



# Navigating the National Croatia-EDIH Landscape

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- **EDIH = European Digital Innovation Hub**
  - new EU mechanism for implementation of Digital Europe Programme (DEP)
  - digitalization and digital transformation of the economy and society
  - micro, small and medium enterprises and public administration
  - goal: digital transformation of the (European) industrial ecosystem





## Croatia compared to the rest of EU:

- *EU Digitalization Level: **21/28***
- *EU Competitive **Industrial** Performance Index: **24/28***
- *EU **Agriculture** Competitiveness Index: **26/28***
- *EU Digital **Public Services**: **24/28***
- *EU in patent applications per million: **25/28** (Croatia 6.6 patents/mil., Germany 309.5 patents/mil. inhabitants!) => indicator of innovative potential of some economy!*
- EDIH - an opportunity for improvement on a national level

# Croatian EDIHs - establishment

- **Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Croatia** – national body in charge for implementation of EDIH programme
- financial envelope for Croatia: **2 to 4** EDIHs, **12.4 million EUR**
- end of 2020: Ministry held public call for the pre-selection of national candidates for EDIHs
- key difference between **DIHs** and **EDIHs**: DIHs are focused on a limited range of services, while EDIHs should provide **4 categories of services**:
  - test before invest
  - skills development and training
  - support for access to funding
  - networking and innovation system development

# Croatian EDIHs - establishment

- seven applications were received
- based on the eligibility conditions and evaluation criteria defined in the subject invitation of the Ministry, the following project proposals were selected for financing:
  - EDIH ADRIA
  - EDIH AI4HEALTH
  - EDIH CROBOHUB++
  - EDIH JURK
- one EDIH received seal-of-excellence
  - Blue European Digital Innovation Hub (Bluedih)

# Croatian EDIHs



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- Funded under Digital Europe Programme
- Seal of Excellence
- Funded by other initiatives





# Users and financing

- services are **free** for target users
- target users:
  - micro, small and medium enterprises (**SMEs & midcaps**)
  - state and public administration **institutions**
- costs of services are co-financed (50:50) by means of the **European Union** (DEP) and Ministry of Economy and Sustainable of Croatia (**MINGOR**) (via **state-aid mechanism**)



# Expected benefits

- EDIHs as a base of new **innovation ecosystem**
- recovery of economy through **reindustrialization**
- adoption of **new technologies** (AI, HPC) – improved **international competitiveness**
- **service = spark** to ignite digitalization in „low-tech“ sectors
  - in particular – manufacturing, agriculture...





# Expected benefits

- new **cooperative platform** for whole Croatian economy
- new models of cooperation between **research community** and **industry**
- higher efficiency of **public administration** = better **business environment**
- **better interconnections on EU level**



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# THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION!

