Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology
CNECT.A – Artificial Intelligence Office
A.4 – Artificial Intelligence Innovation and Policy Coordination

GRANT AGREEMENT

Project 101256752 — EDIH-DIGIMAT 2.0

PREAMBLE

This **Agreement** ('the Agreement') is **between** the following parties:

on the one part,

the **European Union** ('EU'), represented by the European Commission ('European Commission' or 'granting authority'),

and

on the other part,

1. 'the coordinator':

JIC, ZAJMOVE SDRUZENI PRAVNICKCH OSOB (JIC), PIC 999780262, established in Purkynova 649/127, Brno - Medlanky 61200, Czechia,

and the following other beneficiaries, if they sign their 'accession form' (see Annex 3 and Article 40):

2. **VYSOKE UCENI TECHNICKE V BRNE (BUT)**, PIC 999873091, established in ANTONINSKA 548/1, BRNO STRED 602 00, Czechia,

3. **INTEMAC SOLUTIONS, SRO (INTEMAC)**, PIC 934182460, established in BLANENSKA 1288/27, KURIM 664 34, Czechia,

4. **EFFECTIVITY S.R.O (Effectivity)**, PIC 887659611, established in HLUBOCANY 160, VYSKOV 68201, Czechia,

5. **UNIVERZITA TOMASE BATI VE ZLINE (TBU)**, PIC 999880172, established in Nam. T.G. Masaryka 5555, ZLIN 760 01, Czechia,

Unless otherwise specified, references to 'beneficiary' or 'beneficiaries' include the coordinator and affiliated entities (if any).

If only one beneficiary signs the grant agreement ('mono-beneficiary grant'), all provisions referring to the 'coordinator' or the 'beneficiaries' will be considered — mutatis mutandis — as referring to the beneficiary.

The parties referred to above have agreed to enter into the Agreement.

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

By signing the Agreement and the accession forms, the beneficiaries accept the grant and agree to implement the action under their own responsibility and in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

The Agreement is composed of:

Preamble

Terms and Conditions (including Data Sheet)

Annex 1	Description of the action[1]
Annex 2	Estimated budget for the action
Annex 2a	Additional information on unit costs and contributions (if applicable)
Annex 3	Accession forms (if applicable)[2]
Annex 3a	Declaration on joint and several liability of affiliated entities (if applicable)[3]
Annex 4	Model for the financial statements
Annex 5	Specific rules (if applicable)

[1] Template published on Portal Reference Documents.
[2] Template published on Portal Reference Documents.
[3] Template published on Portal Reference Documents.

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GRANT AGREEMENT **1**

PREAMBLE **1**

TERMS AND CONDITIONS **3**

DATASHEET **8**

CHAPTER 1 GENERAL **13**

ARTICLE 1 — SUBJECT OF THE AGREEMENT 13

ARTICLE 2 — DEFINITIONS 13

CHAPTER 2 ACTION **14**

ARTICLE 3 — ACTION 14

ARTICLE 4 — DURATION AND STARTING DATE 14

CHAPTER 3 GRANT **14**

ARTICLE 5 — GRANT 14

5.1 Form of grant 15

5.2 Maximum grant amount 15

5.3 Funding rate 15

5.4 Estimated budget, budget categories and forms of funding 15

5.5 Budget flexibility 15

ARTICLE 6 — ELIGIBLE AND INELIGIBLE COSTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS 16

6.1 General eligibility conditions 16

6.2 Specific eligibility conditions for each budget category 17

6.3 Ineligible costs and contributions 21

6.4 Consequences of non-compliance 22

CHAPTER 4 GRANT IMPLEMENTATION **22**

SECTION 1 CONSORTIUM: BENEFICIARIES, AFFILIATED ENTITIES AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS **22**

ARTICLE 7 — BENEFICIARIES 22

ARTICLE 8 — AFFILIATED ENTITIES 24

ARTICLE 9 — OTHER PARTICIPANTS INVOLVED IN THE ACTION 24

9.1 Associated partners 24

9.2 Third parties giving in-kind contributions to the action 24

9.3 Subcontractors 25

9.4 Recipients of financial support to third parties....25

ARTICLE 10 — PARTICIPANTS WITH SPECIAL STATUS....25

10.1 Non-EU participants....25

10.2 Participants which are international organisations....26

10.3 Pillar-assessed participants....26

SECTION 2 RULES FOR CARRYING OUT THE ACTION....28

ARTICLE 11 — PROPER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION....28

