



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology

CNECT.A – Artificial Intelligence and Digital Industry

A.4 – Digital Transformation of Industrial Ecosystems

GRANT AGREEMENT

Project 101083551 — EDIH OVA

PREAMBLE

This **Agreement** (‘the Agreement’) is **between** the following parties:

on the one part,

the **European Union** (‘EU’), represented by the European Commission (‘European Commission’ or ‘granting authority’),

and

on the other part,

1. ‘the coordinator’:

VSB - TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF OSTRAVA (VSB-TUO), PIC 999868144, established in 17 LISTOPADU 2172/15, OSTRAVA PORUBA 708 00, Czechia,

and the following other beneficiaries, if they sign their ‘accession form’ (see Annex 3 and Article 40):

2. **MORAVSKOSLEZSKE INOVACNI CENTRUM OSTRAVA (MSIC Ostrava)**, PIC 895878712, established in TECHNOLOGICKA 372/2, OSTRAVA 70800, Czechia,

Unless otherwise specified, references to ‘beneficiary’ or ‘beneficiaries’ include the coordinator and affiliated entities (if any).

If only one beneficiary signs the grant agreement (‘mono-beneficiary grant’), all provisions referring to the ‘coordinator’ or the ‘beneficiaries’ will be considered — *mutatis mutandis* — as referring to the beneficiary.

The parties referred to above have agreed to enter into the Agreement.

By signing the Agreement and the accession forms, the beneficiaries accept the grant and agree to implement the action under their own responsibility and in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

The Agreement is composed of:

Preamble

Terms and Conditions (including Data Sheet)

- Annex 1 Description of the action¹
- Annex 2 Estimated budget for the action
- Annex 2a Additional information on unit costs and contributions (if applicable)
- Annex 3 Accession forms (if applicable)²
- Annex 3a Declaration on joint and several liability of affiliated entities (if applicable)³
- Annex 4 Model for the financial statements
- Annex 5 Specific rules (if applicable)

¹ Template published on [Portal Reference Documents](#).

² Template published on [Portal Reference Documents](#).

³ Template published on [Portal Reference Documents](#).

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GRANT AGREEMENT.....	1
PREAMBLE.....	1
TERMS AND CONDITIONS.....	3
DATASHEET.....	8
CHAPTER 1 GENERAL.....	13
ARTICLE 1 — SUBJECT OF THE AGREEMENT	13
ARTICLE 2 — DEFINITIONS.....	13
CHAPTER 2 ACTION.....	14
ARTICLE 3 — ACTION.....	14
ARTICLE 4 — DURATION AND STARTING DATE.....	14
CHAPTER 3 GRANT.....	14
ARTICLE 5 — GRANT.....	14
5.1 Form of grant.....	14
5.2 Maximum grant amount.....	15
5.3 Funding rate.....	15
5.4 Estimated budget, budget categories and forms of funding.....	15
5.5 Budget flexibility.....	15
ARTICLE 6 — ELIGIBLE AND INELIGIBLE COSTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS.....	16
6.1 General eligibility conditions.....	16
6.2 Specific eligibility conditions for each budget category.....	17
6.3 Ineligible costs and contributions.....	21
6.4 Consequences of non-compliance.....	22
CHAPTER 4 GRANT IMPLEMENTATION.....	23
SECTION 1 CONSORTIUM: BENEFICIARIES, AFFILIATED ENTITIES AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS.....	23
ARTICLE 7 — BENEFICIARIES.....	23
ARTICLE 9 — OTHER PARTICIPANTS INVOLVED IN THE ACTION.....	25
9.2 Third parties giving in-kind contributions to the action.....	25
9.3 Subcontractors.....	25

9.4 Recipients of financial support to third parties.....	25
ARTICLE 10 — PARTICIPANTS WITH SPECIAL STATUS.....	26
10.1 Non-EU participants.....	26
10.2 Participants which are international organisations.....	26
10.3 Pillar-assessed participants.....	26
SECTION 2 RULES FOR CARRYING OUT THE ACTION.....	29
ARTICLE 11 — PROPER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION.....	29
11.1 Obligation to properly implement the action.....	29
11.2 Consequences of non-compliance.....	29
ARTICLE 12 — CONFLICT OF INTERESTS.....	29
12.1 Conflict of interests.....	29
12.2 Consequences of non-compliance.....	29
ARTICLE 13 — CONFIDENTIALITY AND SECURITY.....	29
13.1 Sensitive information.....	30
13.2 Classified information.....	30
13.3 Consequences of non-compliance.....	31
ARTICLE 14 — ETHICS AND VALUES.....	31
14.1 Ethics.....	31
14.2 Values.....	31
14.3 Consequences of non-compliance.....	31
ARTICLE 15 — DATA PROTECTION.....	31
15.1 Data processing by the granting authority.....	31
15.2 Data processing by the beneficiaries.....	32
15.3 Consequences of non-compliance.....	32
ARTICLE 16 — INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR) — BACKGROUND AND RESULTS — ACCESS RIGHTS AND RIGHTS OF USE.....	32
16.1 Background and access rights to background.....	32
16.2 Ownership of results.....	33
16.3 Rights of use of the granting authority on materials, documents and information received for policy, information, communication, dissemination and publicity purposes.....	33
16.4 Specific rules on IPR, results and background.....	34
16.5 Consequences of non-compliance.....	34
ARTICLE 17 — COMMUNICATION, DISSEMINATION AND VISIBILITY.....	34
17.1 Communication — Dissemination — Promoting the action.....	34
17.2 Visibility — European flag and funding statement.....	34
17.3 Quality of information — Disclaimer.....	35

17.4	Specific communication, dissemination and visibility rules.....	35
17.5	Consequences of non-compliance.....	35
ARTICLE 18 — SPECIFIC RULES FOR CARRYING OUT THE ACTION.....		35
18.1	Specific rules for carrying out the action.....	36
18.2	Consequences of non-compliance.....	36
SECTION 3 GRANT ADMINISTRATION.....		36
ARTICLE 19 — GENERAL INFORMATION OBLIGATIONS.....		36
19.1	Information requests.....	36
19.2	Participant Register data updates.....	36
19.3	Information about events and circumstances which impact the action.....	36
19.4	Consequences of non-compliance.....	36
ARTICLE 20 — RECORD-KEEPING.....		37
20.1	Keeping records and supporting documents.....	37
20.2	Consequences of non-compliance.....	38
ARTICLE 21 — REPORTING.....		38
21.1	Continuous reporting.....	38
21.2	Periodic reporting: Technical reports and financial statements.....	38
21.3	Currency for financial statements and conversion into euros.....	39
21.4	Reporting language.....	39
21.5	Consequences of non-compliance.....	40
ARTICLE 22 — PAYMENTS AND RECOVERIES — CALCULATION OF AMOUNTS DUE.....		40
22.1	Payments and payment arrangements.....	40
22.2	Recoveries.....	40
22.3	Amounts due.....	41
22.4	Enforced recovery.....	45
22.5	Consequences of non-compliance.....	46
ARTICLE 23 — GUARANTEES.....		47
23.1	Pre-financing guarantee.....	47
23.2	Consequences of non-compliance.....	47
ARTICLE 24 — CERTIFICATES.....		47
24.2	Certificate on the financial statements (CFS).....	47
24.3	Certificate on the compliance of usual cost accounting practices (CoMUC).....	48
24.5	Consequences of non-compliance.....	48

ARTICLE 25 — CHECKS, REVIEWS, AUDITS AND INVESTIGATIONS — EXTENSION OF FINDINGS.....	49
25.1 Granting authority checks, reviews and audits.....	49
25.2 European Commission checks, reviews and audits in grants of other granting authorities.....	50
25.3 Access to records for assessing simplified forms of funding.....	50
25.4 OLAF, EPPO and ECA audits and investigations.....	50
25.5 Consequences of checks, reviews, audits and investigations — Extension of results of reviews, audits or investigations.....	51
25.6 Consequences of non-compliance.....	52
ARTICLE 26 — IMPACT EVALUATIONS.....	52
26.1 Impact evaluation.....	52
26.2 Consequences of non-compliance.....	52
CHAPTER 5 CONSEQUENCES OF NON-COMPLIANCE.....	53
SECTION 1 REJECTIONS AND GRANT REDUCTION.....	53
ARTICLE 27 — REJECTION OF COSTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS.....	53
27.1 Conditions.....	53
27.2 Procedure.....	53
27.3 Effects.....	53
ARTICLE 28 — GRANT REDUCTION.....	53
28.1 Conditions.....	53
28.2 Procedure.....	54
28.3 Effects.....	54
SECTION 2 SUSPENSION AND TERMINATION.....	54
ARTICLE 29 — PAYMENT DEADLINE SUSPENSION.....	54
29.1 Conditions.....	54
29.2 Procedure.....	54
ARTICLE 30 — PAYMENT SUSPENSION.....	55
30.1 Conditions.....	55
30.2 Procedure.....	55
ARTICLE 31 — GRANT AGREEMENT SUSPENSION.....	56
31.1 Consortium-requested GA suspension.....	56
31.2 EU-initiated GA suspension.....	56
ARTICLE 32 — GRANT AGREEMENT OR BENEFICIARY TERMINATION.....	57
32.1 Consortium-requested GA termination.....	57
32.2 Consortium-requested beneficiary termination.....	58
32.3 EU-initiated GA or beneficiary termination.....	60

SECTION 3 OTHER CONSEQUENCES: DAMAGES AND ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS.....	63
ARTICLE 33 — DAMAGES.....	63
33.1 Liability of the granting authority.....	63
33.2 Liability of the beneficiaries.....	63
ARTICLE 34 — ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS AND OTHER MEASURES.....	63
SECTION 4 FORCE MAJEURE.....	64
ARTICLE 35 — FORCE MAJEURE.....	64
CHAPTER 6 FINAL PROVISIONS.....	64
ARTICLE 36 — COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE PARTIES.....	64
36.1 Forms and means of communication — Electronic management.....	64
36.2 Date of communication.....	64
36.3 Addresses for communication.....	65
ARTICLE 37 — INTERPRETATION OF THE AGREEMENT.....	65
ARTICLE 38 — CALCULATION OF PERIODS AND DEADLINES.....	65
ARTICLE 39 — AMENDMENTS.....	65
39.1 Conditions.....	65
39.2 Procedure.....	66
ARTICLE 40 — ACCESSION AND ADDITION OF NEW BENEFICIARIES.....	66
40.1 Accession of the beneficiaries mentioned in the Preamble.....	66
40.2 Addition of new beneficiaries.....	66
ARTICLE 41 — TRANSFER OF THE AGREEMENT.....	67
ARTICLE 42 — ASSIGNMENTS OF CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT AGAINST THE GRANTING AUTHORITY.....	67
ARTICLE 43 — APPLICABLE LAW AND SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES.....	67
43.1 Applicable law.....	67
43.2 Dispute settlement.....	67
ARTICLE 44 — ENTRY INTO FORCE.....	68

DATA SHEET

1. General data

Project summary:

Project summary
<p>The project of the European Digital Innovation Hub OstraVA (EDIH OVA) is designed to accelerate the digitalisation of companies and public organizations in the region and at the same time to offer an attractive opportunity to use the unique interconnection of digital infrastructure and know-how to interested companies, especially small and medium-sized enterprises in the EU. The technological specialization of EDIH OVA is tied to the core facility of High-Performance Computing (HPC), complemented by an experimental industrial testbed. These capacities will be primarily aimed at testing and experimentation of challenging tasks for cases in sectors related to the implementation of the Industry 4.0 concept. This "technological" DNA of EDIH OVA is further naturally determined by the industrial character of the Moravian-Silesian Region (MSR), where EDIH OVA will mainly operate. The project includes a comprehensive offer of individual services and other activities in line with the required functions of the European Digital Innovation Hub. The aim is to cover a wide range of stakeholders with regard to their level of digital readiness, from entities not yet determined to exploit the potential of digitalisation to entities ready to use the most advanced digital techniques and state-of-the-art research infrastructure, including HPC. Implementation of EDIH OVA will provide a significant upgrade the activities that this hub has been gradually developing for several years. An ambition of EDIH OVA is to become an inspirational and useful hub within the networks to which EDIH OVA is or will be linked. This ambition builds on the existing activities of both members of the consortium and their role within the regional, national, and European innovation ecosystem and is reflected, among others, in the expected share of clients outside the MSR region.</p>

Keywords:

- Manufacturing and processing
- Big data
- High performance computing
- SME support
- Digital twins
- Ecosystem building

Project number: 101083551

Project name: EDIH Ostrava

Project acronym: EDIH OVA

Call: DIGITAL-2021-EDIH-01

Topic: DIGITAL-2021-EDIH-INITIAL-01

Type of action: DIGITAL Simple Grants

Granting authority: European Commission-EU

Grant managed through EU Funding & Tenders Portal: Yes (eGrants)

Project starting date: fixed date: 1 January 2023

Project end date: 31 December 2025

Project duration: 36 months

Consortium agreement: Yes

2. Participants

List of participants:

Nº	Role	Short name	Legal name	Ctry	PIC	Total eligible costs	Max grant amount
1	COO	VSU-TUO	VSU - TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF OSTRAVA	CZ	999868144	2 317 469.13	1 158 734.56

N°	Role	Short name	Legal name	Ctry	PIC	Total eligible costs	Max grant amount
2	BEN	MSIC Ostrava	MORAVSKOSLEZSKE INOVACNI CENTRUM OSTRAVA	CZ	895878712	699 502.87	308 645.94
Total						3 016 972.00	1 467 380.50

Coordinator:

- VSB - TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF OSTRAVA (VSB-TUO)

3. Grant

Maximum grant amount, total estimated eligible costs and contributions and funding rate:

Total eligible costs	Funding rate	Maximum grant amount	Maximum grant amount
3 016 972.00	50	1 467 380.50	1 467 380.50

Grant form: Budget-based

Grant mode: Action grant

Budget categories/activity types:

- A. Personnel costs
 - A.1 Employees, A.2 Natural persons under direct contract, A.3 Seconded persons
 - A.4 SME owners and natural person beneficiaries
- B. Subcontracting costs
- C. Purchase costs
 - C.1 Travel and subsistence
 - C.2 Equipment
 - C.3 Other goods, works and services
- D. Other cost categories
 - D.1 Financial support to third parties
 - D.2 Internally invoiced goods and services
- E. Indirect costs

Cost eligibility options:

- Standard supplementary payments
- Average personnel costs (unit cost according to usual cost accounting practices)
- Limitation for subcontracting
- Travel and subsistence:
 - Travel: Actual costs
 - Accommodation: Actual costs
 - Subsistence: Actual costs
- Equipment: depreciation and full costs for listed equipment
- Costs for providing financial support to third parties (actual cost; max amount for each recipient: EUR 0.00)

- Indirect cost flat-rate: 7% of the eligible direct costs (categories A-D, except volunteers costs and exempted specific cost categories, if any)
- VAT: Yes
- Other ineligible costs

Budget flexibility: Yes (no flexibility cap)

4. Reporting, payments and recoveries

4.1 Continuous reporting (art 21)

Deliverables: see Funding & Tenders Portal Continuous Reporting tool

4.2 Periodic reporting and payments

Reporting and payment schedule (art 21, 22):

Reporting					Payments	
Reporting periods			Type	Deadline	Type	Deadline (time to pay)
RP No	Month from	Month to				
					Initial prefinancing	30 days from entry into force/10 days before starting date/ financial guarantee (if required) – whichever is the latest
1	1	18	Periodic report	60 days after end of reporting period	Interim payment	90 days from receiving periodic report
2	19	36	Periodic report	60 days after end of reporting period	Final payment	90 days from receiving periodic report

Prefinancing payments and guarantees:

Prefinancing payment		Prefinancing guarantee		
Type	Amount	Guarantee amount	Division per participant	
Prefinancing 1 (initial)	953 797.33	n/a	1 - VSB-TUO	n/a
			2 - MSIC Ostrava	n/a

Reporting and payment modalities (art 21, 22):

Mutual Insurance Mechanism (MIM): No

Restrictions on distribution of initial prefinancing: The prefinancing may be distributed only if the minimum number of beneficiaries set out in the call conditions (if any) have acceded to the Agreement and only to beneficiaries that have acceded.

Interim payment ceiling (if any): 90% of the maximum grant amount

No-profit rule: Yes

Late payment interest: ECB + 3.5%

Bank account for payments:

CZ7407100345340006225761

Conversion into euros: Double conversion

Reporting language: Language of the Agreement

4.3 Certificates (art 24):

Certificates on the financial statements (CFS):

Conditions:

Schedule: only at final payment, if threshold is reached

Standard threshold (beneficiary-level):

- financial statement: requested EU contribution to costs \geq EUR 325 000.00

4.4 Recoveries (art 22)

First-line liability for recoveries:

Beneficiary termination: Beneficiary concerned

Final payment: Coordinator

After final payment: Beneficiary concerned

Joint and several liability for enforced recoveries (in case of non-payment):

Limited joint and several liability of other beneficiaries — up to the maximum grant amount of the beneficiary

Joint and several liability of affiliated entities — n/a

5. Consequences of non-compliance, applicable law & dispute settlement forum

Applicable law (art 43):

Standard applicable law regime: EU law + law of Belgium

Dispute settlement forum (art 43):

Standard dispute settlement forum:

EU beneficiaries: EU General Court + EU Court of Justice (on appeal)

Non-EU beneficiaries: Courts of Brussels, Belgium (unless an international agreement provides for the enforceability of EU court judgements)

6. Other

Specific rules (Annex 5): Yes

Standard time-limits after project end:

Confidentiality (for X years after final payment): 5

Record-keeping (for X years after final payment): 5 (or 3 for grants of not more than EUR 60 000)

Reviews (up to X years after final payment): 5 (or 3 for grants of not more than EUR 60 000)

Audits (up to X years after final payment): 5 (or 3 for grants of not more than EUR 60 000)

Extension of findings from other grants to this grant (no later than X years after final payment): 5 (or 3 for grants of not more than EUR 60 000)

Impact evaluation (up to X years after final payment): 5 (or 3 for grants of not more than EUR 60 000)

CHAPTER 1 GENERAL

ARTICLE 1 — SUBJECT OF THE AGREEMENT

This Agreement sets out the rights and obligations and terms and conditions applicable to the grant awarded for the implementation of the action set out in Chapter 2.

ARTICLE 2 — DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Agreement, the following definitions apply:

Actions — The project which is being funded in the context of this Agreement.

Grant — The grant awarded in the context of this Agreement.

EU grants — Grants awarded by EU institutions, bodies, offices or agencies (including EU executive agencies, EU regulatory agencies, EDA, joint undertakings, etc.).

Participants — Entities participating in the action as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, third parties giving in-kind contributions, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties.

Beneficiaries (BEN) — The signatories of this Agreement (either directly or through an accession form).

Affiliated entities (AE) — Entities affiliated to a beneficiary within the meaning of Article 187 of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046⁴ which participate in the action with similar rights and obligations as the beneficiaries (obligation to implement action tasks and right to charge costs and claim contributions).

Associated partners (AP) — Entities which participate in the action, but without the right to charge costs or claim contributions.

Purchases — Contracts for goods, works or services needed to carry out the action (e.g. equipment, consumables and supplies) but which are not part of the action tasks (see Annex 1).

Subcontracting — Contracts for goods, works or services that are part of the action tasks (see Annex 1).

In-kind contributions — In-kind contributions within the meaning of Article 2(36) of EU Financial

⁴ For the definition, see Article 187 Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 ('EU Financial Regulation') (OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1): "**affiliated entities** [are]:

- (a) entities that form a sole beneficiary [(i.e. where an entity is formed of several entities that satisfy the criteria for being awarded a grant, including where the entity is specifically established for the purpose of implementing an action to be financed by a grant)];
- (b) entities that satisfy the eligibility criteria and that do not fall within one of the situations referred to in Article 136(1) and 141(1) and that have a link with the beneficiary, in particular a legal or capital link, which is neither limited to the action nor established for the sole purpose of its implementation".

Regulation 2018/1046, i.e. non-financial resources made available free of charge by third parties.

Fraud — Fraud within the meaning of Article 3 of EU Directive 2017/1371⁵ and Article 1 of the Convention on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests, drawn up by the Council Act of 26 July 1995⁶, as well as any other wrongful or criminal deception intended to result in financial or personal gain.

Irregularities — Any type of breach (regulatory or contractual) which could impact the EU financial interests, including irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of EU Regulation 2988/95⁷.

Grave professional misconduct — Any type of unacceptable or improper behaviour in exercising one's profession, especially by employees, including grave professional misconduct within the meaning of Article 136(1)(c) of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

Applicable EU, international and national law — Any legal acts or other (binding or non-binding) rules and guidance in the area concerned.

Portal — EU Funding & Tenders Portal; electronic portal and exchange system managed by the European Commission and used by itself and other EU institutions, bodies, offices or agencies for the management of their funding programmes (grants, procurements, prizes, etc.).

CHAPTER 2 ACTION

ARTICLE 3 — ACTION

The grant is awarded for the action **101083551 — EDIH OVA** ('action'), as described in Annex 1.

ARTICLE 4 — DURATION AND STARTING DATE

The duration and the starting date of the action are set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 1).

CHAPTER 3 GRANT

ARTICLE 5 — GRANT

5.1 Form of grant

The grant is an action grant⁸ which takes the form of a budget-based mixed actual cost grant (i.e. a

⁵ Directive (EU) 2017/1371 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2017 on the fight against fraud to the Union's financial interests by means of criminal law (OJ L 198, 28.7.2017, p. 29).

⁶ OJ C 316, 27.11.1995, p. 48.

⁷ Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95 of 18 December 1995 on the protection of the European Communities financial interests (OJ L 312, 23.12.1995, p. 1).

⁸ For the definition, see Article 180(2)(a) EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046: '**action grant**' means an EU grant to finance "an action intended to help achieve a Union policy objective".

grant based on actual costs incurred, but which may also include other forms of funding, such as unit costs or contributions, flat-rate costs or contributions, lump sum costs or contributions or financing not linked to costs).

5.2 Maximum grant amount

The maximum grant amount is set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 3) and in the estimated budget (Annex 2).

5.3 Funding rate

The funding rate for costs is 50% of the action's eligible costs.

Contributions are not subject to any funding rate.

5.4 Estimated budget, budget categories and forms of funding

The estimated budget for the action is set out in Annex 2.

It contains the estimated eligible costs and contributions for the action, broken down by participant and budget category.

Annex 2 also shows the types of costs and contributions (forms of funding)⁹ to be used for each budget category.

If unit costs or contributions are used, the details on the calculation will be explained in Annex 2a.

5.5 Budget flexibility

The budget breakdown may be adjusted — without an amendment (see Article 39) — by transfers (between participants and budget categories), as long as this does not imply any substantive or important change to the description of the action in Annex 1.

However:

- changes to the budget category for volunteers (if used) always require an amendment
- changes to budget categories with lump sums costs or contributions (if used; including financing not linked to costs) always require an amendment
- changes to budget categories with higher funding rates or budget ceilings (if used) always require an amendment
- addition of amounts for subcontracts not provided for in Annex 1 either require an amendment or simplified approval in accordance with Article 6.2
- other changes require an amendment or simplified approval, if specifically provided for in Article 6.2

⁹ See Article 125 EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

ARTICLE 6 — ELIGIBLE AND INELIGIBLE COSTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

In order to be eligible, costs and contributions must meet the **eligibility** conditions set out in this Article.

6.1 General eligibility conditions

The **general eligibility conditions** are the following:

(a) for actual costs:

- (i) they must be actually incurred by the beneficiary
- (ii) they must be incurred in the period set out in Article 4 (with the exception of costs relating to the submission of the final periodic report, which may be incurred afterwards; see Article 21)
- (iii) they must be declared under one of the budget categories set out in Article 6.2 and Annex 2
- (iv) they must be incurred in connection with the action as described in Annex 1 and necessary for its implementation
- (v) they must be identifiable and verifiable, in particular recorded in the beneficiary's accounts in accordance with the accounting standards applicable in the country where the beneficiary is established and with the beneficiary's usual cost accounting practices
- (vi) they must comply with the applicable national law on taxes, labour and social security and
- (vii) they must be reasonable, justified and must comply with the principle of sound financial management, in particular regarding economy and efficiency

(b) for unit costs or contributions (if any):

- (i) they must be declared under one of the budget categories set out in Article 6.2 and Annex 2
- (ii) the units must:
 - be actually used or produced by the beneficiary in the period set out in Article 4 (with the exception of units relating to the submission of the final periodic report, which may be used or produced afterwards; see Article 21)
 - be necessary for the implementation of the action and
- (iii) the number of units must be identifiable and verifiable, in particular supported by records and documentation (see Article 20)

(c) for flat-rate costs or contributions (if any):

- (i) they must be declared under one of the budget categories set out in Article 6.2 and Annex 2

- (ii) the costs or contributions to which the flat-rate is applied must:
 - be eligible
 - relate to the period set out in Article 4 (with the exception of costs or contributions relating to the submission of the final periodic report, which may be incurred afterwards; see Article 21)
- (d) for lump sum costs or contributions (if any):
 - (i) they must be declared under one of the budget categories set out in Article 6.2 and Annex 2
 - (ii) the work must be properly implemented by the beneficiary in accordance with Annex 1
 - (iii) the deliverables/outputs must be achieved in the period set out in Article 4 (with the exception of deliverables/outputs relating to the submission of the final periodic report, which may be achieved afterwards; see Article 21)
- (e) for unit, flat-rate or lump sum costs or contributions according to usual cost accounting practices (if any):
 - (i) they must fulfil the general eligibility conditions for the type of cost concerned
 - (ii) the cost accounting practices must be applied in a consistent manner, based on objective criteria, regardless of the source of funding
- (f) for financing not linked to costs (if any): the results must be achieved or the conditions must be fulfilled as described in Annex 1.

In addition, for direct cost categories (e.g. personnel, travel & subsistence, subcontracting and other direct costs) only costs that are directly linked to the action implementation and can therefore be attributed to it directly are eligible. They must not include any indirect costs (i.e. costs that are only indirectly linked to the action, e.g. via cost drivers).

6.2 Specific eligibility conditions for each budget category

For each budget category, the **specific eligibility conditions** are as follows:

Direct costs

A. Personnel costs

A.1 Costs for employees (or equivalent) are eligible as personnel costs if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions and are related to personnel working for the beneficiary under an employment contract (or equivalent appointing act) and assigned to the action.

They must be limited to salaries, social security contributions, taxes and other costs linked to the remuneration, if they arise from national law or the employment contract (or equivalent appointing act) and be calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred, in accordance with the following method:

{daily rate for the person
 multiplied by
 number of day-equivalents worked on the action (rounded up or down to the nearest half-day)}.

The daily rate must be calculated as:

{annual personnel costs for the person
 divided by
 215}.

The number of day-equivalents declared for a person must be identifiable and verifiable (see Article 20).

The total number of day-equivalents declared in EU grants, for a person for a year, cannot be higher than 215.

The personnel costs may also include supplementary payments for personnel assigned to the action (including payments on the basis of supplementary contracts regardless of their nature), if:

- it is part of the beneficiary's usual remuneration practices and is paid in a consistent manner whenever the same kind of work or expertise is required
- the criteria used to calculate the supplementary payments are objective and generally applied by the beneficiary, regardless of the source of funding used.

If the beneficiary uses average personnel costs (unit cost according to usual cost accounting practices), the personnel costs must fulfil the general eligibility conditions for such unit costs and the daily rate must be calculated:

- using the actual personnel costs recorded in the beneficiary's accounts and excluding any costs which are ineligible or already included in other budget categories; the actual personnel costs may be adjusted on the basis of budgeted or estimated elements, if they are relevant for calculating the personnel costs, reasonable and correspond to objective and verifiable information

and

- according to usual cost accounting practices which are applied in a consistent manner, based on objective criteria, regardless of the source of funding.

A.2 and A.3 Costs for natural persons working under a direct contract other than an employment contract and costs for **seconded persons by a third party against payment** are also eligible as personnel costs, if they are assigned to the action, fulfil the general eligibility conditions and:

- (a) work under conditions similar to those of an employee (in particular regarding the way the work is organised, the tasks that are performed and the premises where they are performed) and
- (b) the result of the work belongs to the beneficiary (unless agreed otherwise).

They must be calculated on the basis of a rate which corresponds to the costs actually incurred for

the direct contract or secondment and must not be significantly different from those for personnel performing similar tasks under an employment contract with the beneficiary.

A.4 The work of **SME owners** for the action (i.e. owners of beneficiaries that are small and medium-sized enterprises¹⁰ not receiving a salary) or **natural person beneficiaries** (i.e. beneficiaries that are natural persons not receiving a salary) may be declared as personnel costs, if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions and are calculated as unit costs in accordance with the method set out in Annex 2a.

B. Subcontracting costs

Subcontracting costs for the action (including related duties, taxes and charges, such as non-deductible or non-refundable value added tax (VAT)) are eligible, if they are calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred, fulfil the general eligibility conditions and are awarded using the beneficiary’s usual purchasing practices — provided these ensure subcontracts with best value for money (or if appropriate the lowest price) and that there is no conflict of interests (see Article 12).

Beneficiaries that are ‘contracting authorities/entities’ within the meaning of the EU Directives on public procurement must also comply with the applicable national law on public procurement.

Subcontracting may cover only a limited part of the action.

The tasks to be subcontracted and the estimated cost for each subcontract must be set out in Annex 1 and the total estimated costs of subcontracting per beneficiary must be set out in Annex 2 (or may be approved ex post in the periodic report, if the use of subcontracting does not entail changes to the Agreement which would call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants; ‘simplified approval procedure’).

C. Purchase costs

Purchase costs for the action (including related duties, taxes and charges, such as non-deductible or non-refundable value added tax (VAT)) are eligible if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions and are bought using the beneficiary’s usual purchasing practices — provided these ensure purchases with best value for money (or if appropriate the lowest price) and that there is no conflict of interests (see Article 12).

Beneficiaries that are ‘contracting authorities/entities’ within the meaning of the EU Directives on public procurement must also comply with the applicable national law on public procurement.

C.1 Travel and subsistence

Purchases for **travel, accommodation** and **subsistence** must be calculated as follows:

¹⁰ For the definition, see Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC: micro, small or medium-sized enterprise (SME) are enterprises

- engaged in an economic activity, irrespective of their legal form (including, in particular, self-employed persons and family businesses engaged in craft or other activities, and partnerships or associations regularly engaged in an economic activity) and
- employing fewer than 250 persons (expressed in ‘annual working units’ as defined in Article 5 of the Recommendation) and which have an annual turnover not exceeding EUR 50 million, and/or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding EUR 43 million.

- travel: on the basis of the costs actually incurred and in line with the beneficiary's usual practices on travel
- accommodation: on the basis of the costs actually incurred and in line with the beneficiary's usual practices on travel
- subsistence: on the basis of the costs actually incurred and in line with the beneficiary's usual practices on travel .

C.2 Equipment

Purchases of **equipment, infrastructure or other assets** used for the action must be declared as depreciation costs, calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred and written off in accordance with international accounting standards and the beneficiary's usual accounting practices.

Only the portion of the costs that corresponds to the rate of actual use for the action during the action duration can be taken into account.

Costs for **renting or leasing** equipment, infrastructure or other assets are also eligible, if they do not exceed the depreciation costs of similar equipment, infrastructure or assets and do not include any financing fees.

C.3 Other goods, works and services

Purchases of **other goods, works and services** must be calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred.

Such goods, works and services include, for instance, consumables and supplies, promotion, dissemination, protection of results, translations, publications, certificates and financial guarantees, if required under the Agreement.

D. Other cost categories

D.1 Financial support to third parties

Costs for providing financial support to third parties (in the form of **grants, prizes** or similar forms of support; if any) are eligible, if and as declared eligible in the call conditions, if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions, are calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred and the support is implemented in accordance with the conditions set out in Annex 1.

These conditions must ensure objective and transparent selection procedures and include at least the following:

- (a) for grants (or similar):
 - (i) the maximum amount of financial support for each third party ('recipient'); this amount may not exceed the amount set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 3) or otherwise agreed with the granting authority
 - (ii) the criteria for calculating the exact amount of the financial support
 - (iii) the different types of activity that qualify for financial support, on the basis of a closed list

- (iv) the persons or categories of persons that will be supported and
 - (v) the criteria and procedures for giving financial support
- (b) for prizes (or similar):
- (i) the eligibility and award criteria
 - (ii) the amount of the prize and
 - (iii) the payment arrangements.

D.2 Internally invoiced goods and services

Costs for internally invoiced goods and services directly used for the action may be declared as unit cost according to usual cost accounting practices, if and as declared eligible in the call conditions, if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions for such unit costs and the amount per unit is calculated:

- using the actual costs for the good or service recorded in the beneficiary's accounts, attributed either by direct measurement or on the basis of cost drivers, and excluding any cost which are ineligible or already included in other budget categories; the actual costs may be adjusted on the basis of budgeted or estimated elements, if they are relevant for calculating the costs, reasonable and correspond to objective and verifiable information

and

- according to usual cost accounting practices which are applied in a consistent manner, based on objective criteria, regardless of the source of funding.

'Internally invoiced goods and services' means goods or services which are provided within the beneficiary's organisation directly for the action and which the beneficiary values on the basis of its usual cost accounting practices.

Indirect costs

E. Indirect costs

Indirect costs will be reimbursed at the flat-rate of 7% of the eligible direct costs (categories A-D, except volunteers costs and exempted specific cost categories, if any).

Contributions

6.3 Ineligible costs and contributions

The following costs or contributions are **ineligible**:

- (a) costs or contributions that do not comply with the conditions set out above (Article 6.1 and 6.2), in particular:
 - (i) costs related to return on capital and dividends paid by a beneficiary

- (ii) debt and debt service charges
 - (iii) provisions for future losses or debts
 - (iv) interest owed
 - (v) currency exchange losses
 - (vi) bank costs charged by the beneficiary's bank for transfers from the granting authority
 - (vii) excessive or reckless expenditure
 - (viii) deductible or refundable VAT (including VAT paid by public bodies acting as public authority)
 - (ix) costs incurred or contributions for activities implemented during grant agreement suspension (see Article 31)
 - (x) in-kind contributions by third parties
- (b) costs or contributions declared under other EU grants (or grants awarded by an EU Member State, non-EU country or other body implementing the EU budget), except for the following cases:
- (ii) if the action grant is combined with an operating grant¹¹ running during the same period and the beneficiary can demonstrate that the operating grant does not cover any (direct or indirect) costs of the action grant
- (c) costs or contributions for staff of a national (or regional/local) administration, for activities that are part of the administration's normal activities (i.e. not undertaken only because of the grant)
- (d) costs or contributions (especially travel and subsistence) for staff or representatives of EU institutions, bodies or agencies
- (e) other :
- (ii) costs or contributions declared specifically ineligible in the call conditions.

6.4 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary declares costs or contributions that are ineligible, they will be rejected (see Article 27).

This may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

¹¹ For the definition, see Article 180(2)(b) of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046: ‘**operating grant**’ means an EU grant to finance “the functioning of a body which has an objective forming part of and supporting an EU policy”.

CHAPTER 4 GRANT IMPLEMENTATION

SECTION 1 CONSORTIUM: BENEFICIARIES, AFFILIATED ENTITIES AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS

ARTICLE 7 — BENEFICIARIES

The beneficiaries, as signatories of the Agreement, are fully responsible towards the granting authority for implementing it and for complying with all its obligations.

They must implement the Agreement to their best abilities, in good faith and in accordance with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

They must have the appropriate resources to implement the action and implement the action under their own responsibility and in accordance with Article 11. If they rely on affiliated entities or other participants (see Articles 8 and 9), they retain sole responsibility towards the granting authority and the other beneficiaries.

They are jointly responsible for the *technical* implementation of the action. If one of the beneficiaries fails to implement their part of the action, the other beneficiaries must ensure that this part is implemented by someone else (without being entitled to an increase of the maximum grant amount and subject to an amendment; see Article 39). The *financial* responsibility of each beneficiary in case of recoveries is governed by Article 22.

The beneficiaries (and their action) must remain eligible under the EU programme funding the grant for the entire duration of the action. Costs and contributions will be eligible only as long as the beneficiary and the action are eligible.

The **internal roles and responsibilities** of the beneficiaries are divided as follows:

(a) Each beneficiary must:

- (i) keep information stored in the Portal Participant Register up to date (see Article 19)
- (ii) inform the granting authority (and the other beneficiaries) immediately of any events or circumstances likely to affect significantly or delay the implementation of the action (see Article 19)
- (iii) submit to the coordinator in good time:
 - the prefinancing guarantees (if required; see Article 23)
 - the financial statements and certificates on the financial statements (CFS) (if required; see Articles 21 and 24.2 and Data Sheet, Point 4.3)
 - the contribution to the deliverables and technical reports (see Article 21)
 - any other documents or information required by the granting authority under the Agreement
- (iv) submit via the Portal data and information related to the participation of their affiliated entities.

(b) The coordinator must:

- (i) monitor that the action is implemented properly (see Article 11)
- (ii) act as the intermediary for all communications between the consortium and the granting authority, unless the Agreement or granting authority specifies otherwise, and in particular:
 - submit the prefinancing guarantees to the granting authority (if any)
 - request and review any documents or information required and verify their quality and completeness before passing them on to the granting authority
 - submit the deliverables and reports to the granting authority
 - inform the granting authority about the payments made to the other beneficiaries (report on the distribution of payments; if required, see Articles 22 and 32)
- (iii) distribute the payments received from the granting authority to the other beneficiaries without unjustified delay (see Article 22).

The coordinator may not delegate or subcontract the above-mentioned tasks to any other beneficiary or third party (including affiliated entities).

However, coordinators which are public bodies may delegate the tasks set out in Point (b)(ii) last indent and (iii) above to entities with ‘authorisation to administer’ which they have created or which are controlled by or affiliated to them. In this case, the coordinator retains sole responsibility for the payments and for compliance with the obligations under the Agreement.

Moreover, coordinators which are ‘sole beneficiaries’¹² (or similar, such as European research infrastructure consortia (ERICs)) may delegate the tasks set out in Point (b)(i) to (iii) above to one of their members. The coordinator retains sole responsibility for compliance with the obligations under the Agreement.

The beneficiaries must have **internal arrangements** regarding their operation and co-ordination, to ensure that the action is implemented properly.

If required by the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 1), these arrangements must be set out in a written **consortium agreement** between the beneficiaries, covering for instance:

- the internal organisation of the consortium
- the management of access to the Portal
- different distribution keys for the payments and financial responsibilities in case of recoveries (if any)
- additional rules on rights and obligations related to background and results (see Article 16)

¹² For the definition, see Article 187(2) EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046: “Where several entities satisfy the criteria for being awarded a grant and together form one entity, that entity may be treated as the **sole beneficiary**, including where it is specifically established for the purpose of implementing the action financed by the grant.”

- settlement of internal disputes
- liability, indemnification and confidentiality arrangements between the beneficiaries.

The internal arrangements must not contain any provision contrary to this Agreement.

ARTICLE 9 — OTHER PARTICIPANTS INVOLVED IN THE ACTION

9.2 Third parties giving in-kind contributions to the action

Other third parties may give in-kind contributions to the action (i.e. personnel, equipment, other goods, works and services, etc. which are free-of-charge), if necessary for the implementation.

Third parties giving in-kind contributions do not implement any action tasks. They may not charge costs or contributions to the action and the costs for the in-kind contributions are not eligible.

The third parties and their in-kind contributions should be set out in Annex 1.

9.3 Subcontractors

Subcontractors may participate in the action, if necessary for the implementation.

Subcontractors must implement their action tasks in accordance with Article 11. The costs for the subcontracted tasks (invoiced price from the subcontractor) are eligible and may be charged by the beneficiaries, under the conditions set out in Article 6. The costs will be included in Annex 2 as part of the beneficiaries' costs.

The beneficiaries must ensure that their contractual obligations under Articles 11 (proper implementation), 12 (conflict of interest), 13 (confidentiality and security), 14 (ethics), 17.2 (visibility), 18 (specific rules for carrying out action), 19 (information) and 20 (record-keeping) also apply to the subcontractors.

The beneficiaries must ensure that the bodies mentioned in Article 25 (e.g. granting authority, OLAF, Court of Auditors (ECA), etc.) can exercise their rights also towards the subcontractors.

9.4 Recipients of financial support to third parties

If the action includes providing financial support to third parties (e.g. grants, prizes or similar forms of support), the beneficiaries must ensure that their contractual obligations under Articles 12 (conflict of interest), 13 (confidentiality and security), 14 (ethics), 17.2 (visibility), 18 (specific rules for carrying out action), 19 (information) and 20 (record-keeping) also apply to the third parties receiving the support (recipients).

The beneficiaries must also ensure that the bodies mentioned in Article 25 (e.g. granting authority, OLAF, Court of Auditors (ECA), etc.) can exercise their rights also towards the recipients.

ARTICLE 10 — PARTICIPANTS WITH SPECIAL STATUS

10.1 Non-EU participants

Participants which are established in a non-EU country (if any) undertake to comply with their obligations under the Agreement and:

- to respect general principles (including fundamental rights, values and ethical principles, environmental and labour standards, rules on classified information, intellectual property rights, visibility of funding and protection of personal data)
- for the submission of certificates under Article 24: to use qualified external auditors which are independent and comply with comparable standards as those set out in EU Directive 2006/43/EC¹³
- for the controls under Article 25: to allow for checks, reviews, audits and investigations (including on-the-spot checks, visits and inspections) by the bodies mentioned in that Article (e.g. granting authority, OLAF, Court of Auditors (ECA), etc.).

Special rules on dispute settlement apply (see Data Sheet, Point 5).

10.2 Participants which are international organisations

Participants which are international organisations (IOs; if any) undertake to comply with their obligations under the Agreement and:

- to respect general principles (including fundamental rights, values and ethical principles, environmental and labour standards, rules on classified information, intellectual property rights, visibility of funding and protection of personal data)
- for the submission of certificates under Article 24: to use either independent public officers or external auditors which comply with comparable standards as those set out in EU Directive 2006/43/EC
- for the controls under Article 25: to allow for the checks, reviews, audits and investigations by the bodies mentioned in that Article, taking into account the specific agreements concluded by them and the EU (if any).

For such participants, nothing in the Agreement will be interpreted as a waiver of their privileges or immunities, as accorded by their constituent documents or international law.

Special rules on applicable law and dispute settlement apply (see Article 43 and Data Sheet, Point 5).

10.3 Pillar-assessed participants

¹³ Directive 2006/43/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2006 on statutory audits of annual accounts and consolidated accounts or similar national regulations (OJ L 157, 9.6.2006, p. 87).

Pillar-assessed participants (if any) may rely on their own systems, rules and procedures, in so far as they have been positively assessed and do not call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants or beneficiaries.

‘Pillar-assessment’ means a review by the European Commission on the systems, rules and procedures which participants use for managing EU grants (in particular internal control system, accounting system, external audits, financing of third parties, rules on recovery and exclusion, information on recipients and protection of personal data; see Article 154 EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046).

Participants with a positive pillar assessment may rely on their own systems, rules and procedures, in particular for:

- record-keeping (Article 20): may be done in accordance with internal standards, rules and procedures
- currency conversion for financial statements (Article 21): may be done in accordance with usual accounting practices
- guarantees (Article 23): for public law bodies, prefinancing guarantees are not needed
- certificates (Article 24):
 - certificates on the financial statements (CFS): may be provided by their regular internal or external auditors and in accordance with their internal financial regulations and procedures
 - certificates on usual accounting practices (CoMUC): are not needed if those practices are covered by an ex-ante assessment

and use the following specific rules, for:

- recoveries (Article 22): in case of financial support to third parties, there will be no recovery if the participant has done everything possible to retrieve the undue amounts from the third party receiving the support (including legal proceedings) and non-recovery is not due to an error or negligence on its part
- checks, reviews, audits and investigations by the EU (Article 25): will be conducted taking into account the rules and procedures specifically agreed between them and the framework agreement (if any)
- impact evaluation (Article 26): will be conducted in accordance with the participant’s internal rules and procedures and the framework agreement (if any)
- grant agreement suspension (Article 31): certain costs incurred during grant suspension are eligible (notably, minimum costs necessary for a possible resumption of the action and costs relating to contracts which were entered into before the pre-information letter was received and which could not reasonably be suspended, reallocated or terminated on legal grounds)
- grant agreement termination (Article 32): the final grant amount and final payment will be calculated taking into account also costs relating to contracts due for execution only after termination takes effect, if the contract was entered into before the pre-information letter was received and could not reasonably be terminated on legal grounds

- liability for damages (Article 33.2): the granting authority must be compensated for damage it sustains as a result of the implementation of the action or because the action was not implemented in full compliance with the Agreement only if the damage is due to an infringement of the participant's internal rules and procedures or due to a violation of third parties' rights by the participant or one of its employees or individual for whom the employees are responsible.

Participants whose pillar assessment covers procurement and granting procedures may also do purchases, subcontracting and financial support to third parties (Article 6.2) in accordance with their internal rules and procedures for purchases, subcontracting and financial support.

Participants whose pillar assessment covers data protection rules may rely on their internal standards, rules and procedures for data protection (Article 15).

