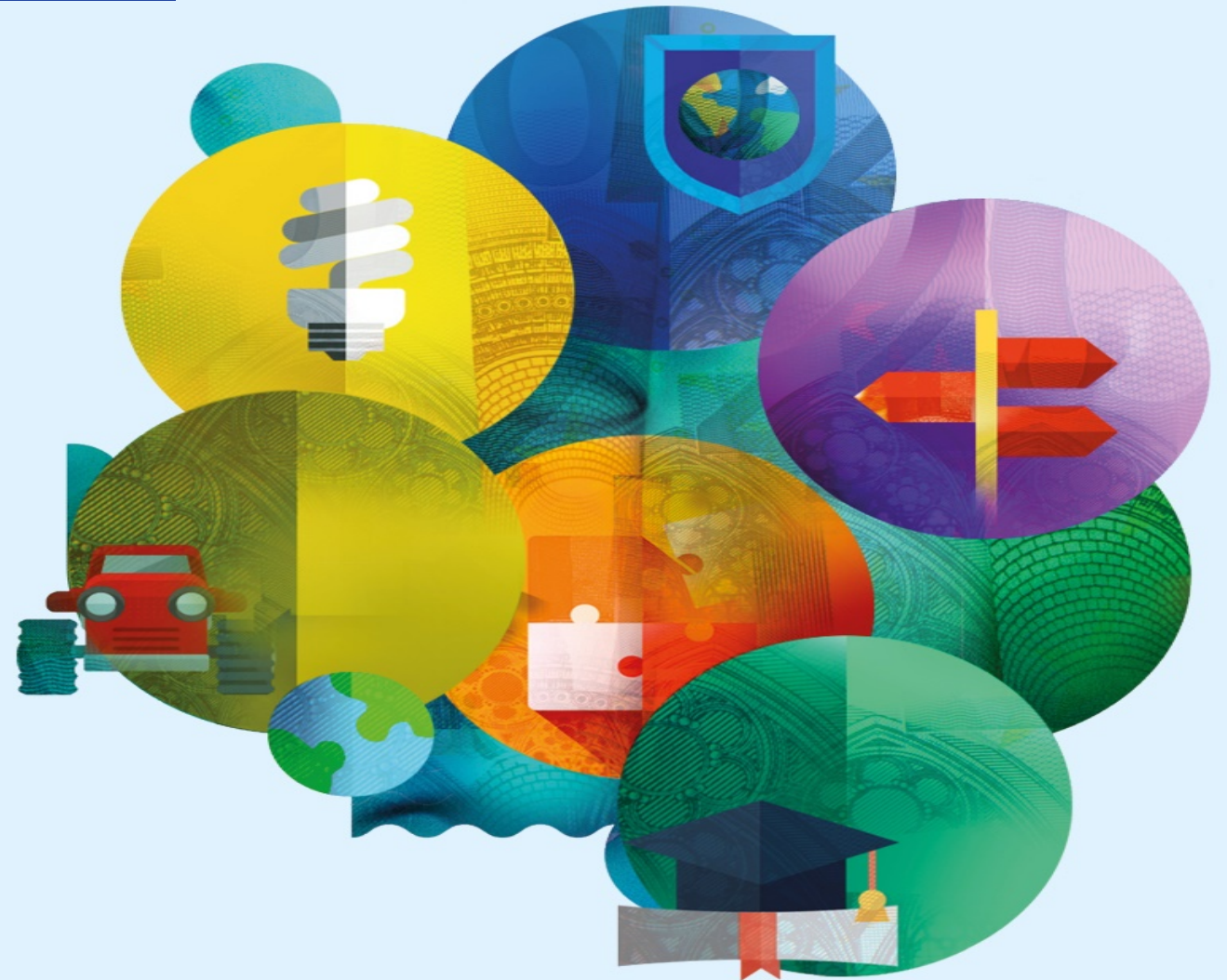# The role of Digital Innovation Hubs for economic recovery

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DG CNECT, unit A2

A New Industrial Strategy for Europe
An SME Strategy for a sustainable and digital Europe

- A network of up to 240 Digital Innovation Hubs will work closely with Enterprise Europe Network, Startup Europe, and others to ensure a seamless support and advice service, including with national, regional and local authorities.

GREEN TRANSITION

The European Green Deal is Europe's new growth strategy.

At the heart of it is the goal of becoming the world's **first climate-neutral continent** by 2050.

GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS

The right conditions are needed for entrepreneurs to turn their ideas into products and services and for companies of all sizes to thrive and grow.

The EU must leverage the impact, the size and the integration of its single market to make its voice count in the world and **set global standards**.

DIGITAL TRANSITION

Digital technologies are changing the face of industry and the way we do business.

They allow **economic players** to be more proactive, provide workers with new skills and support the decarbonisation of our economy.