11.1 Obligation to properly implement the action....28

11.2 Consequences of non-compliance....28

ARTICLE 12 — CONFLICT OF INTERESTS....28

12.1 Conflict of interests....28

12.2 Consequences of non-compliance....28

ARTICLE 13 — CONFIDENTIALITY AND SECURITY....29

13.1 Sensitive information....29

13.2 Classified information....29

13.3 Consequences of non-compliance....30

ARTICLE 14 — ETHICS AND VALUES....30

14.1 Ethics....30

14.2 Values....30

14.3 Consequences of non-compliance....30

ARTICLE 15 — DATA PROTECTION....30

15.1 Data processing by the granting authority....30

15.2 Data processing by the beneficiaries....31

15.3 Consequences of non-compliance....31

ARTICLE 16 — INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR) — BACKGROUND AND RESULTS — ACCESS RIGHTS AND RIGHTS OF USE....31

16.1 Background and access rights to background....31

16.2 Ownership of results....32

16.3 Rights of use of the granting authority on materials, documents and information received for policy, information, communication, dissemination and publicity purposes....32

16.4 Specific rules on IPR, results and background....33

16.5 Consequences of non-compliance....33

ARTICLE 17 — COMMUNICATION, DISSEMINATION AND VISIBILITY....33

17.1 Communication — Dissemination — Promoting the action....33

17.2 Visibility — European flag and funding statement....33

17.3 Quality of information — Disclaimer....34

17.4 Specific communication, dissemination and visibility rules....34
17.5 Consequences of non-compliance....34
ARTICLE 18 — SPECIFIC RULES FOR CARRYING OUT THE ACTION....35
18.1 Specific rules for carrying out the action....35
18.2 Consequences of non-compliance....35
SECTION 3 GRANT ADMINISTRATION....35
ARTICLE 19 — GENERAL INFORMATION OBLIGATIONS....35
19.1 Information requests....35
19.2 Participant Register data updates....35
19.3 Information about events and circumstances which impact the action....35
19.4 Consequences of non-compliance....36
ARTICLE 20 — RECORD-KEEPING....36
20.1 Keeping records and supporting documents....36
20.2 Consequences of non-compliance....37
ARTICLE 21 — REPORTING....37
21.1 Continuous reporting....37
21.2 Periodic reporting: Technical reports and financial statements....37
21.3 Currency for financial statements and conversion into euros....38
21.4 Reporting language....39
21.5 Consequences of non-compliance....39
ARTICLE 22 — PAYMENTS AND RECOVERIES — CALCULATION OF AMOUNTS DUE....39
22.1 Payments and payment arrangements....39
22.2 Recoveries....39
22.3 Amounts due....40
22.4 Enforced recovery....44
22.5 Consequences of non-compliance....45
ARTICLE 23 — GUARANTEES....46
23.1 Prefinancing guarantee....46
23.2 Consequences of non-compliance....46
ARTICLE 24 — CERTIFICATES....46
24.1 Operational verification report (OVR)....46
24.2 Certificate on the financial statements (CFS)....46
24.3 Certificate on the compliance of usual cost accounting practices (CoMUC)....47
24.4 Systems and process audit (SPA)....47
24.5 Consequences of non-compliance....48

ARTICLE 25 — CHECKS, REVIEWS, AUDITS AND INVESTIGATIONS — EXTENSION OF FINDINGS 48

25.1 Granting authority checks, reviews and audits 48

25.2 European Commission checks, reviews and audits in grants of other granting authorities 49

25.3 Access to records for assessing simplified forms of funding 49

25.4 OLAF, EPPO and ECA audits and investigations 49

25.5 Consequences of checks, reviews, audits and investigations — Extension of results of reviews, audits or investigations 50

25.6 Consequences of non-compliance 51

ARTICLE 26 — IMPACT EVALUATIONS 51

26.1 Impact evaluation 51

26.2 Consequences of non-compliance 52

CHAPTER 5 CONSEQUENCES OF NON-COMPLIANCE 52

SECTION 1 REJECTIONS AND GRANT REDUCTION 52

ARTICLE 27 — REJECTION OF COSTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS 52