The participants may however not rely on provisions which would breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants or beneficiaries or call into question the decision awarding the grant, such as in particular:

- eligibility (Article 6)
- consortium roles and set-up (Articles 7-9)
- security and ethics (Articles 13, 14)
- IPR (including background and results, access rights and rights of use), communication, dissemination and visibility (Articles 16 and 17)
- information obligation (Article 19)
- payment, reporting and amendments (Articles 21, 22 and 39)
- rejections, reductions, suspensions and terminations (Articles 27, 28, 29-32)

If the pillar assessment was subject to remedial measures, reliance on the internal systems, rules and procedures is subject to compliance with those remedial measures.

Participants whose assessment has not yet been updated to cover (the new rules on) data protection may rely on their internal systems, rules and procedures, provided that they ensure that personal data is:

- processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject
- collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes
- adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which they are processed
- accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date
- kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the data is processed and
- processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the personal data.

Participants must inform the coordinator without delay of any changes to the systems, rules and procedures that were part of the pillar assessment. The coordinator must immediately inform the granting authority.

Pillar-assessed participants that have also concluded a framework agreement with the EU, may moreover — under the same conditions as those above (i.e. not call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants or beneficiaries) — rely on the provisions set out in that framework agreement.

SECTION 2 RULES FOR CARRYING OUT THE ACTION

ARTICLE 11 — PROPER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION

11.1 Obligation to properly implement the action

The beneficiaries must implement the action as described in Annex 1 and in compliance with the provisions of the Agreement, the call conditions and all legal obligations under applicable EU, international and national law.

11.2 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 12 — CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

12.1 Conflict of interests

The beneficiaries must take all measures to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective implementation of the Agreement could be compromised for reasons involving family, emotional life, political or national affinity, economic interest or any other direct or indirect interest (‘conflict of interests’).

They must formally notify the granting authority without delay of any situation constituting or likely to lead to a conflict of interests and immediately take all the necessary steps to rectify this situation.

The granting authority may verify that the measures taken are appropriate and may require additional measures to be taken by a specified deadline.

12.2 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28) and the grant or the beneficiary may be terminated (see Article 32).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 13 — CONFIDENTIALITY AND SECURITY

13.1 Sensitive information

The parties must keep confidential any data, documents or other material (in any form) that is identified as sensitive in writing (‘sensitive information’) — during the implementation of the action and for at least until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6).

If a beneficiary requests, the granting authority may agree to keep such information confidential for a longer period.

Unless otherwise agreed between the parties, they may use sensitive information only to implement the Agreement.

The beneficiaries may disclose sensitive information to their personnel or other participants involved in the action only if they:

- (a) need to know it in order to implement the Agreement and
- (b) are bound by an obligation of confidentiality.

The granting authority may disclose sensitive information to its staff and to other EU institutions and bodies.

It may moreover disclose sensitive information to third parties, if:

- (a) this is necessary to implement the Agreement or safeguard the EU financial interests and
- (b) the recipients of the information are bound by an obligation of confidentiality.

The confidentiality obligations no longer apply if:

- (a) the disclosing party agrees to release the other party
- (b) the information becomes publicly available, without breaching any confidentiality obligation
- (c) the disclosure of the sensitive information is required by EU, international or national law.

Specific confidentiality rules (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

13.2 Classified information

The parties must handle classified information in accordance with the applicable EU, international or national law on classified information (in particular, Decision 2015/444¹⁴ and its implementing rules).

Deliverables which contain classified information must be submitted according to special procedures agreed with the granting authority.

Action tasks involving classified information may be subcontracted only after explicit approval (in writing) from the granting authority.

¹⁴ Commission Decision 2015/444/EC, Euratom of 13 March 2015 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 53).

Classified information may not be disclosed to any third party (including participants involved in the action implementation) without prior explicit written approval from the granting authority.

Specific security rules (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

13.3 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 14 — ETHICS AND VALUES

14.1 Ethics

The action must be carried out in line with the highest ethical standards and the applicable EU, international and national law on ethical principles.

Specific ethics rules (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

14.2 Values

The beneficiaries must commit to and ensure the respect of basic EU values (such as respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and human rights, including the rights of minorities).

Specific rules on values (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

14.3 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 15 — DATA PROTECTION

15.1 Data processing by the granting authority

Any personal data under the Agreement will be processed under the responsibility of the data controller of the granting authority in accordance with and for the purposes set out in the Portal Privacy Statement.

For grants where the granting authority is the European Commission, an EU regulatory or executive agency, joint undertaking or other EU body, the processing will be subject to Regulation 2018/1725¹⁵.

¹⁵ Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC (OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39).

15.2 Data processing by the beneficiaries

The beneficiaries must process personal data under the Agreement in compliance with the applicable EU, international and national law on data protection (in particular, Regulation 2016/679¹⁶).

They must ensure that personal data is:

- processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subjects
- collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes
- adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which they are processed
- accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date
- kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the data is processed and
- processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the data.

The beneficiaries may grant their personnel access to personal data only if it is strictly necessary for implementing, managing and monitoring the Agreement. The beneficiaries must ensure that the personnel is under a confidentiality obligation.

The beneficiaries must inform the persons whose data are transferred to the granting authority and provide them with the Portal Privacy Statement.

15.3 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 16 — INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR) — BACKGROUND AND RESULTS — ACCESS RIGHTS AND RIGHTS OF USE

16.1 Background and access rights to background

The beneficiaries must give each other and the other participants access to the background identified as needed for implementing the action, subject to any specific rules in Annex 5.

‘Background’ means any data, know-how or information — whatever its form or nature (tangible or intangible), including any rights such as intellectual property rights — that is:

- (a) held by the beneficiaries before they acceded to the Agreement and

¹⁶ Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (‘GDPR’) (OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p. 1).

(b) needed to implement the action or exploit the results.

If background is subject to rights of a third party, the beneficiary concerned must ensure that it is able to comply with its obligations under the Agreement.

16.2 Ownership of results

The granting authority does not obtain ownership of the results produced under the action.

‘Results’ means any tangible or intangible effect of the action, such as data, know-how or information, whatever its form or nature, whether or not it can be protected, as well as any rights attached to it, including intellectual property rights.

16.3 Rights of use of the granting authority on materials, documents and information received for policy, information, communication, dissemination and publicity purposes

The granting authority has the right to use non-sensitive information relating to the action and materials and documents received from the beneficiaries (notably summaries for publication, deliverables, as well as any other material, such as pictures or audio-visual material, in paper or electronic form) for policy, information, communication, dissemination and publicity purposes — during the action or afterwards.

The right to use the beneficiaries’ materials, documents and information is granted in the form of a royalty-free, non-exclusive and irrevocable licence, which includes the following rights:

- (a) **use for its own purposes** (in particular, making them available to persons working for the granting authority or any other EU service (including institutions, bodies, offices, agencies, etc.) or EU Member State institution or body; copying or reproducing them in whole or in part, in unlimited numbers; and communication through press information services)
- (b) **distribution to the public** (in particular, publication as hard copies and in electronic or digital format, publication on the internet, as a downloadable or non-downloadable file, broadcasting by any channel, public display or presentation, communicating through press information services, or inclusion in widely accessible databases or indexes)
- (c) **editing or redrafting** (including shortening, summarising, inserting other elements (e.g. meta-data, legends, other graphic, visual, audio or text elements), extracting parts (e.g. audio or video files), dividing into parts, use in a compilation)
- (d) **translation**
- (e) **storage** in paper, electronic or other form
- (f) **archiving**, in line with applicable document-management rules
- (g) the right to authorise **third parties** to act on its behalf or sub-license to third parties the modes of use set out in Points (b), (c), (d) and (f), if needed for the information, communication and publicity activity of the granting authority
- (h) **processing**, analysing, aggregating the materials, documents and information received and **producing derivative works**.

The rights of use are granted for the whole duration of the industrial or intellectual property rights concerned.

If materials or documents are subject to moral rights or third party rights (including intellectual property rights or rights of natural persons on their image and voice), the beneficiaries must ensure that they comply with their obligations under this Agreement (in particular, by obtaining the necessary licences and authorisations from the rights holders concerned).

Where applicable, the granting authority will insert the following information:

“© – [year] – [name of the copyright owner]. All rights reserved. Licensed to the [name of granting authority] under conditions.”

16.4 Specific rules on IPR, results and background

Specific rules regarding intellectual property rights, results and background (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

16.5 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such a breach may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 17 — COMMUNICATION, DISSEMINATION AND VISIBILITY

17.1 Communication — Dissemination — Promoting the action

Unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority, the beneficiaries must promote the action and its results by providing targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public), in accordance with Annex 1 and in a strategic, coherent and effective manner.

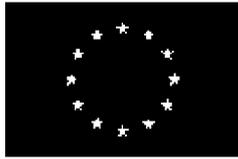
Before engaging in a communication or dissemination activity expected to have a major media impact, the beneficiaries must inform the granting authority.

17.2 Visibility — European flag and funding statement

Unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority, communication activities of the beneficiaries related to the action (including media relations, conferences, seminars, information material, such as brochures, leaflets, posters, presentations, etc., in electronic form, via traditional or social media, etc.), dissemination activities and any infrastructure, equipment, vehicles, supplies or major result funded by the grant must acknowledge EU support and display the European flag (emblem) and funding statement (translated into local languages, where appropriate):



Funded by the
European Union



Co-funded by the
European Union



Funded by the
European Union



Co-funded by the
European Union

The emblem must remain distinct and separate and cannot be modified by adding other visual marks, brands or text.

Apart from the emblem, no other visual identity or logo may be used to highlight the EU support.

When displayed in association with other logos (e.g. of beneficiaries or sponsors), the emblem must be displayed at least as prominently and visibly as the other logos.

For the purposes of their obligations under this Article, the beneficiaries may use the emblem without first obtaining approval from the granting authority. This does not, however, give them the right to exclusive use. Moreover, they may not appropriate the emblem or any similar trademark or logo, either by registration or by any other means.

17.3 Quality of information — Disclaimer

Any communication or dissemination activity related to the action must use factually accurate information.

Moreover, it must indicate the following disclaimer (translated into local languages where appropriate):

“Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or [name of the granting authority]. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.”

17.4 Specific communication, dissemination and visibility rules

Specific communication, dissemination and visibility rules (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

17.5 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 18 — SPECIFIC RULES FOR CARRYING OUT THE ACTION

18.1 Specific rules for carrying out the action

Specific rules for implementing the action (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

18.2 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such a breach may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

SECTION 3 GRANT ADMINISTRATION

ARTICLE 19 — GENERAL INFORMATION OBLIGATIONS

19.1 Information requests

The beneficiaries must provide — during the action or afterwards and in accordance with Article 7 — any information requested in order to verify eligibility of the costs or contributions declared, proper implementation of the action and compliance with the other obligations under the Agreement.

The information provided must be accurate, precise and complete and in the format requested, including electronic format.

19.2 Participant Register data updates

The beneficiaries must keep — at all times, during the action or afterwards — their information stored in the Portal Participant Register up to date, in particular, their name, address, legal representatives, legal form and organisation type.

19.3 Information about events and circumstances which impact the action

The beneficiaries must immediately inform the granting authority (and the other beneficiaries) of any of the following:

- (a) **events** which are likely to affect or delay the implementation of the action or affect the EU's financial interests, in particular:
 - (i) changes in their legal, financial, technical, organisational or ownership situation (including changes linked to one of the exclusion grounds listed in the declaration of honour signed before grant signature)

- (b) **circumstances** affecting:
 - (i) the decision to award the grant or
 - (ii) compliance with requirements under the Agreement.

19.4 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 20 — RECORD-KEEPING

20.1 Keeping records and supporting documents

The beneficiaries must — at least until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6) — keep records and other supporting documents to prove the proper implementation of the action in line with the accepted standards in the respective field (if any).

In addition, the beneficiaries must — for the same period — keep the following to justify the amounts declared:

- (a) for actual costs: adequate records and supporting documents to prove the costs declared (such as contracts, subcontracts, invoices and accounting records); in addition, the beneficiaries' usual accounting and internal control procedures must enable direct reconciliation between the amounts declared, the amounts recorded in their accounts and the amounts stated in the supporting documents
- (b) for flat-rate costs and contributions (if any): adequate records and supporting documents to prove the eligibility of the costs or contributions to which the flat-rate is applied
- (c) for the following simplified costs and contributions: the beneficiaries do not need to keep specific records on the actual costs incurred, but must keep:
 - (i) for unit costs and contributions (if any): adequate records and supporting documents to prove the number of units declared
 - (ii) for lump sum costs and contributions (if any): adequate records and supporting documents to prove proper implementation of the work as described in Annex 1
 - (iii) for financing not linked to costs (if any): adequate records and supporting documents to prove the achievement of the results or the fulfilment of the conditions as described in Annex 1
- (d) for unit, flat-rate and lump sum costs and contributions according to usual cost accounting practices (if any): the beneficiaries must keep any adequate records and supporting documents to prove that their cost accounting practices have been applied in a consistent manner, based on objective criteria, regardless of the source of funding, and that they comply with the eligibility conditions set out in Articles 6.1 and 6.2.

Moreover, the following is needed for specific budget categories:

- (e) for personnel costs: time worked for the beneficiary under the action must be supported by declarations signed monthly by the person and their supervisor, unless another reliable time-record system is in place; the granting authority may accept alternative evidence supporting the time worked for the action declared, if it considers that it offers an adequate level of assurance

The records and supporting documents must be made available upon request (see Article 19) or in the context of checks, reviews, audits or investigations (see Article 25).

If there are on-going checks, reviews, audits, investigations, litigation or other pursuits of claims under the Agreement (including the extension of findings; see Article 25), the beneficiaries must keep these records and other supporting documentation until the end of these procedures.

The beneficiaries must keep the original documents. Digital and digitalised documents are considered originals if they are authorised by the applicable national law. The granting authority may accept non-original documents if they offer a comparable level of assurance.

20.2 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, costs or contributions insufficiently substantiated will be ineligible (see Article 6) and will be rejected (see Article 27), and the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 21 — REPORTING

21.1 Continuous reporting

The beneficiaries must continuously report on the progress of the action (e.g. **deliverables, milestones, outputs/outcomes, critical risks, indicators**, etc; if any), in the Portal Continuous Reporting tool and in accordance with the timing and conditions it sets out (as agreed with the granting authority).

Standardised deliverables (e.g. progress reports not linked to payments, reports on cumulative expenditure, special reports, etc; if any) must be submitted using the templates published on the Portal.

21.2 Periodic reporting: Technical reports and financial statements

In addition, the beneficiaries must provide reports to request payments, in accordance with the schedule and modalities set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2):

- for additional prefinancings (if any): an **additional prefinancing report**
- for interim payments (if any) and the final payment: a **periodic report**.

The prefinancing and periodic reports include a technical and financial part.

The technical part includes an overview of the action implementation. It must be prepared using the template available in the Portal Periodic Reporting tool.

The financial part of the additional prefinancing report includes a statement on the use of the previous prefinancing payment.

The financial part of the periodic report includes:

- the financial statements (individual and consolidated; for all beneficiaries/affiliated entities)
- the explanation on the use of resources (or detailed cost reporting table, if required)
- the certificates on the financial statements (CFS) (if required; see Article 24.2 and Data Sheet, Point 4.3).

The **financial statements** must detail the eligible costs and contributions for each budget category and, for the final payment, also the revenues for the action (see Articles 6 and 22).

All eligible costs and contributions incurred should be declared, even if they exceed the amounts indicated in the estimated budget (see Annex 2). Amounts that are not declared in the individual financial statements will not be taken into account by the granting authority.

By signing the financial statements (directly in the Portal Periodic Reporting tool), the beneficiaries confirm that:

- the information provided is complete, reliable and true
- the costs and contributions declared are eligible (see Article 6)
- the costs and contributions can be substantiated by adequate records and supporting documents (see Article 20) that will be produced upon request (see Article 19) or in the context of checks, reviews, audits and investigations (see Article 25)
- for the final periodic report: all the revenues have been declared (if required; see Article 22).

Beneficiaries will have to submit also the financial statements of their affiliated entities (if any). In case of recoveries (see Article 22), beneficiaries will be held responsible also for the financial statements of their affiliated entities.

21.3 Currency for financial statements and conversion into euros

The financial statements must be drafted in euro.

Beneficiaries with general accounts established in a currency other than the euro must convert the costs recorded in their accounts into euro, at the average of the daily exchange rates published in the C series of the *Official Journal of the European Union* (ECB website), calculated over the corresponding reporting period.

If no daily euro exchange rate is published in the *Official Journal* for the currency in question, they must be converted at the average of the monthly accounting exchange rates published on the European Commission website (InforEuro), calculated over the corresponding reporting period.

Beneficiaries with general accounts in euro must convert costs incurred in another currency into euro according to their usual accounting practices.

21.4 Reporting language

The reporting must be in the language of the Agreement, unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 4.2).

21.5 Consequences of non-compliance

If a report submitted does not comply with this Article, the granting authority may suspend the payment deadline (see Article 29) and apply other measures described in Chapter 5.

If the coordinator breaches its reporting obligations, the granting authority may terminate the grant or the coordinator's participation (see Article 32) or apply other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 22 — PAYMENTS AND RECOVERIES — CALCULATION OF AMOUNTS DUE

22.1 Payments and payment arrangements

Payments will be made in accordance with the schedule and modalities set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2).

They will be made in euro to the bank account indicated by the coordinator (see Data Sheet, Point 4.2) and must be distributed without unjustified delay (restrictions may apply to distribution of the initial prefinancing payment; see Data Sheet, Point 4.2).

Payments to this bank account will discharge the granting authority from its payment obligation.

The cost of payment transfers will be borne as follows:

- the granting authority bears the cost of transfers charged by its bank
- the beneficiary bears the cost of transfers charged by its bank
- the party causing a repetition of a transfer bears all costs of the repeated transfer.

Payments by the granting authority will be considered to have been carried out on the date when they are debited to its account.

22.2 Recoveries

Recoveries will be made, if — at beneficiary termination, final payment or afterwards — it turns out that the granting authority has paid too much and needs to recover the amounts undue.

The general liability regime for recoveries (first-line liability) is as follows: At final payment, the coordinator will be fully liable for recoveries, even if it has not been the final recipient of the undue amounts. At beneficiary termination or after final payment, recoveries will be made directly against the beneficiaries concerned.

Beneficiaries will be fully liable for repaying the debts of their affiliated entities.

In case of enforced recoveries (see Article 22.4):

- the beneficiaries will be jointly and severally liable for repaying debts of another beneficiary under the Agreement (including late-payment interest), if required by the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 4.4)
- affiliated entities will be held liable for repaying debts of their beneficiaries under the

Agreement (including late-payment interest), if required by the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 4.4).

22.3 Amounts due

22.3.1 Prefinancing payments

The aim of the prefinancing is to provide the beneficiaries with a float.

It remains the property of the EU until the final payment.

For **initial prefinancings** (if any), the amount due, schedule and modalities are set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2).

For **additional prefinancings** (if any), the amount due, schedule and modalities are also set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2). However, if the statement on the use of the previous prefinancing payment shows that less than 70% was used, the amount set out in the Data Sheet will be reduced by the difference between the 70% threshold and the amount used.

Prefinancing payments (or parts of them) may be offset (without the beneficiaries' consent) against amounts owed by a beneficiary to the granting authority — up to the amount due to that beneficiary.

For grants where the granting authority is the European Commission or an EU executive agency, offsetting may also be done against amounts owed to other Commission services or executive agencies.

Payments will not be made if the payment deadline or payments are suspended (see Articles 29 and 30).

22.3.2 Amount due at beneficiary termination — Recovery

In case of beneficiary termination, the granting authority will determine the provisional amount due for the beneficiary concerned. Payments (if any) will be made with the next interim or final payment.

The **amount due** will be calculated in the following step:

Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

The granting authority will first calculate the 'accepted EU contribution' for the beneficiary for all reporting periods, by calculating the 'maximum EU contribution to costs' (applying the funding rate to the accepted costs of the beneficiary), taking into account requests for a lower contribution to costs and CFS threshold cappings (if any; see Article 24.5) and adding the contributions (accepted unit, flat-rate or lump sum contributions and financing not linked to costs, if any).

After that, the granting authority will take into account grant reductions (if any). The resulting amount is the 'total accepted EU contribution' for the beneficiary.

The **balance** is then calculated by deducting the payments received (if any; see report on the distribution of payments in Article 32), from the total accepted EU contribution:

{total accepted EU contribution for the beneficiary

minus

{prefinancing and interim payments received (if any)}.

If the balance is **positive**, the amount will be included in the next interim or final payment to the consortium.

If the balance is **negative**, it will be **recovered** in accordance with the following procedure:

The granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the beneficiary concerned:

- formally notifying the intention to recover, the amount due, the amount to be recovered and the reasons why and
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If no observations are submitted (or the granting authority decides to pursue recovery despite the observations it has received), it will confirm the amount to be recovered and ask this amount to be paid to the coordinator (**confirmation letter**).

The amounts will later on also be taken into account for the next interim or final payment.

22.3.3 Interim payments

Interim payments reimburse the eligible costs and contributions claimed for the implementation of the action during the reporting periods (if any).

Interim payments (if any) will be made in accordance with the schedule and modalities set out the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2).

Payment is subject to the approval of the periodic report. Its approval does not imply recognition of compliance, authenticity, completeness or correctness of its content.

The **interim payment** will be calculated by the granting authority in the following steps:

Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

Step 2 — Limit to the interim payment ceiling

Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

The granting authority will calculate the ‘accepted EU contribution’ for the action for the reporting period, by first calculating the ‘maximum EU contribution to costs’ (applying the funding rate to the accepted costs of each beneficiary), taking into account requests for a lower contribution to costs, and CFS threshold cappings (if any; see Article 24.5) and adding the contributions (accepted unit, flat-rate or lump sum contributions and financing not linked to costs, if any).

After that, the granting authority will take into account grant reductions from beneficiary termination (if any). The resulting amount is the ‘total accepted EU contribution’.

Step 2 — Limit to the interim payment ceiling

The resulting amount is then capped to ensure that the total amount of prefinancing and interim payments (if any) does not exceed the interim payment ceiling set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2).

Interim payments (or parts of them) may be offset (without the beneficiaries' consent) against amounts owed by a beneficiary to the granting authority — up to the amount due to that beneficiary.

For grants where the granting authority is the European Commission or an EU executive agency, offsetting may also be done against amounts owed to other Commission services or executive agencies.

Payments will not be made if the payment deadline or payments are suspended (see Articles 29 and 30).

22.3.4 Final payment — Final grant amount — Revenues and Profit — Recovery

The final payment (payment of the balance) reimburses the remaining part of the eligible costs and contributions claimed for the implementation of the action (if any).

The final payment will be made in accordance with the schedule and modalities set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2).

Payment is subject to the approval of the final periodic report. Its approval does not imply recognition of compliance, authenticity, completeness or correctness of its content.

The **final grant amount for the action** will be calculated in the following steps:

Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

Step 2 — Limit to the maximum grant amount

Step 3 — Reduction due to the no-profit rule

Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

The granting authority will first calculate the 'accepted EU contribution' for the action for all reporting periods, by calculating the 'maximum EU contribution to costs' (applying the funding rate to the total accepted costs of each beneficiary), taking into account requests for a lower contribution to costs, CFS threshold cappings (if any; see Article 24.5) and adding the contributions (accepted unit, flat-rate or lump sum contributions and financing not linked to costs, if any).

After that, the granting authority will take into account grant reductions (if any). The resulting amount is the 'total accepted EU contribution'.

Step 2 — Limit to the maximum grant amount

If the resulting amount is higher than the maximum grant amount set out in Article 5.2, it will be limited to the latter.

Step 3 — Reduction due to the no-profit rule

If the no-profit rule is provided for in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2), the grant must not produce a profit (i.e. surplus of the amount obtained following Step 2 plus the action's revenues, over the eligible costs and contributions approved by the granting authority).

'Revenue' is all income generated by the action, during its duration (see Article 4), for beneficiaries that are profit legal entities.

If there is a profit, it will be deducted in proportion to the final rate of reimbursement of the eligible costs approved by the granting authority (as compared to the amount calculated following Steps 1 and 2 minus the contributions).

The **balance** (final payment) is then calculated by deducting the total amount of prefinancing and interim payments already made (if any), from the final grant amount:

$$\begin{aligned} & \{ \text{final grant amount} \\ & \text{minus} \\ & \{ \text{prefinancing and interim payments made (if any)} \} \} \end{aligned}$$

If the balance is **positive**, it will be **paid** to the coordinator.

The final payment (or part of it) may be offset (without the beneficiaries' consent) against amounts owed by a beneficiary to the granting authority — up to the amount due to that beneficiary.

For grants where the granting authority is the European Commission or an EU executive agency, offsetting may also be done against amounts owed to other Commission services or executive agencies.

Payments will not be made if the payment deadline or payments are suspended (see Articles 29 and 30).

If the balance is **negative**, it will be **recovered** in accordance with the following procedure:

The granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the coordinator:

- formally notifying the intention to recover, the final grant amount, the amount to be recovered and the reasons why
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If no observations are submitted (or the granting authority decides to pursue recovery despite the observations it has received), it will confirm the amount to be recovered (**confirmation letter**), together with a **debit note** with the terms and date for payment.

If payment is not made by the date specified in the debit note, the granting authority will **enforce recovery** in accordance with Article 22.4.

22.3.5 Audit implementation after final payment — Revised final grant amount — Recovery

If — after the final payment (in particular, after checks, reviews, audits or investigations; see Article 25) — the granting authority rejects costs or contributions (see Article 27) or reduces the grant (see Article 28), it will calculate the **revised final grant amount** for the beneficiary concerned.

The **beneficiary revised final grant amount** will be calculated in the following step:

Step 1 — Calculation of the revised total accepted EU contribution

Step 1 — Calculation of the revised total accepted EU contribution

The granting authority will first calculate the ‘revised accepted EU contribution’ for the beneficiary, by calculating the ‘revised accepted costs’ and ‘revised accepted contributions’.

After that, it will take into account grant reductions (if any). The resulting ‘revised total accepted EU contribution’ is the beneficiary revised final grant amount.

If the revised final grant amount is lower than the beneficiary’s final grant amount (i.e. its share in the final grant amount for the action), it will be **recovered** in accordance with the following procedure:

The **beneficiary final grant amount** (i.e. share in the final grant amount for the action) is calculated as follows:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{\{total accepted EU contribution for the beneficiary} \\ \text{divided by} \\ \text{total accepted EU contribution for the action\}} \\ \text{multiplied by} \\ \text{final grant amount for the action\}}. \end{array} \right.$$

The granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the beneficiary concerned:

- formally notifying the intention to recover, the amount to be recovered and the reasons why and
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If no observations are submitted (or the granting authority decides to pursue recovery despite the observations it has received), it will confirm the amount to be recovered (**confirmation letter**), together with a **debit note** with the terms and the date for payment.

Recoveries against affiliated entities (if any) will be handled through their beneficiaries.

If payment is not made by the date specified in the debit note, the granting authority will **enforce recovery** in accordance with Article 22.4.

22.4 Enforced recovery

If payment is not made by the date specified in the debit note, the amount due will be recovered:

- (a) by offsetting the amount — without the coordinator or beneficiary’s consent — against any amounts owed to the coordinator or beneficiary by the granting authority.

In exceptional circumstances, to safeguard the EU financial interests, the amount may be offset before the payment date specified in the debit note.

For grants where the granting authority is the European Commission or an EU executive agency, debts may also be offset against amounts owed by other Commission services or executive agencies.

- (b) by drawing on the financial guarantee(s) (if any)

- (c) by holding other beneficiaries jointly and severally liable (if any; see Data Sheet, Point 4.4)

- (d) by holding affiliated entities jointly and severally liable (if any, see Data Sheet, Point 4.4)
- (e) by taking legal action (see Article 43) or, provided that the granting authority is the European Commission or an EU executive agency, by adopting an enforceable decision under Article 299 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) and Article 100(2) of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

The amount to be recovered will be increased by **late-payment interest** at the rate set out in Article 22.5, from the day following the payment date in the debit note, up to and including the date the full payment is received.

Partial payments will be first credited against expenses, charges and late-payment interest and then against the principal.

Bank charges incurred in the recovery process will be borne by the beneficiary, unless Directive 2015/2366¹⁷ applies.

For grants where the granting authority is an EU executive agency, enforced recovery by offsetting or enforceable decision will be done by the services of the European Commission (see also Article 43).

22.5 Consequences of non-compliance

22.5.1 If the granting authority does not pay within the payment deadlines (see above), the beneficiaries are entitled to **late-payment interest** at the rate applied by the European Central Bank (ECB) for its main refinancing operations in euros ('reference rate'), plus the rate specified in the Data Sheet (Point 4.2). The reference rate is the rate in force on the first day of the month in which the payment deadline expires, as published in the C series of the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

If the late-payment interest is lower than or equal to EUR 200, it will be paid to the coordinator only on request submitted within two months of receiving the late payment.

Late-payment interest is not due if all beneficiaries are EU Member States (including regional and local government authorities or other public bodies acting on behalf of a Member State for the purpose of this Agreement).

If payments or the payment deadline are suspended (see Articles 29 and 30), payment will not be considered as late.

Late-payment interest covers the period running from the day following the due date for payment (see above), up to and including the date of payment.

Late-payment interest is not considered for the purposes of calculating the final grant amount.

22.5.2 If the coordinator breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 29) and the grant or the coordinator may be terminated (see Article 32).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

¹⁷ Directive (EU) 2015/2366 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015 on payment services in the internal market, amending Directives 2002/65/EC, 2009/110/EC and 2013/36/EU and Regulation (EU) No 1093/2010, and repealing Directive 2007/64/EC (OJ L 337, 23.12.2015, p. 35).

ARTICLE 23 — GUARANTEES

23.1 Prefinancing guarantee

If required by the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 4.2), the beneficiaries must provide (one or more) prefinancing guarantee(s) in accordance with the timing and the amounts set out in the Data Sheet.

The coordinator must submit them to the granting authority in due time before the prefinancing they are linked to.

The guarantees must be drawn up using the template published on the Portal and fulfil the following conditions:

- (a) be provided by a bank or approved financial institution established in the EU or — if requested by the coordinator and accepted by the granting authority — by a third party or a bank or financial institution established outside the EU offering equivalent security
- (b) the guarantor stands as first-call guarantor and does not require the granting authority to first have recourse against the principal debtor (i.e. the beneficiary concerned) and
- (c) remain explicitly in force until the final payment and, if the final payment takes the form of a recovery, until five months after the debit note is notified to a beneficiary.

They will be released within the following month.

23.2 Consequences of non-compliance

If the beneficiaries breach their obligation to provide the prefinancing guarantee, the prefinancing will not be paid.

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 24 — CERTIFICATES

24.2 Certificate on the financial statements (CFS)

If required by the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 4.3), the beneficiaries must provide certificates on their financial statements (CFS), in accordance with the schedule, threshold and conditions set out in the Data Sheet.

The coordinator must submit them as part of the periodic report (see Article 21).

The certificates must be drawn up using the template published on the Portal, cover the costs declared on the basis of actual costs and costs according to usual cost accounting practices (if any), and fulfil the following conditions:

- (a) be provided by a qualified approved external auditor which is independent and complies with Directive 2006/43/EC¹⁸ (or for public bodies: by a competent independent public officer)
- (b) the verification must be carried out according to the highest professional standards to ensure that the financial statements comply with the provisions under the Agreement and that the costs declared are eligible.

The certificates will not affect the granting authority's right to carry out its own checks, reviews or audits, nor preclude the European Court of Auditors (ECA), the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) or the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) from using their prerogatives for audits and investigations under the Agreement (see Article 25).

If the costs (or a part of them) were already audited by the granting authority, these costs do not need to be covered by the certificate and will not be counted for calculating the threshold (if any).

24.3 Certificate on the compliance of usual cost accounting practices (CoMUC)

Beneficiaries which use unit, flat rate or lump sum costs or contributions according to usual costs accounting practices (if any) may submit to the granting authority, for approval, a certificate on the methodology stating that their usual cost accounting practices comply with the eligibility conditions under the Agreement.

The certificate must be drawn up using the template published on the Portal and fulfil the following conditions:

- (a) be provided by a qualified approved external auditor which is independent and complies with Directive 2006/43/EC¹⁹ (or for public bodies: by a competent independent public officer)
- (b) the verification must be carried out according to the highest professional standards to ensure that the methodology for declaring costs according to usual accounting practices complies with the provisions under the Agreement.

If the certificate is approved, amounts declared in line with this methodology will not be challenged subsequently, unless the beneficiary concealed information for the purpose of the approval.

24.5 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary does not submit a certificate on the financial statements (CFS) or the certificate is rejected, the accepted EU contribution to costs will be capped to reflect the CFS threshold.

If a beneficiary breaches any of its other obligations under this Article, the granting authority may apply the measures described in Chapter 5.

¹⁸ Directive 2006/43/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2006 on statutory audits of annual accounts and consolidated accounts or similar national regulations (OJ L 157, 9.6.2006, p. 87).

¹⁹ Directive 2006/43/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2006 on statutory audits of annual accounts and consolidated accounts or similar national regulations (OJ L 157, 9.6.2006, p. 87).

ARTICLE 25 — CHECKS, REVIEWS, AUDITS AND INVESTIGATIONS — EXTENSION OF FINDINGS

25.1 Granting authority checks, reviews and audits

25.1.1 Internal checks

The granting authority may — during the action or afterwards — check the proper implementation of the action and compliance with the obligations under the Agreement, including assessing costs and contributions, deliverables and reports.

25.1.2 Project reviews

The granting authority may carry out reviews on the proper implementation of the action and compliance with the obligations under the Agreement (general project reviews or specific issues reviews).

Such project reviews may be started during the implementation of the action and until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6). They will be formally notified to the coordinator or beneficiary concerned and will be considered to start on the date of the notification.

If needed, the granting authority may be assisted by independent, outside experts. If it uses outside experts, the coordinator or beneficiary concerned will be informed and have the right to object on grounds of commercial confidentiality or conflict of interest.

The coordinator or beneficiary concerned must cooperate diligently and provide — within the deadline requested — any information and data in addition to deliverables and reports already submitted (including information on the use of resources). The granting authority may request beneficiaries to provide such information to it directly. Sensitive information and documents will be treated in accordance with Article 13.

The coordinator or beneficiary concerned may be requested to participate in meetings, including with the outside experts.

For **on-the-spot visits**, the beneficiary concerned must allow access to sites and premises (including to the outside experts) and must ensure that information requested is readily available.

Information provided must be accurate, precise and complete and in the format requested, including electronic format.

On the basis of the review findings, a **project review report** will be drawn up.

The granting authority will formally notify the project review report to the coordinator or beneficiary concerned, which has 30 days from receiving notification to make observations.

Project reviews (including project review reports) will be in the language of the Agreement.

25.1.3 Audits

The granting authority may carry out audits on the proper implementation of the action and compliance with the obligations under the Agreement.

Such audits may be started during the implementation of the action and until the time-limit set out in

the Data Sheet (see Point 6). They will be formally notified to the beneficiary concerned and will be considered to start on the date of the notification.

The granting authority may use its own audit service, delegate audits to a centralised service or use external audit firms. If it uses an external firm, the beneficiary concerned will be informed and have the right to object on grounds of commercial confidentiality or conflict of interest.

The beneficiary concerned must cooperate diligently and provide — within the deadline requested — any information (including complete accounts, individual salary statements or other personal data) to verify compliance with the Agreement. Sensitive information and documents will be treated in accordance with Article 13.

For **on-the-spot** visits, the beneficiary concerned must allow access to sites and premises (including for the external audit firm) and must ensure that information requested is readily available.

Information provided must be accurate, precise and complete and in the format requested, including electronic format.

On the basis of the audit findings, a **draft audit report** will be drawn up.

The auditors will formally notify the draft audit report to the beneficiary concerned, which has 30 days from receiving notification to make observations (contradictory audit procedure).

The **final audit report** will take into account observations by the beneficiary concerned and will be formally notified to them.

Audits (including audit reports) will be in the language of the Agreement.

25.2 European Commission checks, reviews and audits in grants of other granting authorities

Where the granting authority is not the European Commission, the latter has the same rights of checks, reviews and audits as the granting authority.

25.3 Access to records for assessing simplified forms of funding

The beneficiaries must give the European Commission access to their statutory records for the periodic assessment of simplified forms of funding which are used in EU programmes.

25.4 OLAF, EPPO and ECA audits and investigations

The following bodies may also carry out checks, reviews, audits and investigations — during the action or afterwards:

- the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) under Regulations No 883/2013²⁰ and No 2185/96²¹

²⁰ Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 September 2013 concerning investigations conducted by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1073/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (Euratom) No 1074/1999 (OJ L 248, 18/09/2013, p. 1).

²¹ Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/1996 of 11 November 1996 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the Commission in order to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities (OJ L 292, 15/11/1996, p. 2).

- the European Public Prosecutor’s Office (EPPO) under Regulation 2017/1939
- the European Court of Auditors (ECA) under Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) and Article 257 of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

If requested by these bodies, the beneficiary concerned must provide full, accurate and complete information in the format requested (including complete accounts, individual salary statements or other personal data, including in electronic format) and allow access to sites and premises for on-the-spot visits or inspections — as provided for under these Regulations.

To this end, the beneficiary concerned must keep all relevant information relating to the action, at least until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (Point 6) and, in any case, until any ongoing checks, reviews, audits, investigations, litigation or other pursuits of claims have been concluded.

25.5 Consequences of checks, reviews, audits and investigations — Extension of results of reviews, audits or investigations

25.5.1 Consequences of checks, reviews, audits and investigations in this grant

Findings in checks, reviews, audits or investigations carried out in the context of this grant may lead to rejections (see Article 27), grant reduction (see Article 28) or other measures described in Chapter 5.

Rejections or grant reductions after the final payment will lead to a revised final grant amount (see Article 22).

Findings in checks, reviews, audits or investigations during the action implementation may lead to a request for amendment (see Article 39), to change the description of the action set out in Annex 1.

Checks, reviews, audits or investigations that find systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or breach of obligations in any EU grant may also lead to consequences in other EU grants awarded under similar conditions (‘extension to other grants’).

Moreover, findings arising from an OLAF or EPPO investigation may lead to criminal prosecution under national law.

25.5.2 Extension from other grants

Results of checks, reviews, audits or investigations in other grants may be extended to this grant, if:

- (a) the beneficiary concerned is found, in other EU grants awarded under similar conditions, to have committed systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant and
- (b) those findings are formally notified to the beneficiary concerned — together with the list of grants affected by the findings — within the time-limit for audits set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6).

The granting authority will formally notify the beneficiary concerned of the intention to extend the findings and the list of grants affected.

If the extension concerns **rejections of costs or contributions**: the notification will include:

- (a) an invitation to submit observations on the list of grants affected by the findings

- (b) the request to submit revised financial statements for all grants affected
- (c) the correction rate for extrapolation, established on the basis of the systemic or recurrent errors, to calculate the amounts to be rejected, if the beneficiary concerned:
 - (i) considers that the submission of revised financial statements is not possible or practicable or
 - (ii) does not submit revised financial statements.

If the extension concerns **grant reductions**: the notification will include:

- (a) an invitation to submit observations on the list of grants affected by the findings and
- (b) the **correction rate for extrapolation**, established on the basis of the systemic or recurrent errors and the principle of proportionality.

The beneficiary concerned has **60 days** from receiving notification to submit observations, revised financial statements or to propose a duly substantiated **alternative correction method/rate**.

On the basis of this, the granting authority will analyse the impact and decide on the implementation (i.e. start rejection or grant reduction procedures, either on the basis of the revised financial statements or the announced/alternative method/rate or a mix of those; see Articles 27 and 28).

25.6 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, costs or contributions insufficiently substantiated will be ineligible (see Article 6) and will be rejected (see Article 27), and the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 26 — IMPACT EVALUATIONS

26.1 Impact evaluation

The granting authority may carry out impact evaluations of the action, measured against the objectives and indicators of the EU programme funding the grant.

Such evaluations may be started during implementation of the action and until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6). They will be formally notified to the coordinator or beneficiaries and will be considered to start on the date of the notification.

If needed, the granting authority may be assisted by independent outside experts.

The coordinator or beneficiaries must provide any information relevant to evaluate the impact of the action, including information in electronic format.

26.2 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the granting authority may apply the measures described in Chapter 5.

CHAPTER 5 CONSEQUENCES OF NON-COMPLIANCE

SECTION 1 REJECTIONS AND GRANT REDUCTION

ARTICLE 27 — REJECTION OF COSTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

27.1 Conditions

The granting authority will — at beneficiary termination, interim payment, final payment or afterwards — reject any costs or contributions which are ineligible (see Article 6), in particular following checks, reviews, audits or investigations (see Article 25).

The rejection may also be based on the extension of findings from other grants to this grant (see Article 25).

Ineligible costs or contributions will be rejected.

27.2 Procedure

If the rejection does not lead to a recovery, the granting authority will formally notify the coordinator or beneficiary concerned of the rejection, the amounts and the reasons why. The coordinator or beneficiary concerned may — within 30 days of receiving notification — submit observations if it disagrees with the rejection (payment review procedure).

If the rejection leads to a recovery, the granting authority will follow the contradictory procedure with pre-information letter set out in Article 22.

27.3 Effects

If the granting authority rejects costs or contributions, it will deduct them from the costs or contributions declared and then calculate the amount due (and, if needed, make a recovery; see Article 22).

ARTICLE 28 — GRANT REDUCTION

28.1 Conditions

The granting authority may — at beneficiary termination, final payment or afterwards — reduce the grant for a beneficiary, if:

- (a) the beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed:
 - (i) substantial errors, irregularities or fraud or
 - (ii) serious breach of obligations under this Agreement or during its award (including improper implementation of the action, non-compliance with the call conditions, submission of false information, failure to provide required information, breach of ethics or security rules (if applicable), etc.), or
- (b) the beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or

person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed — in other EU grants awarded to it under similar conditions — systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or serious breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant (see Article 25).

The amount of the reduction will be calculated for each beneficiary concerned and proportionate to the seriousness and the duration of the errors, irregularities or fraud or breach of obligations, by applying an individual reduction rate to their accepted EU contribution.

28.2 Procedure

If the grant reduction does not lead to a recovery, the granting authority will formally notify the coordinator or beneficiary concerned of the reduction, the amount to be reduced and the reasons why. The coordinator or beneficiary concerned may — within 30 days of receiving notification — submit observations if it disagrees with the reduction (payment review procedure).

If the grant reduction leads to a recovery, the granting authority will follow the contradictory procedure with pre-information letter set out in Article 22.

28.3 Effects

If the granting authority reduces the grant, it will deduct the reduction and then calculate the amount due (and, if needed, make a recovery; see Article 22).

SECTION 2 SUSPENSION AND TERMINATION

ARTICLE 29 — PAYMENT DEADLINE SUSPENSION

29.1 Conditions

The granting authority may — at any moment — suspend the payment deadline if a payment cannot be processed because:

- (a) the required report (see Article 21) has not been submitted or is not complete or additional information is needed
- (b) there are doubts about the amount to be paid (e.g. ongoing audit extension procedure, queries about eligibility, need for a grant reduction, etc.) and additional checks, reviews, audits or investigations are necessary, or
- (c) there are other issues affecting the EU financial interests.

29.2 Procedure

The granting authority will formally notify the coordinator of the suspension and the reasons why.

The suspension will **take effect** the day the notification is sent.

If the conditions for suspending the payment deadline are no longer met, the suspension will be **lifted** — and the remaining time to pay (see Data Sheet, Point 4.2) will resume.

If the suspension exceeds two months, the coordinator may request the granting authority to confirm if the suspension will continue.

If the payment deadline has been suspended due to the non-compliance of the report and the revised report is not submitted (or was submitted but is also rejected), the granting authority may also terminate the grant or the participation of the coordinator (see Article 32).

ARTICLE 30 — PAYMENT SUSPENSION

30.1 Conditions

The granting authority may — at any moment — suspend payments, in whole or in part for one or more beneficiaries, if:

- (a) a beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed or is suspected of having committed:
 - (i) substantial errors, irregularities or fraud or
 - (ii) serious breach of obligations under this Agreement or during its award (including improper implementation of the action, non-compliance with the call conditions, submission of false information, failure to provide required information, breach of ethics or security rules (if applicable), etc.), or
- (b) a beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed — in other EU grants awarded to it under similar conditions — systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or serious breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant.

If payments are suspended for one or more beneficiaries, the granting authority will make partial payment(s) for the part(s) not suspended. If suspension concerns the final payment, the payment (or recovery) of the remaining amount after suspension is lifted will be considered to be the payment that closes the action.

30.2 Procedure

Before suspending payments, the granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the beneficiary concerned:

- formally notifying the intention to suspend payments and the reasons why and
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If the granting authority does not receive observations or decides to pursue the procedure despite the observations it has received, it will confirm the suspension (**confirmation letter**). Otherwise, it will formally notify that the procedure is discontinued.

At the end of the suspension procedure, the granting authority will also inform the coordinator.

The suspension will **take effect** the day after the confirmation notification is sent.

If the conditions for resuming payments are met, the suspension will be **lifted**. The granting authority will formally notify the beneficiary concerned (and the coordinator) and set the suspension end date.

During the suspension, no prefinancing will be paid to the beneficiaries concerned. For interim payments, the periodic reports for all reporting periods except the last one (see Article 21) must not contain any financial statements from the beneficiary concerned (or its affiliated entities). The coordinator must include them in the next periodic report after the suspension is lifted or — if suspension is not lifted before the end of the action — in the last periodic report.

