board** / or reject the application.
 - The Node Director informs prospect Partner of the Node Strategy Committee decision.
- If the outcome of the Node Strategy Committee is positive, the Partner Application is sent for approval to the EIT Digital Supervisory Board:
 - the **Node Director writes the Support Letter on behalf of the Node Strategy Committee** to the EIT Digital Supervisory Board.

- o The Node Director forwards the **extended Application Package to the EIT Digital CFO** for inclusion in the Supervisory Board approval procedure. The extended Package includes: the Letter of Intent (LoI), Membership Criteria, (LTP Support Letter) and NSC Support Letter.
 - o The EIT Digital CFO prepares a Supervisory Board **Written Procedure** to accept or reject the Prospective Partner's application.
 - o The **Supervisory Board votes** on the prospective Partners.
- If the outcome of the EIT Digital Supervisory Board is positive, the EIT Digital **CFO collects the Accession Letter and the EIT registration documents** from the Partner.
- The EIT Digital CFO starts the **registration process with the EIT**.
- The **EIT confirms the registration** of the Partner to the EIT Digital CFO.
- The EIT Digital **CFO informs the Partner** of its registration as well as its eligibility date.