







The project is funded by the European Union under the NextGenerationEU Programme. The project is co-founded by the European Union under the Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL).





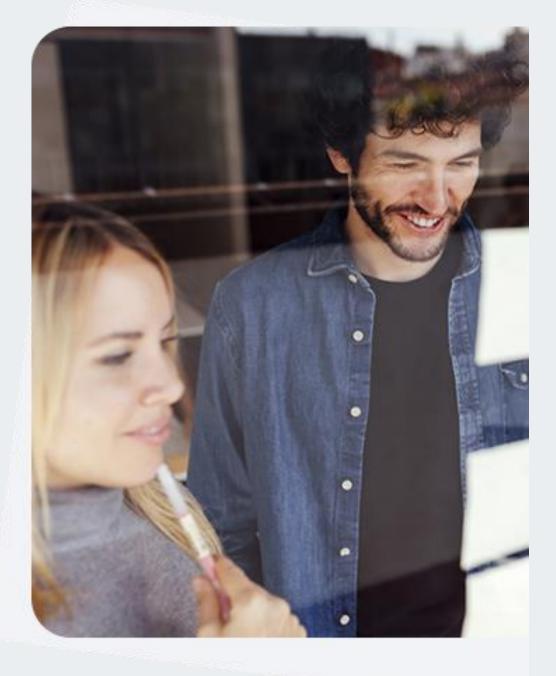


### Navigating the National Croatia-EDIH Landscape

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# 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

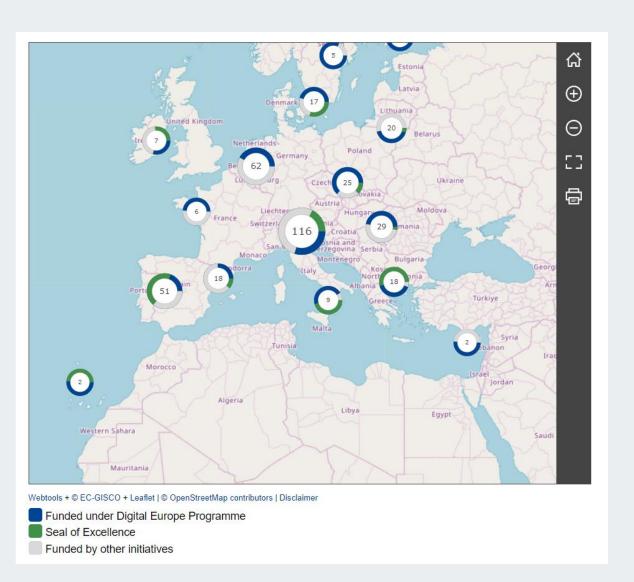
#### Croatian EDIHs - establishment

- 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 <u>DIHs</u> and <u>EDIHs</u>: DIHs are focused on a limited range of services, while EDIHs should provide <u>4 categories of services:</u>
  - 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-exellence
  - Blue European Digital Innovation Hub (Bluedih)

#### Croatian EDIHs





## 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!