ARTICLE 31 — GRANT AGREEMENT SUSPENSION

31.1 Consortium-requested GA suspension

31.1.1 Conditions and procedure

The beneficiaries may request the suspension of the grant or any part of it, if exceptional circumstances — in particular *force majeure* (see Article 35) — make implementation impossible or excessively difficult.

The coordinator must submit a request for **amendment** (see Article 39), with:

- the reasons why
- the date the suspension takes effect; this date may be before the date of the submission of the amendment request and
- the expected date of resumption.

The suspension will **take effect** on the day specified in the amendment.

Once circumstances allow for implementation to resume, the coordinator must immediately request another **amendment** of the Agreement to set the suspension end date, the resumption date (one day after suspension end date), extend the duration and make other changes necessary to adapt the action to the new situation (see Article 39) — unless the grant has been terminated (see Article 32). The suspension will be **lifted** with effect from the suspension end date set out in the amendment. This date may be before the date of the submission of the amendment request.

During the suspension, no prefinancing will be paid. Costs incurred or contributions for activities implemented during grant suspension are not eligible (see Article 6.3).

31.2 EU-initiated GA suspension

31.2.1 Conditions

The granting authority may suspend the grant or any part of it, if:

- (a) a beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed or is suspected of having committed:
 - (i) substantial errors, irregularities or fraud or

- (ii) serious breach of obligations under this Agreement or during its award (including improper implementation of the action, non-compliance with the call conditions, submission of false information, failure to provide required information, breach of ethics or security rules (if applicable), etc.), or
- (b) a beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed — in other EU grants awarded to it under similar conditions — systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or serious breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant
- (c) other:

31.2.2 Procedure

Before suspending the grant, the granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the coordinator:

- formally notifying the intention to suspend the grant and the reasons why and
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If the granting authority does not receive observations or decides to pursue the procedure despite the observations it has received, it will confirm the suspension (**confirmation letter**). Otherwise, it will formally notify that the procedure is discontinued.

The suspension will **take effect** the day after the confirmation notification is sent (or on a later date specified in the notification).

Once the conditions for resuming implementation of the action are met, the granting authority will formally notify the coordinator a **lifting of suspension letter**, in which it will set the suspension end date and invite the coordinator to request an amendment of the Agreement to set the resumption date (one day after suspension end date), extend the duration and make other changes necessary to adapt the action to the new situation (see Article 39) — unless the grant has been terminated (see Article 32). The suspension will be **lifted** with effect from the suspension end date set out in the lifting of suspension letter. This date may be before the date on which the letter is sent.

During the suspension, no prefinancing will be paid. Costs incurred or contributions for activities implemented during suspension are not eligible (see Article 6.3).

The beneficiaries may not claim damages due to suspension by the granting authority (see Article 33).

Grant suspension does not affect the granting authority's right to terminate the grant or a beneficiary (see Article 32) or reduce the grant (see Article 28).

ARTICLE 32 — GRANT AGREEMENT OR BENEFICIARY TERMINATION

32.1 Consortium-requested GA termination

32.1.1 Conditions and procedure

The beneficiaries may request the termination of the grant.

The coordinator must submit a request for **amendment** (see Article 39), with:

- the reasons why
- the date the consortium ends work on the action ('end of work date') and
- the date the termination takes effect ('termination date'); this date must be after the date of the submission of the amendment request.

The termination will **take effect** on the termination date specified in the amendment.

If no reasons are given or if the granting authority considers the reasons do not justify termination, it may consider the grant terminated improperly.

32.1.2 Effects

The coordinator must — within 60 days from when termination takes effect — submit a **periodic report** (for the open reporting period until termination).

The granting authority will calculate the final grant amount and final payment on the basis of the report submitted and taking into account the costs incurred and contributions for activities implemented before the end of work date (see Article 22). Costs relating to contracts due for execution only after the end of work are not eligible.

If the granting authority does not receive the report within the deadline, only costs and contributions which are included in an approved periodic report will be taken into account (no costs/contributions if no periodic report was ever approved).

Improper termination may lead to a grant reduction (see Article 28).

After termination, the beneficiaries' obligations (in particular Articles 13 (confidentiality and security), 16 (IPR), 17 (communication, dissemination and visibility), 21 (reporting), 25 (checks, reviews, audits and investigations), 26 (impact evaluation), 27 (rejections), 28 (grant reduction) and 42 (assignment of claims)) continue to apply.

32.2 Consortium-requested beneficiary termination

32.2.1 Conditions and procedure

The coordinator may request the termination of the participation of one or more beneficiaries, on request of the beneficiary concerned or on behalf of the other beneficiaries.

The coordinator must submit a request for **amendment** (see Article 39), with:

- the reasons why
- the opinion of the beneficiary concerned (or proof that this opinion has been requested in writing)

- the date the beneficiary ends work on the action ('end of work date')
- the date the termination takes effect ('termination date'); this date must be after the date of the submission of the amendment request.

If the termination concerns the coordinator and is done without its agreement, the amendment request must be submitted by another beneficiary (acting on behalf of the consortium).

The termination will **take effect** on the termination date specified in the amendment.

If no information is given or if the granting authority considers that the reasons do not justify termination, it may consider the beneficiary to have been terminated improperly.

32.2.2 Effects

The coordinator must — within 60 days from when termination takes effect — submit:

- (i) a **report on the distribution of payments** to the beneficiary concerned
- (ii) a **termination report** from the beneficiary concerned, for the open reporting period until termination, containing an overview of the progress of the work, the financial statement, the explanation on the use of resources, and, if applicable, the certificate on the financial statement (CFS; see Articles 21 and 24.2 and Data Sheet, Point 4.3)
- (iii) a second **request for amendment** (see Article 39) with other amendments needed (e.g. reallocation of the tasks and the estimated budget of the terminated beneficiary; addition of a new beneficiary to replace the terminated beneficiary; change of coordinator, etc.).

The granting authority will calculate the amount due to the beneficiary on the basis of the report submitted and taking into account the costs incurred and contributions for activities implemented before the end of work date (see Article 22). Costs relating to contracts due for execution only after the end of work are not eligible.

The information in the termination report must also be included in the periodic report for the next reporting period (see Article 21).

If the granting authority does not receive the termination report within the deadline, only costs and contributions which are included in an approved periodic report will be taken into account (no costs/ contributions if no periodic report was ever approved).

If the granting authority does not receive the report on the distribution of payments within the deadline, it will consider that:

- the coordinator did not distribute any payment to the beneficiary concerned and that
- the beneficiary concerned must not repay any amount to the coordinator.

If the second request for amendment is accepted by the granting authority, the Agreement is **amended** to introduce the necessary changes (see Article 39).

If the second request for amendment is rejected by the granting authority (because it calls into question the decision awarding the grant or breaches the principle of equal treatment of applicants), the grant may be terminated (see Article 32).

Improper termination may lead to a reduction of the grant (see Article 31) or grant termination (see Article 32).

After termination, the concerned beneficiary's obligations (in particular Articles 13 (confidentiality and security), 16 (IPR), 17 (communication, dissemination and visibility), 21 (reporting), 25 (checks, reviews, audits and investigations), 26 (impact evaluation), 27 (rejections), 28 (grant reduction) and 42 (assignment of claims)) continue to apply.

32.3 EU-initiated GA or beneficiary termination

32.3.1 Conditions

The granting authority may terminate the grant or the participation of one or more beneficiaries, if:

- (a) one or more beneficiaries do not accede to the Agreement (see Article 40)
- (b) a change to the action or the legal, financial, technical, organisational or ownership situation of a beneficiary is likely to substantially affect the implementation of the action or calls into question the decision to award the grant (including changes linked to one of the exclusion grounds listed in the declaration of honour)
- (c) following termination of one or more beneficiaries, the necessary changes to the Agreement (and their impact on the action) would call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants
- (d) implementation of the action has become impossible or the changes necessary for its continuation would call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants
- (e) a beneficiary (or person with unlimited liability for its debts) is subject to bankruptcy proceedings or similar (including insolvency, winding-up, administration by a liquidator or court, arrangement with creditors, suspension of business activities, etc.)
- (f) a beneficiary (or person with unlimited liability for its debts) is in breach of social security or tax obligations
- (g) a beneficiary (or person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has been found guilty of grave professional misconduct
- (h) a beneficiary (or person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed fraud, corruption, or is involved in a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking
- (i) a beneficiary (or person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) was created under a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or other legal obligations in the country of origin (or created another entity with this purpose)
- (j) a beneficiary (or person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed:

- (i) substantial errors, irregularities or fraud or
- (ii) serious breach of obligations under this Agreement or during its award (including improper implementation of the action, non-compliance with the call conditions, submission of false information, failure to provide required information, breach of ethics or security rules (if applicable), etc.)
- (k) a beneficiary (or person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed — in other EU grants awarded to it under similar conditions — systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or serious breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant (extension of findings from other grants to this grant; see Article 25)
- (l) despite a specific request by the granting authority, a beneficiary does not request — through the coordinator — an amendment to the Agreement to end the participation of one of its affiliated entities or associated partners that is in one of the situations under points (d), (f), (e), (g), (h), (i) or (j) and to reallocate its tasks, or
- (m) other:

32.3.2 Procedure

Before terminating the grant or participation of one or more beneficiaries, the granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the coordinator or beneficiary concerned:

- formally notifying the intention to terminate and the reasons why and
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If the granting authority does not receive observations or decides to pursue the procedure despite the observations it has received, it will confirm the termination and the date it will take effect (**confirmation letter**). Otherwise, it will formally notify that the procedure is discontinued.

For beneficiary terminations, the granting authority will — at the end of the procedure — also inform the coordinator.

The termination will **take effect** the day after the confirmation notification is sent (or on a later date specified in the notification; ‘termination date’).

32.3.3 Effects

- (a) for **GA termination**:

The coordinator must — within 60 days from when termination takes effect — submit a **periodic report** (for the last open reporting period until termination).

The granting authority will calculate the final grant amount and final payment on the basis of the report submitted and taking into account the costs incurred and contributions for activities

implemented before termination takes effect (see Article 22). Costs relating to contracts due for execution only after termination are not eligible.

If the grant is terminated for breach of the obligation to submit reports, the coordinator may not submit any report after termination.

If the granting authority does not receive the report within the deadline, only costs and contributions which are included in an approved periodic report will be taken into account (no costs/contributions if no periodic report was ever approved).

Termination does not affect the granting authority's right to reduce the grant (see Article 28) or to impose administrative sanctions (see Article 34).

The beneficiaries may not claim damages due to termination by the granting authority (see Article 33).

After termination, the beneficiaries' obligations (in particular Articles 13 (confidentiality and security), 16 (IPR), 17 (communication, dissemination and visibility), 21 (reporting), 25 (checks, reviews, audits and investigations), 26 (impact evaluation), 27 (rejections), 28 (grant reduction) and 42 (assignment of claims)) continue to apply.

(b) for **beneficiary termination**:

The coordinator must — within 60 days from when termination takes effect — submit:

- (i) a **report on the distribution of payments** to the beneficiary concerned
- (ii) a **termination report** from the beneficiary concerned, for the open reporting period until termination, containing an overview of the progress of the work, the financial statement, the explanation on the use of resources, and, if applicable, the certificate on the financial statement (CFS; see Articles 21 and 24.2 and Data Sheet, Point 4.3)
- (iii) a **request for amendment** (see Article 39) with any amendments needed (e.g. reallocation of the tasks and the estimated budget of the terminated beneficiary; addition of a new beneficiary to replace the terminated beneficiary; change of coordinator, etc.).

The granting authority will calculate the amount due to the beneficiary on the basis of the report submitted and taking into account the costs incurred and contributions for activities implemented before termination takes effect (see Article 22). Costs relating to contracts due for execution only after termination are not eligible.

The information in the termination report must also be included in the periodic report for the next reporting period (see Article 21).

If the granting authority does not receive the termination report within the deadline, only costs and contributions included in an approved periodic report will be taken into account (no costs/contributions if no periodic report was ever approved).

If the granting authority does not receive the report on the distribution of payments within the deadline, it will consider that:

- the coordinator did not distribute any payment to the beneficiary concerned and that
- the beneficiary concerned must not repay any amount to the coordinator.

If the request for amendment is accepted by the granting authority, the Agreement is **amended** to introduce the necessary changes (see Article 39).

If the request for amendment is rejected by the granting authority (because it calls into question the decision awarding the grant or breaches the principle of equal treatment of applicants), the grant may be terminated (see Article 32).

After termination, the concerned beneficiary's obligations (in particular Articles 13 (confidentiality and security), 16 (IPR), 17 (communication, dissemination and visibility), 21 (reporting), 25 (checks, reviews, audits and investigations), 26 (impact evaluation), 27 (rejections), 28 (grant reduction) and 42 (assignment of claims)) continue to apply.

SECTION 3 OTHER CONSEQUENCES: DAMAGES AND ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS

ARTICLE 33 — DAMAGES

33.1 Liability of the granting authority

The granting authority cannot be held liable for any damage caused to the beneficiaries or to third parties as a consequence of the implementation of the Agreement, including for gross negligence.

The granting authority cannot be held liable for any damage caused by any of the beneficiaries or other participants involved in the action, as a consequence of the implementation of the Agreement.

33.2 Liability of the beneficiaries

The beneficiaries must compensate the granting authority for any damage it sustains as a result of the implementation of the action or because the action was not implemented in full compliance with the Agreement, provided that it was caused by gross negligence or wilful act.

The liability does not extend to indirect or consequential losses or similar damage (such as loss of profit, loss of revenue or loss of contracts), provided such damage was not caused by wilful act or by a breach of confidentiality.

ARTICLE 34 — ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS AND OTHER MEASURES

Nothing in this Agreement may be construed as preventing the adoption of administrative sanctions (i.e. exclusion from EU award procedures and/or financial penalties) or other public law measures, in addition or as an alternative to the contractual measures provided under this Agreement (see, for instance, Articles 135 to 145 EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046 and Articles 4 and 7 of Regulation 2988/95²²).

²² Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95 of 18 December 1995 on the protection of the European Communities financial interests (OJ L 312, 23.12.1995, p. 1).

SECTION 4 FORCE MAJEURE

ARTICLE 35 — FORCE MAJEURE

A party prevented by force majeure from fulfilling its obligations under the Agreement cannot be considered in breach of them.

‘Force majeure’ means any situation or event that:

- prevents either party from fulfilling their obligations under the Agreement,
- was unforeseeable, exceptional situation and beyond the parties’ control,
- was not due to error or negligence on their part (or on the part of other participants involved in the action), and
- proves to be inevitable in spite of exercising all due diligence.

Any situation constituting force majeure must be formally notified to the other party without delay, stating the nature, likely duration and foreseeable effects.

The parties must immediately take all the necessary steps to limit any damage due to force majeure and do their best to resume implementation of the action as soon as possible.

CHAPTER 6 FINAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 36 — COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE PARTIES

36.1 Forms and means of communication — Electronic management

EU grants are managed fully electronically through the EU Funding & Tenders Portal (‘Portal’).

All communications must be made electronically through the Portal, in accordance with the Portal Terms and Conditions and using the forms and templates provided there (except if explicitly instructed otherwise by the granting authority).

Communications must be made in writing and clearly identify the grant agreement (project number and acronym).

Communications must be made by persons authorised according to the Portal Terms and Conditions. For naming the authorised persons, each beneficiary must have designated — before the signature of this Agreement — a ‘legal entity appointed representative (LEAR)’. The role and tasks of the LEAR are stipulated in their appointment letter (see Portal Terms and Conditions).

If the electronic exchange system is temporarily unavailable, instructions will be given on the Portal.

36.2 Date of communication

The sending date for communications made through the Portal will be the date and time of sending, as indicated by the time logs.

The receiving date for communications made through the Portal will be the date and time the communication is accessed, as indicated by the time logs. Formal notifications that have not been accessed within 10 days after sending, will be considered to have been accessed (see Portal Terms and Conditions).

If a communication is exceptionally made on paper (by e-mail or postal service), general principles apply (i.e. date of sending/receipt). Formal notifications by registered post with proof of delivery will be considered to have been received either on the delivery date registered by the postal service or the deadline for collection at the post office.

If the electronic exchange system is temporarily unavailable, the sending party cannot be considered in breach of its obligation to send a communication within a specified deadline.

36.3 Addresses for communication

The Portal can be accessed via the Europa website.

The address for paper communications to the granting authority (if exceptionally allowed) is the official mailing address indicated on its website.

For beneficiaries, it is the legal address specified in the Portal Participant Register.

ARTICLE 37 — INTERPRETATION OF THE AGREEMENT

The provisions in the Data Sheet take precedence over the rest of the Terms and Conditions of the Agreement.

Annex 5 takes precedence over the Terms and Conditions; the Terms and Conditions take precedence over the Annexes other than Annex 5.

Annex 2 takes precedence over Annex 1.

ARTICLE 38 — CALCULATION OF PERIODS AND DEADLINES

In accordance with Regulation No 1182/71²³, periods expressed in days, months or years are calculated from the moment the triggering event occurs.

The day during which that event occurs is not considered as falling within the period.

‘Days’ means calendar days, not working days.

ARTICLE 39 — AMENDMENTS

39.1 Conditions

The Agreement may be amended, unless the amendment entails changes to the Agreement which would call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants.

²³ Regulation (EEC, Euratom) No 1182/71 of the Council of 3 June 1971 determining the rules applicable to periods, dates and time-limits (OJ L 124, 8/6/1971, p. 1).

Amendments may be requested by any of the parties.

39.2 Procedure

The party requesting an amendment must submit a request for amendment signed directly in the Portal Amendment tool.

The coordinator submits and receives requests for amendment on behalf of the beneficiaries (see Annex 3). If a change of coordinator is requested without its agreement, the submission must be done by another beneficiary (acting on behalf of the other beneficiaries).

The request for amendment must include:

- the reasons why
- the appropriate supporting documents and
- for a change of coordinator without its agreement: the opinion of the coordinator (or proof that this opinion has been requested in writing).

The granting authority may request additional information.

If the party receiving the request agrees, it must sign the amendment in the tool within 45 days of receiving notification (or any additional information the granting authority has requested). If it does not agree, it must formally notify its disagreement within the same deadline. The deadline may be extended, if necessary for the assessment of the request. If no notification is received within the deadline, the request is considered to have been rejected.

An amendment **enters into force** on the day of the signature of the receiving party.

An amendment **takes effect** on the date of entry into force or other date specified in the amendment.

ARTICLE 40 — ACCESSION AND ADDITION OF NEW BENEFICIARIES

40.1 Accession of the beneficiaries mentioned in the Preamble

The beneficiaries which are not coordinator must accede to the grant by signing the accession form (see Annex 3) directly in the Portal Grant Preparation tool, within 30 days after the entry into force of the Agreement (see Article 44).

They will assume the rights and obligations under the Agreement with effect from the date of its entry into force (see Article 44).

If a beneficiary does not accede to the grant within the above deadline, the coordinator must — within 30 days — request an amendment (see Article 39) to terminate the beneficiary and make any changes necessary to ensure proper implementation of the action. This does not affect the granting authority's right to terminate the grant (see Article 32).

40.2 Addition of new beneficiaries

In justified cases, the beneficiaries may request the addition of a new beneficiary.

For this purpose, the coordinator must submit a request for amendment in accordance with Article 39. It must include an accession form (see Annex 3) signed by the new beneficiary directly in the Portal Amendment tool.

New beneficiaries will assume the rights and obligations under the Agreement with effect from the date of their accession specified in the accession form (see Annex 3).

Additions are also possible in mono-beneficiary grants.

ARTICLE 41 — TRANSFER OF THE AGREEMENT

In justified cases, the beneficiary of a mono-beneficiary grant may request the transfer of the grant to a new beneficiary, provided that this would not call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants.

The beneficiary must submit a request for **amendment** (see Article 39), with

- the reasons why
- the accession form (see Annex 3) signed by the new beneficiary directly in the Portal Amendment tool and
- additional supporting documents (if required by the granting authority).

The new beneficiary will assume the rights and obligations under the Agreement with effect from the date of accession specified in the accession form (see Annex 3).

ARTICLE 42 — ASSIGNMENTS OF CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT AGAINST THE GRANTING AUTHORITY

The beneficiaries may not assign any of their claims for payment against the granting authority to any third party, except if expressly approved in writing by the granting authority on the basis of a reasoned, written request by the coordinator (on behalf of the beneficiary concerned).

If the granting authority has not accepted the assignment or if the terms of it are not observed, the assignment will have no effect on it.

In no circumstances will an assignment release the beneficiaries from their obligations towards the granting authority.

ARTICLE 43 — APPLICABLE LAW AND SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

43.1 Applicable law

The Agreement is governed by the applicable EU law, supplemented if necessary by the law of Belgium.

Special rules may apply for beneficiaries which are international organisations (if any; see Data Sheet, Point 5).

43.2 Dispute settlement

If a dispute concerns the interpretation, application or validity of the Agreement, the parties must bring action before the EU General Court — or, on appeal, the EU Court of Justice — under Article 272 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU).

For non-EU beneficiaries (if any), such disputes must be brought before the courts of Brussels, Belgium — unless an international agreement provides for the enforceability of EU court judgements.

For beneficiaries with arbitration as special dispute settlement forum (if any; see Data Sheet, Point 5), the dispute will — in the absence of an amicable settlement — be settled in accordance with the Rules for Arbitration published on the Portal.

If a dispute concerns administrative sanctions, offsetting or an enforceable decision under Article 299 TFEU (see Articles 22 and 34), the beneficiaries must bring action before the General Court — or, on appeal, the Court of Justice — under Article 263 TFEU.

For grants where the granting authority is an EU executive agency (see Preamble), actions against offsetting and enforceable decisions must be brought against the European Commission (not against the granting authority; see also Article 22).

ARTICLE 44 — ENTRY INTO FORCE

The Agreement will enter into force on the day of signature by the granting authority or the coordinator, depending on which is later.

SIGNATURES

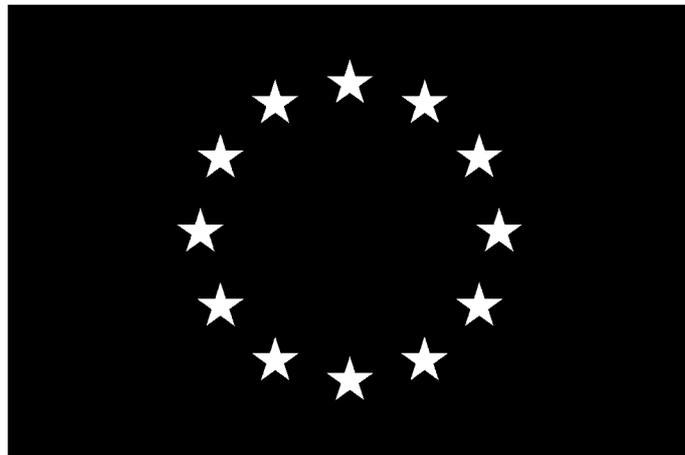
For the coordinator

For the granting authority



European
Commission

ANNEX 1



Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL)

Description of the action (DoA)

Part A

Part B

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION (PART A)

COVER PAGE

Part A of the Description of the Action (DoA) must be completed directly on the Portal Grant Preparation screens.

PROJECT	
<i>Grant Preparation (General Information screen) — Enter the info.</i>	
Project number:	101083551
Project name:	EDIH Ostrava
Project acronym:	EDIH OVA
Call:	DIGITAL-2021-EDIH-01
Topic:	DIGITAL-2021-EDIH-INITIAL-01
Type of action:	DIGITAL-SIMPLE
Service:	CNECT/A/04
Project starting date:	fixed date: 1 January 2023
Project duration:	36 months

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Project summary	3
List of participants	3
List of work packages	4
Staff effort	12
List of deliverables	13
List of milestones (outputs/outcomes)	18
List of critical risks	19

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project summary

Grant Preparation (General Information screen) — Provide an overall description of your project (including context and overall objectives, planned activities and main achievements, and expected results and impacts (on target groups, change procedures, capacities, innovation etc)). This summary should give readers a clear idea of what your project is about.

Use the project summary from your proposal.

The project of the European Digital Innovation Hub OstraVA (EDIH OVA) is designed to accelerate the digitalisation of companies and public organizations in the region and at the same time to offer an attractive opportunity to use the unique interconnection of digital infrastructure and know-how to interested companies, especially small and medium-sized enterprises in the EU. The technological specialization of EDIH OVA is tied to the core facility of High-Performance Computing (HPC), complemented by an experimental industrial testbed. These capacities will be primarily aimed at testing and experimentation of challenging tasks for cases in sectors related to the implementation of the Industry 4.0 concept. This "technological" DNA of EDIH OVA is further naturally determined by the industrial character of the Moravian-Silesian Region (MSR), where EDIH OVA will mainly operate.

The project includes a comprehensive offer of individual services and other activities in line with the required functions of the European Digital Innovation Hub. The aim is to cover a wide range of stakeholders with regard to their level of digital readiness, from entities not yet determined to exploit the potential of digitalisation to entities ready to use the most advanced digital techniques and state-of-the-art research infrastructure, including HPC.

Implementation of EDIH OVA will provide a significant upgrade the activities that this hub has been gradually developing for several years. An ambition of EDIH OVA is to become an inspirational and useful hub within the networks to which EDIH OVA is or will be linked. This ambition builds on the existing activities of both members of the consortium and their role within the regional, national, and European innovation ecosystem and is reflected, among others, in the expected share of clients outside the MSR region.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

PARTICIPANTS

Grant Preparation (Beneficiaries screen) — Enter the info.

Number	Role	Short name	Legal name	Country	PIC
1	COO	VSB-TUO	VSB - TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF OSTRAVA	CZ	999868144
2	BEN	MSIC Ostrava	MORAVSKOSLEZSKE INOVACNI CENTRUM OSTRAVA	CZ	895878712

LIST OF WORK PACKAGES

Work packages						
<i>Grant Preparation (Work Packages screen) — Enter the info.</i>						
Work Package No	Work Package name	Lead Beneficiary	Effort (Person-Months)	Start Month	End Month	Deliverables
WP1	Test before invest	1 - VSB-TUO	238.48	1	36	D1.1 – Report on the services provided Tbl TECH 2
WP2	Readiness, skills and training	2 - MSIC Ostrava	52.94	1	36	D2.1 – Report on the services provided NoE TA 2 D2.2 – Mid-term evaluation of individual services within “digital readiness”
WP3	Support to find investments	1 - VSB-TUO	20.82	1	36	D3.1 – Report on the services provided A2F 2
WP4	Innovation ecosystem and networking	2 - MSIC Ostrava	19.36	1	36	D4.1 – Report on the services provided NA 2
WP5	Marketing, communication, and dissemination	1 - VSB-TUO	39.25	1	36	D5.1 – Project Visual Identity D5.2 – EDIH OVA Communication strategy D5.3 – Marketing, Communication & Dissemination Report (M&C&D) Year 1 D5.4 – M&C&D Report Year 2 D5.5 – M&C&D Report Year 3
WP6	Management and quality control	1 - VSB-TUO	105.40	1	36	D6.1 – Periodic Report Year 1 D6.2 – Periodic Report Year 2 D6.3 – Periodic Report Year 3

Work package WP1 – Test before invest

Work Package Number	WP1	Lead Beneficiary	1. VSB-TUO
Work Package Name	Test before invest		
Start Month	1	End Month	36

Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. HPC technologies and services more accessible to SMEs and public organisations b. Institutional set-up allowing clients to test its pilot projects and make experiments relying on HPC technologies c. Affordable access to the infrastructure allowing testing and piloting of digitalisation in manufacturing

Description
<p>T.1.1 Testing HPC technologies</p> <p>This task aims to prepare, implement, and evaluate the access scheme for enterprises, esp. SMEs, and public organisations to HPC technologies and services for testing and experimentation. The design of the access scheme will count with two main regimes of access that will be usually combined together: 1. Renting a specific HPC infrastructure; 2. Provision of HPC/HPDA/AI/Big Data expertise to use HPC technology. Moreover, additional provision of specific commercial SW or services related to its deployment on HPC infrastructure will be available for individual cases. The regime (1) being used (exceptionally) separately will address the issue of costly HW equipment for which companies have a limited use, where they may want to carry out some development or research. The regime (2) includes added-value services provided by the EDIH which are necessary for successful accomplishment of planned testing and experiments. Provided expertise will usually consist of the following parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. problem definition based on the client's requirements; b. solution design (incl. potential collection of input data from the client); c. solution implementation (e.g., computational model creation, input parameters application, test run, analysis of first results, production run); d. analysis of results (incl. potential validation with experimental measurements allowing subsequent modification of the solution); e. processing of results and handing over to the client. <p>Continuous open call for proposals will be implemented. In case of regime (1) to be used separately, selection criteria will be based on the general purpose of HPC infrastructure use per each case. For regimes (2) the qualitative selection criteria such as Market maturity and potential, Innovation Potential, Societal and environmental impact, Experiment design, Soundness of technical approach, Resources to be committed will be evaluated. Evaluation committee will be established to evaluate proposals. If proposal (potential case) with AI, self-assessment with regard to ethical issues will be executed (valid also for T1.2).</p> <p>T.1.2 Testing for Digitised Manufacturing</p> <p>The task aims to support the access of the industrial sector, especially of SME engineering companies and also SME/mid-caps manufacturing companies, to research infrastructures, to knowledge base and expertise of research teams and laboratories integrated especially in the industrial testbed, as Smart Factory lab, AIM (Artificial Intelligence in Manufacturing) lab and Automotive lab located at the FEI@VSB. The task consists of four activities and their combination: (1) contracted applied research, based on equipment and knowledge of academic environment (2) renting specific HW and SW equipment together with support of research staff (3) testing, verification evaluation of prototypes, products and SW (4) measurements and experiments in companies using equipment and expertise of research workers. The laboratories involved are equipped by unique instruments, devices, SW and experienced staff which can provide valuable services to industrial partners. There are several areas in which the services will be provided (1) Automation and robotics (2) Measurement and data acquisition (3) Data analytics and applications of artificial intelligence (4) Modelling and simulations (5) Digitalisation of development and production processes (6) Automation and digitalisation of test tasks. All activities will be organized and managed in cooperation of research team and industrial partner, the progress will be regularly monitored, and the results will be evaluated according to predefined criteria. The complex scheme with process links for the services provided (V-model).</p>

Work package WP2 – Readiness, skills and training

Work Package Number	WP2	Lead Beneficiary	2. MSIC Ostrava
Work Package Name	Readiness, skills and training		
Start Month	1	End Month	36

Objectives

- a. Activate and increase interest in exploiting the opportunities of digitalisation in enterprises/public organizations to accelerate their own business/performance
- b. Provide suitable tools for analysis of digitalisation needs and development of digital readiness of SMEs
- c. Increase the level of digitalisation in SMEs
- d. Develop competences of relevant staff, especially in SMEs in technological specialisations of EDIH OVA with the objective to increase use of sophisticated digital technologies in practice

Description

T.2.1 Digital readiness support and increase in the level of digitalisation

Within this task, a value chain of digitalisation services is prepared to facilitate the client-journey. The value chain includes 3 follow-up services and one horizontal service ("cyber-security" audit).

1. **DIGITAL AUDIT:** In cooperation with independent accredited experts, a digital audit of enterprises is carried out according to a common methodology. The digital auditor goes through the enterprise's main processes, the course of the contract through the whole enterprise and its business model; a natural part of the service is a visit to the company and guided interviews with relevant staff. The enterprise receives recommendations for 2-3 specific change projects that are aligned with the enterprise's strategy and the state of its processes, technology, and real capabilities. The output of the audit, i.e. the state of the digital readiness in different areas, can also be compared with other enterprises in the country (anonymised, thanks to cooperation with other regional innovation centres in the Czech Republic).

2. **DIGIUP:** After the digital audit is completed, the enterprise may decide to prepare a change project in one of the 3 areas defined in the final report of the digital auditor. The aim is to help the enterprise to prepare and set up the change project in an optimal way by engaging an accredited expert who is experienced in the area covered by the change project (e.g. digitalisation of the technical preparation and planning process).

3. **DIGITALISATION CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISION:** If the enterprise decides to implement a change project prepared within the DigiUp programme, it can use the follow-up service "Digitalisation Construction Supervision". The aim is to avoid mistakes during the implementation of digitalisation tools. A selected accredited expert is involved in the search for a suitable integrator, negotiations, and subsequent implementation with the intention to defend the interests of the enterprise and ensure that the project is completed without complications (including meeting deadlines and costs).

4. **CYBER-SECURITY AUDIT:** The aim of the cyber-security audit is to raise awareness of the importance of cyber security and help SMEs to determine the state of their security against cyber-attacks. In cooperation with independent accredited experts, the so-called Cyber-security audit of enterprises is carried out according to a common methodology. The output of the cyber-security audit is a report describing the current state of security against cyber-attacks and recommendations for individual areas to improve the level of security. The audit provides a comparison of how the company is doing with security across the MSR (and more widely in the future).

For all individual services, an evaluation of the cooperation between the accredited expert and the enterprise takes place after the completion of the service. The evaluation of the impact of the implemented services is addressed in T2.4.

T.2.2 Skills for "Digitized Age"

Within this task, practical workshops will be held to raise awareness of the reason and need for digitalisation of the corporate environment. These interactive workshops are intended for managers and owners of SMEs (and to a limited extent public organisations), and employees of enterprises involved in the digitalisation of the corporate environment and the implementation of the I4.0 concept. The seminars allow to understand the principles and logic of digitalisation, to get acquainted with key technologies and to learn about the benefits and risks of digitalisation. These will be mainly two-day seminars focusing for example on the following topics: digital transformation of enterprises - I 4.0; infrastructure for digitalisation of enterprises; data and information management; digitalisation and automation of pre-production processes; digitalisation and automation of production processes; digitalisation and automation of logistics; digital strategy, I 4.0 competences. An integral part of this task is the preparation of the content of the seminars and the collection of feedback from the participants.

T.2.3 Specific oriented training

This task will focus on developing the competences of employees of enterprises (and to a very limited extent also public organizations) in technological specializations of EDIH OVA linked to its infrastructural capacities: advanced simulation and modelling, use of AI, SW applications in the implementation of PLM. The format will be educational courses designed for representatives of enterprises or workshops designed for a specific client (training on demand). In terms of providing substantive content, in-house capabilities will be used, e.g., for AI and machine learning, Digital Twin software, modelling and simulation software and processes, virtual automated and digitized testing, and external know-how for topics such as structural analysis and optimisation, visualisation of CAE models learning, PLM/ALM software and processes, IoT operational systems programming, and platform design. An integral part of this task is the preparation of the content of the seminars.

T.2.4 Mid-term evaluation of individual services under digital readiness

In view of the need to update the content of the services provided under "digital readiness - T2.1", a mid-term evaluation of the services will be launched in M31 for all supported enterprises where change projects have been completed by M20. The ongoing evaluation will assess both the service setup and the shift in the level of digitalisation (in line with the DMT) and, last but not least, the impact on the company (turnover, number of new jobs, etc.). The output of the mid-term evaluation will be ready in month M36.

Work package WP3 – Support to find investments

Work Package Number	WP3	Lead Beneficiary	1. VSB-TUO
Work Package Name	Support to find investments		
Start Month	1	End Month	36

Objectives

- a. To support the foundation and development of enterprises based on the progressive use of digital technologies
- b. Provide a portfolio of advisory services and other tools to create opportunities for attracting investment for digitalisation
- c. Support involvement in subsidy and financial instruments enabling acceleration of further development of the enterprise

Description

T.3.1 Idea acceleration

Start-ups, to be successful and develop quickly, need to master a number of challenges, develop the necessary knowledge and learn a working methodology that will ensure successful results both technically and commercially. This is best learned early on through mentoring and coaching, preferably as a part of a comprehensive programme covering all aspects of the business.

This programme will include workshops covering the following thematic areas: Product/service (including MVP); C. Start-up team; D. Start-up law and IP protection; E. Marketing; F. Financial planning; G. Presentation skills; H. Investors and investment.

The workshops will be led by experienced lecturers. Individual consultations will be provided on the topics of each workshop. Each start-up will be assigned a mentor within the programme, with whom they will work on individual tasks and topics and will also benefit from feedback from other members of the mentoring team, including contacts with potential investors.

T.3.2 Support to scale

Under this task, services will be offered and provided to small, medium-sized enterprises and public organisations to ensure access to financial resources (public or private) outside the EDIH Ostrava to enable their further development, e.g., further implementation of digital technologies. These services will be implemented mainly through 4 basic tools:

1. individual consultations especially in the following areas: financial advisory (Business Plan, P&L analysis, etc.) mapping of EU calls, support in preparation of R&D projects);
2. matchmaking events co-organized by the MSIC: Business Grill and Founders4Founders – two different forms of meetings with Business Angels network;
3. Start-up voucher - implementation of a cross-border start-up grant competition (CZ - PL - SK) - financial support + professional mentoring for selected start-ups

4. seminars and workshops co-organised by the MSIC: grant opportunities, financial products of commercial banks, and platforms financing digitalisation projects.

Work package WP4 – Innovation ecosystem and networking

Work Package Number	WP4	Lead Beneficiary	2. MSIC Ostrava
Work Package Name	Innovation ecosystem and networking		
Start Month	1	End Month	36

Objectives

- a. Link EDIH OVA clients to other stakeholders in the ecosystem to support their entrepreneurial opportunities (mainly start-ups and progressive SMEs)
- b. Facilitate the linking of EDIH OVA clients to other stakeholders to create space for the preparation of joint "digitalisation projects"
- c. Provide EDIH OVA clients with trusted contacts and connections to other stakeholders to implement (further) digital change for the client
- d. Make full use of DTA services and tools
- e. Coordinate a strategic debate on the direction (support) of the MS Region in the field of digitalisation of enterprises and public organizations
- f. Participate in the design of strategic and implementation actions at the national level, particularly in relation to the EDIH OVA technology specialisations
- g. Ensure cooperation with key European networks and stakeholders to promote digitalisation

Description

T.4.1 Brokerage and scouting

Within this task, activities will be implemented to connect EDIH OVA clients with other actors of the innovation ecosystem at regional, national, and European level. This networking will have, in particular, the following objectives:

- i) to help EDIH OVA clients to implement their own digital changes (linking to suppliers of the necessary digital solutions);
- ii) to support EDIH OVA clients in searching for and finding new business opportunities (joint participation in tenders, etc.).

The fulfilment of both objectives will be conditioned by a higher degree of cooperation with the R&D community, in which case elements of technology scouting will be applied. A specific tool-service will be the implementation of thematic digital brokerage events (planned 3 times a year) aimed at one of the above objectives. For the effective implementation of this service (inter alia to attract a sufficient number of interested parties), cooperation with other networks, in particular EEN and EDIHs, is strongly planned (link to T4.3). This will also include individual and personalised support targeted along the above lines, while building on other services already provided by EDIH OVA.

T.4.2 Ecosystem development

There will be coordination between key representatives of academia, public administration, and industry in the implementation of EDP at the level of the regional RIS3 strategy. This will include the organisation of meetings of these representatives at the level of the MSR Digital platform (6 times a year), individual coordination activities in connection with the preparation of large-scale research and innovation projects of an investment nature (e.g., financed by the Just Transition Fund or ESIF).

At the national level, EDIH OVA will participate in activities shaping the strategy and implementation of system measures to support digitalisation of industry and society (e.g., National Innovation Platform II - Digital Technologies and Electrotechnics, CzechInvest).

T.4.3 Networking

This activity will ensure cooperation with relevant stakeholders promoting digitalisation in Europe. The aim of this task is to create trust and optimal conditions for cooperation at the level of sharing clients/cases, implementing joint activities (workshops, brokerage events), exchanging best practices, including EDIH management standards and working with clients, etc.

Primarily these levels include:

- i) cooperating EDIHs and subnetworks of EDIHs: namely, e.g. the EDIH4Manufacturing network;

- ii) cooperation with networks and platforms such as EEN, Startup Europe, EBN, National Competence Centres in HPC, and Global Startup Cities Initiative
- iii) cooperation with other platforms and entities such as National Cluster Association etc.

T.4.4 Collaboration with Digital Transformation Accelerator (DTA)

This task addresses the liaison and co-operation activities with Digital Transformation Accelerator (DTA).

The EDIH will:

- provide to the DTA the necessary data/information on the overall Key Performance Indicators on an annual basis or on request by the DTA;
- participate actively in the relevant support activities of the DTA, such as matchmaking, training and capacity building events;
- participate actively in the “Train the trainer” programme organised by the DTA, to acquire the needed knowledge on how to use the digital capacities supported by Digital Europe programme, with the objective to help the EDIH stakeholders to make use of them.

This task only covers the specific activities for collaboration with DTA. The periodic reporting will include a description of the activities performed in collaboration with the DTA.

Work package WP5 – Marketing, communication, and dissemination

Work Package Number	WP5	Lead Beneficiary	1. VSB-TUO
Work Package Name	Marketing, communication, and dissemination		
Start Month	1	End Month	36

Objectives

- a. Stimulate interest in the EDIH OVA services, attract and manage the optimal flow of its clients
- b. Support SMEs and public organisations outside the region to use the EDIH OVA services
- c. Allow clients easy access to the EDIH OVA services
- d. Raise awareness of advantages and benefits of digitalisation both for enterprises and public organisations
- e. Promote the project towards different target groups to support its visibility and attraction
- f. Promote the project results towards different target groups to ensure their accessibility and exploitation

Description

T.5.1 Marketing and one stop shop

The aim of this task is to actively search for clients and thus ensure optimal interest in the services of EDIH OVA, tailored service portfolio, and a system of client information usable for improving the quality of EDIH OVA's activities:

a) Searching potential clients of EDIH OVA: This will be done by a presales manager who, in cooperation with the Business Innovation Manager, proactively contacts through various tools (company websites, contacts from seminars and conferences, etc.) and meets with potential clients. Based on the information available or provided (e.g., calls with relevant company representative), he interprets the company's needs, offers potential new perspectives on solutions, and does this in relation to the EDIH OVA's service portfolio. Together with WP leaders and other experts, co-develops a specific service offer, a service package for the company. At the same time, other, outbound, forms of solicitation for EDIH OVA services will be used (link to the following task).

In this "subtask" the results from activity (T4.3) will also be used, as networking should lead not only to inspiration and building of trust among hubs but it should be an effective instrument for attracting future clients.

b) Client Relationship Management: the management of EDIH OVA information will take place under a single CRM system (note: both participants already use the same CRM system from Raynet company). This system will be linked to the service quality assessment process (under WP6, T6.2) and the DMA.

T.5.2 Communication and dissemination activities

This task will handle the communication activities of the project, during its entire duration. The task will start by refining the project's visual identity, establishing an identifiable brand for the project (D5.1 Project Visual Identity). In parallel, the communication strategy will be made more specific, which includes defining target audiences, key messages, and appropriate means to reach them. This strategy will take into account, among other things, the services of DTA (already concretized at that time) and other entities (e.g., EEN). This work will be documented in D5.2 Communication strategy.

In addition, this task will upgrade and maintain www.dihova.eu website as one of the key communication tools for the project, that is suitable for communicating and promoting all EDIH OVA activities and services. Further, this task will develop relevant social channels with a focus on services and activities (e.g., on LinkedIn, Twitter, and YouTube). During the task, VSB-TUO will lead elaboration of communication material (catalogue of services, success stories, press-releases, leaflets etc.) to target the different audiences identified in the communication strategy. This will be also include identifying the results appropriate for communication according to different target groups.

Work package WP6 – Management and quality control

Work Package Number	WP6	Lead Beneficiary	1. VSB-TUO
Work Package Name	Management and quality control		
Start Month	1	End Month	36

Objectives

- a. Ensure effective management of the EDIH OVA project and co-ordination of all activities;
- b. Maintain the consortium plan and budget to reflect changing needs within the project;
- c. Ensure that the participants conform to their obligations under the contract and the consortium agreement and conform to quality management procedure;
- d. To provide effective communication channels between the partners, between the project and EC and National Authority (Ministry of Industry and Trade)
- e. Ensure monitoring of the services provided and other activities implemented with the aim of their further improvement or modification
- f. Nurture and develop internal human resources

Description

T.6.1 Management
 The General Assembly (GenA) has the overall responsibility for achieving the project’s priorities and goals. The Executive Manager (EM) and Executive Board manage and coordinate day-to-day operation and goal implementation. The EM will ensure that the work assigned to various work package teams progresses according to schedule and within the allocated budget, incl. risk assessment and mitigation to ensure rapid resolution or corrective actions, if necessary, together with, e.g., the EC. Exceptional conditions or problems will be handled by the GenA.
 Administrative Support (AS), headed by the Project Manager (PM) located with the Coordinator, ensures to implement the organisational, administrative, and financial tasks of the project.
 The PM is responsible for processing of all grant claims and receipts, including timely distribution of money in accordance with the Grant Agreements and the Consortium Agreement. The financial status reflecting actual vs. planned effort and actual vs. planned expenditures will be maintained by the PM and reported to the EM on a quarterly basis.

T.6.2 Quality control
 This task consists of two subtasks:
 a) quality of projects results: The PM will be responsible for ensuring that project results and formal deliverables undergo a quality control process of internal verification and document reviews prior to submission to the EM and Executive Board. The EM will be responsible for ensuring that quality failures are rectified and that the European Commission Project Officer receives deliverables on time and is advised of any delay.
 b) Quality of service: the quality of service will be monitored. In the case of services, small-scale activities or collective actions (especially WP4 and WP5), this will be in the form of questionnaires, while in the case of time- and cost-intensive services (especially WP1), the ambition will be to conduct structured interviews. These will be closely linked to the need to carry out alongside a Digital Maturity Assessment (DMA) which will monitor, among other things, the effect of the intervention provided (DMA "before EDIH intervention, after one year and after three years"). The overall responsibility (and control of the due process) will be with the EM (supported by the PM), the implementation of the actual surveys will be carried out by the WP leaders, in case of larger services (and link to the DMA) in collaboration with the digital auditors implementing WP2 T2.1.