27.1 Conditions 52

27.2 Procedure 52

27.3 Effects 52

ARTICLE 28 — GRANT REDUCTION 52

28.1 Conditions 53

28.2 Procedure 53

28.3 Effects 53

SECTION 2 SUSPENSION AND TERMINATION 53

ARTICLE 29 — PAYMENT DEADLINE SUSPENSION 53

29.1 Conditions 53

29.2 Procedure 54

ARTICLE 30 — PAYMENT SUSPENSION 54

30.1 Conditions 54

30.2 Procedure 54

ARTICLE 31 — GRANT AGREEMENT SUSPENSION 55

31.1 Consortium-requested GA suspension 55

31.2 EU-initiated GA suspension 56

ARTICLE 32 — GRANT AGREEMENT OR BENEFICIARY TERMINATION 57

32.1 Consortium-requested GA termination 57

32.2 Consortium-requested beneficiary termination 58

32.3 EU-initiated GA or beneficiary termination 59

SECTION 3 OTHER CONSEQUENCES: DAMAGES AND ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS..... 62

ARTICLE 33 — DAMAGES.....62

33.1 Liability of the granting authority.....62

33.2 Liability of the beneficiaries..... 62

ARTICLE 34 — ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS AND OTHER MEASURES..... 63

SECTION 4 FORCE MAJEURE..... 63

ARTICLE 35 — FORCE MAJEURE.....63

CHAPTER 6 FINAL PROVISIONS.....63

ARTICLE 36 — COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE PARTIES.....63

36.1 Forms and means of communication — Electronic management..... 63

36.2 Date of communication..... 64

36.3 Addresses for communication..... 64

ARTICLE 37 — INTERPRETATION OF THE AGREEMENT.....64

ARTICLE 38 — CALCULATION OF PERIODS AND DEADLINES.....64

ARTICLE 39 — AMENDMENTS..... 65

39.1 Conditions..... 65

39.2 Procedure..... 65

ARTICLE 40 — ACCESSION AND ADDITION OF NEW BENEFICIARIES..... 65

40.1 Accession of the beneficiaries mentioned in the Preamble..... 66

40.2 Addition of new beneficiaries.....66

ARTICLE 41 — TRANSFER OF THE AGREEMENT..... 66

ARTICLE 42 — ASSIGNMENTS OF CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT AGAINST THE GRANTING AUTHORITY.....66

ARTICLE 43 — APPLICABLE LAW AND SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES..... 67

43.1 Applicable law.....67

43.2 Dispute settlement..... 67

ARTICLE 44 — ENTRY INTO FORCE.....67

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

DATA SHEET

1. General data

Project summary:

Project summary
EDIH-DIGIMAT is a European Digital Innovation Hub (EDIH) dedicated to accelerating the adoption of advanced digital, automation, and artificial intelligence (AI) technologies among manufacturing SMEs, midcaps, and public sector organizations in the South Moravian region and neighbouring areas in eastern Czech Republic. The project is led by a strong consortium comprising INTEMAC, JIC, Brno University of Technology (BUT), Effectivity, and Tomas Bata University (TBU), strategically aligned with the Czech Republic's Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation (RIS3). The consortium supports the transition to smart manufacturing by promoting digital transformation in key technological domains, including smart connectivity, digital twins, intelligent control systems, autonomous robotics, sustainability, and industrial AI. Its objective is to foster the deployment of flexible manufacturing systems driven by industrial AI, enhancing productivity, efficiency, and the ability to adapt rapidly to change, thereby strengthening global competitiveness. To ensure broader impact and complementarity, EDIH-DIGIMAT collaborates with other European Digital Innovation Hubs, AI Factories, and Testing and Experimentation Facilities (TEFs), both within the Czech Republic and internationally. The project provides high-impact, practically oriented services tailored to the needs of its target groups, including awareness-raising, skills development, expert advisory, and proof-of-concept testing on dedicated testbeds. These services are designed to drive innovation, support digital maturity, and enhance long-term competitiveness in both regional and global markets. By serving as a driver of digital transformation, EDIH-DIGIMAT aims to empower regional stakeholders to lead in the next era of smart, sustainable, and resilient manufacturing.

Keywords:

- Manufacturing and processing
- Artificial Intelligence & Decision support
- Cyber-physical systems
- High performance computing
- Sensors & Vision Processing Systems
- Industrial AI, Smart Manufacturing, Robotics, Intelligent Control Systems, Digital Twin, Data Monitoring & Analysis, Predictive Maintenance, Cloud & Edge Computing, Sustainability, Prototyping

Project number: 101256752

Project name: EDIH-DIGIMAT: Flexible Manufacturing Systems Using Artificial Intelligence

Project acronym: EDIH-DIGIMAT 2.0

Call: DIGITAL-2025-EDIH-EU-EEA-08

Topic: DIGITAL-2025-EDIH-EU-EEA-08-CONSOLIDATION-STEP

Type of action: DIGITAL Simple Grants

Granting authority: European Commission-EU

Grant managed through EU Funding & Tenders Portal: Yes (eGrants)

