

DIGITAL-2025-EDIH-AC-08

Proposal submission via the Funding & Tenders Portal



HADEA B2
Charmaine Kerr

#DigitalEuropeProgramme



DIGITAL-2025-EDIH-AC-08: Overview & Timeline

CALL: European Digital Innovation Hubs - Associated countries (EDIHs with reinforced AI focus) DIGITAL-2025-EDIH-AC-08	Type of Action	Funding Rate	Available budget
TOPIC 1: DIGITAL-2025-EDIH-AC-08-COMPLETION-STEP Completion of the initial Network of European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs) Target Countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina & Moldova	Simple Grants	50%	2 000 000 EUR
Projected budget for 3 years per Country	- Bosnia & Ho	erzegovina	1 000 000 EUR 1 000 000 EUR
TOPIC 2: DIGITAL-2025-EDIH-AC-08-CONSOLIDATION-STEP Consolidation of the Network of European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs with reinforced AI focus) Target Countries: Albania, North Macedonia, Türkiye, Ukraine	Simple Grants	50%	9 000 000 EUR
Projected budget for 3 years per Country	AlbaniaNorth MaceTürkiyeUkraine	edonia	818 000 EUR 818 000 EUR 3 682 000 EUR 3 682 000 EUR



Timeline

CALL OPENING

15 April 2024

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

02 September 2025 17:00:00 CEST **EVALUATION**

September – October 2025 INFORMATION ON EVALUATION RESULTS
November 2025

GRANT AGREEMENT SIGNATURE

February 2026

65% PREFINANCING

paid 30 days from the entry into force of the Grant Agreement



Funding and Tenders Portal & Call Document



Funding & Tenders Portal

PORTAL: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home



Discover the funding & tenders opportunities

Find out how to participate by following these key steps.

Find calls for proposals

Explore the available EU funding opportunities by searching for calls for proposals within your topics of interest, find partners and submit a proposal.

View projects and results

Browse through EU funded projects and learn about the results. Invest in opportunities and get inspired by the highlights and success stories.

Find calls for tenders

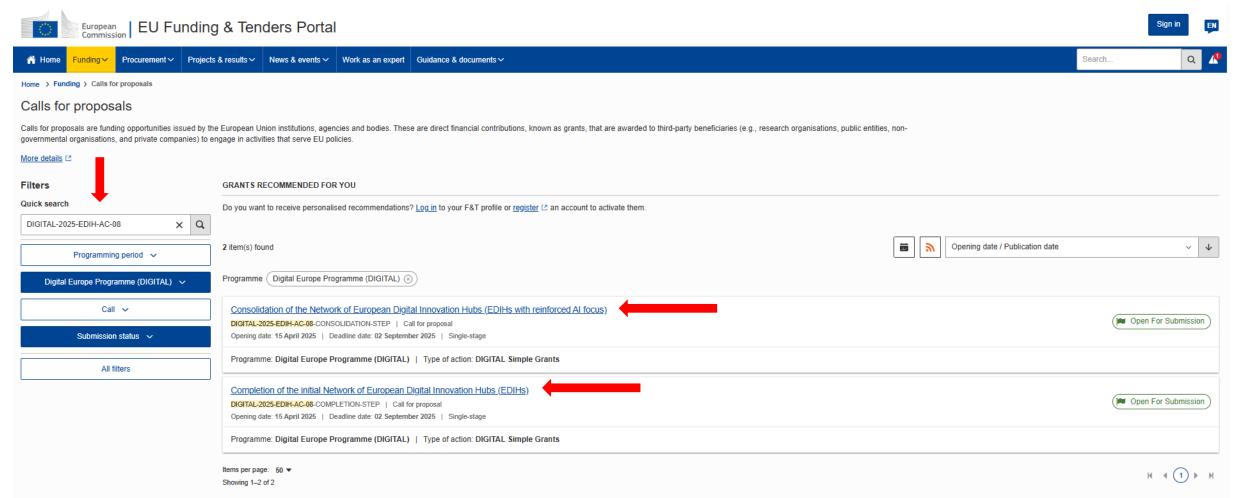
Find business opportunities in the calls for tenders managed by EU institutions, bodies and agencies.