T.6.3 Human resources development
 Within EDIH OVA, emphasis will be placed on the further development of the competences of individual staff members.

An annual evaluation of the level of achievement of work objectives for the past period will be carried out, setting objectives for the following period in relation to the need for further development of professional competences. Participation in "train the trainer" events organised by the DTA will be part of the implementation of individual professional development plans.

STAFF EFFORT

Staff effort per participant							
<i>Grant Preparation (Work packages - Effort screen) — Enter the info.</i>							
Participant	WP1	WP2	WP3	WP4	WP5	WP6	Total Person-Months
1 - VSB-TUO	238.48	9.20	13.28	9.08	35.63	98.62	404.29
2 - MSIC Ostrava		43.74	7.54	10.28	3.62	6.78	71.96
Total Person-Months	238.48	52.94	20.82	19.36	39.25	105.40	476.25

LIST OF DELIVERABLES

Deliverables						
<i>Grant Preparation (Deliverables screen) — Enter the info.</i>						
<i>The labels used mean:</i>						
<i>Public — fully open (📌 automatically posted online)</i>						
<i>Sensitive — limited under the conditions of the Grant Agreement</i>						
<i>EU classified — RESTREINT-UE/EU-RESTRICTED, CONFIDENTIEL-UE/EU-CONFIDENTIAL, SECRET-UE/EU-SECRET under Decision 2015/444</i>						
Deliverable No	Deliverable Name	Work Package No	Lead Beneficiary	Type	Dissemination Level	Due Date (month)
D1.1	Report on the services provided Tbi TECH 2	WP1	1 - VSB-TUO	R — Document, report	PU - Public	36
D2.1	Report on the services provided NoE TA 2	WP2	1 - VSB-TUO	R — Document, report	PU - Public	36
D2.2	Mid-term evaluation of individual services within “digital readiness”	WP2	2 - MSIC Ostrava	R — Document, report	PU - Public	36
D3.1	Report on the services provided A2F 2	WP3	1 - VSB-TUO	R — Document, report	PU - Public	36
D4.1	Report on the services provided NA 2	WP4	2 - MSIC Ostrava	R — Document, report	PU - Public	36
D5.1	Project Visual Identity	WP5	2 - MSIC Ostrava	R — Document, report	PU - Public	3
D5.2	EDIH OVA Communication strategy	WP5	1 - VSB-TUO	R — Document, report	PU - Public	3
D5.3	Marketing, Communication & Dissemination Report (M&C&D) Year 1	WP5	1 - VSB-TUO	R — Document, report	PU - Public	6
D5.4	M&C&D Report Year 2	WP5	1 - VSB-TUO	R — Document, report	PU - Public	18
D5.5	M&C&D Report Year 3	WP5	1 - VSB-TUO	R — Document, report	PU - Public	36
D6.1	Periodic Report Year 1	WP6	1 - VSB-TUO	R — Document, report	PU - Public	12
D6.2	Periodic Report Year 2	WP6	1 - VSB-TUO	R — Document, report	PU - Public	24
D6.3	Periodic Report Year 3	WP6	1 - VSB-TUO	R — Document, report	PU - Public	36

Deliverable D1.1 – Report on the services provided Tbl TECH 2

Deliverable Number	D1.1	Lead Beneficiary	1. VSB-TUO
Deliverable Name	Report on the services provided Tbl TECH 2		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	36	Work Package No	WP1

Description
Report on the services provided, including a link to the fulfilment of the (sub)KPI 1.a “Number of enterprises and public sector entities which have used “Test before invest” activities allowing beneficiaries to test technologies” F: el. form in English

Deliverable D2.1 – Report on the services provided NoE TA 2

Deliverable Number	D2.1	Lead Beneficiary	1. VSB-TUO
Deliverable Name	Report on the services provided NoE TA 2		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	36	Work Package No	WP2

Description
Report on the services provided, including a link to the fulfilment of the (Sub)KPI 1.b “Number of enterprises and public sector entities which have used training activities” F: el. form in English

Deliverable D2.2 – Mid-term evaluation of individual services within “digital readiness”

Deliverable Number	D2.2	Lead Beneficiary	2. MSIC Ostrava
Deliverable Name	Mid-term evaluation of individual services within “digital readiness”		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	36	Work Package No	WP2

Description
Final report of the mid-term evaluation containing recommendations for possible modification of the set services F: el. form in English

Deliverable D3.1 – Report on the services provided A2F 2

Deliverable Number	D3.1	Lead Beneficiary	1. VSB-TUO
Deliverable Name	Report on the services provided A2F 2		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	36	Work Package No	WP3

Description

Report on the services provided, including a link to the fulfilment of the (Sub)KPI 1.c “Number of enterprises and public sector entities which have used access to finance”
F: el. form in English

Deliverable D4.1 – Report on the services provided NA 2

Deliverable Number	D4.1	Lead Beneficiary	2. MSIC Ostrava
Deliverable Name	Report on the services provided NA 2		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	36	Work Package No	WP4

Description

Report on the services provided, including a link to the fulfilment of the (Sub)KPI 1.d “Number of enterprises and public sector entities which have used networking activities”
F: el. form in English

Deliverable D5.1 – Project Visual Identity

Deliverable Number	D5.1	Lead Beneficiary	2. MSIC Ostrava
Deliverable Name	Project Visual Identity		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	3	Work Package No	WP5

Description

Guideline setting the rules for the project visual identity
F: el. form in English

Deliverable D5.2 – EDIH OVA Communication strategy

Deliverable Number	D5.2	Lead Beneficiary	1. VSB-TUO
Deliverable Name	EDIH OVA Communication strategy		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	3	Work Package No	WP5

Description

Final communication strategy
F: el. form in English

Deliverable D5.3 – Marketing, Communication & Dissemination Report (M&C&D) Year 1

Deliverable Number	D5.3	Lead Beneficiary	1. VSB-TUO
Deliverable Name	Marketing, Communication & Dissemination Report (M&C&D) Year 1		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	PU - Public

Due Date (month)	6	Work Package No	WP5
-------------------------	---	------------------------	-----

Description
Report on the EDIH OVA project for the first six months, which will contain information about fulfilment of objectives as well as planned outputs in the field of marketing, communication, and dissemination F: el. form in English

Deliverable D5.4 – M&C&D Report Year 2

Deliverable Number	D5.4	Lead Beneficiary	1. VSB-TUO
Deliverable Name	M&C&D Report Year 2		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	18	Work Package No	WP5

Description
Report on the EDIH OVA project for the period M7 - M18. Others matching the description D5.3

Deliverable D5.5 – M&C&D Report Year 3

Deliverable Number	D5.5	Lead Beneficiary	1. VSB-TUO
Deliverable Name	M&C&D Report Year 3		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	36	Work Package No	WP5

Description
Report on the EDIH OVA project for the 3rd implementation year Others matching the description D5.3

Deliverable D6.1 – Periodic Report Year 1

Deliverable Number	D6.1	Lead Beneficiary	1. VSB-TUO
Deliverable Name	Periodic Report Year 1		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	12	Work Package No	WP6

Description
Report on the EDIH OVA project for the 1st implementation year, which will contain aggregate data about fulfilment of the project objectives, each WP, outputs and results (incl. KPIs), evaluation of the quality of services, and HR development F: el. form in English

Deliverable D6.2 – Periodic Report Year 2

Deliverable Number	D6.2	Lead Beneficiary	1. VSB-TUO
Deliverable Name	Periodic Report Year 2		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	24	Work Package No	WP6

Description
Report on the EDIH OVA project for the 2nd implementation year Others matching the description D6.1

Deliverable D6.3 – Periodic Report Year 3

Deliverable Number	D6.3	Lead Beneficiary	1. VSB-TUO
Deliverable Name	Periodic Report Year 3		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	36	Work Package No	WP6

Description
Report on the EDIH OVA project for the 3rd implementation year Others matching the description D6.1

LIST OF MILESTONES

Milestones					
<i>Grant Preparation (Milestones screen) — Enter the info.</i>					
Milestone No	Milestone Name	Work Package No	Lead Beneficiary	Means of Verification	Due Date (month)
1	Report on the services provided Tbl TECH 1	WP1	1-VSB-TUO	Report on the services provided, including a link to the fulfilment of the (Sub)KPI 1.a “Number of enterprises and public sector entities which have used “Test before invest” activities allowing beneficiaries to test technologies” - fulfilled by min. 33%.	18
2	Report on the services provided NoE TA 1	WP2	1-VSB-TUO	Report on the services provided, including a link to the fulfilment of the (Sub)KPI 1.b “Number of enterprises and public sector entities which have used training activities” - fulfilled by min. 33%.	18
3	Report on the services provided A2F 1	WP3	1-VSB-TUO	Report on the services provided, including a link to the fulfilment of the (Sub)KPI 1.c “Number of enterprises and public sector entities which have used access to finance” - fulfilled by min. 33%.	18
4	Report on the services provided NA 1	WP4	2-MSIC Ostrava	Report on the services provided, including a link to the fulfilment of the (Sub)KPI 1.d “Number of enterprises and public sector entities which have used networking activities” - fulfilled by min. 33%.	18

LIST OF CRITICAL RISKS

Critical risks & risk management strategy			
<i>Grant Preparation (Critical Risks screen) — Enter the info.</i>			
Risk number	Description	Work Package No(s)	Proposed Mitigation Measures
1	Lack of interest in services from companies (Impact: high; likelihood: medium)	WP4, WP3, WP2, WP1	Project management focused on the quality of services, effective marketing (e.g., regular posts on success stories) and collaboration within the EDIH network; Feedback from stakeholders (not only clients); Ongoing evaluation of the project implementation.
2	Lack of expert capacity at a given time to provide the service (e.g., due to conflict with other projects) (Impact: high; likelihood: medium)	WP2, WP1	Regular communication with the Heads of Labs possessing required expertise; Supporting a system of substitution where necessary; Sufficiently large network of accredited experts used for services in WP2, T2.1
3	Administrative burden of the project (Impact: medium; likelihood: medium)	WP4, WP3, WP5, WP2, WP6, WP1	Implementation of established project management processes; Optimal project management structure
4	Further dramatic increase in energy prices (Impact: medium; likelihood: medium)	WP1	Price adjustment of Service 1.1 Testing HPC technologies (increase in co-financing by the company, or reallocation of part of eligible costs)
5	Failure to meet planned deliverables, especially KPIs (Impact: high; likelihood: low)	WP4, WP3, WP2, WP1	A project monitoring system in place to identify and respond to any critical developments
6	Low level of cooperation within the EDIH network (Impact: high; likelihood: low)	WP4, WP3, WP5, WP2, WP6, WP1	Emphasis on offering the strengths of EDIH OVA (e.g., WP1 services); Active participation in future "thematic" networks (see EDIH OVA as part of EDIH4MANU etc.)
7	Partner withdraws from project (Impact: high; likelihood: low)	WP4, WP3, WP5, WP2, WP6, WP1	Focus on teamwork across the project and open communication within the WPs to ensure continuity; Communication of the project to key stakeholders (including shareholders of the other beneficiary).

PART B**HISTORY OF CHANGES**

VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	04.07.2022	Initial version, Changes in Part A: Deliverable 5.3 (Due Date M12 → M6), Deliverable 5.4 (Due Date M24 → M18); Added Task T.4.4 Collaboration with Digital Transformation Accelerator (DTA) Task T.4.3 – removed sentence: <i>ii) the EDIH network and activities provided via DTA;</i>
1.1	19.07.2022	Improved explanation of subcontracting S2.1 and S2.3 within WP2 (chapter 4.4)
1.2	18.8.2022	Added description of the WP4 service to be subcontracted (chapter 4.4, page 35); (it was included in the budget but omitted to be described in the Subcontracting section)
1.3.	15.11.2022	Added Purchase cost explanations (chapter 4.5)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. RELEVANCE	2
1.1 Objectives and activities.....	2
1.2 Contribution to long-term policy objectives, policies and strategies — Synergies	7
1.4 Financial obstacles	7
2. IMPLEMENTATION	9
2.1 Maturity.....	9
2.2 Implementation plan and efficient use of resources	11
2.3 Capacity to carry out the proposed work	15
3. IMPACT	19
3.1 Expected outcomes and deliverables — Dissemination and communication	19
3.2 Competitiveness and benefits for society	22
3.3 Environmental sustainability and contribution to European Green Deal goals	23
4. WORK PLAN, WORK PACKAGES, TIMING AND SUBCONTRACTING	24
4.1 Work plan	24
4.2 Work packages and activities.....	25
<i>Work Package 1</i>	25
<i>Work Package 2</i>	26
<i>Work Package 3</i>	27
<i>Work Package 4</i>	28
<i>Work Package 5</i>	29
<i>Work Package 6</i>	30
4.3 Timetable.....	31
4.4 Subcontracting (n/a for prefixed Lump Sum Grants).....	31
4.5 Purchase costs	36
6. DECLARATIONS.....	37
ANNEXES.....	37

1. RELEVANCE

1.1 Objectives and activities

Objectives and activities

Describe how the project is aligned with the objectives and activities as described in the Call document.

How does the project address the general objectives and themes and priorities of the call? What is the project's contribution to the overall Digital Europe Programme objectives?

BACKGROUND:

- The EU's transformation process is built on the premise of the successful development and implementation of digitalisation and decarbonisation of the European economy, including their interconnectedness. This requires substantial investment in the digitalisation of production and related processes, in particular for SMEs;
- Digitalisation brings new solutions in key areas of industry, services, and public administration, as well as in the development of research methods and tools for academic institutions (see, e.g., the development of material sciences through theoretical calculations, using digital twins of machines and products in development phase instead of experimental work, 3D printing protocols, CPS systems, etc.);
- Entities, especially SMEs, mid-caps, and public organisations, with limited financial and/or staff capacity need to be offered crucial support in this transformation process. This is twice as important for the realities of the Czech economy (the second most industrialised country in the EU), where the progress of digitalisation and automation of production and services is still insufficient compared to Western economies;
- The provision of highly specialised services (expertise) is conditioned by the development of competences at the state-of-the-art level (e.g., development of scalable algorithms for industrial tasks, their deployment on HPC technologies, etc.);
- Support must be directed both at verifying digitalisation-related investments and at increasing the competence and confidence of workers in digitalisation itself, or at supporting the implementation of new projects in the form of start-ups or spin-offs based on the important factor of digitalisation;
- Local specialisation both within the region, here the Moravian-Silesian Region (CZ080 - "MSR"), and the whole Czech Republic needs to be better connected with the European research and economic area in terms of digital transformation. The EDIH network, complementary major European activities such as EuroHPC JU, etc. represent this important connection for both the region and the Czech Republic.

NEEDS addressed by the European Digital Innovation Hub Ostrava (EDIH OVA):

- Massive deployment of digitalisation, including "green and human-centric digitalisation" in companies in general, must in most cases be preceded by an individual approach, i.e. identification of the needs and opportunities of a particular company related to digitalisation (e.g., digiaudit). This necessarily involves activating the interest of the company's management in "digital change". Its proper implementation is not only a matter of financial investment (often considerable) and the necessary level of knowledge, but also of instilling confidence and promoting this change in the established structures of the company.
- Computer modelling, numerical simulations - including data analysis, management, visualisation - are modern tools to support innovation in application sphere. Their effective application is mostly based on the use of high-performance computing (HPC) technologies. HPC alone or HPC in combination with High Performance Data Analysis (HPDA) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) provide the means to tackle not only large, complex problems but also to widen further the use and uptake of these technologies not only in academia but also in public administration and industry. These techniques are gradually being used in various application areas and sectors, with the main reasons being the potential to exploit huge volumes of data from different sources and ever-improving IT technologies. Unfortunately, the pace and extent of their deployment is not sufficient for their potential, and their use is uneven, both in terms of sector and company size and financial strength.
- Simulation, modelling, and creation of digital twins is playing an increasingly important role in various parts of the production process in order to reduce costs, ensure better product quality, etc. However, the functional use of these techniques in this context, i.e. for the field of "manufacturing", is closely intertwined with other technological specialisations, such as signal processing means and techniques, communication means, control systems, robotic systems, etc.

- Founders of start-ups in progressive fields (biotechnology, aeronautics, smart health, smart agriculture, gaming, etc.) are often closer to the use of HPC and related technologies. In many cases, these start-ups are linked to know-how coming from research organisations (university spin-offs). The success of venture start-ups is always linked to the application of skills, experience, and links to the relevant business environment.
- An effective matchmaking between technology start-ups and public institutions, which can be the first customers of start-ups and thus enable their growth while streamlining their own operations.
- For the needs of EDIH network clients (and also EEN, EBN, and other networks), EDIH OVA will offer unique core-facilities of HPC technologies, tools and expertise, which are directly connected to the network of National Competence Centres in HPC within EuroHPC JU and which will cover a wide portfolio of needs arising from different levels of digital and market maturity of enterprises or business plans. This specialization will thus complement the expected distribution of specializations within the Czech Republic.
- Another addressed need is related to a higher degree of participation in regional (e.g., clusters, technology parks, working group of the Ostrava City Strategy, etc.) and national policies (e.g., National Innovation Platforms within the Smart Specialization Strategy (RIS3)), by sharing the experience gained from the EDIH network in the formation and implementation of these policies.
- The provision of EDIH OVA services is associated with the need to ensure a higher degree of standardization, inter alia, with regard to ensuring the servicing of a wider portfolio of services and clients, their different level of digital maturity, the need to ensure an individualized approach, especially in connection with the use of EDIH OVA expertise. The Digital Transformation Accelerator (DTA), which is being prepared, will be an important tool to help in tackling this need, including engaging with the EDIHs community, developing the EDIH OVA team (special training), linking with other relevant initiatives, supporting the EDIH OVA communication strategy, etc.

EDIH OVA OBJECTIVES

1. To take advantage of the unique connection of EDIH OVA to the core facilities for HPC **and thus significantly expand the use of HPC and related tools and techniques in the application area**, especially in SMEs and public organizations: we understand this expansion both from a quantitative point of view (increase in the number of entities using these technologies) and from a qualitative point of view (transition to solving more complex tasks);
2. **To use the experimental Testbed built on principles of Industry 4.0. for the benefit of companies in the field of manufacturing** with an emphasis on the digitalisation of V-model-based development processes and production processes;

EDIH OVA will not be narrowly defined in terms of sectors (HPC simulations, Big Data Analysis, etc. can be applied in many fields of human activity) but based on its technological specialization and experience to date, several sectors can be defined from which future EDIH OVA clients will be primarily recruited: Mechanical Engineering; Energy; Healthcare; Transport; and ICT. This fact results not only from the research, application-oriented expertise linked to EDIH OVA (engineering, materials, manufacturing), but also largely from the nature of the economy of the Moravian-Silesian Region, neighbouring regions, and the Czech Republic.

3. **To stimulate an increased interest in digital change, especially in SMEs from the MSR region, to prepare them for its effective implementation**, and/or to help companies to secure funds for the implementation of digitalisation solutions, and thus increase the level of digitalisation of SMEs;

In this respect, the activities of EDIH OVA will not necessarily be linked to its technological specialisation. Within the system of interconnected awareness-raising, development and individualised services, the level of digitalisation will be gradually increased, especially for SMEs from the MSR. If needs requiring solutions outside the EDIH OVA's own expertise/specialisation are identified during the work with SMEs from the MSR, either the expertise of another (E)DIH will be used, or the solution will be provided by a private supplier without a direct link to EDIH OVA.

4. **Provide services to support the development of start-ups** whose development is to a certain extent based on the use of digital technologies and **the scalability of their business** (entering foreign markets, connecting with investor groups, etc.);
5. **Ensure a high degree of internationalisation of activities**, including the services provided by EDIH OVA, in order to exploit the "competitive" advantages of the EDIH OVA specialisation, consisting mainly

in the combination of technological and research HPC specialisation with the fields of engineering, manufacturing, and materials;

6. **Strengthening the regional and national innovation ecosystem** through a higher level of involvement in coordinated support actions and platforms to foster interest and relevant competences in the field of digitalisation (joint projects with EEN, cluster associations, other DIHs, linkages to other support instruments, etc.);
7. **Standardisation and interoperability of EDIH OVA services**, inter alia in cooperation with DTA (quality of service assessment, Digital Maturity Assessment ("DMA") calibration, open data sharing, etc.).

SERVICES

In order to achieve these objectives, a number of EDIH OVA activities are set to be implemented, which are conceived in line with the concept of the main functions of the European Digital Innovation Hubs. The logic of these activities, which also include the services listed below, in relation to the set objectives is described in more detail in Section 2.2. The services themselves are further described in each WP in Section 4. According to the Terms of Reference, the following text focuses on "description of services and facilities foreseen and the price list for those services." EDIH OVA assumes that the composition and the specific conditions of the services can and will be adjusted during the project implementation based on the actual situation, especially with regard to the needs of potential clients.

The services planned for the target groups are as follows:

1.1 Testing HPC technologies (linked to WP1 T1.1)

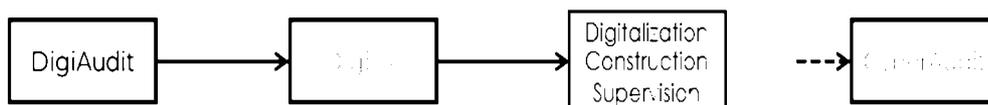
The main objective of this service is to make HPC technology more accessible to SMEs and/or public organizations. This service responds to the persistent barrier in the form of costly HW equipment and SW commercial licences most companies cannot afford. At the same time, it wants to provide significant added value by providing know-how in defining the task and developing and pilot testing a possible solution. The use of open-source software will be pursued to the maximum extent possible, but in the case of solving engineering problems it will be necessary, in some cases, to use commercial software. This service will also be designed for public sector clients and larger companies.

1.2 Testing for Digitized Manufacturing (linked to WP1 T1.2)

The application of automated and virtualized testing processes, using digitalisation software tools, optimizes processes, especially in terms of cost reduction and significant time savings in test execution. The main objective of this service is the development and deployment of new innovative procedures for performing verification and validation tests in the pre-development of the whole or part of the system. The output is then a sample testbench with a test or simulation application. The output for the client company is a customized solution of the digitized test application, training of the working staff, and the result of the tests for the specific device under development within the "test before invest".

2.1 Digital Readiness Support (linked to WP2 T2.1)

The aim of this service is to assess the readiness of company processes for digitalisation and to support the implementation of selected digitalisation change projects. The service consists of three interconnected sub-services and a complementary "cyber-security" audit service. This value chain of services reflects the needs identified within the regional platform MSR Digital, feedback from companies as well as the results of surveys conducted (e.g., according to the Czech Statistical Office, one fifth of medium-sized enterprises and 12% of small companies encountered at least one ICT security incident during 2020).



The aim is to prepare owners, management, and employees for the changes that come with the digital age and to help companies get key digitalisation changes right, support its further development, and be embraced by its key employees.

2.2 Skills for "Digitized Age" (linked to WP2 T2.2)

The aim of the service is to activate and increase interest in the use of digitalisation opportunities in companies (and public organisations). Through participation in interactive workshops (e.g., to develop/improve a digital strategy) or online events, general competences in the field of digitalisation will be developed. This service will be primarily aimed at owners, directors, and C-level managers of SMEs. The focus of each workshop will be regularly updated based on feedback from event participants.

2.3 Specific Oriented Training (linked to WP2 T2.3)

This service is aimed at increasing competences of company employees in the field of advanced simulations and modelling, the use of AI and machine learning, SW applications in the implementation of PLM (product development and production process). Insufficiently developed competences in these areas in companies (but also in the public sector) are one of the main barriers to the use of digitalisation, including the above-mentioned technologies in practice. Even in cases where companies have some knowledge, the horizon of its application does not usually exceed the level of use of simplified digital models. Therefore, even in these cases, it is necessary to offer the acquisition of competences using these technologies for cases that these companies can so far only deal with to a limited extent. The specific content of this service is, among other things, designed and gradually adjusted on the basis of the ongoing results of the Training Services Survey, which is provided by the project coordinator.

3.1 Idea Acceleration (linked to WP3 T3.1)

Start-ups, including those relying - even partially - on numerical simulations or modelling, usually need mentoring and advice in their early stages, while it is often important for the creation of their "minimum viable product" that they have the capabilities to perform the first proof of concept, which is often limited by their limited financial resources and knowledge. This service will be implemented in the form of a programme in which a business plan will be developed through experienced mentors and investors for start-ups whose successful development is conditional on the use of digital technologies. The service will be linked to the successful <https://greenlight.vsb.cz/en/> start-up programme of the project coordinator and also linked to other EDIH OVA services.

3.2 Support to Scale (linked to WP3 T3.2)

The aim of this service is to help small and medium-sized enterprises and public organisations to secure access to financial resources outside the EDIH Ostrava that will enable them to implement and further develop the necessary digitalisation solutions or support the development of a (new) business plan. This service will be implemented through individual consulting (financial, design of R&D project proposals, etc.), seminars (e.g., on grant opportunities) and matchmaking events (e.g., business angels network Founders4Founders). Where support is needed to enter international markets, partnerships with the EEN in the Czech Republic and Czechinvest will be used.

4.1 Brokerage and Scouting (linked to WP4 T4.1)

The aim of the service will be to connect the EDIH OVA clients to other stakeholders in the innovation ecosystem at regional, national, and European level in order to support further development of the client: digital change within their own organisation, identification of new innovation, and business opportunities. This service will be implemented in the form of individual support and organised brokerage events or the use of outgoing/incoming missions of EEN. In order to achieve the stated goal, the involvement of the R&D community will be important, thus the necessary steps of technology scouting will be provided by EDIH OVA.

FACILITIES

The main facility of EDIH OVA will be the **supercomputing infrastructure** of IT4Innovations National Supercomputing Center (IT4I@VSB), namely the **Karolina system** installed under the support of the EuroHPC JU in 2021. This HPC system is designed to coherently respond to the needs of its user communities, addressing complex scientific and industrial challenges, including standard numerical simulations, demanding data analysis, and AI applications. The following two parts of the system are expected to be used within the EDIH OVA services:

- a universal (CPU) part for standard numerical simulations, which consists of 720 computer servers with a theoretical peak performance of 3.8 PFlop/s;
- an accelerated (GPU) part with 72 servers and each of them being equipped with 8 GPU accelerators providing a performance of 11.6 PFlop/s for standard HPC simulations and up to 360 PFlop/s for artificial intelligence computations.

However, other parts of the IT4I@VSB supercomputing infrastructure can also be used for collaboration with industry (including commercial use), an overview of which is available [here](#).

Additional facilities of the EDIH Ostrava will be the expert and operational capacities of the **experimental Testbed** with the "Smart Factory Lab", "AIM Lab" and "Automotive Lab" built on principles of Industry 4.0. The

individual parts of the Testbed integrate HW technologies, experimental test systems and use software tools for the digitalisation of development, testing and production processes, e.g.:

- Industrial & autonomous robotics – 6-axis robotic arms KUKA, 3/6-axis robotic arms Mitsubishi Electric, MIR AGVs
- Automation & automated HiL testing systems – programmable controllers & ECUs Siemens and Vector Informatik, BaR, Bosch Rexroth, VT System Vector Informatik, dSpace
- Digital Twin, PLM/ALM & machine learning SW tools – NX, NX MCD, Tecnomatix Process Simulate, Visual Components, Teamcenter, 3DEXperience, codeBeamer, Matlab Simulink
- Analytical and testing SW tools – CANoe, vTESTstudio, Siemens Mind Sphere, MS Azure Stack

The indoor and outdoor testbed areas are covered by the industrial 5G Campus Network.

PRICE LISTS OF SERVICES

The individual prices were designed using a uniform method consisting of the following steps:

- a. Determination of attributable costs per 1 determined **average** case/participant/ enterprise supported.
- b. Proportional budgeting of the EDIH OVA operating costs (in particular WP5 and WP6 costs) down to the level of 1 case/participant/enterprise supported.
- c. Determining the appropriate profit rate: in some cases, the profit was calculated according to the prices existing on the market, such as the rental of computational resources (Service 1.1. Testing HPC technologies).

Note: both members of the consortium are legally obliged to adhere to the duty of care and diligence, i.e., to define a reasonable profit of an economic nature for all activities.

- d. A discount (= passing on value) is then derived from the defined value of the unit price per case (including full cost and reasonable profit). The discount provided for a given service is designed to achieve the EDIH OVA's not-for-profit economic result, i.e., the defined profit is reflected in the discount provided to the client.

Note 1: The discounts are planned to range from 85-100% of the market price depending on the scheme of application of the state aid rules at the level of the final beneficiaries and the nature of the transaction. The most common discount value for SMEs is assumed to be 85%. In the case of public organisations, a 100% discount will be granted.

Note 2: Participants assume that enterprises will be able to accept these subsidised services under a "de minimis" regime or also (in case of SMEs) under Article 28 GBER: Aid for Innovation Advisory Services. In exceptional cases, this may include support under Article 25 of the GBER: support for RDI projects (e.g., in the case of midcaps which have already exhausted the "de minimis" aid).

Note 3: The planned average value of the discount is determined both with regard to the stated plan of the non-profit character of EDIH OVA (lower discount rate = higher contribution of the company = higher income of EDIH OVA to cover non-eligible costs) and with regard to the demonstration of sufficient client motivation for the service (higher discount rate = risk of lower interest in (the quality of) the service).

Prices will always be finally calculated on the basis of the actual costs (or market price) of the service provided related to the case/supported enterprise/participant.

Determination of the below-mentioned prices is described in detail in Annex 8 entitled the Price List – Explanation.

Service Title	Unit	Market price (EUR)	Reduced price (EUR)	
			SMEs	Public org.
1.1 Testing HPC technologies	1 case* ¹	55 762	8 364	0
1.2 Testing for Digitized Manufacturing	1 case	41 322	6 198	_* ²
2.1 Digital Readiness Support	1 case	3 217	402	-
2.2 Skills for "Digitized Age"	1 participant** ³	301	45	0
2.3 Specific Oriented Training	1 participant	752	113	0
3.1 Idea Acceleration	1 supported enterprise* ¹	10 281	0* ⁴	-
3.2 Support to Scale	1 case	628	94	0
4.1 Brokerage and Scouting	1 case	651	98	0

- *1 The difference between “the case” and “the supported enterprise“ means that an enterprise can receive a given service for more than 1 case within the project implementation (however, it enters the calculation of the monitored KPI only once); in the case of services with the “supported enterprise” unit, it can receive such service only once;
- *2 „-“ The service is not intended for public organizations;
- *3 The price of the service is for 1 person; in the case of providing this service to more persons per enterprise, the price will be proportionally increased.
- *4 100% discount for this more financially demanding service is due to the fact that start-ups usually do not have free funds that would allow them to finance part of this service, or they will necessarily need the free funds they have for their further development.

1.2 Contribution to long-term policy objectives, policies and strategies — Synergies

Contribution to long-term policy objectives, policies and strategies — Synergies

Describe how the project contributes to long-term policy objectives of the call's domain/area and to the relevant policies and strategies, and how it is based on a sound needs analysis in line with the activities at European and national level.

What challenge does the project aim to address?

The objectives should be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound within the duration of the project.

The implementation of EDIH OVA will contribute to the fulfilment of the individual objectives of the call, including linking the network of "EDIHs with each other and with other projects selected in Digital Europe Programme developing capacities in High Performance Computing..." and "accelerating the best use of technologies".

EDIH OVA is directly linked through the project coordinator to the implementation of Specific Objective 1: High Performance Computing of Digital Europe Programme (DEP), which is a key instrument for the implementation of the European Commission's priority "Europe fit for the digital age". The expertise and infrastructure supported by the projects (co-)funded by the JU EuroHPC will constitute the main input capacity of EDIH OVA.

In the case of national and regional policy objectives, it is necessary to mention in particular the Smart Specialization Strategy (RIS3) of the Czech Republic, both its national and regional part. In the case of the national RIS3, one of the strategic themes is "Application of HPC": "...HPC gives many industries the opportunity to innovate and move to more valuable products and services, which is also a preparation for the development of new industrial applications together with other advanced digital technologies..." (Annex P1 National RIS3 Thematic Areas, p. 21). The Moravian-Silesian Innovation Centre Ostrava (MSIC), as a member of the EDIH OVA consortium, is also in charge of managing and coordinating the "entrepreneurial discovery process" (EDP) of RIS3 at the regional level and implementing the strategic projects of the RIS MSR. DIH OVA is also defined as a strategic project of the "MSR Development Strategy 2019 – 2027" and is seen as one of the key measures for the industrial and digital transformation of the region.

The members of the EDIH OVA consortium have long been cooperating with national and regional representatives of the EEN and Startup Europe networks, namely the Technology Centre of the CAS (EEN), the Chamber of Commerce of the MSR (EEN regional partner), and the CzechInvest agency (Startup Europe). In the Annex 9 "EEN and Startup Europe representatives - Expressions of Interest for Cooperation" there is a confirmation of this fact and an outline of future cooperation.

1.4 Financial obstacles

Financial obstacles

Describe to what extent the project can overcome financial obstacles such as the lack of market finance.

‡ *This criterion might not be applicable to all topics — for details refer to the Call document.*

The financial barriers associated with harnessing the potential of digital technologies primarily concern SMEs and public organisations. This problem is intensified in the context of access to costly services such as access to HPC resources (infrastructure and know-how). Large companies that can identify the potential of HPC technologies often respond by acquiring and operating their own computational resources (in the Czech Republic, see the case of the Škoda Auto car manufacturer). However, large companies are cautious about using public HPC centres for other reasons, such as the fear of handing over their own data to third parties. Although the higher level of HPC usage is also limited by other important factors in the case of SMEs and public organisations, high cost is undoubtedly one of the key factors. It is not only that the financial capabilities of these companies essentially do not allow them to acquire these costly high-tech tools, but also do not allow them to test the

potential of more sophisticated solutions compared to the established practices of using simplified digital models on conventional computational resources. Public HPC centres (including those supported by EuroHPC JU) are aware of this fact and are looking for ways to overcome this obstacle. The EDIH OVA coordinator, as also a representative of the public HPC centre, made enormous efforts in the past to explore possibilities to provide discounted services for the benefit of SMEs, e.g., in the form of discounted rental, etc. Unfortunately, the conditions associated with the acquisition of the infrastructure (in particular, the subsidy conditions of the ESIF operational programmes, with the majority financial participation of which the coordinator's HPC infrastructure has always been acquired) require the provision of services to companies only under market conditions, which goes completely against the intention of facilitating access for SMEs. Existing subsidy programmes have so far not allowed to finance (financially favour) a commercial service provided on HPC technologies. An exception is made by some H2020 projects, which allow to finance cases of testing the deployment of HPC technologies on the needs of companies, mostly in the form of the Proof of Concept. However, these projects have significant limitations, e.g., a budget limiting the number of possible cases to be supported or the obligation to publish selected information about the case to a degree that reduces the number of potential candidates. Only this call for EDIHs essentially creates, for the first time, the conditions for an environment where SMEs will be able to access HPC capacity on preferential terms if they meet selected criteria linked to demonstrating the need and potential of the case. A similar situation applies to access to the second EDIH OVA facility, i.e., the Smart Factory Testbed.

In the case of public organisations (especially larger ones such as university hospitals or regional authorities), the financial capacity is greater than that of SMEs. Unfortunately, these possibilities are very rarely used, the reason being a combination of the following factors: frequent lack of awareness of the need or potential of using high-tech digital technologies, bureaucratic (and legislative) complexity reducing the interest in pushing through innovation assignments with the allocated budget. This is why this EDIHs call provides an opportunity for public organisations to be more motivated to use these technologies.

Due to the lack of financial backing and distrust towards new technologies among SMEs, value chain services were prepared within EDIH OVA to increase their level of digitalisation. This value chain will enable the gradual initiation of important digitalisation projects (even on a smaller scale) and thus contribute to the gradual increase in the level of digitalisation.

This project also provides services that aim to support the establishment and further development of start-ups and existing companies. This is inevitably linked to the assumption of linking these services to business angels or investment funds. Both members of the consortium have several years of experience in attracting investments for their clients from start-ups and existing companies.

Last but not least, it is necessary to mention the synergies of the EDIH OVA activities (e.g., Digital Readiness Support) with upcoming subsidy opportunities (e.g., enabling the purchase of necessary HW and SW equipment in companies from ESIF funds). Space for these synergies will be created in the implementation of T3.2 WP3 and T4.1 WP4 activities.

2. IMPLEMENTATION

2.1 Maturity

Maturity

Explain the maturity of the project, i.e. the state of preparation and the readiness to start the implementation of the proposed activities.

SYSTEM LEVEL

EDIH OVA belongs to the strategic projects of the Moravian-Silesian Region and the period 2020-2021 can be considered as its pilot period. During this period, the established consortium has started piloting selected types of services and activities, which it would like to develop to a greater extent within the framework of the submitted project, with the financial support of the region. See [press release](#).

In the case of services, a regional DIH OVA scheme to support affordable services and access to the IT4Innovations supercomputers was piloted. Regional enterprises were allowed to apply for discounted, de minimis, pricing to HPC capacity.

The MSIC, as the regional RIS3 coordinator, started implementing activities to support digitalisation in the MSR under the name [MSR Digital](#) already in 2018. These activities include, among others, setting up the value chain of digitalisation services for SMEs, including piloting a "Digitalization Construction Supervision" programme (see WP2, T2.1 for more details), implementation of development trainings (70 participants in total in 2021), and regular meetings of the MSR Digital platform, which is part of the implementation structure of the RIS MSR and which brings together representatives of the triple helix in accordance with the principles of smart specialisation in order to ensure better coordination of digitalisation support activities at the regional level. These activities were financed within the framework of the contract concluded between the MSIC Ostrava, MSR, and the Statutory City of Ostrava (two main shareholders of MSIC), which was currently extended until 2025.

At the same time, it is important to note that the MSIC is part of the [Ynovate.cz](#) network consisting of eight other professional innovation centres in the Czech Republic established by regions, cities, and universities. By seeking synergies, direct cooperation with entrepreneurs and sharing contacts, it supports the creation and development of innovative companies. It supports the development of the regional innovation ecosystems through long-term partnerships with entrepreneurs and experts in various fields (including digitalisation). During January 2022, the MSIC Ostrava was also certified as an accredited member of the European Business Network.

Note: The predecessor of EDIH OVA, IT4Innovations Digital Innovation Hub, was announced as the DIH of the month in November 2019 within the DIHNET.EU network.

CASE LEVEL

The aim at this level is to present typical examples of support to SMEs (including start-ups) and public organisations. For examples of further cooperation with the application sphere, see in particular [examples of the use of IT4Innovations HPC computational resources](#).

Selection of the supported cases / cooperation with a particular entity:

a. Regional cases using the testing infrastructure:

Start-up "Ullmanna s.r.o." - The need for using machine learning in a newly developed weeding machine to automatically recognize crops from weeds: The aim was to create and validate, using HPC infrastructure ([Barbora GPU Clusters](#)), a neural network model applicable to inference on the terminal equipment (weeding machine) while meeting the limiting conditions of deployment (e.g., recognition accuracy). For details, see [here](#). This project demonstrates the follow-up complementarity of EDIH OVA activities (support for start-ups, preferential access to infrastructure, follow-up consulting services): the VSB-TUO accelerated the creation of this start-up (for more, see [here](#)), then provided preferential access to HPC services at IT4I@VSB as part of the DIH OVA regional pilot scheme. With regard to its potential, this project under the name "NEWMAN" (Non-chemical Weeding MACHiNe) has been selected for TOP5 supported out of a total of 93 applications in the AgROBOfood.eu call, with EDIH OVA providing business consulting service in the project. To trigger further funding, Ullmanna now cooperates with the MSIC Ostrava on preparing the grant application for the EIC Accelerator programme.

ME „Elvac a.s.“ – Commercial cooperation on the development of machinery that provides automatic robotic adjustment of headlights during their production. The end customers of the results of this joint ELVAC/VSB-TUO solution were major companies operating in the automotive industry, such as Varroc Lighting Systems and Automotive Lighting. The role of VSB-TUO was to design, implement, and verify the headlight adjustment

algorithms. For the verification of the developed algorithms, a model of the headlight and the developed workstation was created in the Smart Factory laboratory in the form of a digital twin. A laboratory test bench with a six-axis industrial robot, a programmable automaton and the relevant sensors were also implemented to test partial results of the solution before deployment in the final machine. This contract was followed by a joint project to research new methods applicable to this type of output inspection and product adjustment, with the aim of further developing Elvac's competence in this area. The project is now being implemented.

Public organization "University Hospital Ostrava" - Large-scale vaccination centre in Ostrava: IT4I@VSB experts have created a simulation of the passage through the vaccination centre, which makes it possible to detect critical points. For more, see [here](#).

b. Another example of the regional case: Medium enterprise "ANAJ Czech, a.s." - Local company ANAJ, which develops, manufactures, and sharpens special tools for chip machining in the engineering sector, has received a package of three EDIH OVA services aimed at supporting digital readiness. The first service, a digital audit, identified three bottlenecks that hindered the company's further development and whose remedy is linked to the implementation of the necessary digital change (longer delivery time, higher costs, lower profits). A paperless workshop project was selected as the term of reference for the following digiUP service. A change project was developed and fine-tuned to match the actual equipment, status, and readiness of the company. The collaboration was concluded with the "Digitalization Construction Supervision" service, which included not only overseeing the smooth implementation, but also training key employees so that the new systems and processes were fully and flawlessly utilized. For more, see [here](#).

INSTITUTIONAL COOPERATION LEVEL

Cooperation with other EDIH status candidates

The main objective of the call is to create a network of EDIHs. Although this network will be created and developed mainly during the implementation of the project, the applicant has decided to take an active approach to mapping and identifying possible cooperation in the preparation of the project itself. In the course of this preparation, a number of potential partners in the future network of EDIHs were identified, emphasis was placed on the geographical (and to some extent related to this, 'customary') proximity of other partners, existing cooperation, and complementarity of specializations.

EDIH OVA is part of the newly-established EDIH4Manufacturing network:

The EDIH Manufacturing Network (EDIH4Manu) is an informal multi-country, interregional, and open collaboration network (corridor) of **25 EDIHs candidates and 25 regions from 15 Countries sharing a Smart Specialization in Manufacturing**. EDIH4Manu networks more than 60 Universities and R&I centers, 25 business associations and technology clusters, and 3 EIT nodes (Manufacturing, Digital, Raw Materials). EDIH4Manu regions encompass the essentials of the EU manufacturing industry: 40% of EU manufacturing added value, 25% of EU manufacturing companies and 30% of employees. However, the network is in the initiation phase and will be open to other EDIHs from other regions during the expansion phase allowing to enhance and expand the complementary set of services and expertise for EDIHs customers.

Map of EDIH4Manufacturing Regions



EDIH4Manu members cooperate on a voluntary basis to meet the Green-Digital Transformation needs of regional SMEs (as in regional Smart Specialisation Strategies) and of the overall European companies landscape. In order to fill this gap and meet SMEs expectations, the EDIH4Manu network leverages activities and achievements of existing interregional initiatives supporting manufacturing SMEs digital transformation including: Smart Specialisation Platform on Industrial Modernisation, Vanguard Initiative etc. EDIH4Manu builds on a long-term experience in supporting the EU SMEs digital transformation with dedicated services. All partners have been cooperating in several H2020 funded projects to create and support EDIH capacity building within Smart Anything Everywhere (SAE) and I4MS initiatives, in supporting digital transformation of SMEs with different EDIH oriented services.

The EDIH OVA's main focus within this network is on providing access to HPC facilities. On the other hand (and as an example), from the position of automotive companies operating in the MSR, the technological area of collaborative robots of the EDIH Lombardia (the coordinator of EDIH4MANU) appears interesting in the preliminary screening.

Within the Czech Republic, a strategic agreement was made between three EDIHs candidates that were selected in the national round with each of them fulfilling one of the specific objectives of the Digital Europe Programme:

the EDIH CTU at Artificial Intelligence, the EDIH OVA at HPC, and the Cybersecurity Innovation Hub at Cybersecurity.

At the same time, EDIH OVA and EDIH DIGIMAT - Flexible Manufacturing Systems Using Artificial Intelligence consortium members are already collaborating. This cooperation is mainly between the MSIC (a member of the EDIH OVA) and INTEMAC (a member of EDIH DIGIMAT) in the field of sharing digital audit methodology, sharing data and creating a common benchmark, and defining criteria for selected specialists and sharing them with each other. The MSIC also cooperates with the JIC (a member of EDIH DIGIMAT and a member of the EEN Czech Republic) in sharing experts (see the above-mentioned [Ynovate.cz](https://ynovate.cz) network), organizing joint workshops and seminars in the field of, e.g., access to finance.

To strengthen cross-border cooperation, the cooperation with the "Silesia Smart Systems" (Gliwice, Poland) EDIH candidate was established (plan: client exchanges/sharing - 3 cases/year; cross border brokerage events) as well as with ZINTECH – European Digital Technology Hub Hub of the North-Western Slovakia.