European Commission

Tourism and Transport in 2020 and beyond (COM/2020/550)

- The Commission will deploy through the Digital Innovation Hubs dedicated support for local tourism businesses to help them cope with the new realities of the tourism season (i.e. robots for disinfecting and cleaning, crowd management, smart booking systems etc.), including a dedicated hackathon on the use of digital technologies in tourism.


JULY 8, 2020

CAST Virtual Hackathon awarded first place to 'SafeTourism' from Algarve DIH, an application which provides tourists with real-time information on the safest tourist activities and businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. Their solution uses location data and user-sourced ratings to support the safety of tourists by advising if an area is too busy, suggesting quiet alternatives, and informing them of how well businesses follow regulations. SafeTourism helps tourists to stay safe and feel confident during this time – successfully tackling a key challenge to the revival of the tourism sector.

European Digital Innovation Hubs

provide technological expertise and experimentation facilities to enable the digital transformation of the industry and the public sector
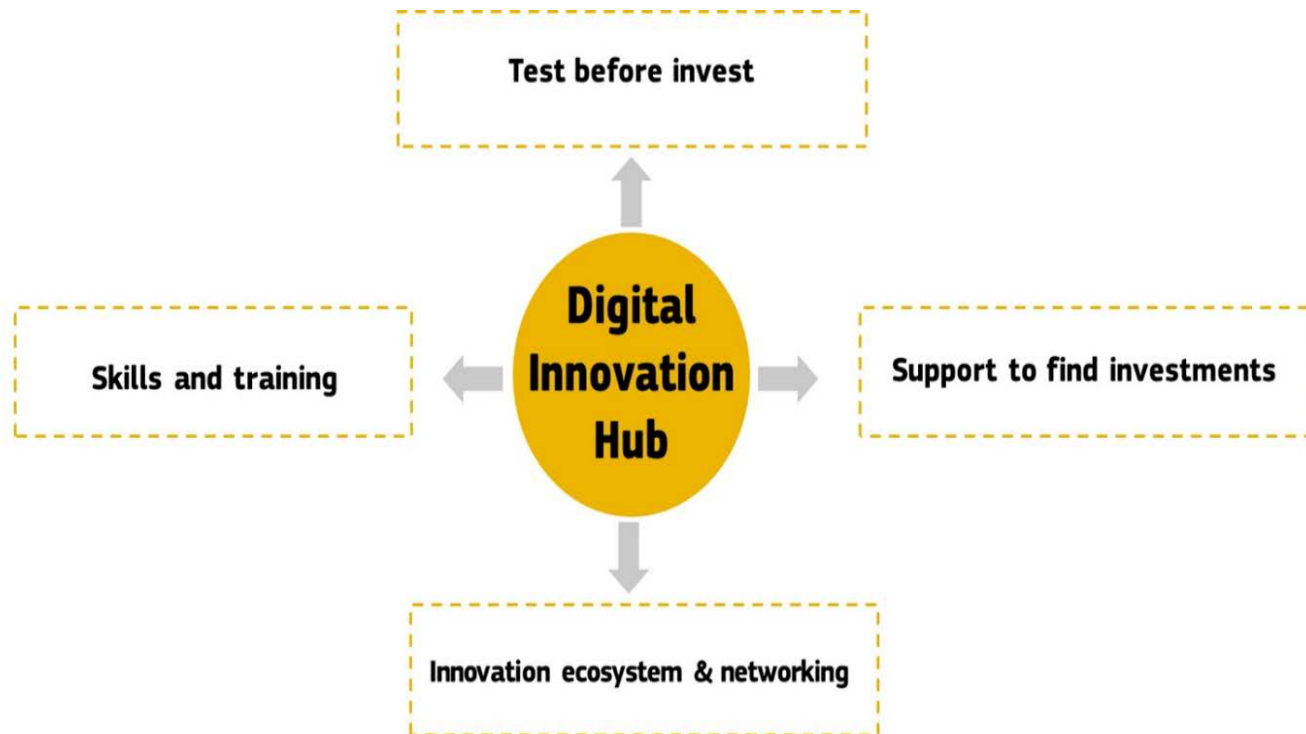
- Typical participants:

  - Research and Technology Organisations, Technical Universities
  - In collaboration with:
    - Industry associations
    - Clusters
    - Enterprise Europe Network
    - Accelerators/Incubators
    - Innovation agencies
    - Vocational training institutes

- A geographically spread network of up to 240 EDIHs

The "EU-local" approach

SME/public entity

Local DIH

DTA

Digital Transformation Accelerator

European Network

One EDIH "within working distance" for every business in EU

A network to put any company in contact with the competence they need, wherever in the EU