Work as an expert

Proposals and projects need evaluations, monitoring and domain-specific knowledge advice from experts.

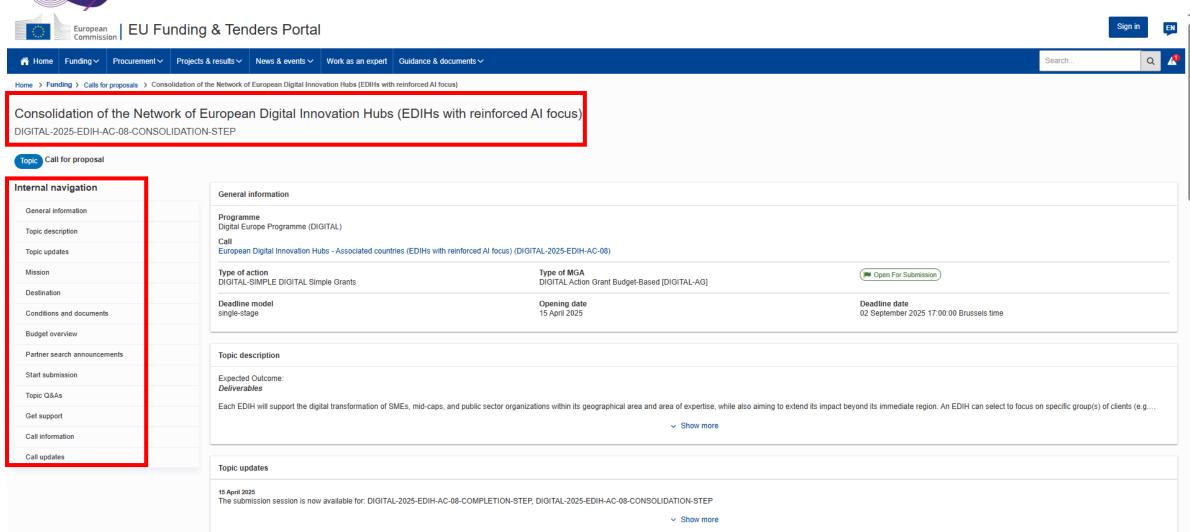


Searching the Call and Topics





Topic Page





Topic conditions and Call document

Internal navigation General information Topic description Topic updates Mission Destination Conditions and documents Budget overview Partner search announcements Start submission Topic Q&As Get support Call information Call updates

Topic conditions and documents

Conditions

1. Admissibility Conditions: Proposal page limit and layout

described in section 5 of the call document.

Proposal page limits and layout: described in Part B of the Application Form available in the Submission System.

2. Eligible Countries

described in section 6 of the call document.

3. Other Eligible Conditions

described in section 6 of the call document.

4. Financial and operational capacity and exclusion

described in section 7 of the call document.

5a. Evaluation and award: Submission and evaluation processes

described section 8 of the call document and the Online Manual 12.

5b. Evaluation and award: Award criteria, ecoring and thresholds

described in section 9 of the call document.

5c. Evaluation and award: Indicative timeline for evaluation and grant agreement

described in section 4 of the call document.

6. Legal and financial set-up of the grants

described in section 10 of the call document.

Call document and annexes:

CALL DOCUMENT @



Application form templates

Standard application form (DEP) L3 — the application form specific to this call is available in the Submission System

Model Grant Agreements (MGA)

DEP MGA Lª

Additional documents:

DEP Work Programmes Ľ

DEP Regulation 2021/964 [2

EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509 [2]

Rules for Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial Capacity Assessment L3

EU Grants AGA - Annotated Model Grant Agreement L3

Funding & Tenders Portal Online Manual L[®]

Funding & Tenders Portal Terms and Conditions E

Funding & Tenders Portal Privacy Statement La



Outline of the call document



Outline of the Call Document



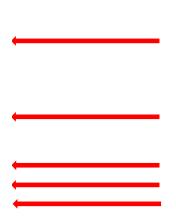
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	Type of action and funding rate		
	Specific topic conditions		
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How to submit a successful proposal?