The interest for cooperation was also expressed with EDIH candidate BIREX – Big Data Research and Innovation Excellence (Bologna, Italy) – joint “HPC domain”, building on previous cooperation with CINECA (the largest Italian computing centre) – as well as with EDIH.energy.ai.mobility (Austria) – expected especially clients from energy sector.

The (planned) cooperations with the above-mentioned EDIH candidates have been concluded and specified in the form of Memorandums of Understanding, which are included in Annex 10 "Other EDIH candidates - Expressions of Interest for Cooperation".

Level of engagement with other entities outside the EDIH network

The EDIH OVA members have long been cooperating with the EEN network at regional and national level. In August 2021, on behalf of EDIH OVA, they have already jointly expressed their support to the consortium (led by the Technology Centre of the CAS, Czech Republic) that has successfully submitted the BISON3T project (the "SMP-COSME-2021-EEN: Enterprise Europe Network call) for the provision of EEN services for the period January 2022 - June 2025. The main cooperation is planned to follow the activities defined in WP4 and WP5 of this project.

Similarly, cooperation with the CzechInvest agency, the guarantor of the Startup Europe initiative in the Czech Republic, has been ongoing for a long time. This cooperation takes a number of forms, for example, the physical location of the CzechInvest office in the premises of the MSIC, co-organization of events aimed at supporting business development, participation of both consortium members in the Platform for Innovation and Business Infrastructures of the Czech Republic (PIPI). The main cooperation is planned in connection with the activities defined in WP3 of this project.

2.2 Implementation plan and efficient use of resources

Implementation plan

Show that the implementation work plan is sound by explaining the rationale behind the proposed work packages and how they contribute to achieve the objectives of the project.

Explain the coherence between the objectives, activities, planned resources and project management processes.

Show how the project integrates, builds on and follows up on any pre-existing work or EU funded projects. Provide details (including architecture and deliverables) about pre-existing technical solutions.

LOGIC OF THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The structure of the work plan is set out in the logic of the main functions that an EDIH should fulfil. The first four WPs (WP1-WP4) reflect these individual functions and will be implemented primarily through the provision of services to companies and public organisations.

In terms of the distribution of individual WPs, the following summary characteristics can be given:

WP1 „Test before invest “—support provided to the client on a non-negligible scale in order to provide preferential access to the unique EDIH OVA capacities, infrastructure and know-how; Services:

- 1.1 Testing HPC technologies
- 1.2 Testing for Digitized Manufacturing

WP2 „Readiness, skills and training “– development of digital readiness and digital maturity of the client, its knowledge and skills; Services:

- 2.1 Digital Readiness Support
- 2.2 Skills for "Digitized Age"
- 2.3 Specific Oriented Training

WP3 „Support to find investments “– development of the client-enterprise, which is dependent on the need to use digital technologies with an emphasis on finding further options for funding digitalisation projects and development of enterprises; Services:

- 3.1 Idea Acceleration
- 3.2 Support to Scale

WP4 „Innovation ecosystem and networking “– activities with the objective to create an environment for using the cooperation potential with local, regional, national as well as European partners; Services:

- 4.1 Brokerage and Scouting

WP5 „Marketing, communication and dissemination” – activities with the objective to stimulate interest in the EDIH OVA services and to raise awareness about the need for digitalisation associated with communicating the implementation, results, and benefits of EDIH OVA;

WP6 „Management and quality control“

In addition to the direct services to clients (under WP1-WP4), the project will implement a number of other activities that are necessary to ensure the full functioning of the EDIH. This is, for example, visible in WP4 "Innovation ecosystem and networking": building structured relationships with important stakeholders of the innovation ecosystem is an example of activities that are not and in principle cannot be delivered as direct services to clients. However, the grant support for costs of these activities (soft measures), including WP5 and WP6, must ultimately be passed on to the target group in view of the conditions of the call, which is why these costs are proportionally budgeted in the pricing of the individual services.

The key intention of EDIH OVA is to offer clients access to the unique capabilities of EDIH OVA. Therefore, the main focus is on the EDIH function "Test before Invest", which is also reflected in the planned costs of WP1. Conversely, and without underestimating the function of developing the "Innovation Ecosystem and Networking" (WP4), the services and activities fulfilling this function will be implemented on a more limited financial scale. This is partly due to the assumption that some activities will be carried out in cooperation with third parties, e.g., joint workshops with EEN representatives, where, inter alia, costs will be shared, and part of the costs will also be covered from other sources. At the same time, it will be the case that many of the networking activities carried out by the MSIC in fulfilling its role as the regional RIS3 coordinator will take place (as is currently the case) without a direct objective of supporting digitalisation (i.e. outside EDIH OVA) and yet have an impact on shaping the innovation ecosystem in the area of digitalisation (e.g., coordination of a regional working group to support start-ups).

As already mentioned in Section 2.1 of the application, MSIC will dispose limited funds for activities supporting digitalisation in companies (at least till 2025). In the project, these resources are part of the "own resources" item. These resources are essentially intended for activities identical in content to the EDIH OVA functions (namely WP2 to WP5).

The financial resources for the EDIH OVA project will consist of contributions from the Digital Programme and the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic, the MSIC own resources (to cover eligible costs), and income from clients of the services (to cover ineligible costs of EDIH OVA).

The performance of these services and implementation of activities will be continuous throughout the project implementation. From this perspective, all but one of the tasks in the project are captured in the timetable as

continuous from the beginning to the end of the project. Of course, during their implementation there will be a gradual increase and improvement of performance.

Most of the services and other accompanying activities will be implemented or can be implemented in English. This fact creates a prerequisite for successful cooperation within the EDIH network and for attracting foreign clients.

CONNECTIONS WITH OTHER EU-FUNDED PROJECTS WITH PARTICIPATION OF EDIH OVA MEMBERS

EDIH OVA will base its services in its primary technological specialization on the results and experience from projects implemented within the EuroHPC JU or many projects funded by the H2020 programme. These projects can be broadly divided into system-oriented, research-application oriented, and projects aimed at addressing specific needs of companies.

A key system-oriented project is the "National Competence Centre in HPC - EuroCC project" (no. 951732) that aims to gather the necessary expertise to create a trans-European network of national coordination centres on topics related to HPC. These centres include IT4I@VSB, which is both the reference and the single point of contact and coordination in the Czech Republic. The NCCs are intended to provide an environment for the coordination and implementation of necessary activities and the provision of services to end-users from both industry and academia according to their needs. The aim of this project is therefore primarily to raise competences in HPC, and to a very limited extent (e.g., in the form of several Proofs of Concept, using capacity-limited access to HPC resources or technical consultancy) to verify or apply them for the benefit of users. The competences developed in the EuroCC project will thus be fully applicable in the EDIH OVA project in the implementation of specific commercial cases in the framework of "Test before Invest" (WP1) or "Skills and training" (WP2).

The LEXIS (Large-scale Execution for Industry & Society) project is an example of research-application oriented projects with which the applicant has many years of experience. EDIH OVA will be able to benefit from this example project not only from particular results (esp. LEXIS platform to be offered within WP1 T1.1) but also from the experience of collaboration with foreign companies, including SMEs.

EDIH OVA members also have experience in participating in the implementation of projects that are similar in nature to the planned mode of operation of EDIHs (e.g., users/clients are selected only during the project implementation) and are also primarily focused on finding solutions to real needs from practice:

- a. EC initiative I4MS: Project „Cloudifacuring“ (Cloudification of Production Engineering for Predictive Digital Manufacturing) - VSB-TUO as a project partner
- b. EC initiative SAE: Project „Tetramax“ (TEchnology TRAnsfer via Multinational Application eXperiments) - VSB-TUO as a project partner
- c. Robotics - Digital Innovation Hubs (DIH) Project „agROBOfood“ – EDIH OVA as one of the DIHs in the project.

Thanks to its participation in these projects, EDIH OVA will benefit from experience both in the area of hub management setup (client selection conditions, client access) and from the implementation of individual cases (e.g., within the Cloudifacuring project, IT4I@VSB played the role of the technology provider).

Project management, quality assurance and monitoring and evaluation strategy

Describe the measures planned to ensure that the project implementation is of high quality and completed in time.

Describe the methods to ensure good quality of monitoring, planning and control activities.

Describe the evaluation methods and indicators (quantitative and qualitative) to monitor and verify the outreach and coverage of the activities and results. The indicators proposed to measure progress should be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound.

The implementation of the project plan will be systematically monitored (within WP6, see also organisational structure described below in “Consortium management and decision-making risk”). Unless the grant agreements provide otherwise, the following scheme is foreseen:

The Consortium member will appoint a point of contact that will be responsible for sending resource reports to the Project Manager of the Coordinator: these resource reports will show effort expended by activities and other costs disbursed. Each Work Package Leader will act as the primary point of contact for the work package: he or she will be responsible for sending quarterly work package reports to the Project Manager (PM) of the Coordinator: these reports will show progress on each of the tasks of the activities and qualify the work of each member on those tasks. The implementation of individual WPs is linked to the achievement of set deliverables, i.e., indicators (see Section 3.1. for more information) and other project outputs (listed in the description of

individual WPs). Therefore, a key part of work package reports will be information on the status of implementation of individual deliverables, including justification and proposals for further steps.

Evidence from the service quality assessment survey as well as DMA results (before and after intervention (e.g. service provided)) will also be collected continuously at PM level (see WP6, T6.2).

PM will combine these reports and materials into a management report, for discussion and work at the level of the Executive Board and then (once per half a year) at the level of the General Assembly. It will be used a) for setting up project feedback (towards individual WPs) and b) for reporting purposes to the grant providers, including the European Commission. See also the description below under "Consortium management and decision-making risk".

Milestones are set in the project. In the case of services provided to clients, it is the fulfilment of the set interim value of the monitored indicator by the selected date (18 months after the start of the project). These milestones were chosen to identify and evaluate the status of the indicator at a stage when any insufficient (negative) development can still be corrected by appropriate measures during the project implementation.

For the provision of digital readiness support services (WP2, T2.1), a specific mid-term evaluation of these services will be carried out in M31-M36 (WP2, T2.4) to determine the impact of the programmes on SMEs in complementarity with the DMA.

Cost effectiveness and financial management (n/a for prefixed Lump Sum Grants)

Describe the measures adopted to ensure that the proposed results and objectives will be achieved in the most cost-effective way.

Indicate the arrangements adopted for the financial management of the project and, in particular, how the financial resources will be allocated and managed within the consortium.

⚠: Do NOT compare and justify the costs of each work package, but summarize briefly why your budget is cost effective.

During the preparation of the project, great care was taken to determine the costs of the project: 1) internal costs are determined based on internal regulations and the coordinator's own and other beneficiaries' experience and correspond to prices prevailing at the time and place. Specifically: personnel costs are in line with the salary regulations of the participants and are not increased in any way for the project; other direct costs are based on supply contracts concluded on the basis of transparent public tenders. 2) In the case of external supplies, in particular training or software rental, market surveys or preliminary market consultations have been carried out. These facts are thus reflected in the budget and in the price list of services: a) for most services, the price is given in average value (as it is verified that individual cases of service provision will vary depending on the form of inputs used (e.g., type of HPC infrastructure used, amount of expertise needed, etc.)); b) the eligible costs of the project are not able to cover all the costs of the project (among other things, the reality is a higher level of overhead costs than the 7% covered by the project) - in this regard, additional funding mechanism is set up (income from companies, is shown in the budget as "income generated by project").

The costs are thus based on the planned involvement of individual inputs (e.g., staff capacity broken down by job classification, number of server-hours used depending on the type of infrastructure used) necessary for the fulfilment of planned outputs, which are reflected in individual deliverables (i.e., also monitored indicators of services provided).

The application of the corporate revenue mechanism should not only be mentioned in the context of the fulfilment of the purpose of the coverage of the ineligible costs collected: this mechanism to some extent positively influences the selection of clients in favour of those who are genuinely interested in the service and care about its quality (since the service will not be completely free). In this respect, it is only necessary to recall that the whole grant received will be passed on (a condition of the call) to the clients, in particular the companies, in the form of services provided.

Financial management will be based on an agreed budget split between the coordinator and the other beneficiary. This budget split takes into account the distribution of tasks and costs associated with their performance for both stakeholders in the project. The consortium agreement with the commitment to take into account the final form of the grant agreements with the EC (50%) and the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic (50%) regulates the financial management rules of EDIH OVA. The financial management will be the responsibility of the Coordinator (through his Management Team), who will translate the detailed regime of payments, financial reporting etc. required by the funders towards the Coordinator into an optimal set-up of the regime towards the other beneficiary.

2.3 Capacity to carry out the proposed work

Consortium cooperation and division of roles (if applicable)

Describe the participants (Beneficiaries, Affiliated Entities and Associated Partners, if any) and explain how they will work together to implement the project. How will they bring together the necessary expertise? How will they complement each other?

In what way does each of the participants contribute to the project? Show that each has a valid role and adequate resources to fulfil that role.

Note: *When building your consortium you should think of organisations that can help you reach objectives and solve problems.*

EDIH OVA is a consortium consisting of two entities:

The Coordinator is VSB – Technical University of Ostrava (VSB-TUO) and the other beneficiary is the Moravian-Silesian Innovation Centre Ostrava, a.s. (MSIC).

VSB-TUO is a public research organisation that provides higher education primarily in technical disciplines while engaging in research, innovation, and other creative activities. It is one of the leading public universities in the Czech Republic. One of the main technical specialisations (among others, the most important in terms of scientific performance) is the field of information technology. This area is institutionally provided at the level of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (FEI@VSB) and the research institute of IT4Innovations National Supercomputing Center (IT4I@VSB). Both of these units are part of the EDIH OVA project, to which they will provide primarily their technological specialisation (a more detailed description of both units is available in the Catalogue of Candidate European DIHs on the [Smart Specialisation Platform](#)). IT4I@VSB brings to the project core-facility HPC technologies, tools, and expertise, including their use for the benefit of the application sphere. This input is primarily the content of WP1 (T1.1) and also WP2 (T2.3). FEI@VSB is primarily contributing its capabilities developed in the experimental industrial testbed with Smart Factory Lab, Automotive Lab (development and testing of systems for autonomous transport), AIM.Lab (artificial intelligence in manufacturing). This input will also be the content of the activities implemented in WP1 (T1.2) and WP2 (T2.3). The coordinator also has experience in supporting start-ups, which they are ready to apply in WP3 (T3.1). The successful implementation of the services defined in WP1-WP3 presupposes their use at national and European level, as will be the case of sharing of experience with other stakeholders. Therefore, the coordinator will also be involved in WP4. Thanks to the experience from the implementation of dozens of national and international projects, VSB-TUO is ready to provide the overall management, marketing, and communication of the project (WP5-WP6).

The MSIC is the regional innovation centre of the Moravian-Silesian Region. It has 5 shareholders, including the Moravian-Silesian Region, the Statutory City of Ostrava, VSB – TUO and two other regional universities. The key task of the MSIC is the coordination of Regional Innovation Strategy (RIS3), individual business support services for start-ups and SMEs, and implementation of initiatives strategically important for the MSR, including MSR Digital (for details, see [Smart Specialisation Platform](#)). The aim of the MSR Digital initiative is to support digitalisation in companies (especially SMEs) operating in the region, and one of the main activities is the offer of digital readiness support services, which the MSIC plans to provide on a larger scale within EDIH OVA (WP2, T2.1). The MSIC works with companies to support their development in different areas. This support is mostly aimed at activating and strengthening the motivation of company management to make the necessary changes, which is linked to increasing at least general knowledge and skills in the subject area of the planned change. The MSIC is ready to carry out this task with the aim of increasing the use of digital technologies in companies within WP2, T2.2. Individual business support services of the MSIC also include advice and support in the identification and acquisition of financial resources (public and private). The MSIC will develop this task with focus on companies planning or implementing digital change in WP3 (T3.2, and contributing its know-how to T3.1). The RIS3 coordination, incl. EDP, at the regional level, predisposes the MSIC to secure management also of the relevant content part of WP4, especially T4.2.

Both participants are ready to release the necessary human resources for the project. The key persons planned for the project and the key expert positions are listed below. All identified members of the project team also speak English at a level needed to handle tasks and communicate with foreign entities (clients, representatives of other EDIHs).

Project teams and staff

Describe the project teams and how they will work together to implement the project.

List the staff included in the project budget (budget category A) by function/profile (e.g. project manager, senior expert/advisor/researcher, junior expert/advisor/researcher, trainers/teachers, technical personnel, administrative personnel etc. and describe briefly their tasks.

Name and function	Organisation	Role/tasks/professional profile and expertise
Martin Duda Executive Manager	COO	<u>Role:</u> project management (WP6) <u>Profile:</u> experienced in grant management, technology transfer and support of start-ups; ex-CSO of IT4I@VSB, former Board Member of the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic
Adéla Hradilová Executive Board Member and WP2 leader	BEN	<u>Role:</u> coordinator of BEN activities, managing WP2 <u>Profile:</u> experienced in grant management, support of SMEs, coordination of regional RIS3; Board Member of MSIC responsible for service development and PR&communication
Petr Šimoník Executive Board Member	COO	<u>Role:</u> coordination of activities concerning the use of industrial testbed <u>Profile:</u> Assistant professor, vice-dean for cooperation with industry, expert in automotive and robotics
Richard Sladký Project manager	COO	<u>Role:</u> operating and administrative management of the project, Head of Administrative Support <u>Profile:</u> managing administration of ESIF and H2020 projects, esp. focus on joint activities with project partners;
Tomáš Karásek WP1 leader	COO	<u>Role:</u> managing WP1 and coordination of activities concerning the use of HPC infrastructure <u>Profile:</u> Head of Parallel Algorithms research Lab at IT4I@VSB
Andrea Šimoníková WP3 leader	COO	<u>Role:</u> managing WP3, <u>Profile:</u> former Head of Business Unit at VSB-TUO
Martin Jurek WP4 leader	BEN	<u>Role:</u> managing WP4 <u>Profile:</u> PhD in automation, project developer, managing joint labs of MSIC and MS region automotive cluster, coordinator of MSR Digital working group
Zuzana Červenková WP5 leader	COO	<u>Role:</u> managing WP5 <u>Profile:</u> Head of Communication Dep. at IT4I@VSB
Senior/ junior researchers	COO	<u>Role:</u> implementation of tasks in WP1 <u>Profile:</u> experienced in using research/experimental infrastructure for commercial use
E.g. Kateřina Slaninová / Stanislav Böhm		<u>E.g. role:</u> Principal Investigator/Co-Investigator for a client within the Testing HPC technologies service <u>E.g. profile:</u> experienced in advanced data analysis and simulations
Senior experts	COO / BEN	<u>Role:</u> implementation of specific tasks within WP3, WP4, and WP5 <u>Profile:</u> at least 10 years of experience in the field <u>E.g. role:</u> Presales manager (WP5)
E.g. Tomáš Stejskal		<u>E.g. profile:</u> more than 15 years of experience in business development and IT solution sales;
Trainers/Mentors	COO / BEN	<u>Role:</u> implementation of tasks in WP2 and WP3 <u>Profile:</u> experienced in providing training or mentoring in the fields such as numerical simulations, scaling start-ups etc. <u>E.g. role:</u> Course instructor (WP2)
E.g. George Zitzlsberger		<u>E.g. profile:</u> Expertise in Fundamentals of Deep Learning for Multi-GPUs (Nvidia Deep Learning Institute)
Administrative and technical personnel	COO / BEN	<u>Role:</u> administrative and technical support for proper implementation of the project activities
E.g. Josef Zedník		<u>E.g. role:</u> implementation of the tasks in WP6, financial management of the project on the side of BEN <u>E.g. profile:</u> experienced in project financial management, state aid rules

Outside resources (subcontracting, seconded staff, etc)

If you do not have all skills/resources in-house, describe how you intend to get them (contributions of members, partner organisations, subcontracting, etc.) and for which role/tasks/professional profile/expertise

If there is subcontracting, please also complete the table in section 4.

Beneficiaries do not have the necessary know-how to solve some parts of the tasks, therefore external resources will be involved in the project through subcontracting. These are the following core groups:

1) expertise related to the use of SW tools, especially commercial SW, on HPC technologies and industrial testbed infrastructure. This expertise is firstly related to the provision of solutions planned under WP1, in particular T 1.1. In this respect, it is important to mention that it will cover only a limited number of cases where the use of these expert services is necessary. Secondly, this expertise will be provided in the implementation of the specialised training under WP2, T2.3. It should also be noted that for some types of commercial software, which are often optimal for solving engineering problems, the manufacturer has set the condition of exclusive representation for the territory, including the exclusive right to provide training or other forms of support.

2) partial services (e.g., PCB design, 3D printing services, SPICE processes) within complex cases for the client related to the use of the industrial testbed within WP1 T1.2.

3) services of mentors, experts, specialists, and consultants in the framework of the WP2 to WP4 task. The involvement of proven experts, always with many years of experience in digitalisation, business processes, company management, is expected. In addition to the network of accredited experts/specialists that MSIC has at its disposal (about 110 experts), the Ynovate.cz network and the network of coordinator lecturers (for WP3) will be used.

Beneficiaries are experienced in processing the purchase of external services, always following internal regulations and in accordance with the Public Procurement Act.

Consortium management and decision-making risk(if applicable)

Explain the management structures and decision-making mechanisms within the consortium. Describe how decisions will be taken and how regular and effective communication will be ensured. Describe methods to ensure planning and control.

Note: *The concept (including organisational structure and decision-making mechanisms) must be adapted to the complexity and scale of the project.*

The cooperation of Consortium members (beneficiaries) was defined in a Memorandum of Understanding (January 2020), and in November 2020 it was elaborated into a consortium agreement according to the Model Grant Agreement for H2020 programme, which sets out the rules for the management of EDIH OVA. The main provisions related to the management of the consortium are:

The General Assembly (hereinafter GenA) is the decision-making body of the consortium. GenA consists of one representative of each Consortium member. GenA decides on key EDIH OVA matters, including substantial changes to the consortium work plan, selection of key management personnel, etc. Approval of both consortium members is required for decisions to be made. GenA is chaired by the Coordinator that convenes ordinary meetings at least every six months and can convene extraordinary meetings at any time upon written request from any member. The contract also provides for the establishment of External Expert Advisory Board (EEAB), which will be composed of representatives of SMEs, public organisation, and persons engaged in HPC, technology transfer, and engineering, and which will give advices especially on the strategic direction of EDIH OVA with regard to the future perspectives and trends. EEAB will be established before the start of the project implementation.

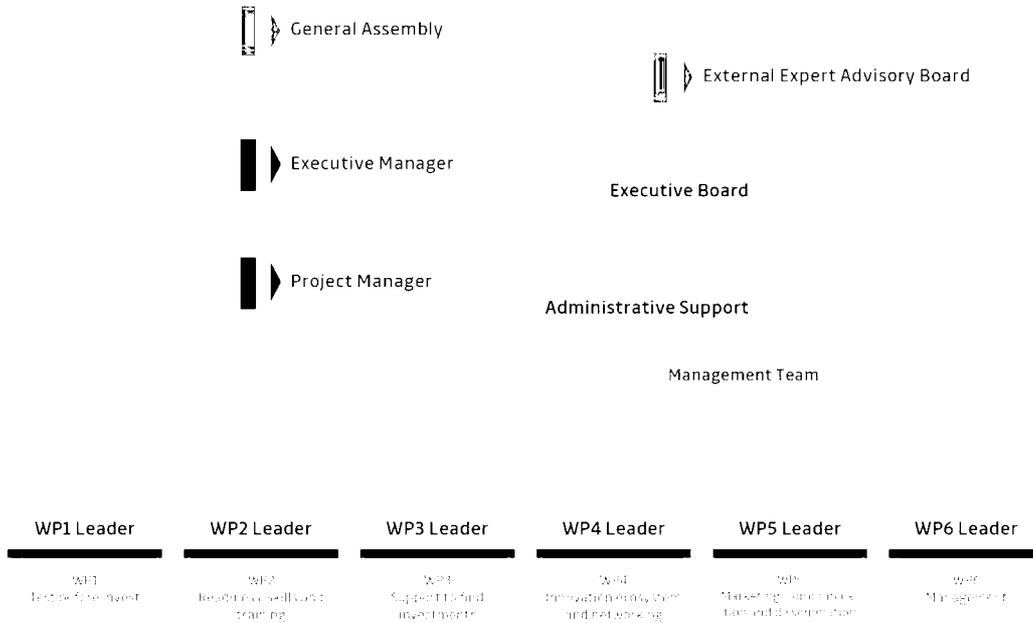
The project coordinator is responsible for fulfilling the tasks set out in the grant agreement(s), consortium agreement, ensuring effective implementation of the EDIH OVA project, organization and agenda of GenA meetings, communication with grant providers, etc;

The agreement sets out procedural principles, including funding, handling of confidential information, including the need to take into account any future obligations arising from grant agreements for European Digital Innovation Hubs. Other important legal aspects are anchored in the agreement, such as early termination of the agreement, know-how contributed to the project, ownership of the results generated in the project, etc. In principle, the agreement is set up in a way that respects the equivalence of the two consortium members. Any disagreements that arise that prevent the proper implementation of the project are to be resolved at the level of the GenA. In the event that agreement cannot be reached at this level, the moment of dispute resolution occurs at the level of the statutory representatives.

Management team assists the GenA and the Coordinator. It has two main levels: 1. Executive Board and 2. Administrative Support. Executive Board consists of three members: Executive Manager of EDIH OVA, another representative of the Coordinator and one representative of the other beneficiary. The Board is responsible for the management and coordination of the project, including ensuring that the tasks of the individual members are carried out in relation to the set deliverables and budgets. Its meetings are expected to take place every 14 days. Administrative support, headed by the Project Manager, ensures the operational and administrative level of the project.

Responsibility for the implementation of the individual WPs rests with the relevant WP Leaders.

Organizational scheme of the EDIH OVA management:



3. IMPACT

3.1 Expected outcomes and deliverables — Dissemination and communication

Expected outcomes and deliverables

Define and explain the extent to which the project will achieve the expected impacts listed in Call document.

EDIH OVA will provide services to its clients during the project implementation in the scope and structure linked to the achievement of these set KPIs (which are clearly linked to deliverables):

1. Number of businesses and public sector entities which have used		Total	SMEs	Midcaps	Public entities	Location (outside the region)
EDIH OVA services (Total)	No.	303	227	39	37	70
	%		75%	13%	12%	23%
1.a "Test before invest" activities allowing beneficiaries to test technologies	No.	52	42	5	5	26
	%		80%	10%	10%	50%
1.b Training activities	No.	225	169	36	20	45
	%		75%	16%	9%	20%
1.c Access to finance	No.	74	54	0	20	11
	%		73%	0%	27%	15%
1.d Networking activities	No.	45	34	4	7	9
	%		75.5%	9%	15.5%	20%

Additional commentary:

- DEP capacity – technology tested and used – within 1a. „Test before invest“ will be **HPC**,
- Primarily covered sector: **Industry 4.0**
- **The total sum of supported entities in this KPI does not correspond to the sum of the values of the sub-indicators, as some clients receive services monitored in multiple sub-indicators (e.g., 1.b Trainings activities + 1.c Access to finance).**
- Within a given sub-indicator (e.g., 1.b), an entity (e.g., a small enterprise) is reported only once, although in many cases it receives multiple services (e.g., a comprehensive service under 2.1 Digital Readiness Support and 2.2 Skills for Digitized Age).

2. Amount of additional investments successfully triggered (e.g., through venture capital, bank loan, etc.)	EUR 8 mil.
3. Number of collaborations foreseen with other EDIHs and stakeholders outside the region at EU level	20 per a year

Additional commentary:

- The estimate for KPI 2 is primarily based on the successful implementation of services under WP3: investment in supported start-ups, and under support to scale, obtaining resources from commercial or (partly-)publicly funded instruments (e.g., EIF and RRF co-investment fund);
- For KPI 3, the value counts primarily one-off collaborations and joint actions. Within the EDIH4MANU subnetwork, a debate on jointly shared infrastructure and complementary service portfolio has been initiated, similarly in the case of cross-border candidates (EDIH Silesia). In this respect, EDIH OVA plans not only to provide services to clients from other EDIHs, or to take over clients referred by other EDIHs, but has a mechanism to offer the infrastructure itself (its part, storage capacity type) for the needs of service performance implemented by another EDIH.

The following KPI is not linked to the performance of a specific service (there is no price for the client), but it is linked to the implementation of a number of activities, especially in the context of the tasks in WP4 and WP5.

4. Number of businesses and public sector entities which have used		Total	SMEs	Midcaps	Public entities	Location (outside the region)
Information services (e.g., participation to events)	No.	700	450	50	200	250
	%	100%	64%	7%	29%	35.7%

The primary focus of the EDIH OVA project (see planned allocations per WP and scope of services) will be on "technology testing support" (WP1) and "digital readiness support" (WP2, T2.1). This prioritisation will have a positive impact on the impact of the project itself.

In the case of "technology testing support", the ambition is to support the creation of innovative solutions with market-creating potential (as defined in the JRC's Innovation Radar methodology). It is for this reason that qualitative criteria such as Market maturity and potential and Innovation potential will be applied when deciding on the selection of cases to be supported under WP1 T1.1.

Feasibility of this ambition is also demonstrated by the example of the cooperation between the EDIH OVA coordinator and the Slovak mid-sized Sygic company, which was nominated for the European Commission's Innovation Radar Prize in 2018 (Best early stage innovation category): development of collaborative tracing algorithm for the intelligent online navigation system for citizens (this smart solution enhances the performance of a supercomputer in calculating route optimisation for drivers in cities).

In the case of "digital readiness support", mainly implemented through WP2, the aim is to activate interest, push and help clients to implement digital changes and develop their competences. In short, the aim is to develop their "digital maturity", which is the second impact to be monitored by this call. With regard to the EU's strategy for the digital transformation of enterprises (2030 Digital Compass), EDIH OVA is pursuing participation in all three objectives for 2030: 1) Tech up-take: 75% of EU companies using Cloud/AI/Big Data; 2) Innovators: grow scale ups & finance to double EU Unicorns; 3) Late adopters: more than 90% of SMEs reach at least a basic level of digital intensity.

Dissemination and communication of the project and its results

If relevant, describe the communication and dissemination activities, activities (target groups, main messages, tools, and channels) which are planned in order to promote the activities/results and maximise the impact. The aim is to inform and reach out to society and show the activities performed, and the use and the benefits the project will have for citizens

Clarify how you will reach the target groups, relevant stakeholders, policymakers and the general public and explain the choice of the dissemination channels.

Describe how the visibility of EU funding will be ensured.

3. In case your proposal is selected for funding, you will have to provide a more detailed plan for these activities (dissemination and communication plan), within 6 months after grant signature. This plan will have to be periodically updated; in line with the project progress.

Dissemination and communication activities

The main aim of these activities is to promote project itself and its results, to support availability of its results and exchange of know-how, to attract experts and partners and to raise general awareness of benefits of digitalisation, all via various tools and channels aiming at multiple audience.

All communication activities will be supported by specific materials to be developed using a project's unique branding. Actually the "DIH Ostrava" brand is used (see, e.g., www.dihostrava.eu), rebranding to the "EDIH Ostrava" is seriously considered. Majority of the materials will be available in Czech and English. This will enable different audiences to start identifying EDIH OVA and associate it to an overall key message of supporting digitalisation and HPC in Europe. The strategy targets several groups, with individualised goals and channels, as identified in the following tables:

Target group	Key goal of communication
SMEs / midcaps / public entities	Increase level of awareness about benefits which digitalisation brings (e.g., savings of resources etc.) and advanced technologies available Raise awareness about services of EDIH OVA and the EDIHs' network
Technological start-ups	Get involved into EDIH OVA activities to demonstrate how advanced digital technology solutions can support companies to grow
Clusters and/or networks such as EEN, Ynovate	Motivate to cooperate with EDIH OVA with regard to benefits it can bring to member enterprises or clients
Other EDIHs	Inform about the EDIH OVA service offer, quality, and potential to cooperate
Regional, national and European bodies	Show success cases pointing out the role of DIH Ostrava and prove impact of its services
Research community	Raise awareness and arouse interest to be a part of the EDIH OVA network
Public	Show what is digitalisation in practise, what it means for enterprises and what the role of EDIHs is

Main dissemination channels	websites (www.dihostrava.eu , participants' website), DIH Ostrava newsletter, IT4Innovations newsletter, press releases, LinkedIn, Twitter (other social media), newsletters of business partners
Main communication channels	conferences, webinars, trade fairs, summits, and other events co-organised by EDIH OVA or any third party

Key performance indicators	Minimum number /year
Newsletter (number of subscribers)	5 (500)
Specialised articles	4
Success stories (eg., podcasts, articles)	4
(Co-)organised events	7
Posts on LinkedIn/Twitter (number of followers)	48 (1000)
Press releases	2
Participation at national (international) events, e.g., conferences	4 (2)

DTA services and tools and cooperation with EEN and CzechInvest will be used to the maximum extent possible.

Exploitation strategy

As the project will be implemented primarily in the form of services for the benefit of the client, any intellectual property ("IP") generated will belong to the client of the service, i.e. the client. According to the needs, EDIH OVA can provide basic advice on the protection of IPR or can arrange contact with selected patent offices. In exceptional cases, the activities may be carried out in the form of joint research (Article 25 of GBER), in which case the resulting IP would be shared between the EDIH OVA members and the third party based on their respective share in solving the case.

EDIH OVA will also assess the interest in services with regard to their potential for a higher level of financial contribution from an enterprise, provided that the principle of ensuring accessible services for target groups is not compromised. In this respect, in some cases, the enterprise contributions for a given service could be increased, increasing the EDIH OVA's income (and ultimately reducing the grant subsidy received in order to maintain the non-profit character of the EDIH).

3.2 Competitiveness and benefits for society

Competitiveness and benefits for the society

Describe the extent to which the project will strengthen competitiveness and bring important benefits for society

In the short term, EDIH OVA will offer services that will enable its clients (enterprises or public organisations) to move to the next evolutionary level of knowledge and competence in the use of digital technologies for the benefit of their further development. This shift will vary according to the level of digital maturity of a given client: on the one hand, it may be a general awareness of the opportunities associated with digitalisation; on the other end, it will be the clients using sophisticated capabilities and expertise to solve a specific and often very complex problem. In this respect, we see the EDIH OVA services as a pyramid (see 4.1), with the bottom of the pyramid targeting a broad base of potential clients, particularly at the local regional level, through communication, education, and raising awareness tools, and the top of the pyramid representing a level for cases with high added value for clients often outside the region.

HPC: As the key focus of EDIH OVA will be on making HPC infrastructure and associated know-how available, it is worth mentioning in this context the benefits and impacts of using HPC on the economy and society. The most systematic work on defining and quantifying the return on investment in HPC has been done by Hyperion Research (USA); the same method (and data processor) was used in the European Commission's Impact Assessment for the Proposal for a Council Regulation on establishing the European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking. The published [Hyperion results](#) - as measured by ROI (Return on Investment) - demonstrate a high return on investment in HPC: data from 2020 (from 256 cases) show an average revenue of \$507 dollars per dollar of investment in HPC, as well as \$47 of profit or cost savings for every dollar of investment in HPC. In the case of the Manufacturing, these values average \$216,5 and \$28,4 respectively. Of the 763 innovation cases monitored as of 2020, the largest proportion (39%) belonged to the category "Created New Approach", followed by "Better Products" (25%) and "Discovered Something New" (12%).

According to some studies, the application of Industry 4.0 principles (linked to activities around the Experimental Industrial Testbed) means a potential reduction in product processing costs of up to 25%, an overall reduction in production costs of up to 8%; the use of autonomous handling trolleys also means substantial savings for internal production logistics of up to 50%, and savings in personnel, operating, and overhead costs of up to 30% in some sectors. (see more "[Industry 4.0 Initiative](#)")

Already in the short term, we foresee the full implementation of EDIH OVA as the main stakeholder in the region, which is able to reflect the new needs and opportunities associated with digitalisation and transfer them into the offer of its services.

In the medium to long term, the impact of EDIH OVA within the region - and therefore at the bottom of the service pyramid - will be a significant increase in the number of enterprises and public organisations that correctly understand the concept of digitalisation in the context of their activities and are clear about their next steps in this regard. It will no longer be the case that the vast majority of these entities are "digitalising" only to solve a particular problem that is holding them back, or that there is uncertainty about the applicability of digitalisation to their business area. On the contrary, entities that will be able to define their own digitalisation strategy, key future needs, justify their investments, including determining their return on investment, etc. will start to prevail.

Within this horizon, we also expect EDIH OVA to be among the top EDIHs providing HPC infrastructure and services for the development and testing of challenging and complex tasks across the EU.

Last but not least, it is necessary to mention the expected impact on tertiary education provided by the coordinator, FEI@VSB. Feedback from companies must be adjusted within the curricula, new clients mean potential new long-term partners for cooperation with the university and the coordinator (student internships, etc.). This is also the reason why the Vice-Dean for Cooperation with Industry at FEI@VSB, who is also responsible for the management of the industrial testbed I4.0, participates in the Executive Board and will be involved in the implementation of the project.

Similarly, and no less important, the know-how gained from the implementation of EDIH OVA by both participants will be useful input towards other complementary activities outside Hub activities (e.g., the National Competence Centre in HPC and EuroHPC JU itself).

HPC: In terms of the long-term impact of HPC for the application sector, the European Investment Bank's 2018 study offers a credible view. It identifies the following three areas as the three largest and fastest growing sectors using HPC - and therefore with the greatest potential for the future: 1. CAE (Computer Aided Engineering): the CAE method is increasingly being used in engineering, which, according to EIB sources, accounts for more than 26% of EU GDP; 2) Bio-sciences, including pharmacology and healthcare: R&D expenditure in this sector is significantly higher (relative to net sales) compared to other sectors; 3) Environment and renewable energy sources: this is a very broadly defined sector (design of systems for renewable energy production, new materials, earth sciences, climatology, etc.).

Application of Industry 4.0 principles means that companies can respond more quickly to customer needs; increase the flexibility, speed, productivity, and quality of production processes; and provide opportunities for new business models and production processes. At the same time, there is a reduction in energy and raw material intensity of production, optimisation of logistics routes, increase in transport performance, offering technological solutions for decentralized energy production and distribution systems or smart urban infrastructure increasing safety and comfort of passengers.

Based on previous experience from cooperation with the application area as well as EDIH OVA objectives, EDIH OVA expects impacts that copy these general findings.

3.3 Environmental sustainability and contribution to European Green Deal goals

Environmental sustainability and contribution to European Green Deal goals

Describe the extent to which the project will contribute to environmental sustainability and in particular to European Green Deal goals

! *This might not be applicable to all topics — for details refer to the Call document.*

The EDIH OVA project is undoubtedly relevant to the objectives of the "European Green Deal". This will be implemented directly to promote the concept of "Digital Solution for Zero Pollution". As an example, the criteria for selecting companies or public organisations for support under WP1 will, among other things, take significant account of environmentally friendly solutions. However, this aspect is also reflected in other services and activities of EDIH OVA: implementation of digital audits, support for start-ups, themes of digital brokerage events. This orientation will thus ultimately mean that the majority of clients will receive a service that will have a positive impact on the behaviour of the company or public organisation with regard to the environmental sustainability of their activities, whether economic or non-economic in nature.

EDIH OVA's emphasis on services related to the use of HPC capabilities, infrastructure, and expertise means that a significant part of EDIH OVA's resources will be allocated in favour of testing new digital solutions based on numerical simulations, advanced data analysis, creation of digital twins, etc., which bring innovations with a positive impact on the environment compared to the status quo.

For example, the application of numerical modelling and simulations leveraging HPC in the development of a Digital Twin of a synchronous electric motor can be mentioned as a typical example of a Digital Twin of a product to use this Digital Twin not only in the design phase of this product with the focus on increasing its performance characteristics and at the same time reducing energy consumption, but also in its operation. The secondary effect is usually cost savings during product development, production, and operation using the digital twin concept. In the case of development, these savings consist of shorter design cycle times and a reduction in the number of physical experiments required. The use of the digital twin concept in operation allows for predictive maintenance, which also reduces costs and energy consumption.

The indirect link is due to the fact that EDIH OVA will primarily operate in the Moravian-Silesian Region, a region identified by the European Commission as one of the territories most affected by the transition towards climate neutrality (Just Transition Mechanism). The region, which thanks to its historical development still relies heavily on energy-intensive segments of the economy (metallurgy, mechanical engineering, coal industry, automotive production), is thus offered another tool for its necessary transformation thanks to EDIH OVA.

As an example of the use of state-of-the-art digital technologies (HPC) in the energy-intensive industry of steel processing, the project with the regional company ITA dealt with simulations of the cooling of rolls during the rolling process. These simulations ultimately led to an increase in the rolled products' quality while increasing the rolls' lifetime and reducing the water consumption required for cooling.

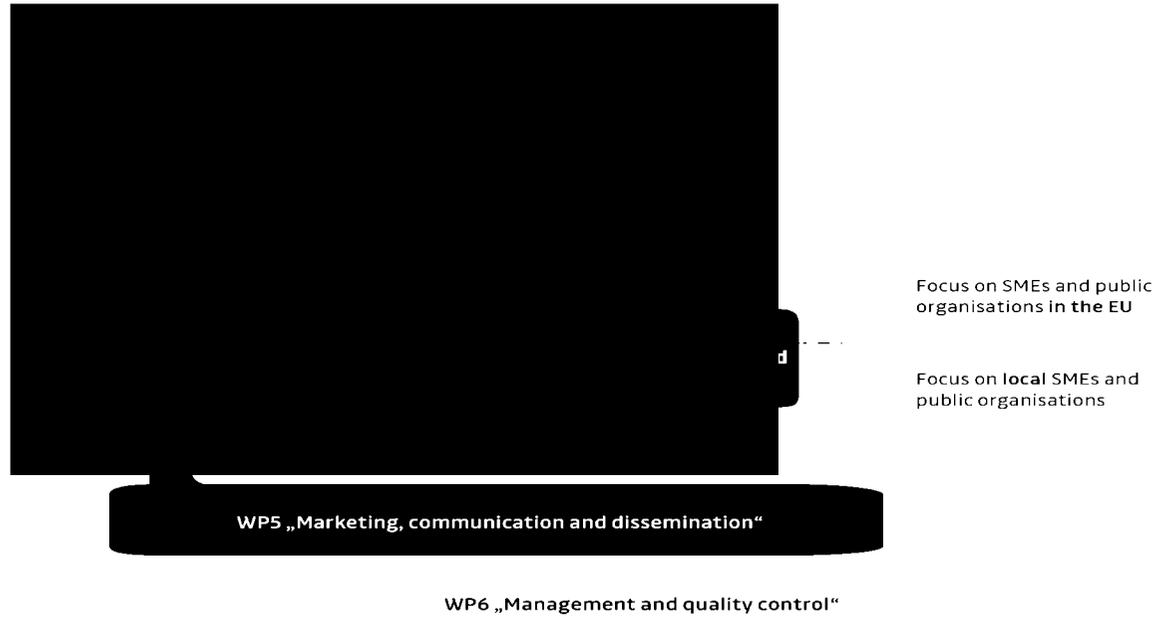
It should also be noted that the key core-facility of EDIH OVA (HPC Karolina system) belongs to the world's top energy-efficient supercomputers (8th worldwide in the Green500 list and 3rd in Europe as of November 2021).

4. WORK PLAN, WORK PACKAGES, TIMING AND SUBCONTRACTING

4.1 Work plan

Work plan

Provide a brief description of the overall structure of the work plan (list of work packages or graphical presentation (Pert chart or similar)).



