



In collaboration with **AI4EU**

DIH4AI Online Event #1

*Digital Innovation Hubs for Artificial Intelligence:
collaborative schemes supporting the digital
transformation and cutting-edge experimentation*

AI

9th November 2021





About this event

As envisaged in the European Commission White Paper on AI¹, by 2025 Europe will lead worldwide in ethical and sustainable adoption of AI. DIHs have become the success factor for European SMEs, leveraging on the DIHs' Pan-European and Regional networks and playing a key role in supporting innovation and the adoption of new technologies, including AI.

The DIH4AI project aims at building and networking DIH-driven **AI-on-demand regional platforms**, linked to the **pan-European AI4EU toolbox** and experimental facility, supporting the joint development and provision of services through a sustainable network of regional AI DIHs to serve local SMEs and GovTech agencies. DIH4AI will reinforce the service ecosystem of AI4EU, reaching out new domains not addressed so far by AI4EU, also through a Cascade Funding mechanism.

Through the network, DIH are connecting research and industry, ultimately facilitating AI adoption. Putting strong emphasis on collaboration and exchange across the ecosystem, network's stakeholders are intensively collaborating to ensure best use and deployment of available European AI capacities and capabilities.

The project, started in early 2021, is hosting its first of a series of events.

The **“DIH4AI: collaborative schemes supporting the digital transformation and cutting-edge experimentation”** event

is the opportunity to learn more about the AI landscape, from a regulatory and policy standpoint, and the role the project plays. While being an occasion to officially present the DIH4AI Project, taking stock of some projects' achievements and recent activities such as the launch of the first Open Call, it will also offer the opportunity to engage with key stakeholders in the DIHs' and AI ecosystem, ultimately aiming to improve collaboration and foster synergies.

The event starts off with a focus on the **current AI landscape** from a regulatory point of view and on the role of EDIHs in supporting the implementation of the high-level strategy by creating a direct link between the research and the industry, ultimately fostering innovation. Following the European Commission intervention, **existing tools, and methodologies to classify services and enable collaboration** which were developed by different EU projects are presented, along with success stories and sharing of the lessons learnt. Last, the topic of **collaboration and synergies among all key actors of the AI EU landscape** at an ecosystem level is addressed, building on market research results and projects experiences. The aim is to understand current dynamics in collaboration, identify the challenges and explore the potential of enhancing innovation through existing networks, including the role of the DIH4AI network.

1 https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/commission-white-paper-artificial-intelligence-feb2020_en.pdf



Online Event

DIH4AI: collaborative schemes supporting the digital transformation and cutting-edge experimentation

9th November 2021

09:30 – 13.00 CET

Welcome & housekeeping (09:30 – 09:35)

Giovanna Galasso, Intellera

Welcoming participants, illustrating the agenda and organization of the meeting, and sharing the objectives.

1. 1st Session “European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs) in the AI European Landscape” (09:35 – 10:30)

A keynote speech from a DG Connect to set the scene by introducing the current AI landscape, key players, the regulatory framework, linking it to the role of EDIHs in supporting the implementation of the high-level strategy. To follow, the DIH4AI project is presented together with the first just launched open call.

Moderator:

Giovanna Galasso, Associate Partner at Intellera

✓ 09:35 – 09:55 The EU Strategy on AI and the role of EDIHs

Evangelia Markidou, Artificial Intelligence & Robotics, DG CONNECT, European Commission

This presentation provides an overview of the AI landscape, including the regulatory framework and specifically the Draft AI regulation, key players and their role as well as an overview on the way forward and expectations on the DIHs to support the implementation of the AI strategy.

✓ 09:55 – 10:10 About the DIH4AI – our project and goals

Sergio Gusmeroli, Research Coordinator, Politecnico di Milano

The DIH4AI project aims to build a networking DIH-driven AI-on-demand platform. The presentation frames the project within the current AI context and highlights its relevance in fostering innovation and AI uptake, leveraging on DIHs regional constituencies and cross-regional collaboration.

✓ 10:10 – 10:20 DIH4AI first open call – who can participate, by when and what are the benefits

Daniel Echebarria, R&D Project Manager, Innovalia

This intervention concerns the DIH4AI open call just launched and open until December 30th. The speaker flags the financial opportunities for SMEs to form consortia in partnership with DIHs and other relevant stakeholders to benefit from DIHs knowledge and skills and adopt AI technologies. The presentation includes details on eligibility criteria, application modality, deadlines and informative sessions' dates.

✓ 10:20 – 10:30 Q&A

This Q&A session allows audience to submit their questions through the Teams chat.



2. 2nd Session “Collaborative schemes and services provision” (10:30 – 11:25)

The session aims at presenting tools and methodologies developed by different EU projects for classifying services and enabling collaboration. Concrete examples of experiments applying these tools and methodologies is also be discussed. The experience of a pre-selected EDIH, part of the AI DIH Network, is also presented.