Start Submission

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TOPIC 1

Consolidation of the Network of European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs with reinforced AI focus)

DIGITAL-2025-EDIH-AC-08-CONSOLIDATION-STEP

TOPIC 2

Completion of the initial Network of European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs)

DIGITAL-2025-EDIH-AC-08-COMPLETION-STEP

Start submission



To access the Electronic Submission Service, please click on the submission-button next to the type of action and the type of model grant agreement that corresponds to your proposal. You will then be asked to confirm your choice, as it cannot be changed in the submission system.

Upon confirmation, you will be linked to the correct entry point.

To access existing draft proposals for this topic, please login to the Funding & Tenders Portal and select the My Proposals page of the My Area section.

Please select the type of your submission:

DIGITAL Simple Grants [DIGITAL-SIMPLE], DIGITAL Action Grant Budget-Based [DIGITAL-AG]

Start submission



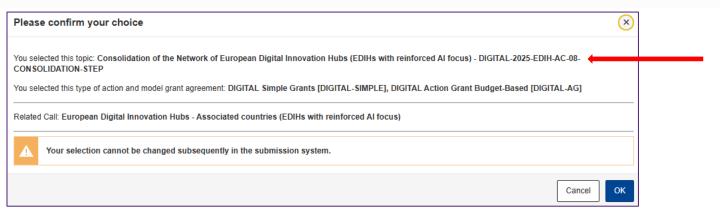
Submitting proposal under selected topic



Double-check that you are submitting your proposals under the correct topic

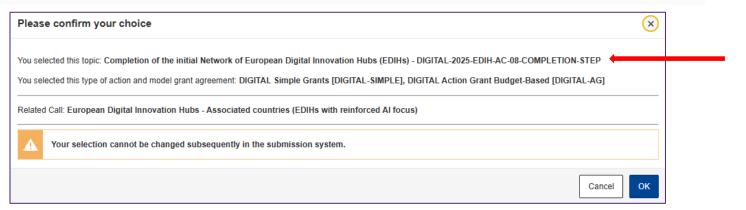
Consolidation of the Network of European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs with reinforced AI focus)

DIGITAL-2025-EDIH-AC-08-CONSOLIDATION-STEP



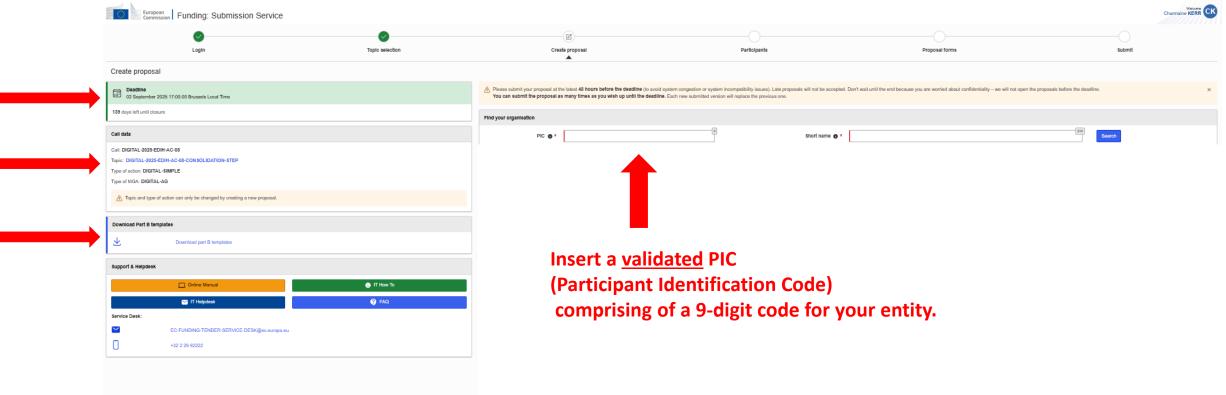
Completion of the initial Network of European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs)