4.2 Work packages and activities*Work Package 1***Estimated budget — Resources** (n/a for prefixed Lump Sum Grants)

Participant	Costs										
	A. Personnel		B. Subcontracting	C.1 Travel and subsistence	C.2 Equipment	C.3 Other goods, works and services	D.1 Financial support to third parties	D.2 Internally invoiced goods and services	D.3 PAC procurement costs <i>(for PAC Grants for Procurement)</i>	E. Indirect costs	Total costs
VSB-TUO	238,48 person months	1 055 658 EUR	31 350 EUR	15 000 EUR	8 240 EUR	208 250 EUR				92 295 EUR	1 410 793 EUR
MSIC	0 person months	0 EUR	0 EUR	0 EUR	0 EUR	0 EUR				0 EUR	0 EUR
Total	238,48 person months	1 055 658 EUR	31 350 EUR	15 000 EUR	8 240 EUR	208 250 EUR				92 295 EUR	1 410 793 EUR

*Work Package 2***Estimated budget — Resources**

Participant	Costs										
	A. Personnel		B. Subcontracting	C.1 Travel and subsistence	C.2 Equipment	C.3 Other goods, works and services	D.1 Financial support to third parties	D.2 Internally invoiced goods and services	D.3 PAC procurement costs <i>(for PAC Grants for Procurement)</i>	E. Indirect costs	Total costs
VSB-TUO	9,2 person months	40 704 EUR	53 617 EUR	0 EUR	0 EUR	0 EUR				6 602 EUR	100 923 EUR
MSIC	43,74 person months	179 596 EUR	269 240 EUR	12 000 EUR	4 420 EUR	10 244 EUR				33 285 EUR	508 785 EUR
Total	52,94 person months	220 300 EUR	322 857 EUR	12 000 EUR	4 420 EUR	10 244 EUR				39 887 EUR	609 708 EUR

*Work Package 3***Estimated budget — Resources**

Participant	Costs										
	A. Personnel		B. Subcontracting	C.1 Travel and subsistence	C.2 Equipment	C.3 Other goods, works and services	D.1 Financial support to third parties	D.2 Internally invoiced goods and services	D.3 PAC procurement costs <i>(for PAC Grants for Procurement)</i>	E. Indirect costs	Total costs
VSB-TUO	13,28 person months	58 766 EUR	26 320 EUR	0 EUR	0 EUR	4 480 EUR				6 270 EUR	95 836 EUR
MSIC	7,54 person months	30 944 EUR	24 000 EUR	0 EUR	1 024 EUR	2 560 EUR				4 097 EUR	62 625 EUR
Total	20,82 person months	89 710 EUR	50 320 EUR	0 EUR	1 024 EUR	7 040 EUR				10 367 EUR	158 461 EUR

*Work Package 4***Estimated budget — Resources**

Participant	Costs										
	A. Personnel		B. Subcontracting	C.1 Travel and subsistence	C.2 Equipment	C.3 Other goods, works and services	D.1 Financial support to third parties	D.2 Internally invoiced goods and services	D.3 PAC procurement costs <i>(for PAC Grants for Procurement)</i>	E. Indirect costs	Total costs
VSB-TUO	9,08 person months	40 195 EUR	0 EUR	4 200 EUR	0 EUR	3 600 EUR				3 360 EUR	51 355 EUR
MSIC	10,28 person months	42 197 EUR	10 000 EUR	0 EUR	3 200 EUR	1 200 EUR				3 962 EUR	60 559 EUR
Total	19,36 person months	82 392 EUR	10 000 EUR	4 200 EUR	3 200 EUR	4 800 EUR				7 322 EUR	111 914 EUR

*Work Package 5***Estimated budget — Resources**

Participant	Costs										
	A. Personnel		B. Subcontracting	C.1 Travel and subsistence	C.2 Equipment	C.3 Other goods, works and services	D.1 Financial support to third parties	D.2 Internally invoiced goods and services	D.3 PAC procurement costs <i>(for PAC Grants for Procurement)</i>	E. Indirect costs	Total costs
VSB-TUO	35,63 person months	157 728 EUR	0 EUR	2 400 EUR	1 600 EUR	4 000 EUR				11 601 EUR	177 329 EUR
MSIC	3,62 person months	14 868 EUR	8 000 EUR	0 EUR	0 EUR	0 EUR				1 601 EUR	24 469 EUR
Total	39,25 person months	172 596 EUR	8 000 EUR	2 400 EUR	1 600 EUR	4 000 EUR				13 202 EUR	201 798 EUR

*Work Package 6***Estimated budget — Resources**

Participant	Costs										
	A. Personnel		B. Subcontracting	C.1 Travel and subsistence	C.2 Equipment	C.3 Other goods, works and services	D.1 Financial support to third parties	D.2 Internally invoiced goods and services	D.3 PAC procurement costs <i>(for PAC Grants for Procurement)</i>	E. Indirect costs	Total costs
VSB-TUO	98,62 person months	436 550 EUR	0 EUR	7 200 EUR	6 000 EUR	0 EUR				31 483 EUR	481 233 EUR
MSIC	6,78 person months	27 848 EUR	0 EUR	6 000 EUR	4 000 EUR	2 400 EUR				2 817 EUR	43 065 EUR
Total	105,40 person months	464 398 EUR	0 EUR	13 200 EUR	10 000 EUR	2 400 EUR				34 300 EUR	524 298 EUR

4.3 Timetable

Timetable (projects of more than 2 years)

Fill in cells in beige to show the duration of activities. Repeat lines/columns as necessary.

Note: Use actual, calendar years and quarters. In the timeline you should indicate the timing of each activity per WP. You may add additional columns if your project is longer than 6 years.

ACTIVITY	2023				2024				2025			
	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4
All tasks except T2.4												
Task 2.4 (WP2) - Mid-term evaluation of individual services under digital readiness												

4.4 Subcontracting (n/a for prefixed Lump Sum Grants)

Subcontracting

Give details on subcontracted project tasks (if any) and explain the reasons why (as opposed to direct implementation by the Beneficiaries/Affiliated Entities).

Subcontracting — Subcontracting means the implementation of 'action tasks', i.e. specific tasks which are part of the EU grant and are described in Annex 1 of the Grant Agreement.

Note: Subcontracting concerns the outsourcing of a part of the project to a party outside the consortium. It is not simply about purchasing goods or services. We normally expect that the participants have sufficient operational capacity to implement the project activities themselves. Subcontracting should therefore be exceptional.

Include only subcontracts that comply with the rules (i.e. best value for money and no conflict of interest; no subcontracting of coordinator tasks).

Work Package No	Subcontract No	Subcontract Name	Description	Estimated Costs	Justification	Best-Value-for-Money
WP1	S1.1	SW expertise for testing on HPC	T1.1 / COO : Expertise related to the use of SW tools, especially commercial SW, on HPC technologies, especially in the area of CAE/multiphysics engineering simulation (Comsol, Ansys, etc.)	6 350	Absence of necessary know-how or there is an exclusive agent for providing it to third parties (clients).	Preliminary market consultations have already been carried out.
WP1	S1.2	Tools necessary to carry out the complete process	T.1.2 / COO : Special prototyping, 3D printing, prototype machinery design and construction, PCB design, electrical/mechanical engineering services	25 000	Absence of the necessary equipment and know-how.	Supplier selection based on market research (incl.

WP2	S2.1	<p>of testing and verification on industrial Testbed</p> <p>Expertise for digital readiness</p>	<p>T2.1 / BEN: The MSIC has a network of 110+ accredited experts who will be used to provide digital readiness services. When defining the content of the service to be provided, the company will always be offered a minimum of 3 accredited experts who have the necessary expertise. The company itself selects the appropriate expert. The hourly rate of all experts is uniform and corresponds to EUR 60. This is the usual price paid to their experts by other innovation centres in the Ynovate network.</p>	263 480	<p>Absence of the necessary competences internally; it is common to hire external entities for this type of service.</p>	<p>quality criteria, references) and in accordance with the Public Procurement Act.</p>
					<p>The service is set up in such a way that the implementation itself is carried out by an expert who is the most competent with regard to the company's profile and needs due to his erudition (there is a difference between the digital needs of a medium-sized food company, a start-up engaged in modeling financial markets or a small company focused on the production of special robotic systems). In this regard, a network of accredited experts (often employees or owners of companies specializing in selected digital technologies) is created, who are always hired ad hoc with regard to a specific need (currently there are more than 100 of them with regard to the variety of needs). Considering the limited number of cases per year for a given specialization, EDIH OVA cannot afford to keep all</p>	

these experts employed, these experts often cannot even enter into employment contracts with other entities (i.e. not even with EDIH), however, it is possible to purchase their services.

It is also very important to mention other facts as well. This model of cooperation is based on MSIC several years of experience working with start-ups and SMEs which has been appreciated of current 320 clients of MSIC. Each client (start-up, SME, public entity) is offered a possibility to choose one out of three most suitable accredited experts who has to fulfill several criteria. The accreditation process is carried out by the internal employee of MSIC. The Key Account Manager (who is also an internal full-time employee of MSIC) accompanies each client during its journey through the S2.1 service. The KAM is the first contact for the client, s/he carries on the first initial meeting, prepares together with the client needs assessment, closely monitors implementation of the service and s/he is also responsible for the final evaluation of the service.

WP2	S2.2	Development of general competences in the field of digitalisation	T2.2 / BEN: Natural and legal entities with expertise relevant to the topics of the upcoming workshops will be requested.	5 760	dtto
WP2	S2.3	Tutoring services for specific courses	T2.3 / COO: Natural and legal entities capable of providing training on specific professional topics will be requested (see T2.3).	53 617	Some internal competence in this area, but not for all specific, professional parts. There are partial technological specializations within the agenda covered by EDIH Ostrava, e.g. specific SW tools that can be used on the HPC infrastructure of EDIH Ostrava, which, however, cannot be trained by EDIH employees, but are one of the possible tools that can be used on HPC infrastructure. The main reasons: 1) missing the training competence internally and/or 2) for some products (relevant SW tools) training can only be carried out by the exclusive representative of its supplier in the given territory (therefore there is no other way than to buy the given training).
WP3	S3.1	Consulting services for start-ups	T3.1. / COO: Individual consulting services and provision of technical workshops.	26 320	Absence of the necessary competences internally; it is common to hire external entities for this type of service.

WP3	S3.2	Consulting services for finance and grant management	T3.2. / BEN: Individual consulting services.	24 000	Some internal competence in this area, but not for all specific, professional parts.
WP4	S4.1	Organisational services for matchmaking events	T4.1 / BEN: External provision of some services associated with the organization of brokerage events and other networking events	10 000	Absence of the necessary competences internally; it is common to hire external entities for this type of service.
WP5	S5.1	Graphic and printing services	T5.2 / BEN: Graphic studio will create a graphic manual and ensures the creation and printing of materials.	6000	Absence of the necessary competences internally; it is common to hire external entities for this type of service.
WP5	S5.2	Web design	T5.2 / BEN: Web designer will create an upgrade of www.dihostrava.cz and implements the new web design.	2 000	dtto

Other issues:

Insert text

If subcontracting for the entire project goes beyond 30% of the total eligible costs, give specific reasons.

4.5 Purchase costs

Purchase costs (travel and subsistence, equipment and other goods works and services)

Details for major cost items (needed if costs declared under 'purchase costs' are higher than 15% of the claimed personnel costs).

Start with the most expensive cost items, down to the 15% threshold.

Participant 1:			MSIC	
Cost item name	Category	WP(s)	Explanations	Costs (EUR)
Travel and subsistence	Travel and Subsistence	WP 2	Under WP2 MSIC Ostrava expects to deliver in total 214 digitalization services (being either DigiAudit or DigiUP or Digitalization Construction Supervision or Cyber Security Audit). MSIC staff will travel at least 2 times to the venue of the company during the service. The average price per journey is 10 EUR. So the total is 20EURx2journeysx214services = 8560 EUR	8 560
			Total	8 560
			Total purchase costs > 15% (all participants)	2 730
			Remaining purchase costs < 15% (all participants)	309 288
			Total purchase costs (all participants)	312 018

6. DECLARATIONS

Double funding

Information concerning other EU grants for this project

⚠: Please note that there is a strict prohibition of double funding from the EU budget (except under EU Synergies actions). **YES/NO**

We confirm that to our best knowledge neither the project as a whole nor any parts of it have benefitted from any other EU grant (including EU funding managed by authorities in EU Member States or other funding bodies, e.g. Erasmus, EU Regional Funds, EU Agricultural Funds, European Investment Bank, etc). If NO, explain and provide details. **Yes**

We confirm that to our best knowledge neither the project as a whole nor any parts of it are (nor will be) submitted for any other EU grant (including EU funding managed by authorities in EU Member States or other funding bodies, e.g. Erasmus, EU Regional Funds, EU Agricultural Funds, European Investment Bank, etc). If NO, explain and provide details. **Yes**

Financial support to third parties (if applicable)

If in your project the maximum amount per third party will be more than the threshold amount set in the Call document, justify and explain why the higher amount is necessary in order to fulfil your project's objectives.

ANNEXES

LIST OF ANNEXES

Standard

Detailed budget table/Calculator (annex 1 to Part B)
CVs (annex 2 to Part B)
Annual activity reports (annex 3 to Part B)
List of previous projects (annex 4 to Part B)

Special

Other annexes (annex 5 to Part B)
Proof of MS designation (annex 5 to Part B)
Ethics issues table (annex 6 to Part B)
Security issues table (annex 7 to Part B)
Price List – Explanation (annex 8 to Part B)
EEN and Startup Europe representatives - Expressions of Interest for Cooperation (annex 9 to Part B)
Other EDIH candidates - Expressions of Interest for Cooperation (annex 10 to Part B)

Annex 5

Proof of MS designation



Karel Havlíček
Deputy Prime Minister,
Minister of Industry and Trade
and Minister of Transport of the Czech Republic

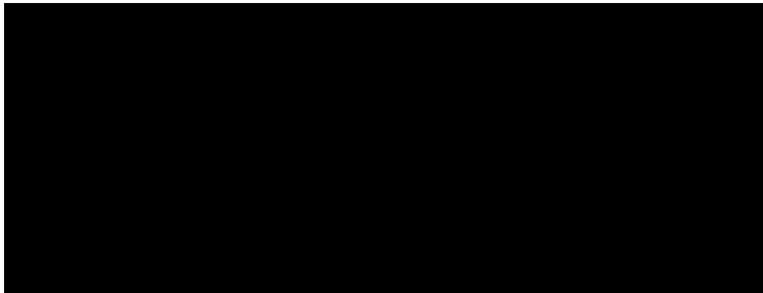
Prague, 16 December 2021

No. MPO 635315/21/71000/01000

LETTER OF DESIGNATION

Dear [REDACTED]

This letter is to confirm that the project “EDIH Ostrava” was selected as a candidate to participate in the European call on the European Digital Innovation Hubs under the Digital Europe programme. EDIH Ostrava was evaluated by independent national and international evaluators in the national call in December 2020. The Czech Republic designates this project.



prof. RNDr. Václav Snášel, CSc.
Rector
Technical University of Ostrava
Ostrava



MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND TRADE
OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC



Ministry of Education,
Youth and Sports
The Country
For The Future

Annex 6

Ethics issues table

ETHICS ISSUES TABLE

(To be filled in and uploaded as part of the application, until the Ethics Issues Table is available directly in the Submission System.)

Ethics issues

This table should be completed as part of your proposal. Please go through the table and indicate which elements concern your proposal by answering YES or NO.

If you answer YES to any of the questions:

- indicate in the adjacent box at which page in your full proposal further information relating to that ethics issue can be found, and
- provide additional information on this ethics issue in the Ethics self-assessment section below.

For more information on each of the ethics issues and how to address them, including detailed legal references, see the guidelines [How to Complete your Ethics Self-Assessment](#).

1. Human embryonic stem cells and human embryos	Yes/No	Page
--	--------	------

Does this activity involve human embryonic stem cells (hESCs)?	No	
--	----	--

If YES: - Will they be directly derived from embryos within this project?

- Are they previously established cells lines?

- Are the cell lines registered in the European registry for human embryonic stem cell lines?

Does this activity involve the use of human embryos?

If YES: - Will the activity lead to their destruction?

2. Humans	Yes/No	Page
------------------	--------	------

Does this activity involve human participants?	No	
--	----	--

If YES: - Are they volunteers?

- Are they healthy volunteers for medical studies?

- Are they patients for medical studies?

- Are they potentially vulnerable individuals or groups?

- Are they children/minors?

- Are they other persons unable to give informed consent?

Does this activity involve interventions (physical also including imaging technology, behavioural treatments, tracking and tracing, etc) on the study participants?	No	
---	----	--

If YES: - Does it involve invasive techniques?

- Does it involve collection of biological samples?

3. Human cells / tissues	Yes/No	Page
---------------------------------	--------	------

Does this activity involve the use of human cells or tissues (not covered by section 1)?	No	
--	----	--

- If **YES**: - Are they human embryonic or foetal cells or tissues?
- Are they available commercially?
 - Are they obtained within this project?
 - Are they obtained from another project, laboratory or institution?
 - Are they obtained from a biobank?

4. Personal data	Yes/No	Page
-------------------------	--------	------

Does this activity involve processing of personal data?	No	
---	-----------	--

If **YES**: - Does it involve the processing of special categories of personal data (*e.g. sexual lifestyle, ethnicity, genetic, biometric and health data, political opinion, religious or philosophical beliefs*)?

- If **YES**: - Does it involve processing of genetic, biometric or health data?
- Does it involve profiling, systematic monitoring of individuals, or processing of large-scale of special categories of data or intrusive methods of data processing (such as, surveillance, geolocation, tracking etc.)?

Does this activity involve further processing of previously collected personal data (including use of preexisting data sets or sources, merging existing data sets)?

Is it planned to export personal data from the EU to non-EU countries?	No	
--	-----------	--

If **YES**: Specify the type of personal data and countries involved

Is it planned to import personal data from non-EU countries into the EU or from a non-EU country to another non-EU country?	No	
---	-----------	--

If **YES**: Specify the type of personal data and countries involved

Does this activity involve the processing of personal data related to criminal convictions or offences?

5. Animals	Yes/No	Page
-------------------	--------	------

Does this activity involve animals?	No	
-------------------------------------	-----------	--

6. Non-EU countries	Yes/No	Page
----------------------------	--------	------

Will some of the activities be carried out in non-EU countries?	No	
---	-----------	--

If **YES**: Specify the countries:

In case non-EU countries are involved, do the activities undertaken in these countries raise potential ethics issues?

If **YES**: Specify the countries:

Is it planned to use local resources (e.g. animal and/or human tissue samples, genetic material, live animals, human remains, materials of historical value, endangered fauna or flora samples, etc.)? **No**

Is it planned to import any material (other than data) from non-EU countries into the EU or from a non-EU country to another non-EU country? **No**

For data imports, see section 4

If Specify material and countries involved:
Yes:

Is it planned to export any material (other than data) from the EU to non-EU countries?

For data imports, see section 4

If Specify material and countries involved:
Yes:

7. Environment, health and safety Yes/No Page

Does this activity involve the use of substances or processes that may cause harm to the environment, to animals or plants (during the implementation of the activity or further to the use of the results, as a possible impact)? **No**

Does this activity involve the use of substances or processes that may cause harm to humans, including those performing the activity (during the implementation of the activity or further to the use of the results, as a possible impact)? **No**

8. Artificial intelligence Yes/No Page

Does this activity involve the development, deployment and/or use of Artificial Intelligence-based systems? **Yes** 29

If yes, detail in the self-assessment whether that could raise ethical concerns related to human rights and values and detail how this will be addressed.

9. Other ethics issues Yes/No Page

Are there any other ethics issues that should be taken into consideration? **No**

Please specify:

Ethics self-assessment

If you have entered any issues in the ethics issue table, you must perform an ethics self-assessment in accordance with the guidelines [How to Complete your Ethics Self-Assessment](#) and complete the table below.

Ethical dimension of the objectives, methodology and likely impact

Explain in detail the identified issues in relation to:

- objectives of the activities (e.g. study of vulnerable populations, etc.)
- methodology (e.g. clinical trials, involvement of children, protection of personal data, etc.)
- the potential impact of the activities (e.g. environmental damage, stigmatisation of particular social groups, political or financial adverse consequences, misuse, etc.)

Although the project activities may involve the deployment and use of artificial intelligence, we did not identify during the self-assessment any ethical issues that should be raised.

In the project within WP1 "Test before invest", individual cases of potential service will always be self-assessed. It is currently not possible to determine which cases it will concern. The service will be provided only to those cases that do not raise an ethical issue.

Compliance with ethical principles and relevant legislation

Describe how the issue(s) identified in the ethics issues table above will be addressed in order to adhere to the ethical principles and what will be done to ensure that the activities are compliant with the EU / national legal and ethical requirements of the country or countries where the tasks are to be carried out. It is reminded that for activities performed in a non-EU countries, they should also be allowed in at least one EU Member State.

We have not identified any ethical issues.

VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	HISTORY OF CHANGES	
			CHANGE
1.0	01.11.2021	Initial version (new MFF).	

Annex 7

Security issues table

SECURITY ISSUES TABLE

(To be filled in and uploaded as part of the application, until the Security Issues Table is available directly in the Submission System.)

Security issues

This table should be completed as part of your proposal. Please go through the table and indicate which elements concern your proposal by answering YES or NO.

If you answer YES to any of the questions:

- indicate in the adjacent box at which page in your full proposal further information relating to that security issue can be found, and
- provide additional information on this security issue in the Security self-assessment section below.

For more information on potential security issues and how to address them, see the guidance [How to handle security-sensitive projects](#) and the programme-specific guidelines [Classification of information in Digital Europe projects](#).

1. EU classified information (EUCI)	Yes/No	Page
-------------------------------------	--------	------

Does the activity involve information and/or materials requiring protection against unauthorised disclosure (EUCI)?	No	
---	----	--

- If YES:
- Is the activity going to use classified information as background information?
 - Is the activity going to generate EU classified foreground information as results?

Does the activity involve non-EU countries?	No	
---	----	--

- If YES:
- Do participants from non-EU countries need to have access to EUCI?
 - Do the non-EU countries concerned have a security of information agreement with the EU

2. Misuse	Yes/No	Page
-----------	--------	------

Does the activity have the potential for misuse of results?	No	
---	----	--

- If YES:
- Does the activity provide knowledge, materials and technologies that could be channelled into crime and/or terrorism?
 - Could the activity result in the development of chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear (CBRN) weapons and the means for their delivery?

3. Other security issues	Yes/No	Page
--------------------------	--------	------

Does the activity involve information and/or materials subject to national security restrictions?	No	
---	----	--

If Yes, please specify _____ :

Are there any other security issues that should be taken into consideration?	No	
--	----	--

If Yes, please specify _____ :

Security self-assessment

If you have answered YES for one or more of the questions indicated above, describe the measures you intend to take to solve/avoid them. For more information, see the guidelines [Classification of information in Digital Europe projects](#).

Insert text

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.11.2021	Initial version (new MFF).

Annex 8 to Part B Price list – Explanation

Service Title	Unit	Market price (EUR)	Reduced price (EUR)	
			SMEs	Public org.
1.1 Testing HPC technologies	1 case	55 762	8 364	0
1.2 Testing for Digitized Manufacturing	1 case	41 322	6 198	-
2.1 Digital Readiness Support	1 case	3 217	402	-
2.2 Skills for "Digitized Age"	1 participant	301	45	0
2.3 Specific Oriented Training	1 participant	752	113	0
3.1 Idea Acceleration	1 supported enterprise	10 281	0	-
3.2 Support to Scale	1 case	628	94	0
4.1 Brokerage and Scouting	1 case	651	98	0

1.1 Testing HPC technologies

The price list for this service is composed of several separate components (part of the service):

Description of the service	Price (in EUR)	Unit of measure
1.A Renting HPC infrastructure - CPU	2.18	Price per 1 server-hour
1.B Renting HPC infrastructure – GPU	18.24	Price per 1 server-hour
2. Provision of HPC/HPDA/AI/Big Data expertise to use HPC technology	33.44	Price per 1 hour
3.A SW - Provision of specific commercial SW linked to HPC/HPDA/AI/Big Data expertise	11,750	Price per 1 month
3.B SW - Services related to SW deployment on HPC infrastructure rented	11,750+58.79	Price per 1 month (SW) + Price per 1 hour

Composition of the average expected market price indicated in the price list:

EUR 55 762	=	
=		
(EUR 2.18 (1.A) x 4 000 server hours)	=	EUR 8 720
+		
(EUR 33.44 (2.) x 898 hours)	=	EUR 30 029
+		
(EUR 4 750 + EUR 235 (3.B))	=	EUR 4 985
+		
EUR 12 028 (operating costs & profit)	=	EUR 12 028

Detailed explanation:

The provision of this service can be implemented in the following variants:

Part of the service	1.A 1.B	2	3.A	3.B
Case options				
I.	X			
II.	X	X		
III.	X	X	X	
IV.	X			X
V.	X	X		X
VI.		X		

A part of Service 1 may be provided alone or in combination with other parts of the service.
 A part of Service 2 may be provided alone or in combination with other parts of the service.
 Provision of a part of Service 3.A is conditioned by using parts of service 1 and 2.
 Provision of a part of Service 3.B is conditioned by using a part of service 1.

The service will most often be implemented in Option II, i.e., a combination of Parts 1.A (or 1.B) and 2, which is reflected in the average expected price indicated in the price list in the project application.

In particular:

1.A and 1.B - The calculation of the HPC infrastructure CPU utilisation rate (1A) on average per case is based on cases in Mechanical engineering (2,000 server-hours per case) and in Multiphysics computing (5,000 server-hours per case). The GPU HPC infrastructure utilisation rate is projected to average 720 server-hours per case.

2 - We anticipate the average case implementation period of 3 months, during which 898 hours/case will be involved.

3 - The average price of the service also reflects a few cases in options with the involvement of parts of Service 3.A or 3.B (assuming the use of commercial software for a period of 1-2 months for 1 case).

Explanation of unit pricing:

1.A and 1.B - The final price is determined based on a market survey carried out annually by the project coordinator for the commercial rental of computational resources. The market survey is carried out based on the findings of available information published on the websites of the selected providers. Major service/capacity providers whose prices are publicly available are included in the survey. In cases where the same or similar capacity/service is not found on the market, several similar options are identified which are as close as possible to the capacity/service of IT4Innovations National Supercomputing Center (IT4I NSC). The parameters of these options were used to calculate the unit prices of the relevant capacities using the least squares method, assuming that the total price is equal to the sum of the products of the unit prices and the relevant resources. In this way, the price was extrapolated to be as close as possible to the resources/services provided by IT4I NSC.

For the planned DIH OVA services using HPC infrastructure, the prices of two parts of the Karolina system (CPU and GPU) were calculated. If other parts of the infrastructure are used, the price list will be adjusted accordingly.

2. - The price is calculated based on the weighted average cost of the senior and junior expert positions involved per 1 hour of work. To this are added overheads (the coordinator uses the full cost methodology converted to 1 hour of work). As a control indicator, data from the Average Earnings Information System (ISPV) maintained by the Czech Statistical Office (CZSO) is used. This system tracks earnings and hours paid of employees in the

Czech Republic. Categories of employees such as software developers are compared to the hourly/monthly rate of the project coordinator's staff.

3. A and 3.B - In the second half of 2021, the project coordinator conducted a market survey among several suppliers of commercial software for CAE/multiphysics engineering simulation (Altair, Ansys, etc.). As part of the survey, they requested quotations to enable deployment of selected software packages on HPC. The bids received (prices for 2021) were submitted in various breakdowns (e.g., License Fee per Design Multiple Multi-Core Job); however, always for a period of 1 month. The price in the above price list (3.A) represents the value that is the average of the licences for the SW packages that are expected to be of the highest interest (such as mechanical engineering and multiphysics problems) using 64 and 128 cores for mechanical engineering and multiphysics problems, respectively. The final price will thus vary according to the specific software package used or the type of problem to be solved. In the case of service 3.B (in addition to 3.A), the expertise of the commercial software distributor is added to the price for the leased licence (again, this is an average value).

1.2 Testing for Digitized Manufacturing

The average expected market price indicated in the price list:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{EUR 41 322} \\
 & = \\
 & \text{690 hours/case} \\
 & \times \\
 & \text{EUR 59.88 hourly rate}
 \end{aligned}$$

The rate is primarily derived from the volume of hours of work of the internal staff as well as external experts and includes also mainly external supplies of services, rental of licences, operation costs and profit.

2.1 Digital Readiness

The average expected market price indicated in the price list:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{EUR 3 217} \\
 & = \\
 & \text{65 hours/case} \\
 & \times \\
 & \text{EUR 49.5 hourly rate}
 \end{aligned}$$

The rate is primarily derived from the volume of hours of work of the internal staff as well as external experts. For this service, an average co-financing by SMEs of 12.5% is envisaged (this rate will vary according to the composition of the parts of the service used).

2.2 Skills for "Digitized Age"

The average expected market price indicated in the price list:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{EUR 301} \\
 & = \\
 & \text{16 hours of training per participant}
 \end{aligned}$$

2.3 Specific Oriented Training

The average expected market price indicated in the price list:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{EUR 752} \\ & = \\ & \text{12 hours of training per participant} \end{aligned}$$

3.1 Idea Acceleration

The average expected market price indicated in the price list:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{EUR 10 281} \\ & = \\ & \text{207 hours/case} \\ & \times \\ & \text{EUR 49.66 hourly rate} \end{aligned}$$

The rate is primarily derived from the volume of hours of work of the internal staff as well as external experts involved in solving the case of a supported enterprise.

3.2 Support to Scale

The average expected market price indicated in the price list:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{EUR 628} \\ & = \\ & \text{16 hours/case} \\ & \times \\ & \text{EUR 39.25 hourly rate} \end{aligned}$$

The rate is primarily derived from the volume of hours of work of the internal staff as well as external experts involved in the case.

4.1 Brokerage and Scouting

The average expected market price indicated in the price list:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{EUR 651} \\ & = \\ & \text{12 hours/case} \\ & \times \\ & \text{EUR 54.25 hourly rate} \end{aligned}$$

The rate is primarily derived from the volume of hours of work of the internal staff involved in the case. Other costs such as services, travels etc. are included.

Annex 9

EEN and Startup Europe representatives - Expressions of Interest for Cooperation

Att.: [REDACTED]
EDIH Ostrava Project Coordinator
VŠB - Technical University of Ostrava
17. listopadu 2172/15
708 00 Ostrava-Poruba
Czech Republic

Prague, 11. 2. 2022

LETTER OF SUPPORT

to: **EDIH Ostrava (EDIH OVA)**

Dear [REDACTED]

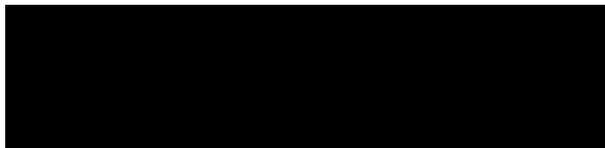
We are writing to you on behalf of the coordinator of Czech Enterprise Europe Network to confirm our support to your proposal EDIH Ostrava for the "Digital Europe - European Digital Innovation Hubs (DIGITAL-2021-EDIH-01)" call.

The purpose of EDIH OVA project to provide Czech SMEs and start-ups with access to unique core-facility together with highly-specialised services such as testing HPC technologies; testing for Digitized Manufacturing; support for digital readiness and increase of digital maturity via programmes such as "Digital audit", "DigiUp", "Building Inspector of digitalization" and "Cyber-security audit", and a specific oriented training in advanced simulation and modelling, AI use, machine learning, and/or SW application for PLM, are fully in line with our objective to support competitiveness, innovativeness and sustainable development of our EEN clients.

The Technology Centre of the Czech Academy of Sciences as a national coordinator of the Enterprise Europe Network is interested in the supporting the EDIH OVA by:

- sharing of information and know-how related to better awareness raising and support of Czech small and medium-sized enterprises, especially in ICT and digitalisation;
- active searching for opportunities for cooperation in order to improve innovativeness and competitiveness of Czech SMEs including dissemination and communication activities;
- promoting EDIH OVA services to EEN clients (start-ups and SMEs) which can benefit from EDIH OVA specialisation such as HPC testing;
- supporting relevant EDIH OVA clients with EEN services (e.g. partnering database, trade missions, international brokerage events, advisory services and/or innovation support);
- organising joint events such as infodays, training and workshops in areas focused on digitalization.

Yours sincerely,



Ing. Karel Klusáček, Csc., MBA

Director of The Technology Centre of the Czech Republic
the coordinator of the Enterprise Europe Network in the Czech Republic

Att.: [REDACTED]
EDIH Ostrava Project Coordinator
VŠB - Technical University of Ostrava
17. listopadu 2172/15
708 00 Ostrava-Poruba
Czech Republic

LETTER OF SUPPORT

to: **EDIH Ostrava proposal**

Dear [REDACTED]

We are writing to you on behalf of the regional partner of Czech Enterprise Europe Network project BISON3T to confirm that we are very interested in supporting your proposal EDIH Ostrava to be submitted to the call "Digital Europe - European Digital Innovation Hubs (DIGITAL-2021-EDIH-01)".

The purpose of EDIH OVA project to provide Czech SMEs and start-ups with access to unique core-facility together with highly-specialised services such as:

- a) testing HPC technologies,
- b) testing for Digitized Manufacturing,
- c) support for digital readiness and increase of digital maturity via programmes such as "Digital audit", "DigiUp", "Building Inspector of digitalization" and "Cyber-security audit", and
- d) specific oriented training in advanced simulation and modelling, AI use, machine learning, and/or SW application for PLM,

are fully in line with our objective to support competitiveness, innovativeness and sustainable development of our EEN regional clients.

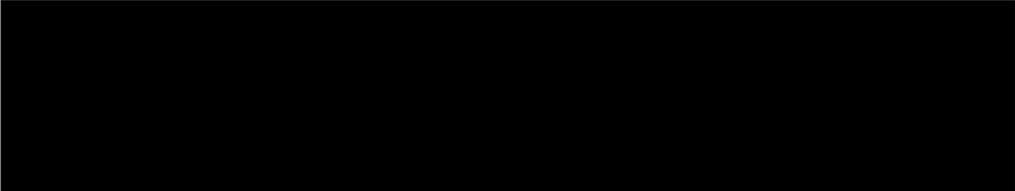
The BISON3T is a consortium of 6 entities in the Czech Republic (Technology Centre CAS, BIC Plzeň, Centre for Regional Development of the Czech Republic, JIC – SouthMoravian Innovation Centre, Regional Chamber of Moravia Silesia, Brno Regional Chamber of Commerce) implementing the activities of the Enterprise Europe Network especially the partnership services (e.g. brokerage events, trade missions, partnering database), advisory services (e.g. EU legislation and standards, Access to international markets, International public contracts, Finance and funding, Energy and resource efficiency, Intellectual Property), and last but not least innovation support.

We as a regional partner of EEN are interested in the supporting the EDIH OVA proposal by:

- sharing of information and know-how related to better awareness raising and support of Czech small and medium-sized enterprises, especially in ICT and digitalisation,

- active searching for opportunities for cooperation in order to improve innovativeness and competitiveness of Czech SMEs including dissemination and communication activities,
- promoting EDIH OVA services to EEN clients (start-ups and SMEs) which can benefit from EDIH OVA specialisation e.g., supercomputing;
- intermediating the contacts between EEN clients with potential to benefit from EDIH OVA activities and services.
- offering and in relevant cases involving EDIH OVA clients with ambition to enter international markets into EEN services such as partnering database, trade missions, international brokerage events, advisory services and/or innovation support;
- and last but not least in organising joint events such as matchmaking events and/or conferences about EU funding, Access to Finance and other relevant topics.

Kind regards,



Director of the Regional Chamber of Commerce Moravia-Silesia
Regional partner of EEN consortium BISON3T in the Czech Republic

Att.: Martin Duda
DIH Ostrava Project Coordinator
Technical University of Ostrava
Czech Republic

Praha 14.02.2022

LETTER OF SUPPORT

to: **EDIH Ostrava proposal**

Dear 

I am writing to you on behalf of the CzechInvest – Business and Investment Development Agency of the Czech Republic to confirm that we are very interested in supporting your proposal EDIH Ostrava to be submitted to the call “Digital Europe - European Digital Innovation Hubs (DIGITAL-2021-EDIH-01)”.

The purpose to provide Czech SMEs and public institutions with access to advanced digital technologies (such as supercomputing) and with systematic support (via advice, expertise and consulting) in shifting them into the higher level of digital maturity and by that to contribute to their faster development, higher innovation efforts, and international competitiveness with respect to the rules of environmental sustainability, is fully aligned with our own objectives and core strengths and complements/extends the activities and services we provide to start-ups, SMEs and investors.

CzechInvest plays a key role in the area of supporting business and investments in its comprehensive form. One of the CzechInvest’s main objectives is transformation of the Czech Republic into an innovation leader of Europe. The CzechInvest’s main activities include e.g. development of the Czech technology firm’s potential, support for “smart” investments, development and cultivation of the national start-up and spin-off environment, assistance for Czech firms when entering foreign markets, and promotion of the Czech economy, technologies and R&D abroad. CzechInvest is also the Startup Europe Ambassador in the Czech Republic.

CzechInvest is interested in the supporting the DIH OVA proposal by:

- sharing of information and know-how related to better awareness raising and support of Czech small and medium-sized enterprises, especially in the area of ICT and digitalisation,
- active searching for opportunities for mutual cooperation in order to improve innovativeness and competitiveness of Czech SMEs including dissemination and communication activities,
- promoting DIH OVA services to CzechInvest clients (start-ups and SMEs) which can benefit from DIH OVA specialisation (e.g. supercomputing) especially the ones involved ESA BIC,
- intermediating the contacts between CzechInvest clients with potential to benefit from DIH OVA activities and services;
- offering and in relevant cases involving DIH OVA clients with ambition to enter international markets into CzechInvest programmes such as CzechAccelerator (3months programme supporting the foreign expansion of SMEs and start-ups), CzechDemo (joint participation at international trade-fairs), CzechMatch (1week acceleration programme in abroad which helps start-ups to validate their products and extend the portfolio of contacts);
- offering and in relevant cases involving DIH OVA clients into the activities of Startup Europe initiative and into the ESA BIC activities;
- and last but not least in organising joint events such as matchmaking events and/or conferences.

Yours Sincerely

Director General
Business and Investment Development
Agency CzechInvest

Annex 10

Other EDIH candidates - Expressions of Interest for Cooperation

Memorandum of Understanding – EDIH Manufacturing Network (EDIH4Manu)

We, coordinators of European Digital Innovation Hub candidates,

1. EDIH Lombardia (Lombardy, Italy), coordinated by MADE Competence Center I4.0
2. DIGITALIS (Flanders, Belgium), coordinated by Flanders Make
3. EDIH SNL (South Netherland, Netherland), coordinated by Stichting EDIH ZNL
4. EDIH DIGIHALL (Île de France, France), coordinated by CEA
5. POLYTRONICS (Auvergne Rhone Alpes, Bourgogne Franche Comté, Centre Val de Loire, France), coordinated by Polymeris
6. DIH4CAT (Catalonia, Spain), coordinated by ACCIÓ - Agència per la Competitivitat de l'Empresa
7. Canary Islands Digital Innovation Hub (CIDIHUB) (Canary Islands, Spain), coordinated by Innovalia Association
8. PRODUTECH DIH (Portugal), coordinated by PRODUTECH – Associação para as Tecnologias de Produção Sustentável
9. NEURAL (Veneto, Italy), coordinated by SMACT Competence Center
10. EXPAND (Piedmont, Italy), coordinated by CIM4.0 Competence Center
11. EHUB-WG (Patras, Greece), coordinated by Laboratory for Manufacturing System & Automation (LMS)
12. Six Manufacturing EDIH (Finland), coordinated by Tamlink Ltd.
13. AddSmart – The European Digital Innovation Hub of North Denmark (North Denmark, Denmark), coordinated by Business Hub Northern Denmark
14. ShiftLabs (Stockholm, West Sweden, East Middle Sweden, Sweden), coordinated by Mälardalen University.
15. EDIH Rheinland, (Rheinland, Germany), coordinated by Laboratory for Machine Tools and Production Engineering (WZL) of RWTH Aachen University
16. EDIH Cassovium (East Slovakia, Slovakia), coordinated by Technical University of Košice
17. Digitization.Beyond.BW (Baden Württemberg, Germany), coordinated by Zentrum für Digitalisierung Landkreis Böblingen – ZD.BB GmbH
18. EDIH Digital Innovations for Bavarian Industries (North and Southwest Bavaria, Germany), coordinated by Bayern Innovativ GmbH
19. Hub4Industry (Małopolska, Podkarpacie, Świętokrzyskie, Poland), coordinated by Krakowski Park Technologiczny sp. z o.o.
20. EDIH Ostrava (Moravian-Silesian Region, Czech Republic), coordinated by VSB – Technical University of Ostrava
21. Basque Digital Innovation Hub (BDIH) (Basque Country, Spain), coordinated by SPRI Agencia Vasca de Desarrollo Empresarial
22. EDIH Northern and Eastern Bohemia (Northeast Bohemia, Czech Republic), coordinated by ARR - Agentura regionálního rozvoje, spol. sr.o
23. DIHGIGAL (Galicia, Spain) coordinated by Ceaga-Fundación Cluster de la Automoción de Galicia
24. WalHub (Walloon, Belgium), coordinated by AGORIA
25. Artificial Intelligence EDIH (Hungary), coordinated by Digital Success Nonprofit Ltd.

express the interest on behalf of our EDIH candidates consortium to cooperate within the network “**EDIH Manufacturing Network (EDIH4Manu)**” in the framework of the Initial Network of Digital Innovation Hubs call (ID: DIGITAL – 2021 – EDIH – INITIAL – 01).

We do cooperate on a voluntary basis to **lead European manufacturing industry digital and sustainable transformation** to support of the use digital capacities under Digital Europe Programme specific objectives (i.e. High Performance Computing, Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, Advanced Digital Skills, Accelerating the best use of technologies). The cooperation of the network is based on the following drivers:

- **Manufacturing value chain**, as core sectoral expertise acknowledged in our Regional Smart Specialisation Strategies
- **Access to digital technologies and infrastructure**, allowing for cross regional test before invest services, basing on sectoral and technological complementarities
- **EU/local approach**, leveraging cross regional services and opportunities coming from the existing EU manufacturing regional networks (Vanguard Initiative¹, EUSALP², 4 EU Motors³) our Regions belongs to, as well as Digital Innovation Hubs networks and EU projects network (Annex 2).

For this purpose, we have agreed on the following non exhaustive service portfolio list to be supplied on a cross regional basis to EDIH4Manu clients building on customized customer journey within the scope of the EDIH proposal:

A. TEST BEFORE INVEST, to support the implementation and adoption of digital technologies.

Examples of services:

- Provision of access to technological infrastructure
- R&I project development (such as Proof of Concept, TestBed, prototyping starting from TRL 6)
- Support of product demonstration and qualification

B. SKILLS AND TRAINING. To support reskilling, upskilling and creation of new skills for I4.0.

Examples of services:

- Co-organisation of dedicated technology informative, to explain I4.0 technology
- Co-organization of training courses (e.g. summer school)
- Co-development of teaching factory schemes
- Co organization of train the trainer courses
- Mapping and assessment of skills gaps

C. ACCESS TO R&I FUNDS, supporting companies in accessing European, cross regional funds for R&I and innovative finance. Examples of services:

- Identification of funding opportunities (e.g. Horizon Europe, ERDF, Digital Europe)
- Matching of proposals and funds
- Consortia creation

D. ECOSYSTEM, develop and increase R&I Network (universities, companies, R&D) to promote technology transfer projects. Examples of services:

- Co organization of information and awareness raising
- Cooperation delivering Digital maturity assessment

¹ <http://www.s3vanguardinitiative.eu/>

² <https://www.alpine-region.eu/>

³ <https://www.4motors.eu/en/>

- Tech scouting, trend watching on I4.0 technology
- Technology matchmaking (e.g. company visit, B2B)
- R&I ecosystem management and engagement
- Manufacturing EDIH capacity building and best practice exchange

To implement the above-mentioned activities, we will share and make available our testing facilities to EDIH4Manu clients within the scope of European Digital Innovation Hub network. In addition, to accomplish the above-mentioned services portfolio EDIH Manufacturing Network members will exploit synergies with local Enterprise Europe Network⁴ nodes, EIT Manufacturing co location center⁵, EIT Digital⁶ and regional cluster organization.

Following positive evaluation of the proposals, EDIH4Manu will agree on a joint annual action plan as well as setting up a governance mechanism to manage expansion of the network.