The Digital Transformation Accelerator will build, grow and support the network

European Commission
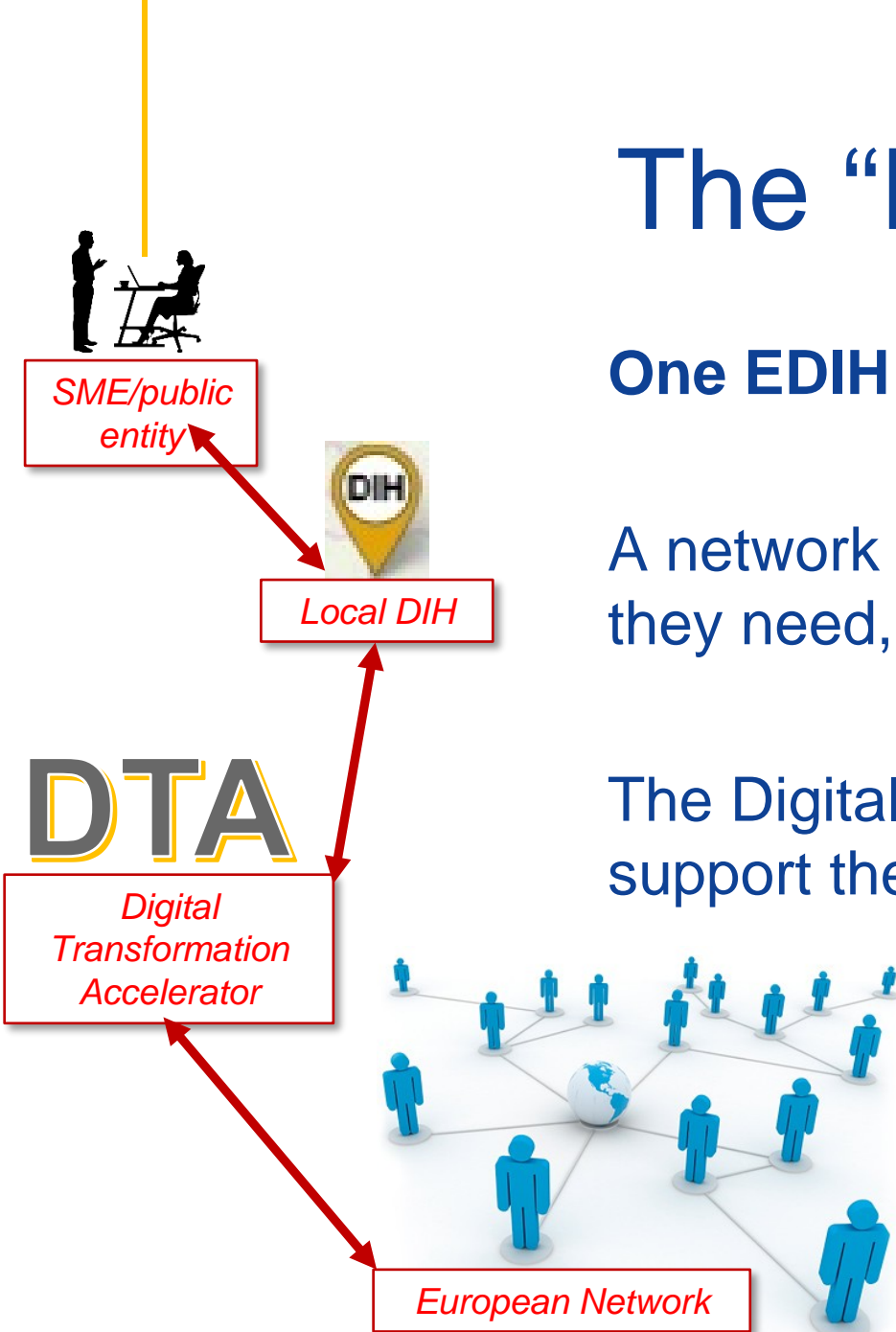
2 Step selection process for European DIHs

Member States	European Commission	Candidate Entities
	Launches the expression of interest	
Propose candidate entities through an open and competitive process		
	Issues a restricted call for proposals	Are invited to networking event in Luxemburg and have other networking opportunities
		Submit proposals
	Evaluates proposals with external experts	
	Ranks proposals balancing geographical, technological and sectoral coverage, with advice of MS	
Endorse the ranked proposals (MS committee)		

Timeline

Commission

- EoI can be send after agreement on MFF (unknown when exactly)

- EDIH networking event will be fully digital: around 9/10 November. Co-organized with Luxembourg.

- Restricted call: Q4 2020

Member States

- To designate hubs by Oct 2020

- To use a light process, for instance Expression of Interest, identifying only core partners of the EDIH

European Commission

Further reading

General overview Digital Innovation Hubs

- https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/digital-innovation-hubs

Selection process in Digital Europe Programme

- https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/european-digital-innovation-hubs-digital-europe-programme-0