DIGITAL-2025-EDIH-AC-08-COMPLETION-STEP



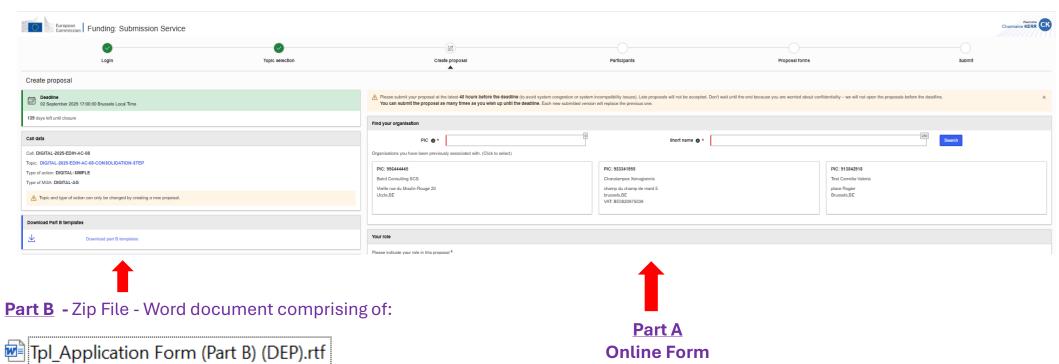


Creating a proposal





Part A & Part B





Part A & Part B

Part A ONLINE FORM



Part B WORD DOC to be Converted into PDF, uploaded and Submitted

Call: [insert call identifier] — [insert call name]

EU Grants: Application form (DEP): V2.0 - 01.06.2022

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION (PART B)

COVER PAGE

Part B of the Application Form must be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed and then assembled and re-upbasded as PDF in the system. Page 1 with the grey IMPORTANT NOTICE box should be deleted before upbasding.

Note: Please read carefully the conditions set out in the Call document (for open calls: published on the Portal). Pay particular attention to the award criteria; they explain how the application will be evaluated.

PROJECT	
Project name:	[project title]
Project acronym:	[acronym]
Coordinator contact:	[name NAME], [organisation name]

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Submitting a complete proposal

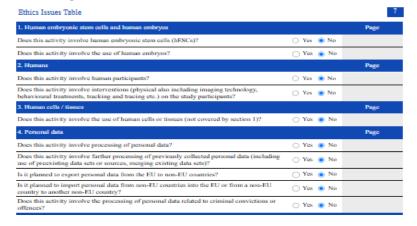
Part A & Part B



PART A of the Application

	Administrative part of the application
Section 1 - General information	Call, Topic, Type of Action, Proposal number, Proposal acronym, Type of Model Grant Agreement
Section 2 – Participants	Information on the applicants and consortium partners
Section 3 - Budget	Budget allocation per costs category
Section 4 – Other Questions	Ethics and Security issues tables must be completed for both topics.

4 - Other questions



Security issues table			?
. EU Classified Information (EUCI) ²			Page
Does this activity involve information and/or materials requiring protection against mauthorised disclosure (EUCI)?	O Yes	No	
Does this activity involve non-EU countries which need to have access to EUCI?	○ Yes	No	
2. Misuse			Page
Does this activity have the potential for misuse of results?	○ Yes	No	
3. Other Security Issues			Page
Ooes this activity involve information and/or materials subject to national security restrictions? If yes, please specify: (Maximum number of characters allowed: 1000)	○ Yes	No	
Are there any other security issues that should be taken into consideration? If yes, please pecify: (Maximum number of characters allowed: 1000)	O Yes	No	