⁴ <https://een.ec.europa.eu/>

⁵ <https://www.eitmanufacturing.eu/>

⁶ <https://www.eitdigital.eu/>

1. EDIH Lombardia

MADE Competence Center I4.0 Scarl (Coordinator)

Represented by Professor Marco Taisch

Date: 08/02/2022

Signature



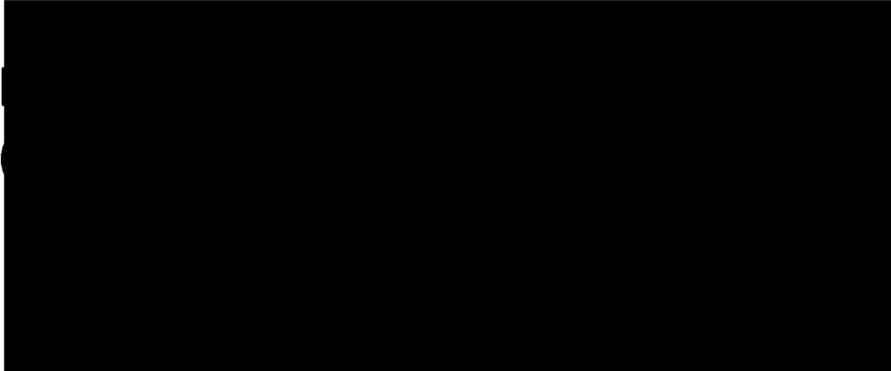
2. DIGITALIS

Flanders Make (Coordinator)

Represented by 

Date:

Signature



3. EDIH SNL

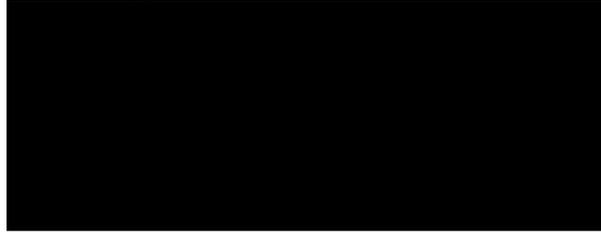
Stichting EDIH ZNL (coordinator)

Represented by

Date:

Signature

9-2-2022



Program manager EDIH-SNL
Board member Stichting EDIH-SNL

4. EDIH DIGIHALL

CEA (Coordinator)

Represented by [REDACTED]

Date: 10/02/2022

Signature

[REDACTED]

5. **POLYTRONICS**

Polymeris (Coordinator)

Represented by [REDACTED] CEO Polymeris

Date 14/02/2022

Signature

[REDACTED]

6. **DIH4CAT**

ACCIÓ - Agència per la Competitivitat de l'Empresa (Coordinator)

Represented by Javier Lopez

Date:

Signature



7. Canary Islands Digital Innovation Hub (CIDIHUB)

Innovalia Association (Coordinator)

Represented by Jorge Galván Falcón

Date: 09/02/2022

Signature



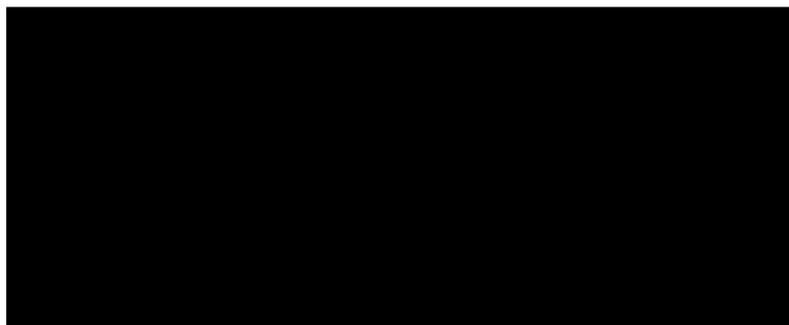
8. PRODUTECH DIH

PRODUTECH – Associação para as Tecnologias de Produção Sustentável) (Coordinator)

Represented by Pedro Rocha

Date: Feb. 11th, 2022

Signature



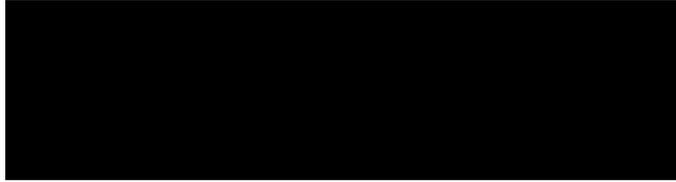
9. **NEURAL**

SMACT Competence Center (Coordinator)

Represented by Prof. Fabrizio Dughiero

Date: February 10th, 2022

Signature



10. **EXPAND**

CIM4.0 Competence Center (Coordinator)

Represented by Enrico Pisino

Date: 09/02/2022

Signature 

11. EHUB-WG

Laboratory for Manufacturing System & Automation (LMS) (Coordinator)

Represented by Prof. George Chryssolouris

Date:

Signature



12. Six Manufacturing EDIH

Tamlink Ltd. (Coordinator)

Represented by Mr. Juha Leppänen, CEO of Tamlink and Mr. Harri Nieminen, Co-creation manager of VTT

Mr. Juha Leppänen, Tamlink Ltd., CEO

Date:

Signature



Mr. Harri Nieminen, VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland, Co-creation manager

Date: 14.2.2022

Signature



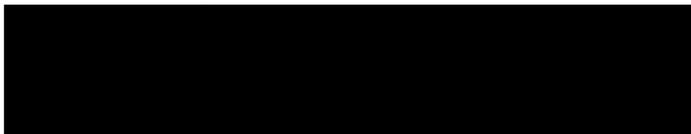
13. AddSmart – The European Digital Innovation Hub of North Denmark

Business Hub Northern Denmark (Coordinator)

Represented by Lars Erik Jønsson

Date:

27.11.2022



14. ShiftLabs

Mälardalen University (Coordinator)
Represented by Damir Iovic

Date: 2022-02-16



Signature

15. **EDIH Rheinland**

Laboratory for Machine Tools and Production Engineering (WZL) of RWTH Aachen University
(Coordinator)

Represented by Prof. Dr.-Ing. Robert Schmitt

Date: 11/02/2022

Signature



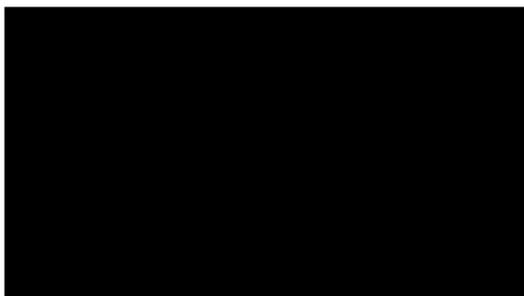
16. **EDIH Cassovium**

Technical University of Košice (Coordinator)

Represented by Dr. h. c. prof. h. c. prof. Ing. Stanislav Kmeť, DrSc.

Date: 14.02.2022

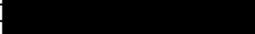
Signature



17. **Digitization.Beyond.BW**

 Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)8169056 - 25/11/2022

Zentrum für Digitalisierung Landkreis Böblingen – ZD.BB GmbH

Represented by 

Date: 2022 10 21 08

Signature



18. EDIH Digital Innovations for Bavarian Industries

Bayern Innovativ GmbH (Coordinator)

Represented by Dr. Matthias Konrad, Member Board of Directors, and Dr. Robert Couronné,
Member Board of Directors

[Redacted]

Member Board of Directors

Date and Signature

[Redacted]

16.2.22

[Redacted]

Member Board of Directors

Date and Signature

16.2.22

[Redacted]

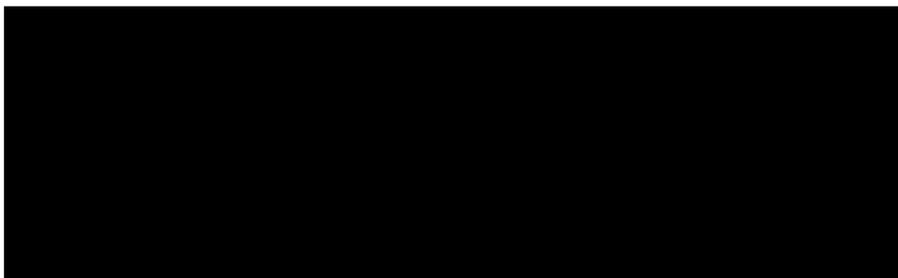
19. **Hub4Industry**

Krakowski Park Technologiczny sp. z o.o. (Coordinator)

Represented by 

Date: 15/02/2022

Signature



20. **EDIH Ostrava**

VSB – Technical University of Ostrava (Coordinator)

Represented by prof. RNDr. Václav Snášel, CSc.

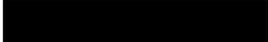
Date:

Signature



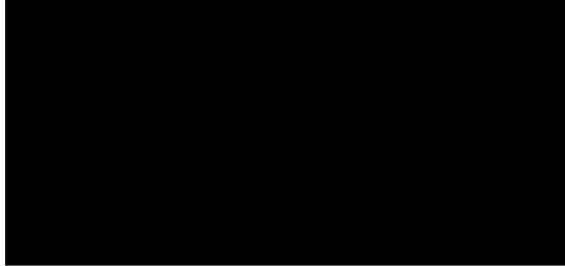
21. Basque Digital Innovation Hub (BDIH)

SPRI Agencia Vasca de Desarrollo Empresarial (Coordinator)

Represented by 

Date:

Signature



22. **EDIH Northern and Eastern Bohemia**

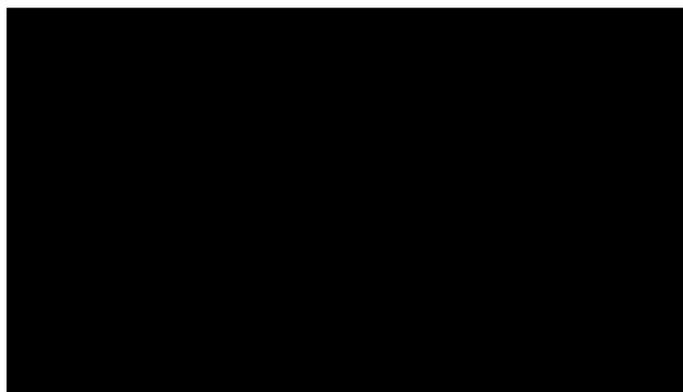
 Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)8169056 - 25/11/2022

ARR - Agentura regionálního rozvoje, spol. s r.o (Coordinator)

Represented by  CEO of ARR – Agentura regionálního rozvoje, spol. s r.o.

Date: 11.2.2022

Signature



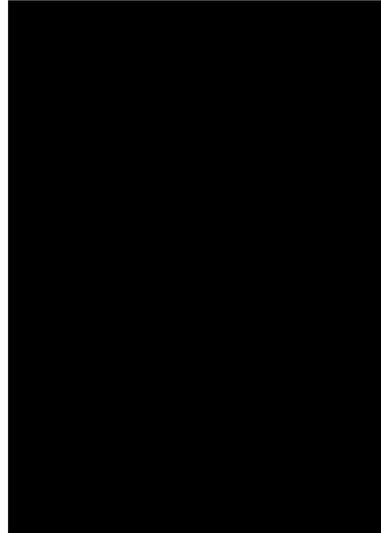
23. DIHGIGAL

Ceaga-Fundación Cluster de la Automoción de Galicia (Coordinator)

Represented by 

Date: 08/02/2022

Signature



24. **WalHUB**

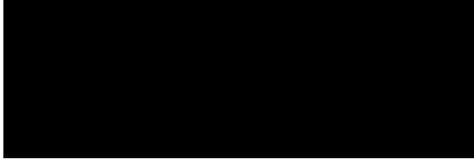
AGORIA (Coordinator)

Represented by 

General Manager, Agoria Wallonie

Date: 18/02/2022

Signature:



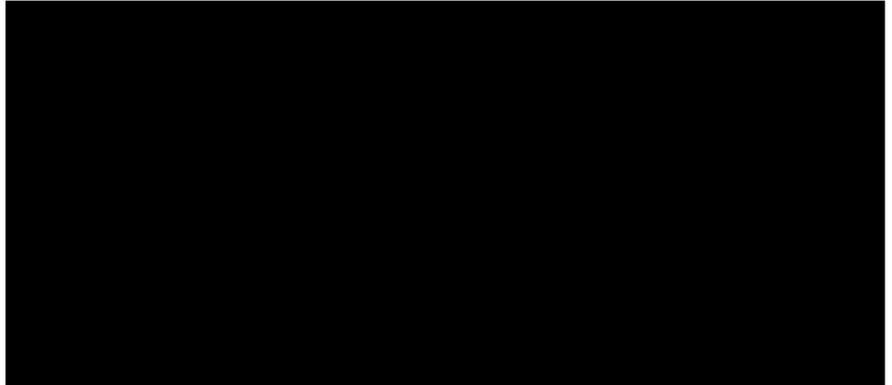
25. **Artificial Intelligence EDIH (AI EDIH)**

Digital Success Nonprofit Ltd. (Coordinator)

Represented by [REDACTED], CEO of Digital Success Nonprofit Ltd.

Date: 18th February, 2022

Signature:



ANNEX 1 EDIH Manufacturing Network (EDIH4Manu) EU projects and network

EDIH PARTNERS INVOLVED	EU Projects	ROLE	DIGITAL EUROPE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	EDIH SERVICE
Hubs4Industry (Krakow Technology Park)	(CEUP) Central Europe Upstreaming for Policy Excellence in Advanced Manufacturing & Industry 4.0 towards 2030	COORDINATOR	504 - Advanced Digital Skills	ECO - R&I ecosystem management and engagement
Hubs4Industry (Krakow Technology Park)	(SISCODE) Society in Innovation and Science through CODEsign	PARTNER	504 - Advanced Digital Skills	TB - Idea generation and management
CIDIHUB (Innovalia)	4pOrt	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	R&IFUNDS - Matching projects/fund
EDIH Rheinland	5G-SMART GA No. 837008	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	TB - Access to technological infrastructure
EDIH LOMBARDIA (AFIL)	ADMANTEX21 (COSME)	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	ECO - Manufacturing EDIH capacity building
EDIH Ostrava (MSIC)	AgROBOfood	OTHER	505 – Digital Capacities	TB - Idea generation and management
EDIH DIH4CAT (Eurecat)	AgRoboFood	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	TBI - Idea generation and management
CIDIHUB (Innovalia)	AI D H Network	PARTNER	502 – Artificial Intelligence	ECO - R&I ecosystem management and engagement
EDIH DIGIHALL (CEA)	AI DIH Network	PARTNER	502 – Artificial Intelligence	ECO - R&I ecosystem management and engagement
EDIH LOMBARDIA (DIH Lombardia)	AI D H Network	PARTNER	502 – Artificial Intelligence	ECO - R&I ecosystem management and engagement
PRODUTECH DIH (PRODUTECH)	AI DIH Network	PARTNER	502 – Artificial Intelligence	ECO - R&I ecosystem management and engagement
EDIH DIGIHALL (CEA)	AI REG IO	PARTNER	502 – Artificial Intelligence	ECO - R&I ecosystem management and engagement
EDIH DIH4CAT (Eurecat)	AI REG IO	PARTNER	502 – Artificial Intelligence	ECO - Manufacturing EDIH capacity building
EDIH LOMBARDIA (AFIL)	AI REG IO	PARTNER	502 – Artificial Intelligence	ECO - Manufacturing EDIH capacity building
EDIH LOMBARDIA (MADE)	AI REG IO	OTHER	502 – Artificial Intelligence	ECO - Manufacturing EDIH capacity building
POLYTRONICS (Polymeris)	AI REG IO	PARTNER	502 – Artificial Intelligence	TB - Information and awareness raising
PRODUTECH DIH (via Competence Center)	AI REG IO	PARTNER	502 – Artificial Intelligence	ECO - R&I ecosystem management and engagement
SIX Manufacturing EDIH (TAU)	AI REG IO	PARTNER	502 – Artificial Intelligence	ECO - R&I ecosystem management and engagement
EDIH CASSOVIVUM	A4EU	PARTNER	502 – Artificial Intelligence	ECO - R&I ecosystem management and engagement
EDIH Rheinland	AIDPATH GA No. 101016909	COORDINATOR	502 – Artificial Intelligence	TB - R&I project development (PoC, TestBed, prototyping)
POLYTRONICS (Polymeris)	AMULET	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	R&I FUNDS - Identification of funding opportunities
EDIH Rheinland	AUTOCRAT GA No. 874671	PARTNER	504 - Advanced Digital Skills	TB - Idea generation and management
PRODUTECH DIH (Competence Center)	BetterFactory	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	ECO - R&I ecosystem management and engagement
SIX Manufacturing EDIH (VTT)	BetterFactory	COORDINATOR	505 – Digital Capacities	ECO - R&I ecosystem management and engagement
EDIH DIGIHALL (Systematic)	B-HUB	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	ECO - Technology matchmaking
CIDIHUB (Innovalia)	Boost4.0	COORDINATOR	505 – Digital Capacities	TB - R&I project development (PoC, TestBed, prototyping)
EDIH CASSOVIVUM	BOWI	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	ECO - Manufacturing EDIH capacity building
EDIH LOMBARDIA (MADE)	BOWI	OTHER	505 – Digital Capacities	TB - Idea generation and management
EDIH Rheinland	BOWI	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	R&IFUNDS - Matching projects/fund
Hubs4Industry (Krakow Technology Park)	BOWI	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	TB - R&I project development (PoC, TestBed, prototyping)
PRODUTECH DIH (PRODUTECH and Competence Centers)	BOWI	OTHER	505 – Digital Capacities	ECO - R&I ecosystem management and engagement
SIX Manufacturing EDIH (VTT)	BOWI	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	ECO - Manufacturing EDIH capacity building
EDIH LOMBARDIA (AFIL)	CEUP 2030 (Interreg CE)	PARTNER	504 - Advanced Digital Skills	ECO - Manufacturing EDIH capacity building
PRODUTECH DIH (PRODUTECH and Competence Centers)	Change2twin	OTHER	505 – Digital Capacities	TB - Access to technological infrastructure
EDIH Ostrava (VSB-TUO)	CloudiFacturing	PARTNER	501 – High Performance Computing	TBI - R&I project development (PoC, TestBed, prototyping)

EDIH PARTNERS INVOLVED	EU Projects	ROLE	DIGITAL EUROPE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	EDIH SERVICE
BD H - SPRI – Agencia Vasca de Desarrollo Empresarial, SPR , Basque Country, Spain	CLUSTER53	Leader	505 – Digital Capacities	ECO - R&I ecosystem management and engagement
EDIH DIGIHALL (CEA)	Connected Factories (H2020_CSA)	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	ECO - Manufacturing EDih capacity building
DIGITALISATIE VAN DE INDUSTRIE EN INDUSTRIE 4.0	Connected Factories (H2020_CSA)	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	ECO - Manufacturing EDih capacity building
SIX Manufacturing EDIH (VTT)	Connected Factories (H2020_CSA)	COORDINATOR	505 – Digital Capacities	ECO - Manufacturing EDIH capacity building
DIGITALISATIE VAN DE INDUSTRIE EN INDUSTRIE 4.0	COTEMACO (Interreg NEW)	COORDINATOR	505 – Digital Capacities	R&I FUNDS - Identification of funding opportunities
DIGITALISATIE VAN DE INDUSTRIE EN INDUSTRIE 4.0	COTEMACO (Interreg NEW)	COORDINATOR	505 – Digital Capacities	R&IFUNDS - Matching projects/fund
DIGITALISATIE VAN DE INDUSTRIE EN INDUSTRIE 4.0	COTEMACO (Interreg NEW)	COORDINATOR	505 – Digital Capacities	TB - Access to technological infrastructure
DIGITALISATIE VAN DE INDUSTRIE EN INDUSTRIE 4.0	COTEMACO (Interreg NEW)	COORDINATOR	505 – Digital Capacities	TBI - R&I project development (PoC, TestBed, prototyping)
EDIH Rheinland	DEMETER	PARTNER	504 - Advanced Digital Skills	TB - Idea generation and management
EDIH LOMBARDIA (MADE)	DIGIBreak (DIGITBrain)	COORDINATOR	505 – Digital Capacities	ECO - R&I ecosystem management and engagement
POLYTRONICS (Polymeris)	DigiPrime	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	ECO - Technology matchmaking
DIGITALISATIE VAN DE INDUSTRIE EN INDUSTRIE 4.0	Digital Twin EMR (Interreg EMR)	PARTNER	502 – Artificial Intelligence	TBI - Access to technological infrastructure
CIDIHUB (Innovalia)	D GITOUR 5M	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	ECO - R&I ecosystem management and engagement
CIDIHUB (Innovalia)	DIH_World H020	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	TBI - R&I project development (PoC, TestBed, prototyping)
EHUB-WG (LMS)	D H_World H020	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	TB - R&I project development (PoC, TestBed, prototyping)
EDIH LOMBARDIA (MADE)	DIH2	OTHER	505 – Digital Capacities	TBI - R&I project development (PoC, TestBed, prototyping)
PRODUTECH DIH (PRODUTECH)	D H2	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	ECO - Technology matchmaking
SIX Manufacturing EDIH (VTT)	DIH2	COORDINATOR	505 – Digital Capacities	ECO - Technology matchmaking
ED H DIH4CAT (Eurecat)	DIH2	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	ECO - Technology matchmaking
EDIH DIGIHALL (CEA)	DIH4AI	PARTNER	502 – Artificial Intelligence	ECO - Technology matchmaking
CIDIHUB (Innovalia)	D H4CP5	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	TB - R&I project development (PoC, TestBed, prototyping)
PRODUTECH DIH (PRODUTECH and Competence Centers)	DIH4CP5	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	ECO - Manufacturing EDih capacity building
DIGITALISATIE VAN DE INDUSTRIE EN INDUSTRIE 4.0	D HHELP (H2020)	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	ECO - Manufacturing EDih capacity building
EDIH DIGIHALL (CEA)	DIH-HERO	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	ECO - Manufacturing EDih capacity building
ED H DIH4CAT (Eurecat)	DIH-HERO	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	ECO - Manufacturing EDih capacity building
EDIH LOMBARDIA (DIH Lombardia)	DIH-HERO	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	ECO - Manufacturing EDih capacity building
CIDIHUB (Innovalia)	D H-World	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	TB - R&I project development (PoC, TestBed, prototyping)
PRODUTECH DIH (PRODUTECH)	DISRUPTIVE (INTERREG)	PARTNER	504 - Advanced Digital Skills	ECO - Manufacturing EDih capacity building
EDIH Rheinland	DynaM TE	PARTNER	502 – Artificial Intelligence	TB - R&I project development (PoC, TestBed, prototyping)
EDIH Rheinland	ECOFAC T GA No. 958373	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	TBI - R&I project development (PoC, TestBed, prototyping)

EDIH PARTNERS INVOLVED	EU Projects	ROLE	DIGITAL EUROPE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	EDIH SERVICE
DIGITALISATIE VAN DE INDUSTRIE EN INDUSTRIE 4.0	ECCELERATE (INNOSUP)	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	TBI - R&I project development (PoC, TestBed, prototyping)
DIGITALISATIE VAN DE INDUSTRIE EN INDUSTRIE 4.0	ECISO Cybersecurity ppp	PARTNER	503 - Cybersecurity and Trust	ECO - R&I ecosystem management and engagement
EDIH Rheinland	EFPF	PARTNER	504 - Advanced Digital Skills	TBI - Access to technological infrastructure
EDIH Rheinland	EFPF	PARTNER	504 - Advanced Digital Skills	TBI - R&I project development (PoC, TestBed, prototyping)
EDIH Rheinland	EJD STIMULATE H2020	PARTNER	501 – High Performance Computing	TBI - R&I project development (PoC, TestBed, prototyping)
EDIH Rheinland	ENODISE	PARTNER	504 - Advanced Digital Skills	TBI - R&I project development (PoC, TestBed, prototyping)
BDIH - SPRI – Agencia Vasca de Desarrollo Empresarial, SPRI, Basque Country, Spain	ENTERPRISE EUROPE NETWORK (EEN)	Leader	505 – Digital Capacities	ECO - Technology matchmaking
EDIH Rheinland	EPIC 2nd stage GA No. 739592	PARTNER	504 - Advanced Digital Skills	TBI - R&I project development (PoC, TestBed, prototyping)
EHUB-WG (LMS)	ESMERA H2020	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	TBI - R&I project development (PoC, TestBed, prototyping)
EDIH Rheinland	ESSIAL GA No. 766437	PARTNER	504 - Advanced Digital Skills	TBI - R&I project development (PoC, TestBed, prototyping)
EDIH Rheinland	EU Master HPC H2020	PARTNER	504 - Advanced Digital Skills	SKILLS - Training course
EDIH LOMBARDIA EACP (European Aerospace Cluster Platform) - LAC	EU Network	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	ECO - Manufacturing ED h capacity building
EDIH LOMBARDIA EACP (European Aerospace Cluster Platform) - LAC	EU Network	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	ECO - R&I ecosystem management and engagement
EDIH LOMBARDIA EACP (European Aerospace Cluster Platform) - LAC	EU Network	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	ECO - Tech scouting, trend watching
EDIH LOMBARDIA EACP (European Aerospace Cluster Platform) - LAC	EU Network	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	ECO - Technology matchmaking
PRODUTECH DIH (PRODUTECH and Competence Centers)	EUHUB54DATA	Other	505 – Digital Capacities	ECO - Manufacturing ED h capacity building
EDIH CASSOVIUM	EUHUB54DATA (Cascade Project)	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	ECO - Manufacturing ED h capacity building
ED H DIH4CAT ;Eurecat	EUHUB54DATA ;Cascade Project)	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	ECO - Manufacturing ED h capacity building
BDIH - SPRI – Agencia Vasca de Desarrollo Empresarial, SPRI, Basque Country, Spain	EURBEST	Partner	505 – Digital Capacities	ECO - Manufacturing ED h capacity building
CIDIHUB (Innovalia)	EUREKA	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	ECO - R&I ecosystem management and engagement
EDIH LOMBARDIA (AFIL)	EUREKA	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	ECO - R&I ecosystem management and engagement
EDIH Ostrava (VSB-TUO)	EuroCC	PARTNER	501 – High Performance Computing	TBI - R&I project development (PoC, TestBed, prototyping)
EDIH DIGIHALL (Teratec)	EuroCC network and CASTEL	PARTNER	503 - Cybersecurity and Trust	ECO - R&I ecosystem management and engagement
EDIH Rheinland	EVPRO GA No. 814495	COORDINATOR	504 - Advanced Digital Skills	TBI - R&I project development (PoC, TestBed, prototyping)
EDIH Rheinland	EXCELLERA	PARTNER	501 – High Performance Computing	ECO - R&I ecosystem management and engagement
DIGITALISATIE VAN DE INDUSTRIE EN INDUSTRIE 4.0	FACT MA (H2020)	PARTNER	503 - Cybersecurity and Trust	TBI - Access to technological infrastructure
CIDIHUB (Innovalia)	Fiihub	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	ECO - R&I ecosystem management and engagement

EDIH PARTNERS INVOLVED	EU Projects	ROLE	DIGITAL EUROPE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	EDIH SERVICE
EDIH Rheinland	HELIAUS (Ecsel) GA No. 826131	PARTNER	502 – Artificial Intelligence	TB - R&I project development (PoC, TestBed, prototyping)
EDIH Rheinland	HiPEAC 6	PARTNER	504 - Advanced Digital Skills	TBI - Information and awareness raising
EDIH Rheinland	HiPEAC 7	PARTNER	504 - Advanced Digital Skills	TB - Information and awareness raising
DIGITALISATIE VAN DE INDUSTRIE EN INDUSTRIE 4.0	I4.0	PARTNER	504 - Advanced Digital Skills	SKILLS - Training course
PRODUTECH DIH (PRODUTECH and Competence Centers)	i4TRUST	Other	503 - Cybersecurity and Trust	ECO - Technology matchmaking
EDIH Rheinland	INEDIT	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	TBI - Idea generation and management
Hubs4Industry (Krakow Technology Park)	Interreg 3DCentral	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	ECO - R&I ecosystem management and engagement
EDIH Rheinland	INVENTOR	PARTNER	504 - Advanced Digital Skills	TBI - R&I project development (PoC, TestBed, prototyping)
EDIH Rheinland	iP4MOVE	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	TB - R&I project development (PoC, TestBed, prototyping)
EDIH Rheinland	iProduce	PARTNER	504 - Advanced Digital Skills	TBI - Idea generation and management
EDIH Rheinland	iProduce	PARTNER	504 - Advanced Digital Skills	TB - R&I project development (PoC, TestBed, prototyping)
EDIH Rheinland	JOINTPROMISE GA No. 874837	PARTNER	504 - Advanced Digital Skills	TBI - R&I project development (PoC, TestBed, prototyping)
EDIH Rheinland	KIC RM Circular-TP GA No. 13064	PARTNER	504 - Advanced Digital Skills	TB - R&I project development (PoC, TestBed, prototyping)
EDIH Rheinland	Knowledge	PARTNER	504 - Advanced Digital Skills	TBI - Idea generation and management
EDIH Rheinland	Knowledge	PARTNER	502 – Artificial Intelligence	TB - R&I project development (PoC, TestBed, prototyping)
Hubs4Industry (Krakow Technology Park)	KPT ScaleUp	COORDINATOR	505 – Digital Capacities	TBI - R&I project development (PoC, TestBed, prototyping)
SIX Manufacturing EDIH (VTT)	LAMS	COORDINATOR	505 – Digital Capacities	TB - R&I project development (PoC, TestBed, prototyping)
EDIH Rheinland	LaVA	PARTNER	502 – Artificial Intelligence	TBI - R&I project development (PoC, TestBed, prototyping)
BD H - SPRI – Agencia Vasca de Desarrollo Empresarial, SPR , Basque Country, Spain	MITKE	Partner	505 – Digital Capacities	ECO - R&I ecosystem management and engagement
EDIH Rheinland	NanoWinTur	PARTNER	504 - Advanced Digital Skills	TBI - R&I project development (PoC, TestBed, prototyping)
DIGITALISATIE VAN DE INDUSTRIE EN INDUSTRIE 4.0	PhotonHub Europe (H2020)	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	ECO - Manufacturing EDIh capacity building
DIGITALISATIE VAN DE INDUSTRIE EN INDUSTRIE 4.0	PhotonHub Europe (H2020)	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	R&IFUNDS - Matching projects/fund
DIGITALISATIE VAN DE INDUSTRIE EN INDUSTRIE 4.0	PhotonHub Europe (H2020)	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	TB - Access to technological infrastructure
EDIH LOMBARDIA (AFIL)	PIMAP + (COSME)	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	ECO - Manufacturing EDIh capacity building
EDIH Rheinland	POP, POP2	PARTNER	501 – High Performance Computing	TB - R&I project development (PoC, TestBed, prototyping)
EDIH LOMBARDIA (MADE)	POWERLIFT (EI Manufacturing)	COORDINATOR	505 – Digital Capacities	ECO - Manufacturing EDIh capacity building
CIDIHUB (Innovalia)	ProtoAtlantic	COORDINATOR	505 – Digital Capacities	TB - Access to technological infrastructure
EDIH DIGIHALL (CEA)	PULSATE	PARTNER	504 - Advanced Digital Skills	ECO - R&I ecosystem management and engagement
EDIH DIGIHALL (CEA)	PULSATE	PARTNER	504 - Advanced Digital Skills	R&IFUNDS - Matching projects/fund
EDIH DIGIHALL (CEA)	PULSATE	PARTNER	504 - Advanced Digital Skills	SKILLS - Training course
EDIH DIGIHALL (CEA)	PULSATE	PARTNER	504 - Advanced Digital Skills	TB - Information and awareness raising
EDIH LOMBARDIA (MADE)	RAINBot (DIHWorld)	COORDINATOR	505 – Digital Capacities	TBI - R&I project development (PoC, TestBed, prototyping)

EDIH PARTNERS INVOLVED	EU Projects	ROLE	DIGITAL EUROPE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	EDIH SERVICE
EDIH Rheinland	RAISE	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	ECO - Manufacturing EDIH capacity building
EDIH DIGIHALL (CEA)	REACH	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	TBI - R&I project development (PoC, TestBed, prototyping)
EDIH DIGIHALL (CEA)	RIMA H2020	COORDINATOR	504 - Advanced Digital Skills	TB - Access to technological infrastructure
EDIH CASSOVIUM	RIMA H2020	PARTNER	504 - Advanced Digital Skills	TBI - Access to technological infrastructure
EHUB-WG (LMS)	RIMA H2020	PARTNER	504 - Advanced Digital Skills	TB - Access to technological infrastructure
SIX Manufacturing EDIH (VTT)	RIMA H2020	PARTNER	504 - Advanced Digital Skills	TBI - Access to technological infrastructure
SIX Manufacturing EDIH (VTT)	Robot Union	OTHER	505 – Digital Capacities	TB - R&I project development (PoC, TestBed, prototyping)
BDIH - SPRI – Agencia Vasca de Desarrollo Empresarial, SPRI, Basque Country, Spain	534Growth	Partner	505 – Digital Capacities	ECO - Manufacturing EDIH capacity building
Hubs4Industry (Krakow Technology Park)	53HubsinCE	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	ECO - R&I ecosystem management and engagement
PRODUTECH EDIH (PRODUTECH)	5coDIHNet	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	TBI - R&I project development (PoC, TestBed, prototyping)
DIGITALISATIE VAN DE INDUSTRIE EN INDUSTRIE 4.0	SENER	PARTNER	503 - Cybersecurity and Trust	ECO - Manufacturing EDIH capacity building
EDIH Ostrava (VSB-TUO)	SESAME NET	PARTNER	501 – High Performance Computing	ECO - Manufacturing EDIH capacity building
EDIH DIHACAT (Eurecat)	SMARTTEES and SMARTTEES 2	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	TB - R&I project development (PoC, TestBed, prototyping)
DIGITALISATIE VAN DE INDUSTRIE EN INDUSTRIE 4.0	SMARTY (Interreg Europe)	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	ECO - Tech scouting, trend watching
EDIH DIGIHALL (CEA)	SPARTA	COORDINATOR	503 - Cybersecurity and Trust	ECO - R&I ecosystem management and engagement
EDIH LOMBARDIA (MADE)	STEP (DIH4CPS)	COORDINATOR	505 – Digital Capacities	ECO - R&I ecosystem management and engagement
BDIH - SPRI – Agencia Vasca de Desarrollo Empresarial, SPRI, Basque Country, Spain	SUSTEEN	Partner	505 – Digital Capacities	ECO - R&I ecosystem management and engagement
EDIH Rheinland	TechRad	PARTNER	502 – Artificial Intelligence	ECO - Tech scouting, trend watching
EDIH Ostrava (VSB-TUO)	Tetramax	PARTNER	503 - Cybersecurity and Trust	TB - R&I project development (PoC, TestBed, prototyping)
EDIH Rheinland	TETRAMAX	COORDINATOR	505 – Digital Capacities	R&IFUNDS - Matching projects/fund
EDIH Rheinland	TOPGEAR	PARTNER	504 - Advanced Digital Skills	TB - R&I project development (PoC, TestBed, prototyping)
BDIH - SPRI – Agencia Vasca de Desarrollo Empresarial, SPRI, Basque Country, Spain	TR35	Partner	505 – Digital Capacities	ECO - Tech scouting, trend watching
DIGITALISATIE VAN DE INDUSTRIE EN INDUSTRIE 4.0	TRAIN4SMART_SERVICES (Interreg VL_NL)	PARTNER	504 - Advanced Digital Skills	SKILLS - Training course
EHUB-WG (LMS)	TRINITY H2020	PARTNER	504 - Advanced Digital Skills	ECO - R&I ecosystem management and engagement
SIX Manufacturing EDIH (Centria)	TRINITY H2020	PARTNER	504 - Advanced Digital Skills	ECO - R&I ecosystem management and engagement
SIX Manufacturing EDIH (TAU)	TRINITY H2020	COORDINATOR	504 - Advanced Digital Skills	ECO - R&I ecosystem management and engagement
EDIH Rheinland	WeAreSecurIT	PARTNER	503 - Cybersecurity and Trust	TB - R&I project development (PoC, TestBed, prototyping)
EDIH Rheinland	WeAreSecurIT	PARTNER	503 - Cybersecurity and Trust	TBI - R&I project development (PoC, TestBed, prototyping)
EDIH Rheinland	xCTing	PARTNER	505 – Digital Capacities	ECO - R&I ecosystem management and engagement

CALL FOR PROPOSAL DIGITAL – 2021-EDIH-INITIAL-01
Initial Network of European Digital Innovation Hub

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
EDIH Manufacturing Network (EDIH4Manu)

Attn. EDIH Manufacturing Network (EDIH4Manu) members

On behalf of the World Manufacturing Foundation, I would like to express my interest in supporting EDIH Manufacturing Network (EDIH4Manu). The mission of EDIH4Manu is fully aligned with the Strategic and Action Plan of the Foundation, spreading industrial culture in the most competitive EU manufacturing regions through the green and digital transition, thus supporting societal prosperity and resilience of Europe.

We would gladly support EDIH4Manu implementation, in particular fostering capacity building and networking activities between EDIH4Manu members, the future European EDIHs network, and the World Manufacturing Foundation ecosystem. We are available to be involved in one or more of the following activities (timing and conditions will be confirmed in advance with the EDIH4Manu members):

- Capacity building activities, hosting an annual meeting of EDIH4Manu within the World Manufacturing Forum;
- Networking with World Manufacturing Foundation partners, regional stakeholders, and interregional networks and the future subnetworks of EDIH4Manu;
- Dissemination and communication initiatives feeding EDIH4Manu citizens and stakeholders engagement process;
- Fostering alignment of EDIH4Manu implementation with WMF strategic and action plan towards digital transition for manufacturing.

We understand that this letter of support is non-binding and simply demonstrates recognition of the importance and support for the project initiative.

We also understand that this does not imply a financial contribution and that we may not have access to confidential consortium documents such as internal meeting reports.

We hope for a positive evaluation of EDIH4Manu members' proposal and look forward to collaborating with you.



Milan, 17th February 2022

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between:

VSB – Technical University of Ostrava, with its registered seat at 17. listopadu 2172/15, 708 00 Ostrava – Poruba, Czech Republic, represented by prof. RNDr. Václav Snášel, CSc., Rector of VSB-TUO, as the leader of **Digital Innovation Hub Ostrava**,

(hereinafter „Party 1“)

and

Katowicka Specjalna Strefa Ekonomiczna S.A. (Katowice Special Economic Zone) with its registered seat at Wojewódzka 42, 40-026 Katowice, Poland, represented by Janusz Michałek – President, Chairman of Board and Jacek Bialik, Vice-President, as the leader of the **Digital Innovation Hub Silesia Smart Systems**

(hereinafter “Party 2”)

Also collectively referred to as „both parties“ or separately as „party“.

I. PURPOSE

1. The Memorandum of Understanding shall be concluded between the **lead** partners (Party 1 & Party 2) of two envisaged consortiums that plan to apply for a grant from the Digital Europe Programme to set up and run the European Digital Innovation Hub.
2. Digital Innovation Hubs (DIHs) are acting as innovation intermediaries for the matching of demand and offer of advanced digital services and technologies, in order to support digital transformation processes. At the heart of the DIHs functions is the goal of creating awareness about business or production opportunities with digital technologies and to act as trusted and neutral actors in providing relevant advice.
3. Digital Innovation Hubs help companies become more competitive with regard to their business/production processes, products or services using digital technologies, by providing access to technical expertise and experimentation, so that companies can “test before invest”.
4. Digital Innovation Hubs also provide innovation services, such as financing advice, training and skills development that are needed for a successful digital transformation. Environmental issues will be considered, in particular regarding energy consumption and low carbon emissions.
5. As proximity is considered crucial, DIH’s act as a first regional point of contact, a doorway, and strengthen the innovation ecosystem. A DIH is a regional multi-partner cooperation and can also share strong connections with service providers outside of their region supporting companies with access to their services.
6. Networking of European Digital Innovation Hubs will allow specialised hubs to offer their competences and resources to others and, vice versa, to find missing expertise and facilities elsewhere in the network.
7. The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is formally to record the mutual interest in promoting and furthering links between both parties, specifically collaboration between the envisaged European Digital Innovation Hubs.
8. This MoU creates an equal partnership for the mutual benefit of both parties.

II. PARTNERSHIP AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. The overarching aim of this partnership is collaboration between envisaged European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIH), which would like to be supported through the Digital Europe Programme (and other national as well as international funds).
2. Both parties strive for European Digital Innovation Hub status.
3. Party 1 declares that its consortium is competent and specializes in the following areas:

3.1 HPC and Data knowledge & infrastructure

- HPC, Big Data and AI adoption
- Advanced data analysis
- Numerical simulations
- Digital twins
- Advanced visualization and virtual reality

3.2 Digitized manufacturing and transportation

- Processes and technical means in frame of I4.0 elements
- Smart transport systems in an industrial and public testbed environment

3.3 Business development

- Essential trainings and digital audits
- Start-ups/SME mentoring services
- Access to finance and matchmaking
- Entrepreneurial discovery processes within Regional Strategy for Research and Innovation for Smart Specialisation (RIS3)

4. Party 2 declares that its consortium is competent and specializes in the following areas:

4.1. Artificial Intelligence, automation and robotics

- Testing before investing in AI, automation and robotics
- Training and skills development in AI, automation and robotics

4.2. Cybersecurity

- Testing before investing in cybersecurity
- Training and skills development in cybersecurity

4.3. Additive manufacturing

- Testing before investing in additive manufacturing
- Training and skills development in additive manufacturing

4.4. Digital transformation process planning

- Higher and middle management competence building in planning digital transformation
- Support to find external financing and investment

5. The basis of the cooperation between both consortiums is:

- 5.1. Exchange of clients if one consortium is not able to meet the needs of its potential client and the other consortium is able to do so, the client will be transferred to the other consortium.
- 5.2. Cooperation of both consortiums in solving complex tasks for one client,

planned ca. 3 cases per year for 5.1. and 5.2.

- 5.3. Mutual promotion and coordination of activities, transferring knowledge and sharing experience with each other, e.g. joint offer of selected services or cross border brokerage events.
6. Both parties declare that their consortiums will not only work in isolation with each other but also with other partners in the emerging network of European Digital Innovation Hubs.

III. MANAGEMENT OF THE COLLABORATION

1. Both parties shall appoint a coordinator to develop and coordinate the mutual activities.
2. The initial coordinator for Party 1 is 
3. The initial coordinator for Party 2 is 
4. Notification of change of the coordinator shall be in writing to the other party.

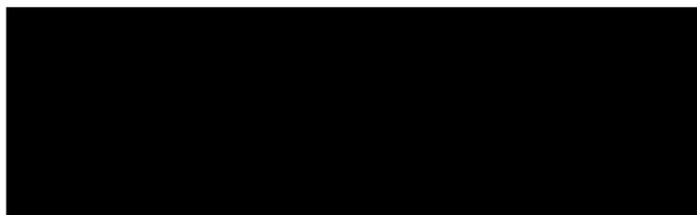
IV. DURATION OF THE MEMORANDUM & AMENDMENTS

1. This Memorandum of Understanding shall come into effect from the date of execution and shall remain in force for an indefinite period of time.
2. The Memorandum of Understanding may be terminated with immediate effect by mutual agreement between both parties or by either party giving the other not less than two months' notice in writing.
3. The Memorandum may be amended if both parties agree. Such amendments shall be effective from the date of signature. Amendments may be decided at any time and shall be made in writing upon mutual consent of both parties.

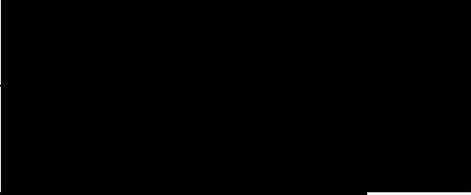
V. FINAL PROVISIONS

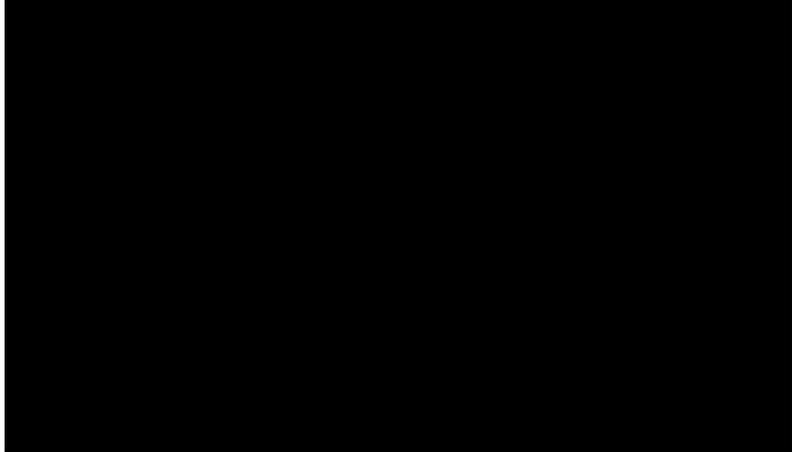
1. All rules and regulations issued by both parties shall be strictly observed at all times.
2. While both parties wish by this MoU to make clear their support of, and enthusiasm for, the proposals, this MoU is not intended to create any legally binding relationship between both parties. Both parties recognise that any agreement or agreements involving both parties which may subsequently be negotiated will, prior to execution, require the express approval of specific bodies and duly authorised officers within both parties and they acknowledge that at any time in advance of such execution both parties and each of them shall be free to propose arrangements different from those outlined in this MoU or unilaterally to cease any consideration or negotiation contemplated by this MoU without any liability whatsoever to the other party.

Signed on behalf of the VSB – Technical University of Ostrava by prof. RNDr. **Václav Snášel**, CSc., Rector



Signed on behalf of the Katowice Special Economic Zone by  – President,
Chairman of Board and  Vice-President





Memorandum of Understanding

This Memorandum of Understanding ("MoU"), is made and entered into as of the Effective Date
by and between

the national Digital Innovation Hubs in the Czech Republic that were announced by the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic as selected candidates for European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs),
namely

candidate **European Digital Innovation Hub Cybersecurity Innovation Hub**

Šumavská 416/15, Ponava
602 00 Brno, Czech Republic

represented by Roman Čermák, MSc. MBA, Director of CyberSecurity Hub, z.ú. as the leading entity of Cybersecurity Innovation Hub

hereinafter referred to as "**Cybersecurity Innovation Hub**"

and

candidate **European Digital Innovation Hub Czech Technical University in Prague**

Jugoslávských partyzánů 1580/3
160 00 Prague 6, Czech Republic

represented by doc. RNDr. Vojtěch Petráček, CSc., Rector of the Czech Technical University in Prague

hereinafter referred to as "**EDIH CTU**"

and

candidate **European Digital Innovation Hub Ostrava**

17. listopadu 2172/15
708 00 Ostrava-Poruba, Czech Republic

prof. RNDr. Václav Snášel, CSc., Rector of the VSB - Technical University of Ostrava

hereinafter referred to as "**EDIH Ostrava**",

jointly as parties

Preamble/Background

The European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs) will play a central role in the Digital Europe Programme to stimulate the broad uptake of Artificial Intelligence (AI), High Performance Computing (HPC) and Cybersecurity as well as other digital technologies, in particular by small and medium-sized enterprises and midcaps, and public sector organizations in Europe.

The creation of EDIHs in the Czech Republic is an important step in strengthening the digital skills of small and medium-sized enterprises. The parties represent winners of the national call for EDIHs and supported EDIH candidates announced by the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic.

The **Cybersecurity Innovation Hub** is a consortium of leading academic institutions together with innovation associations and industry clusters which creates a multidisciplinary ecosystem of research institutions, governmental bodies, clusters, and private companies focused on cooperation, information sharing, research, and implementation of cutting-edge technologies in cybersecurity. The consortium is led by CyberSecurity Hub, z.ú. which is a registered institute established to support Czech industry and Czech society through the introduction of innovative technologies and the development of multidisciplinary scientific research, educational and other relevant activities in the field of cybersecurity and related technological areas.