Moderator:

Sergio Gusmeroli, Research Coordinator at Politecnico di Milano

✓ 10:30 – 10:45 DIH4AI - service classification and cross-border collaboration scenarios

Silvia Razzetti PoLIMI

David Brunelleschi, Intellera

This presentation introduces the approach developed within the DIH4AI project for classifying services (so called BEST-L) as well as the opportunities offered by cross-border collaboration established by DIHs located in different countries. In particular, the methodological framework for DIH developed under the AI DIH Network initiative is presented together with the cooperation scenarios resulted from the project, namely the Joint Provision of complex service, Joint Development of collaborative services, Joint Matchmaking of complementary competences. Some tools offered by DIHs through the experiments are also presented.

✓ 10:45 – 11:00 BOWI corridors – approach to service classification and collaboration schemes

Maurits Butter, Senior scientist, TNO

This presentation provides an overview of “Corridors”. This is an approach to service classification and collaboration developed by the BOWI project, consisting in a collaboration between two or more hubs in different geographical areas, in which continuous exchange of industrial and research capabilities takes place. In particular, the presentation focuses on how corridors facilitate structural European collaboration, enabling optimal use of EU competencies.

✓ 11:00 – 11:15 Learning from a DIH – DIGIHALL experience in Service offering design and collaboration among EDIHs

Valentina Ivanova, Head of European affairs, CEA List, DIGIHALL

DIGIHALL shares its experience as DIH representing the voice of other DIHs within the context of the RIMA H2020 project. It also touches upon the experience of designing services offering and the collaboration experience, as both DIH of the AI DIH Network and in collaborating with EDIHs.

✓ 11.15 – 11:25 Q&A

This Q&A session includes some questions from the moderator along with questions from the audience.

Coffee break (11.25 – 11:35)



3rd Session “Collaboration ecosystem” (11:35 – 12:55)

This session focuses on how to improve collaboration among all key actors of the AI EU landscape, including DIHs, TEFs, SMEs, AI Center of Excellence, at an ecosystem level. The potential of enhancing innovation by creating a tighter network of key actors will also be explored.

Moderator:

Natalie Cernecka, Head of Business Development at TeraLab IMT

✓ 11:35 – 11:55 The AI Centres of Excellence and DIHs – current collaboration mechanisms and opportunities to shape the future of collaboration

Giovanna Galasso, Associate Partner Intellera

Based on a market research's results conducted by the VISION project, the presentation revolves around current collaboration schemes and ways to improve them for the future of AI in Europe. In the context of VISION, the Consortium contributed and acted as a transversal enabler to make collaboration opportunities, among DIHs and Networks of AI Centres of Excellence, come to life. Hence, the experience shared serves as laying foundation to discuss on potential way ahead in collaboration.

✓ 11:55 – 12:10 The European Federation of Data Driven Innovation Hubs (EUhubs4Data) ecosystem, collaboration experience for a common EU data space

Daniel Sáez Domingo, Technology Transfer Director ITI and EUhubs4Data representative

This presentation focuses on the existing collaboration among all key actors of the AI EU landscape at an ecosystem level. EUhubs4data collaboration experience is presented: it has been bringing together relevant European initiatives around the data economy, fostering collaboration among those initiatives towards common goals, attracting SMEs and start-ups to use and benefit from the federated services and data sources, and raising awareness in society about the benefits of data driven innovation.

✓ 12:10 – 12:25 The experience of FBK in collaboration dynamics between EDIHs and AI Centre of excellence

Fabio Pianesi, Chief Strategy Officer for European Affairs, FBK

This presentation provides an overview of challenges and opportunities offered by collaboration among EDIHs and Networks of excellence, particularly focusing on the experience of the FBK research institute and the digital transformation strategy developed. The role of collaboration to guarantee both the building and the transfer of knowledge is particularly explored along with the evolution of TEF and networks of excellence, the main challenges of the collaboration and future opportunities ahead.

✓ 12:25 – 12:40 Strengthening AI4EU Ecosystem

Gabriel Castañe, EU Programme Manager, University College of Cork

This presentation offers a snapshot of the current AI ecosystem, explores the efforts by the AI4EU Platform to serve as a catalyst to aid AI-based innovation. The link between DIH4AI and AI4EU is stressed: DIH4AI aims at reinforcing the service ecosystem of AI4EU, reaching out new domains and facilitating technology transfer from research to business. Moreover, taking stock of the challenges and potential of enhancing innovation, it debates on ways to create a tighter network of European key actors.

✓ 12:40 – 12:55 Q&A

This Q&A session includes some questions from the moderator along with questions from the audience.

Final remarks (12:55 – 13:00)

Giovanna Galasso, Intellera