Ethics review and Al systems

Ethics Issues Table			?
1. Human embryonic stem cells and human embryos			Page
Does this activity involve human embryonic stem cells (hESCs)?	O Yes	No	
Does this activity involve the use of human embryos?	○ Yes	No	
2. Humans			Page
Does this activity involve human participants?	O Yes	No	
Does this activity involve interventions (physical also including imaging technology, behavioural treatments, tracking and tracing etc.) on the study participants?	O Yes	No	
3. Human cells / tissues			Page
Does this activity involve the use of human cells or tissues (not covered by section 1)?	O Yes	No	
4. Personal data			Page
Does this activity involve processing of personal data?	O Yes	No	
Does this activity involve further processing of previously collected personal data (including use of preexisting data sets or sources, merging existing data sets)?	○ Yes	No	
Is it planned to export personal data from the EU to non-EU countries?	○ Yes	No	
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?	○ Yes	No	
Does this activity involve the processing of personal data related to criminal convictions or offences?	O Yes	No	
5. Animals			Page
Does this activity involve animals?	○ Yes	No	
6. Non-EU countries			Page
Will are a fet a satisfia be social and in our PIT acceptable.	O Ver	No	
Will some of the activities be carried out in non-EU countries?	0 169	0	
In case non-EU countries are involved, do the activities undertaken in these countries raise potential ethics issues?	Yes	No	
In case non-EU countries are involved, do the activities undertaken in these countries raise	Yes	No	
In case non-EU countries are involved, do the activities undertaken in these countries raise potential ethics issues? It is 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.)? It is the planned to import any material (other than data) from non-EU countries into the EU of from a non-EU country to another non-EU country?	Yes	No No	
In case non-EU countries are involved, do the activities undertaken in these countries raise potential ethics issues? It is 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)? Is it planned to import any material (other than data) from non-EU countries into the EU or	Yes	No No No No	
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In case non-EU countries are involved, do the activities undertaken in these countries raise potential ethics issues? It is 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.)? 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? For data imports, see section 4. Is it planned to export any material (other than data) from the EU to non-EU countries? For data exports, see section 4.	Yes Yes Yes Yes	No No No No	Page
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In case non-EU countries are involved, do the activities undertaken in these countries raise potential ethics issues? It is 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.)? 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? For data imports, see section 4. Is it planned to export any material (other than data) from the EU to non-EU countries? For data exports, see section 4. 7. Environment, health and safety 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)? 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)? 8. Artificial intelligence	Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes	No No No No No No No	Page Page
In case non-EU countries are involved, do the activities undertaken in these countries raise potential ethics issues? It is 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.)? Is it planned to import any material (other than data) from non-EU countries into the EU of from a non-EU country to another non-EU country? For data imports, see section 4. Is it planned to export any material (other than data) from the EU to non-EU countries? For data exports, see section 4. 7. Environment, health and safety 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)? 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)?	Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes	No No No No No No No No	

Ethics review and AI systems

For proposals involving the <u>development</u>, <u>testing</u>, <u>deployment</u>, <u>use</u>, <u>or distribution</u> of AI systems, the proposal must clearly describe these activities to enable both technical and ethical assessment of the AI component.

- During the <u>technical evaluation</u>, experts will examine the robustness of the AI systems.
- During the <u>ethics assessment</u>, experts will evaluate compliance with ethics principles; such as human agency and oversight, diversity and fairness, transparency, and responsible social impact.