The **EDIH CTU** represents an ecosystem for AI interconnecting the industry (in particular SMEs), universities and RTOs in the Czech Republic with the European research and technology transfer networks. The infrastructure covers services in area of advanced industrial production, robotics, virtual and augmented reality, cybernetic systems, automated control, computer assisted manufacture, and complex systems.

The **EDIH Ostrava** aims to help enterprises, primarily from the Moravian-Silesian Region, to take advantage of the opportunities offered by digitalization. It offers unique infrastructure of the supercomputing center, industrial testbed enabling simulation of digitized production processes with elements of Industry 4.0, and the know-how of a wide network of industry and academic experts in areas such as numerical simulations, advanced data analysis, digitization of production processes, creation of digital twins, and advanced visualization and virtual reality.

Purpose and Scope

Each party represents a EDIH candidate in the European Digital Innovation Hubs (DIGITAL-2021-EDIH-01) Call fulfilling one of the specific objectives of the Digital Europe Programme on High Performance Computing, Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, Advanced Digital Skills and/or Accelerating the best use of technologies: EDIH CTU in Artificial Intelligence, DIH Ostrava in HPC, and Cybersecurity Innovation Hub in Cybersecurity, respectively. Each party also provides a well-structured consortium of partners founded on leading academic institutions in the Czech Republic, innovation associations, and industry clusters, concentrating a strong network of industrial SME partners as well as public sector entities, and cooperating with a broad spectrum of DIHs and networks throughout Europe. The cooperation of the parties guarantees complementarity across

sectors at the national level. Moreover, the parties are well geographically spread to be able to act as local hubs for SMEs and public entities in the EDIH network.

To ensure a complex national network of complementary EDIHs and their services, the parties express their willingness to collaborate with each other by providing services and end-users referrals, best-practice sharing, by participation in joint communication, educational and dissemination activities.

The parties foresee signing of a more detailed and specific agreement describing the collaboration and joint activities once the grant is awarded.

Cybersecurity Innovation Hub

Date and place

Roman Čermák, MSc. MBA

EDIH CTU

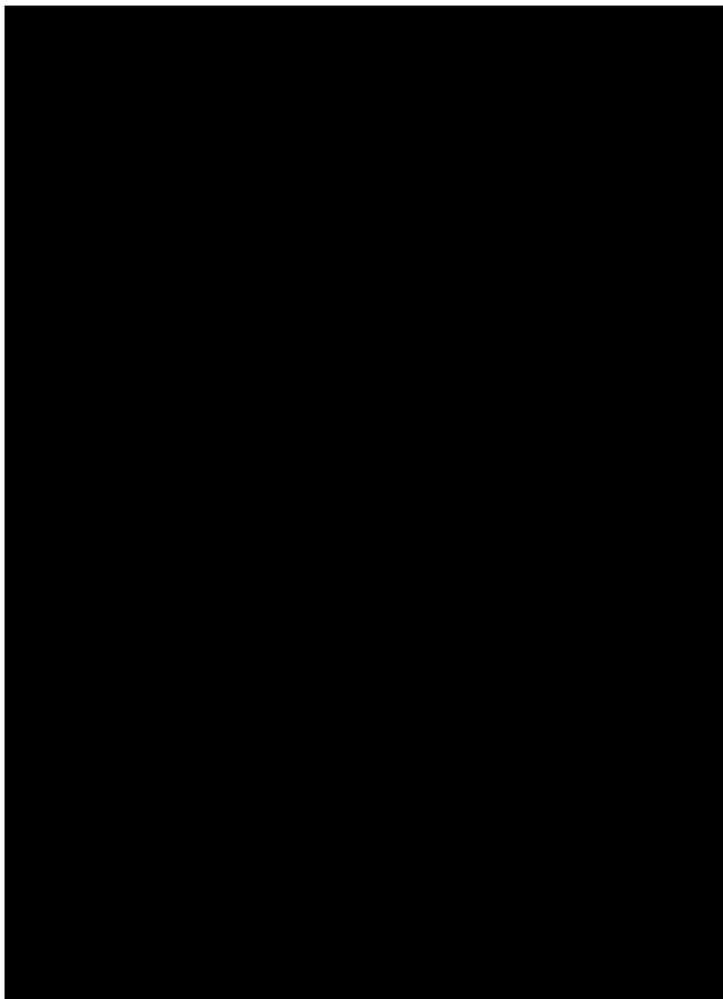
Date and place

doc. RNDr. Vojtěch Petráček, CSc.

EDIH Ostrava

Date and place

prof. RNDr. Václav Snášel, CSc.



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between:

VSB – Technical University of Ostrava, with its registered seat at 17. listopadu 2172/15, 708 00 Ostrava – Poruba, Czech Republic represented by prof. RNDr. Václav Snášel, CSc., Rector of VSB-TUO, as the leader of **Digital Innovation Hub Ostrava**,

(hereinafter „Party 1“)

and

Intemac Solutions, s.r.o., IČO: 02277387, with its registered seat at Blanenská 1288/27, 664 34 Kuřim, represented by  CEO, as the leader of **Digital Innovation Hub DIGIMAT**,

(hereinafter “Party 2”)

Also collectively referred to as „both parties“ or separately as „party“.

I. PURPOSE

1. The Memorandum of Understanding shall be concluded between the lead partners (Party 1 & Party 2) of two envisaged consortia that plan to apply for a grant from the Digital Europe Programme to set up and run the European Digital Innovation Hub.
2. Digital Innovation Hubs (DIHs) are acting as innovation intermediaries for the matching of demand and offer of advanced digital services and technologies, in order to support digital transformation processes. At the heart of the DIHs functions is the goal of creating awareness about business or production opportunities with digital technologies and to act as trusted and neutral actors in providing relevant advice.
3. Digital Innovation Hubs help companies become more competitive with regard to their business/production processes, products or services using digital technologies, by providing access to technical expertise and experimentation, so that companies can “test before invest”.
4. Digital Innovation Hubs also provide innovation services, such as financing advice, training and skills development that are needed for a successful digital transformation. Environmental issues will be considered, in particular regarding energy consumption and low carbon emissions.
5. As proximity is considered crucial, DIH’s act as a first regional point of contact, a doorway, and strengthen the innovation ecosystem. A DIH is a regional multi-partner cooperation and can also share strong connections with service providers outside of their region supporting companies with access to their services.
6. Networking of European Digital Innovation Hubs will allow specialised hubs to offer their competences and resources to others and, vice versa, to find missing expertise and facilities elsewhere in the network.
7. The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is formally to record the mutual interest in promoting and furthering links between both parties, specifically collaboration between the envisaged European Digital Innovation Hubs.
8. This MoU creates an equal partnership for the mutual benefit of both parties.

II. PARTNERSHIP AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. The overarching aim of this partnership is collaboration between envisaged European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIH), which would like to be supported through the Digital Europe Programme (and other national as well as international funds).
2. Both parties strive for European Digital Innovation Hub status.
3. Party 1 declares that its consortium is competent and specializes in the following areas:

3.1 HPC and Data knowledge & infrastructure

- HPC, Big Data and AI adoption
- Advanced data analysis
- Numerical simulations
- Digital twins
- Advanced visualization and virtual reality

3.2 Digitized manufacturing and transportation

- Processes and technical means in frame of I4.0 elements
- Smart transport systems in an industrial and public testbed environment

3.3 Business development

- Essential trainings and digital audits
- Start-ups/SME mentoring services
- Access to finance and matchmaking
- Entrepreneurial discovery processes within Regional Strategy for Research and Innovation for Smart Specialisation (RIS3)

4. Party 2 declares that its consortium is competent and specializes in the following areas:

4.1 AI-assisted flexible manufacturing systems demonstrated in test-before invest facilities

- Integration and demonstration of recent technologies to understand their value for SMEs
- Tailoring of manufacturing technologies to suit manufacturing process
- Measures to increase OEE through APS, Predictive Maintenance, IoT
- Frameworks for optimized investments into the technologies per test results

4.2 Ecosystem building and networking

- Connect SMEs with technology providers to drive innovation, and its adoption into service
- Continuous evolution of the framework for digitalization/robotization audits
- Events to raise awareness on the mega trends

4.3 Skills and training

- Classroom and hands-on trainings on digitalization based on best practices of academic, research and SMEs
- Shopfloor training for adoption of digital skills across the organizational levels of SMEs

5. The basis of the cooperation between both consortiums is:

- 5.1. Exchange of clients if one consortium is not able to meet the needs of its potential client and the other consortium is able to do so, the client will be transferred to the other consortium, e.g.

- sharing of consulting cases; the consortium led by Party 2 will hand over the client to the consortium led by Party 1 in case of demand for processing of big data and searching for context in them; in turn the consortium led by Party 1 will hand over cases to the consortium led by Party 2 concerning detailed analysis and planning of production processes and technologies;

5.2. Cooperation of both consortiums in solving complex tasks for one client, e.g.

- cooperation on projects in the field of production processes: detailed production technologies can be tested on the consortium led by Party 2 test beds with subsequent processing of big data and application development implemented by the consortium led by Party 1;
- preparation of tools for the digitisation of industry based on data obtained from audits and consultations carried out by consortia of both parties,

5.3. Mutual promotion and coordination of activities, transferring knowledge and sharing experience with each other, e.g.

- sharing and coordinating advanced training: in digitalisation of the production process and production technologies (Party 2 consortium), in data processing, HPC and digital twins (Party 1 consortium).

6. Both parties declare that their consortiums will not only work in isolation with each other but also with other partners in the emerging network of European Digital Innovation Hubs.

III. MANAGEMENT OF THE COLLABORATION

1. Both parties shall appoint a coordinator to develop and coordinate the mutual activities.
2. The initial coordinator for Party 1 is [REDACTED]
3. The initial coordinator for Party 2 is [REDACTED]
4. Notification of change of the coordinator shall be in writing to the other party.

IV. DURATION OF THE MEMORANDUM & AMENDMENTS

1. This Memorandum of Understanding shall come into effect from the date of execution and shall remain in force for an indefinite period of time.
2. The Memorandum of Understanding may be terminated with immediate effect by mutual agreement between both parties or by either party giving the other not less than two months' notice in writing.
3. The Memorandum may be amended if both parties agree. Such amendments shall be effective from the date of signature. Amendments may be decided at any time and shall be made in writing upon mutual consent of both parties.

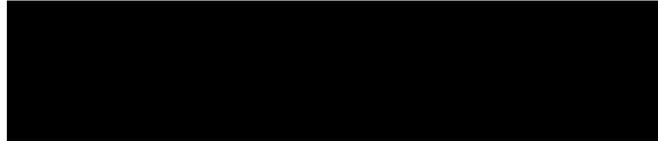
V. FINAL PROVISIONS

1. All rules and regulations issued by both parties shall be strictly observed at all times.
2. While both parties wish by this MoU to make clear their support of, and enthusiasm for, the proposals, this MoU is not intended to create any legally binding relationship between both parties. Both parties recognise that any agreement or agreements involving both parties which may subsequently be negotiated will, prior to execution, require the express approval of specific bodies and duly authorised officers within both parties and they acknowledge that at any time in advance of such execution both parties and each of them shall be free to propose arrangements different from those outlined in this MoU or unilaterally to cease any consideration or negotiation contemplated by this MoU without any liability whatsoever to the other party.

Signed on behalf of the VSB – Technical University of Ostrava by prof. RNDr. Václav Snášel, CSc., Rector

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area of the VSB – Technical University of Ostrava representative.

Signed on behalf of the Intemac Solutions, s.r.o. by Ing. Radomír Zbožínek, CEO

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area of the Intemac Solutions, s.r.o. representative.

Memorandum of Understanding

between

University of Žilina, Univerzitná 8215/1, 010 26 Žilina, Slovakia, ID 00397563
representing **ZINTECH – European Digital Technology Hub Hub of the North-Western Slovakia**
(candidate EDIH)

and

VSB – Technical University of Ostrava, 17. listopadu 2172/15, 708 00 Ostrava, Czech Republic, ID
61989100
representing **EDIH Ostrava**
(candidate EDIH)

Purpose and scope

The purpose of this MoU is to jointly cooperate in the process of providing services to customers within the network of European Digital Innovation Hubs.

The scope of cooperation under the MoU includes, but is not limited to the following activities:

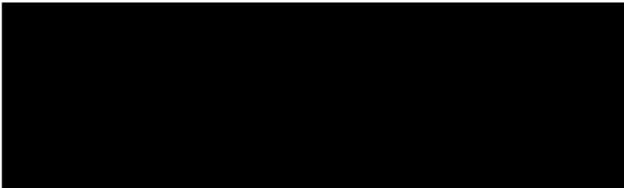
- Best practices, knowledge exchange and mutual support in building and developing a knowledge and expert base in the field of Industry 4.0 technologies, Artificial Intelligence, HPC, Data Analytics, Internet of Things, Cyber Security, etc.
- Sharing information and experiences from participating in EDIH networking and match-making events.
- Support for participation in European projects related to digitization and innovation development.

In the case of approval of the ZINTECH and EDIH Ostrava projects by the European Commission, the above-mentioned cooperation will lead to joint networking, mentoring, education & skills development and services based on sharing the available technological and knowledge capacities of ZINTECH and CASSOVIUM, which they will offer to their clients.

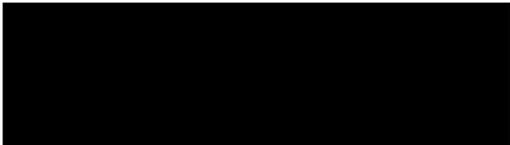
Conclusions

In the case of approval of the ZINTECH and EDIH Ostrava projects by the European Commission, the scope of cooperation under this Memorandum of Understanding will be specified in more detail.

On behalf of the organization I represent, I sign this MoU and contribute to its further development.



University of Žilina



prof. RNDr. Václav Snášel, CSc.
VSB – Technical University of Ostrava

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between:

VSB – Technical University of Ostrava, with its registered seat at 17. listopadu 2172/15, 708 00 Ostrava – Poruba, Czech Republic, represented by prof. RNDr. Václav Snášel, CSc., Rector of VSB-TUO, as the leader of **European Digital Innovation Hub Ostrava**,

(hereinafter „Party 1“)

and

BIREX – Big Data Innovation and Research Excellence, with its registered seat at via Paolo Nanni Costa 20, 40133 Bologna – Italy, represented by Stefano Cattorini, General Director, as the leader of **Digital Innovation Hub “BIREX++“**

(hereinafter “Party 2”)

Also collectively referred to as „both parties“ or separately as „party“.

I. PURPOSE

1. The Memorandum of Understanding shall be concluded between the **lead** partners (Party 1 & Party 2) of two envisaged consortiums that plan to apply for a grant from the Digital Europe Programme to set up and run the European Digital Innovation Hub.
2. Digital Innovation Hubs (DIHs) are acting as innovation intermediaries for the matching of demand and offer of advanced digital services and technologies, in order to support digital transformation processes. At the heart of the DIHs functions is the goal of creating awareness about business or production opportunities with digital technologies and to act as trusted and neutral actors in providing relevant advice.
3. Digital Innovation Hubs help companies become more competitive with regard to their business/production processes, products or services using digital technologies, by providing access to technical expertise and experimentation, so that companies can “test before invest”.
4. Digital Innovation Hubs also provide innovation services, such as financing advice, training and skills development that are needed for a successful digital transformation. Environmental issues will be considered, in particular regarding energy consumption and low carbon emissions.
5. As proximity is considered crucial, DIH’s act as a first regional point of contact, a doorway, and strengthen the innovation ecosystem. A DIH is a regional multi-partner cooperation and can also share strong connections with service providers outside of their region supporting companies with access to their services.
6. Networking of European Digital Innovation Hubs will allow specialised hubs to offer their competences and resources to others and, vice versa, to find missing expertise and facilities elsewhere in the network.
7. The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is formally to record the mutual interest in promoting and furthering links between both parties, specifically collaboration between the envisaged European Digital Innovation Hubs.
8. This MoU creates an equal partnership for the mutual benefit of both parties.

II. PARTNERSHIP AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. The overarching aim of this partnership is collaboration between envisaged European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIH), which would like to be supported through the Digital Europe Programme (and other national as well as international funds).
2. Both parties strive for European Digital Innovation Hub status.
3. Party 1 declares that its consortium is competent and specializes in the following areas:

3.1 HPC and Data knowledge & infrastructure

- HPC, Big Data and AI adoption
- Advanced data analysis
- Numerical simulations
- Digital twins
- Advanced visualization and virtual reality

3.2 Digitized manufacturing and transportation

- Processes and technical means in frame of I4.0 elements
- Smart transport systems in an industrial and public testbed environment

3.3 Business development

- Essential trainings and digital audits
- Start-ups/SME mentoring services
- Access to finance and matchmaking
- Entrepreneurial discovery processes within Regional Strategy for Research and Innovation for Smart Specialisation (RIS3)

4. Party 2 declares that its consortium is competent and specializes in the following areas:

4.1 HPC & Big Data Processing for Sustainable Industry

- HPC, Optimization, Simulation and Modeling
- HPC for Engineering
- Applied AI to Manufacturing
- Additive and Advanced Manufacturing, including lasers
- Robotics and Collaborative Unmanned Systems-Fleets
- Cloud-Edge-Fog Computing
- 5G Non-Stand-alone Private Network (3-27GHz)
- Industrial IOT
- Cyber-Physical Systems and Digital Twin
- SW Systems, Green ICT and Blockchain
- AR/VR-XR

4.2 Skills and Training

- E-learning Platform for the twin transition
- Reskilling & Upskilling coaching service
- Training on Advanced Digital Technologies
- Training on EU funding programs & business coaching
- Temporary Management & Coaching

4.3 Networking and Innovation Ecosystems

- B2B Matchmaking digital platform
- Ecosystem and Network Scouting
- Trend watching and market research;

4.4 Access 2 Finance

- Technology and Business due Diligence;
- Financial Advisory: Business Plan, Business Model, Go-To-Market strategy, P&L analysis, balance sheet, cash flows, CAPEX, working capital
- Scouting EU R&I funding opportunities, mapping of EU calls and matching for R&I proposals;
- Support and match-making services for innovative companies and private and institutional investors, also including those expression of EU and InvestEU;
- Design, preparation and management of FSE-EU R&I proposals;

5. The basis of the cooperation between both consortiums is:

- 5.1. Sharing experience and best practice as well as potential technology or business challenges;
 - 5.2. Exchange of clients if one consortium is not able to meet the needs of its potential client and the other consortium is able to do so, the client will be transferred to the other consortium;
 - 5.3. Cooperation of both consortiums in solving complex tasks for one client;
 - 5.4. Mutual promotion and coordination of activities, transferring knowledge;
 - 5.5. Design and delivery training course via digital platform;
 - 5.6. Support networking and matchmaking.
6. Both parties declare that their consortiums will not only work in isolation with each other but also with other partners in the emerging network of European Digital Innovation Hubs.

III. MANAGEMENT OF THE COLLABORATION

1. Both parties shall appoint a coordinator to develop and coordinate the mutual activities.
2. The initial coordinator for Party 1 is Martin Duda.
3. The initial coordinator for Party 2 is Danilo Mascolo.
4. Notification of change of the coordinator shall be in writing to the other party.

IV. DURATION OF THE MEMORANDUM & AMENDMENTS

1. This Memorandum of Understanding shall come into effect from the date of execution and shall remain in force for an indefinite period of time.
2. The Memorandum of Understanding may be terminated with immediate effect by mutual agreement between both parties or by either party giving the other not less than two months' notice in writing.
3. The Memorandum may be amended if both parties agree. Such amendments shall be effective from the date of signature. Amendments may be decided at any time and shall be made in writing upon mutual consent of both parties.

V. FINAL PROVISIONS

1. All rules and regulations issued by both parties shall be strictly observed at all times.
2. While both parties wish by this MoU to make clear their support of, and enthusiasm for, the proposals, this MoU is not intended to create any legally binding relationship between both parties. Both parties recognise that any agreement or agreements involving both parties which may subsequently be negotiated will, prior to execution, require the express approval of specific bodies and duly authorised officers within both parties and they acknowledge that at any time in advance of such execution both parties and each of them shall be free to propose arrangements different from those outlined in this MoU or unilaterally to cease any consideration or negotiation contemplated by this MoU without any liability whatsoever to the other party.

Signed on behalf of the VSB – Technical University of Ostrava by prof. RNDr. Václav Snášel, CSc., Rector



Signed on behalf of the BIREX – Big Data Innovation and Research Excellence by Stefano Cattorini



Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation

between

Know-Center GmbH

with its registered seat at Inffeldgasse 13, 8010 Graz, Austria

represented by Univ.-Prof. Dr. Stefanie Lindstaedt, CEO of Know-Center

– as leading entity of the European Digital Innovation Hub (EDIH) energy.ai.mobility

and

VSB – Technical University of Ostrava (VSB-TUO)

with its registered seat at 17. listopadu 2172/15, 708 00 Ostrava – Poruba, Czech Republic

represented by prof. RNDr. Václav Snášel, CSc., Rector of VSB-TUO

– as leading entity of the (European) Digital Innovation Hub Ostrava (DIH Ostrava)

The EDIH.energy.ai.mobility is based upon a dual approach: digital services (data-driven business and artificial intelligence) and green economy (spatial energy planning, integrated mobility management). The DIH Ostrava with its primary HPC specialization is substantially focused on delivering innovative solutions based on digital technologies for decarbonisation in Central Europe. To meet these challenges, EDIH.energy.ai.mobility and DIH Ostrava have signed this Memorandum in order to identify the best (green-digital) solutions and strategies for both their countries and for Europe as a whole.

The aim is to make a significant contribution to the implementation of the European Green Deal and the Paris Agreement. Based on trusting cooperation, we can jointly transform the European Union into a competitive and resource-efficient economy.

In this sense the EDIH.energy.ai.mobility and DIH Ostrava intend to work together, thereby contributing to the development of a network of hubs at regional, national and European level in order to increase awareness of EDIHs on digital technologies and energy, access additional facilities, fill missing competences, facilitate R&D projects, as well as to get support in developing new services and tools. The EDIH Energy Austria and other DIH partner collaborate in order to co-develop new services and opportunities, but also overcome language and cultural issues.

Scope of cooperation:

- Collaboration in networking and ecosystem building
- Knowledge exchange in digital and green technologies (big data, AI, HPC in the energy & mobility sector)
- Mutual essential training and digital audits
- Exchange of use cases, best practice examples and learnings (sustainable energy and mobility transition)
- Exchange mentoring services for SMEs, start-ups, mutual matchmaking
- Other activities which both parties agree to cooperate in

To promote productive cooperation in the above activities EDIH.energy.ai.mobility and DIH Ostrava intend to exchange information and have consultations on a regular basis.

The Parties may exchange Confidential Information during the term of the MoU. The Parties agree to take reasonable steps to provide for the safe custody of any Confidential Information in its possession and prevent unauthorized access to or use of Confidential Information.

Graz

[Redacted]
Signed on behalf
of KNOW Center GmbH
by Univ. [Redacted]

Ostrava

[Redacted]
Signed on behalf
of the VSB – Technical University of Ostrava
by prof. RNDr. Václav Snášel, CSc., Rector

ANNEX 2

ESTIMATED BUDGET FOR THE ACTION

Estimated eligible ¹ costs (per budget category)											Estimated EU contribution ²				
Direct costs										Indirect costs	Total costs	EU contribution to eligible costs			Maximum grant amount ⁶
A. Personnel costs			B. Subcontracting costs	C. Purchase costs			D. Other cost categories		E. Indirect costs ³	Funding rate % ⁴		Maximum EU contribution ⁵	Requested EU contribution		
Forms of funding	A.1 Employees (or equivalent)		A.4 SME owners and natural person beneficiaries	B. Subcontracting	C.1 Travel and subsistence	C.2 Equipment	C.3 Other goods, works and services	D.1 Financial support to third parties	D.2 Internally invoiced goods and services	E. Indirect costs					
	Actual costs	Unit costs (usual accounting practices)	Unit costs ⁷	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Unit costs (usual accounting practices)	Flat-rate costs ⁸					
	a1	a2	a3	b	c1	c2	c3	d1	d2	e = flat-rate * (a1 + a2 + a3 + b + c1 + c2 + c3 + d1 + d2)	f = a + b + c + d + e	U	g = f * U%	h	m
1 - VSB-TUO	1 789 602.00	0.00	0.00	111 287.00	28 800.00	15 840.00	220 330.00	0.00	0.00	151 610.13	2 317 469.13	50	1 158 734.57	1 158 734.56	1 158 734.56
2 - MSIC Ostrava	295 453.00	0.00	0.00	311 240.00	18 000.00	12 644.00	16 404.00	0.00	0.00	45 761.87	699 502.87	50	349 751.44	308 645.94	308 645.94
Σ consortium	2 085 055.00	0.00	0.00	422 527.00	46 800.00	28 484.00	236 734.00	0.00	0.00	197 372.00	3 016 972.00		1 508 486.01	1 467 380.50	1 467 380.50

¹ See Article 6 for the eligibility conditions. All amounts must be expressed in EUR (see Article 21 for the conversion rules).

² The consortium remains free to decide on a different internal distribution of the EU funding (via the consortium agreement; see Article 7).

³ Indirect costs already covered by an operating grant (received under any EU funding programme) are ineligible (see Article 6.3). Therefore, a beneficiary/affiliated entity that receives an operating grant during the action duration cannot declare indirect costs for the year(s)/reporting period(s) covered by the operating grant, unless they can demonstrate that the operating grant does not cover any costs of the action. This requires specific accounting tools. Please immediately contact us via the EU Funding & Tenders Portal for details.

⁴ See Data Sheet for the funding rate(s).

⁵ This is the theoretical amount of the EU contribution to costs, if the reimbursement rate is applied to all the budgeted costs. This theoretical amount is then capped by the 'maximum grant amount'.

⁶ The 'maximum grant amount' is the maximum grant amount decided by the EU. It normally corresponds to the requested grant, but may be lower.

⁷ See Annex 2a 'Additional information on the estimated budget' for the details (units, cost per unit).

⁸ See Data Sheet for the flat-rate.

ANNEX 2a

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON UNIT COSTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

SME owners/natural person beneficiaries without salary (Decision C(2020) 7115¹)

Type: unit costs

Units: days spent working on the action (rounded up or down to the nearest half-day)

Amount per unit (daily rate): calculated according to the following formula:

{EUR 5 080 / 18 days = **282,22**}
multiplied by
{country-specific correction coefficient of the country where the beneficiary is established}

The country-specific correction coefficients used are those set out in the Horizon Europe Work Programme (section Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions) in force at the time of the call (see [Portal Reference Documents](#)).

¹ Commission [Decision](#) of 20 October 2020 authorising the use of unit costs for the personnel costs of the owners of small and medium-sized enterprises and beneficiaries that are natural persons not receiving a salary for the work carried out by themselves under an action or work programme (C(2020)7715).

ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

MORAVSKOSLEZSKE INOVACNI CENTRUM OSTRAVA (MSIC Ostrava), PIC 895878712,
established in TECHNOLOGICKA 372/2, OSTRAVA 70800, Czechia,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101083551 — EDIH OVA (‘the Agreement’)

between VSB - TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF OSTRAVA (VSB-TUO) and the European Union
(‘EU’), represented by the European Commission (‘European Commission’ or ‘granting authority’),

and mandates

the coordinator to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement,
in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in
accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

ANNEX 4 DIGITAL EUROPE MGA — MULTI-MONO

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR [PARTICIPANT NAME] FOR REPORTING PERIOD [NUMBER]

Eligible ¹ costs (per budget category)											EU contribution ²				Revenues			
Direct costs										Indirect costs	Total costs	EU contribution to eligible costs			Total requested EU contribution	Income generated by the action		
A. Personnel costs			B. Subcontracting costs	C. Purchase costs			D. Other cost categories					E. Indirect costs ²	Funding rate % ³	Maximum EU contribution ⁴			Requested EU contribution	
Forms of funding	Actual costs	Unit costs (usual accounting practices)	Unit costs ⁵	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Unit costs (usual accounting practices)	{ Actual costs }	Flat-rate costs ⁶	e = flat-rate * (a1 + a2 + a3 + b + c1 + c2 + c3 + d1a + d2 (+ d3))	f = a+b+c+d+e	U	g = f*U%	h	m	n
	a1	a2	a3	b	c1	c2	c3	d1a	d2	{ d3 }								
XX – [short name beneficiary/affiliated entity]																		

The beneficiary/affiliated entity hereby confirms that:
 The information provided is complete, reliable and true.
 The costs and contributions declared are eligible (see Article 6).
 The costs and contributions can be substantiated by adequate records and supporting documentation that will be produced upon request or in the context of checks, reviews, audits and investigations (see Articles 19, 20 and 25).
 For the last reporting period: that all the revenues have been declared (see Article 22).

¹ Please declare all eligible costs and contributions, even if they exceed the amounts indicated in the estimated budget (see Annex 2). Only amounts that were declared in your individual financial statements can be taken into account later on, in order to replace costs/contributions that are found to be ineligible.

² See Article 6 for the eligibility conditions. All amounts must be expressed in EUR (see Article 21 for the conversion rules).

³ If you have also received an EU operating grant during this reporting period, you cannot claim indirect costs - unless you can demonstrate that the operating grant does not cover any costs of the action. This requires specific accounting tools. Please contact us immediately via the Funding & Tenders Portal for details.

⁴ See Data Sheet for the reimbursement rate(s).

⁵ This is the *theoretical* amount of EU contribution to costs that the system calculates automatically (by multiplying the reimbursement rates by the costs declared). The amount you request (in the column 'requested EU contribution') may be less.

⁶ See Annex 2a 'Additional information on the estimated budget' for the details (units, cost per unit).

⁷ See Data Sheet for the flat-rate.

ANNEX 5

SPECIFIC RULES

CONFIDENTIALITY AND SECURITY (— ARTICLE 13)

Sensitive information with security recommendation

Sensitive information with a security recommendation must comply with the additional requirements imposed by the granting authority.

Before starting the action tasks concerned, the beneficiaries must have obtained all approvals or other mandatory documents needed for implementing the task. The documents must be kept on file and be submitted upon request by the coordinator to the granting authority. If they are not in English, they must be submitted together with an English summary.

For requirements restricting disclosure or dissemination, the information must be handled in accordance with the recommendation and may be disclosed or disseminated only after written approval from the granting authority.

EU classified information

If EU classified information is used or generated by the action, it must be treated in accordance with the security classification guide (SCG) and security aspect letter (SAL) set out in Annex 1 and Decision 2015/444¹ and its implementing rules — until it is declassified.

Deliverables which contain EU classified information must be submitted according to special procedures agreed with the granting authority.

Action tasks involving EU classified information may be subcontracted only with prior explicit written approval from the granting authority and only to entities established in an EU Member State or in a non-EU country with a security of information agreement with the EU (or an administrative arrangement with the Commission).

EU classified information may not be disclosed to any third party (including participants involved in the action implementation) without prior explicit written approval from the granting authority.

ETHICS (— ARTICLE 14)

Ethics

Actions involving activities raising ethics issues must be carried out in compliance with:

- ethical principles

¹ Commission Decision 2015/444/EC, Euratom of 13 March 2015 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 53).

and

- applicable EU, international and national law, including the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and its Supplementary Protocols.

The beneficiaries must pay particular attention to the principle of proportionality, the right to privacy, the right to the protection of personal data, the right to the physical and mental integrity of persons, the right to non-discrimination, the need to ensure protection of the environment and high levels of human health protection.

Before the beginning of an action task raising an ethical issue, the beneficiaries must have obtained all approvals or other mandatory documents needed for implementing the task, notably from any (national or local) ethics committee or other bodies such as data protection authorities.

The documents must be kept on file and be submitted upon request by the coordinator to the granting authority. If they are not in English, they must be submitted together with an English summary, which shows that the documents cover the action tasks in question and includes the conclusions of the committee or authority concerned (if any).

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR) — BACKGROUND AND RESULTS — ACCESS RIGHTS AND RIGHTS OF USE (— ARTICLE 16)

Definitions

Access rights — Rights to use results or background.

Dissemination — The public disclosure of the results by appropriate means, other than resulting from protecting or exploiting the results, including by scientific or professional publications in any medium.

Exploit(ation) — The use of results in further innovation and deployment activities other than those covered by the action concerned, including among other things, commercial exploitation such as developing, creating, manufacturing and marketing a product or process, creating and providing a service, or in standardisation activities.

Fair and reasonable conditions — Appropriate conditions, including possible financial terms or royalty-free conditions, taking into account the specific circumstances of the request for access, for example the actual or potential value of the results or background to which access is requested and/or the scope, duration or other characteristics of the exploitation envisaged.

List of background — Background free from restrictions

The beneficiaries must, where industrial and intellectual property rights (including rights of third parties) exist prior to the Agreement, establish a list of these pre-existing industrial and intellectual property rights, specifying the rights owners.

The coordinator must — before starting the action — submit this list to the granting authority.

Where the call conditions restrict participation or control due to security or EU strategic autonomy reasons, background that is subject to control or other restrictions by a country (or entity from a country) which is not one of the eligible countries or target countries set out in the call conditions and that impact the results (i.e. would make the results subject to control or restrictions) must not be used and must be explicitly excluded in the list of background — unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority.

Results free from restrictions

Where the call conditions restrict participation or control due to security or EU strategic autonomy reasons, the beneficiaries must ensure that the results of the action are not subject to control or other restrictions by a country (or entity from a country) which is not one of the eligible countries or target countries set out in the call conditions — unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority.

Ownership of results

Results are owned by the beneficiaries that generate them (unless the consortium agreement specifies another ownership regime).

Protection of results

The beneficiaries must adequately protect their results — for an appropriate period and with appropriate territorial coverage — if protection is possible and justified, taking into account all relevant considerations, including the prospects for commercial exploitation, legitimate interests of the other beneficiaries and any other legitimate interests.

Exploitation of results

Beneficiaries must — up to four years after the end of the action (see Data Sheet, Point 1) — use their best efforts to exploit their results directly or to have them exploited indirectly by another entity, in particular through transfer or licensing.

Where the call conditions restrict participation or control due to security or EU strategic autonomy reasons (and unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority), the beneficiaries must produce a significant amount of products, services or processes that incorporate results of the action or that are produced through the use of results of the action in the eligible countries or target countries set out in the call conditions.

Where the call conditions impose moreover a first exploitation obligation, the first exploitation must also take place in the eligible countries or target countries set out in the call conditions.

The beneficiaries must ensure that these obligations also apply to their affiliated entities, associated partners, subcontractors and recipients of financial support to third parties.

Transfers and licensing of results

Where the call conditions restrict participation or control due to security or EU strategic autonomy reasons, the beneficiaries may not transfer ownership of their results or grant licences to third parties which are established in countries which are not eligible countries or target countries set out in the call conditions (or are controlled by such countries or entities

from such countries) — unless they have requested and received prior approval by the granting authority.

The request must:

- identify the specific results concerned
- describe in detail the new owner and the planned or potential exploitation of the results and
- include a reasoned assessment of the likely impact of the transfer or license on the security interests or EU strategic autonomy .

The granting authority may request additional information.

The beneficiaries must ensure that their obligations under the Agreement are passed on to the new owner and that this new owner has the obligation to pass them on in any subsequent transfer.

Access rights — Additional rights of use

Rights of use of the granting authority on results for information, communication, publicity and dissemination purposes

The granting authority also has the right to exploit non-sensitive results of the action for information, communication, dissemination and publicity purposes, using any of the following modes:

- **use for its own purposes** (in particular, making them available to persons working for the granting authority or any other EU service (including institutions, bodies, offices, agencies, etc.) or EU Member State institution or body; copying or reproducing them in whole or in part, in unlimited numbers; and communication through press information services)
- **distribution to the public** in hard copies, in electronic or digital format, on the internet including social networks, as a downloadable or non-downloadable file
- **editing** or **redrafting** (including shortening, summarising, changing, correcting, cutting, inserting elements (e.g. meta-data, legends or other graphic, visual, audio or text elements) extracting parts (e.g. audio or video files), dividing into parts or use in a compilation
- **translation**(including inserting subtitles/dubbing)in all official languages of EU
- **storage** in paper, electronic or other form
- **archiving** in line with applicable document-management rules
- the right to authorise **third parties** to act on its behalf or sub-license to third parties, including if there is licensed background, any of the rights or modes of exploitation set out in this provision
- **processing**, analysing, aggregating the results and **producing derivative works**

- **disseminating** the results in widely accessible databases or indexes (such as through ‘open access’ or ‘open data’ portals or similar repositories, whether free of charge or not).

The beneficiaries must ensure these rights of use for the whole duration they are protected by industrial or intellectual property rights.

If results are subject to moral rights or third party rights (including intellectual property rights or rights of natural persons on their image and voice), the beneficiaries must ensure that they comply with their obligations under this Agreement (in particular, by obtaining the necessary licences and authorisations from the rights holders concerned).

Access rights for the granting authority and EU institutions, bodies, offices or agencies to results for policy purposes

The beneficiaries must grant access to their results — on a royalty-free basis — to the granting authority, other EU institutions, bodies, offices or agencies, for developing, implementing and monitoring EU policies or programmes.

Such access rights are limited to non-commercial and non-competitive use.

Access rights for the granting authority to results in case of a public emergency

If requested by the granting authority in case of a public emergency, the beneficiaries must grant non-exclusive, world-wide licences to third parties — under fair and reasonable conditions — to use the results to address the public emergency.

Access rights for third parties to ensure continuity and interoperability

Where the call conditions impose continuity or interoperability obligations, the beneficiaries must make the results produced in the framework of the action available to the public (freely accessible on the Internet under open source licences).

COMMUNICATION, DISSEMINATION AND VISIBILITY (— ARTICLE 17)

Communication and dissemination plan

The beneficiaries must provide a detailed communication and dissemination plan, setting out the objectives, key messaging, target audiences, communication channels, social media plan, planned budget and relevant indicators for monitoring and evaluation.

Dissemination of results

The beneficiaries must disseminate their results as soon as feasible, in a publicly available format, subject to any restrictions due to the protection of intellectual property, security rules or legitimate interests.

They must upload the public **project results** to the Digital Europe Project Results platform, available through the Funding & Tenders Portal.

In addition, where the call conditions impose additional dissemination obligations, they must also comply with those.

Additional communication activities

The beneficiaries must engage in the following additional communication activities:

- **present the project** (including project summary, coordinator contact details, list of participants, European flag and funding statement and special logo and project results) on the beneficiaries' **websites** or **social media accounts**.

SPECIFIC RULES FOR CARRYING OUT THE ACTION (— ARTICLE 18)

Implementation in case of restrictions due to security or EU strategic autonomy

Where the call conditions restrict participation or control due to security or EU strategic autonomy reasons, the beneficiaries must ensure that none of the entities that participate as affiliated entities, associated partners, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties are established in countries which are not eligible countries or target countries set out in the call conditions (or are controlled by such countries or entities from such countries) — unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority.

The beneficiaries must moreover ensure that any cooperation with entities established in countries which are not eligible countries or target countries set out in the call conditions (or are controlled by such countries or entities from such countries) does not affect the security interests or EU strategic autonomy and avoids potential negative effects over security of supply of inputs critical to the action.

Specific rules for PAC Grants for Procurement

When implementing innovative procurements in PAC Grants for Procurement, the beneficiaries must respect the following conditions:

- avoid any conflict of interest and comply with the principles of transparency, non-discrimination, equal treatment, sound financial management, proportionality and competition rules
- assign the ownership of the intellectual property rights under the contracts to the contractors (unless there are exceptional overriding public interests which are duly justified in Annex 1), with the right of the buyers to access results — on a royalty-free basis — for their own use and to grant (or to require the contractors to grant) non-exclusive licences to third parties to exploit the results for them — under fair and reasonable conditions — without any right to sub-license
- allow for all communications to be made in English (and any additional languages chosen by the beneficiaries)
- ensure that prior information notices, contract notices and contract award notices contain information on the EU funding and a disclaimer that the EU is not participating as contracting authority in the procurement
- allow for the award of multiple procurement contracts within the same procedure (multiple sourcing)
- for procurements involving classified information: apply the security rules set out in Annex 5 mutatis mutandis to the contractors and the background and results of the contracts

- where the call conditions restrict participation or control due to security or EU strategic autonomy reasons: apply the restrictions set out in Annex 5 mutatis mutandis to the contractors and the results under the contracts
- where the call conditions impose a place of performance obligation: ensure that the part of the activities that is subject to the place of performance obligation is performed in the eligible countries or target countries set out in the call conditions
- to ensure reciprocal level of market access: where the WTO Government Procurement Agreement (GPA) does not apply, ensure that the participation in tendering procedures is open on equal terms to bidders from EU Member States and all countries with which the EU has an agreement in the field of public procurement under the conditions laid down in that agreement, including all Horizon Europe associated countries. Where the WTO GPA applies, ensure that tendering procedures are also open to bidders from states that have ratified this agreement, under the conditions laid down therein.

Specific rules for Grants for Financial Support

When implementing financial support to third parties in Grants for Financial Support, the beneficiaries must respect the following conditions:

- avoid any conflict of interest and comply with the principles of transparency, non-discrimination and sound financial management
- for the selection procedure and criteria:
 - publish open calls widely (including on the Funding & Tenders Portal and the beneficiaries' websites)
 - keep open calls open for at least two months
 - inform recipients of call updates (if any) and the outcome of the call (list of selected projects, amounts and names of selected recipients)

Specific rules for JU actions

JU actions must contribute to the long-term implementation of the JU partnership, including the JU Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda, the JU objectives and the exploitation of research and innovation results.

Moreover, when implementing JU actions, the members and contributing partners of the Joint Undertaking must fulfil their obligations regarding contributions to the Joint Undertaking:

- the description of the action in Annex 1 must include, for beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners or other participants or third parties which are members or contributing partners, the estimated contributions to the action, i.e.:
 - in-kind contributions to operational activities ('IKOP'; if applicable)
 - in-kind contributions to additional activities linked to the action ('IKAA'; if applicable)
 - financial contributions ('FC'; if applicable)

- the contributions must be reported during the implementation of the action in the Portal Continuous Reporting tool
- at the end of the action, the members and contributing partners that have not received funding under the grant must ensure that financial and in-kind contributions of EUR 430 000 or more (see Article 21) are supported by statements of contributions (CS) and certificates on the statements of contributions (CCS) which fulfil the following conditions:
 - be provided by a qualified approved external auditor which is independent and complies with Directive 2006/43/EC (or for public bodies: by a competent independent public officer)
 - the verification must be carried out according to the highest professional standards to ensure that the statements of contributions comply with the provisions under the Agreement and the applicable JU Regulation, that the contributions cover activities that are part of the action and that they have not been reimbursed by the grant
- contributions must comply with the following conditions:
 - costs covered by financial contributions cannot be claimed for reimbursement under the JU grant.

The beneficiaries must comply with the additional IPR, dissemination and exploitation obligations set out in the call conditions (Article 16 and Annex 5), in particular:

- for all JU grants: the granting authority right to object to transfers or licensing also applies to results generated by beneficiaries not having received funding under the grant.

In addition to the obligations set out in Article 17, communication and dissemination activities as well as infrastructure, equipment or major results funded under JU actions must moreover display the Joint Undertaking's special logo:



EuroHPC
Joint Undertaking

and the following text:

“The project is supported by the [insert JU name] and its members [*OPTION for actions with national contribution top-ups: (including top-up funding by [name of the national funding authority])*].”

For EuroHPC JU grants, the beneficiaries must respect the following conditions when implementing actions with national contribution top-ups from Participating States:

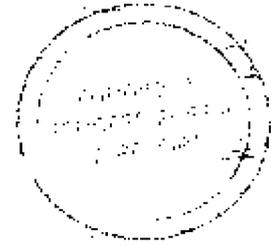
- the beneficiaries must ensure visibility of the national contributions (see below)

- the payment deadlines for prefinancing, interim or final payments are automatically suspended if a national funding authority is late with its payments to the Joint Undertaking for the national contribution top-up
- the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO), European Court of Auditors (ECA), the National Court of Auditors and other national authorities can exercise their control rights on the project implementation and costs declared, including for the national contribution top-up.

Specific rules for blending operations

When implementing blending operations, the beneficiaries acknowledge and accept that:

- the grant depends on the approved financing from the Implementing Partner and/or public or private investors for the project
- they must inform the granting authority both about the approval for financing and the financial close — within 15 days
- the payment deadline for the first prefinancing is automatically suspended until the granting authority is informed about the approval for financing
- both actions will be managed and monitored in parallel and in close coordination with the Implementing Partner, in particular:
 - all information, data and documents (including the due diligence by the Implementing Partner and the signed agreement) may be exchanged and may be relied on for the management of the other action (if needed)
 - issues in one action may impact the other (e.g. suspension or termination in one action may lead to suspension also of the other action; termination of the grant will normally suspend and exit from further financing and vice versa, etc.)
- the granting authority may disclose confidential information also to the Implementing Partner.



This electronic receipt is a digitally signed version of the document submitted by your organisation. Both the content of the document and a set of metadata have been digitally sealed.

This digital signature mechanism, using a public-private key pair mechanism, uniquely binds this eReceipt to the modules of the Funding & Tenders Portal of the European Commission, to the transaction for which it was generated and ensures its full integrity. Therefore a complete digitally signed trail of the transaction is available both for your organisation and for the issuer of the eReceipt.

Any attempt to modify the content will lead to a break of the integrity of the electronic signature, which can be verified at any time by clicking on the eReceipt validation symbol.

More info about eReceipts can be found in the FAQ page of the Funding & Tenders Portal.

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/faq>