PART B of the Application

Part B - Technical part of the application

Section 1 - Relevance In line with Award Criteria 1	 1.1 Objectives and activities 1.2 Contribution to long-term policy objectives, policies and strategies — Synergies 1.3 Digital technology supply chain* 1.4 Financial obstacles
Section 2 - Implementation In line with Award Criteria 2	2.1 Maturity2.2 Implementation plan and efficient use of resources2.3 Capacity to carry out the proposed work
Section 3 - Impact In line with Award Criteria 3	3.1 Expected outcomes and deliverables 3.2 Competitiveness and benefits for society 3.3 Environmental sustainability and contribution to European Green Deal goals*

Section 4 - Work plan, Work packages, timing and subcontracting

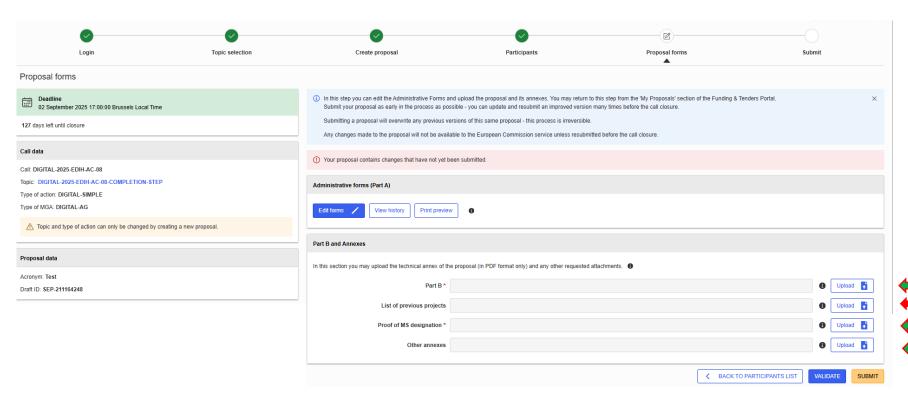
*Sub-criteria 1.3 and 3.3 NOT APPLICABLE for both topic



Attention: PART B - Page limit of **70 pages**



Submitting Part A & Part B + Annexes

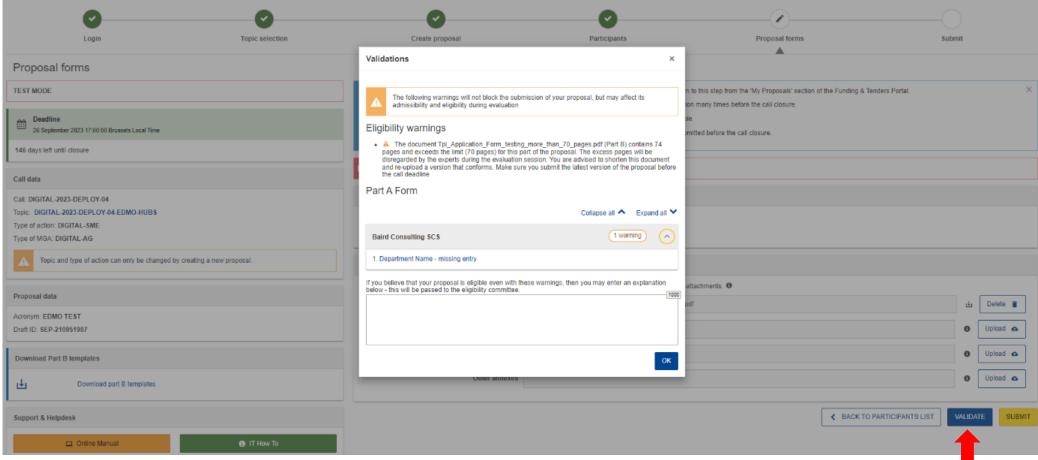








Validating and Warnings



Before submitting the application Validate and address warnings!!!



Evaluation & Award criteria

RELEVANCE

- Alignment with the objectives and activities as described in section 2
- Contribution to long-term policy objectives, relevant policies and strategies, and synergies with activities at European and national level
- Extent to which the project would reinforce and secure the digital technology **supply chain** in the EU*
- Extent to which the project can overcome **financial obstacles** such as the lack of market finance

IMPLEMENTATION

- Maturity of the project
- Soundness of the implementation plan and efficient use of resources
- Capacity of the applicants, and when applicable the consortium as a whole, to carry out the proposed work

IMPACT

- Extent to which the project will achieve the expected outcomes and deliverables referred to in the call for proposals and, where relevant, the plans to disseminate and communicate project achievements
- Extent to which the project will strengthen competitiveness and bring important benefits for society
- Extent to which the project addresses environmental sustainability and the **European Green Deal goals**, in terms of direct effects and/or in awareness of environmental effects *

^{*} **NOT APPLICABLE** for both topic



Scoring during evaluation

Award criteria	Minimum pass score	Maximum score
Relevance	3	5
Implementation	3	5
Impact	3	5

- Maximum threshold per individual criterion: score of 5/5.
- Maximum points per proposals: 15 points.
- For a proposal to be considered for funding, it **MUST**:
 - 1. Pass the individual award criteria threshold that is: minimum <u>3 scores per criteria</u> *AND*
 - 2. Overall scoring threshold of **10 points**, within the limits of the available call budget.
- Proposals that <u>do not</u> achieve this threshold will be rejected.

For further details, refer to the Call Document Section 9 – Award Criteria



Ranking of proposals: Two-Step Ranking Process

Step 1: Candidate list per country established based on the overall score

For ex-aequo proposals (proposals receiving the same overall score):

Proposals will be prioritised according to the scores they have been awarded for the highest criterion:

- 1. Relevance score
- 2. Impact score
- 3. Implementation score

Step 2: Network Optimisation

Consider the additional criteria and objectives for the EDIH Network set out in the Digital Europe Regulation and the budget allocated to each country to ensure proper coverage of territories, technologies and economic sectors.



STEP Seal Recognition



Above threshold proposals (awarded an overall score of 10 points and above) will be:

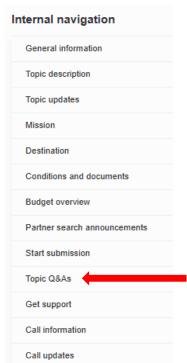
- 1. Awarded STEP Seal; and
- 2. Listed on the **STEP portal** https://strategic-technologies.europa.eu

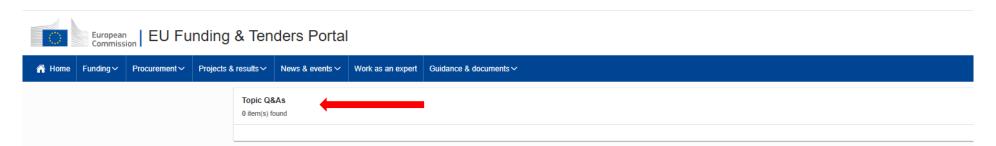


Guidance & Manuals Submitting questions



Topic Q&As & Submitting questions







FAQs – EDIH Network Website

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

https://european-digital-innovation-hubs.ec.europa.eu/faq



FAQ: European Digital Innovation Hubs

This page aims to give answers to the most frequently asked questions related to European Digital Innovation Hubs under the Digital Europe Programme.



FAQ on DTA General Aspect

This page provides a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) relating to the Digital Transformation Accelerator (DTA).



Digital Maturity Assessment Tool (DMAT)

This page addresses frequently asked questions (FAQs) related to the deployment of the Digital Maturity Assessment Tool (DMAT) by EDIHs.



Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

This page addresses frequently asked questions (FAQs) related to the deployment of the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) Reporting Tool.



FAQ: EDIH 2.0 Call for Proposals

This FAQ focusses on the Calls 2025-27 and complements the more general FAQ.



Online Form to submit questions

https://european-union.europa.eu/contact-eu/write-us en

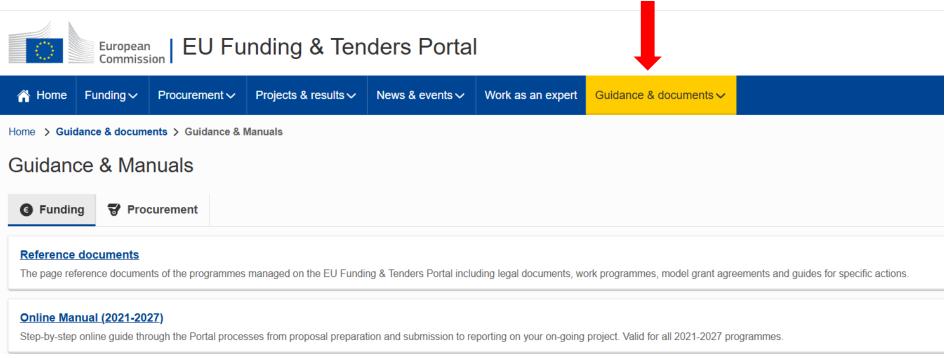
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General information	★ Home Funding P	rocurement ~ Project	cts & results > News & events >	Work as an expert	Guidance & documents >
opic description			Get support		
opic updates			Please read carefully all provisi	ons below before the pr	preparation of your application.
Mission			For help related to this call, plea		•
Destination			IT Helpdesk ☑ – Contact the IT	helpdesk for questions	ons such as forgotten passwords, access rights and roles, technical aspects of submission of proposals, etc.
onditions and documents			Online Manual 🗗 – Step-by-ste	p online guide through	th the Portal processes from proposal preparation and evaluation to reporting on your ongoing project. Valid for all 2021-2027 program
udget overview					
artner search announcements					
tart submission					
opic Q&As					
et support					
all information					
all updates					

Send us your question		
First name*		
First name		
Last name*		
Last name		
Email address*		
name@example.com		0
Nationality*		
Please select	ф	0
Country of residence*		
Please select	ф	0
Preferred contact language*		
Please select	¢	0
Alternative contact language		
Please select	\$	0
Your question*		
Your question		
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I have read and agree with the <u>data protect</u> (Mandatory)	ion terms	
Submit		



Guidance, Manuals & Step-by-step videos

https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/manuals



IT how to

IT support guide with step-by-step walkthroughs and videos.



Final tips for applicants



Final tips for applicants - Part 1

Admissibility requirements:

- Application form is readable before uploading form B check that it has been converted correctly to PDF and that
 there are no missing parts or missing tables
- Always use the standard template Form B never use your own

Eligibility requirement:

Consortium composition compliance is a must – Read carefully Section 6 of the call document

Proposals must be submitted:

For topic: **DIGITAL-2025-EDIH-AC-08-COMPLETION-STEP** - only by preselected candidates from <u>Bosnia-Herzegovina</u> and <u>Moldova</u>, as <u>designated</u> by their respective associated country.

For topic: **DIGITAL-2025-EDIH-AC-08-CONSOLIDATION-STEP** - designed hubs having <u>received the Seal of Excellence in call DIGITAL-2023- EDIH-04-ASSOCIATED</u> for associated countries (<u>Albania, North Macedonia, Türkiye and Ukraine</u>)



Final tips for applicants - Part 2

Mandatory Annexes and supporting documents:

- DIGITAL-2025-EDIH-AC-08-COMPLETION-STEP letter of designation by the Associated Country.
- **DIGITAL-2025EDIH-AC-08-CONSOLIDATION-STEP** Applicants must provide proof of the Seal of Excellence, awarded under call DIGITAL-2023-EDIH-04-ASSOCIATED.

Ethics and Security issues table:

- Applicable for both topics.
- Mark with great attention the relevant criteria when applicable.
- When marking any ethical or security issues, include the corresponding **proposal page reference** in the respective form B.
- Elaborate on compliance with ethical principles and relevant legislation for any issues marked in the ethics form.

Award Criteria:

• Take into account the **award criteria** as detailed in the call document and follow that logic in your application to provide all necessary information.

Page Limit:

70 pages, any additional pages will be blanked out.

Deadline:

• Submit your proposals before the deadline. Do not submit your proposal on the last day, to avoid disappointment !!!



Thanks for your attention

For any questions after today's session please submit them through the functionality in the F&T Portal

https://european-union.europa.eu/contact-eu/write-us en