Project starting date: fixed date: 1 May 2026

Project end date: 30 April 2029

Project duration: 36 months

Consortium agreement: Yes

2. Participants

List of participants:

N°	Role	Short name	Legal name	Ctry	PIC	Total eligible costs (BEN and AE)	Max grant amount
1	COO	JIC	JIC, ZAJMOVE SDRUZENI PRAVNICKCH OSOB	CZ	999780262	340 200.08	170 100.00
2	BEN	BUT	VYSOKE UCENI TECHNICKE V BRNE	CZ	999873091	473 047.00	236 523.50
3	BEN	INTEMAC	INTEMAC SOLUTIONS, SRO	CZ	934182460	855 614.80	427 807.40
4	BEN	Effectivity	EFFECTIVITY S.R.O	CZ	887659611	565 063.79	282 531.90
5	BEN	TBU	UNIVERZITA TOMASE BATI VE ZLINE	CZ	999880172	249 952.00	124 976.00
Total						2 483 877.67	1 241 938.80

Coordinator:

– JIC, ZAJMOVE SDRUZENI PRAVNICKCH OSOB (JIC)

3. Grant

Maximum grant amount, total estimated eligible costs and contributions and funding rate:

Total eligible costs (BEN and AE)	Funding rate (%)	Maximum grant amount (Annex 2)	Maximum grant amount (award decision)
2 483 877.67	50	1 241 938.80	1 241 938.80

Grant form: Budget-based

Grant mode: Action grant

Budget categories/activity types:

- A. Personnel costs
  - A.1 Employees, A.2 Natural persons under direct contract, A.3 Seconded persons
  - A.4 SME owners and natural person beneficiaries
- B. Subcontracting costs
- C. Purchase costs
  - C.1 Travel and subsistence
  - C.2 Equipment
  - C.3 Other goods, works and services
- D. Other cost categories
  - D.2 Internally invoiced goods and services
- E. Indirect costs

Cost eligibility options:

- Standard supplementary payments
- Average personnel costs (unit cost according to usual cost accounting practices)
- Limitation for subcontracting
- Travel and subsistence:
  - Travel: Actual costs
  - Accommodation: Actual costs
  - Subsistence: Actual costs

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

- Equipment: depreciation and full costs for listed equipment
- Indirect cost flat-rate: 7% of the eligible direct costs (categories A-D, except volunteers costs and exempted specific cost categories, if any)
- VAT: Yes
- Other ineligible costs

Budget flexibility: Yes (no flexibility cap)

4. Reporting, payments and recoveries

4.1 Continuous reporting (art 21)

Deliverables: see Funding & Tenders Portal Continuous Reporting tool

4.2 Periodic reporting and payments

Reporting and payment schedule (art 21, 22):

Reporting					Payments	
Reporting periods			Type	Deadline	Type	Deadline (time to pay)
RP No	Month from	Month to				
					Initial prefinancing	30 days from entry into force/10 days before starting date/ financial guarantee (if required) – whichever is the latest
1	1	18	Periodic report	60 days after end of reporting period	Interim payment	90 days from receiving periodic report
2	19	36	Periodic report	60 days after end of reporting period	Final payment	90 days from receiving periodic report

Prefinancing payments and guarantees:

Prefinancing payment		Prefinancing guarantee		
Type	Amount	Guarantee amount	Division per participant	
Prefinancing 1 (initial)	807 260.22	n/a	1 - JIC	n/a
			2 - BUT	n/a
			3 - INTEMAC	n/a
			4 - Effectivity	n/a
			5 - TBU	n/a

Reporting and payment modalities (art 21, 22):

Mutual Insurance Mechanism (MIM): No

Restrictions on distribution of initial prefinancing: The prefinancing may be distributed only if the minimum number of beneficiaries set out in the call condititions (if any) have acceded to the Agreement and only to beneficiaries that have acceded.

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

Interim payment ceiling (if any): 90% of the maximum grant amount

No-profit rule: Yes

Late payment interest: ECB + 3.5%

Bank account for payments:

CZ0427000000002106902191 BACXCZPPXXX

Conversion into euros: Double conversion

Reporting language: Language of the Agreement

4.3 Certificates (art 24):

Certificates on the financial statements (CFS):

Conditions:

Schedule: only at final payment, if threshold is reached

Standard threshold (beneficiary-level):

- financial statement: requested EU contribution to costs ≥ EUR 325 000.00

4.4 Recoveries (art 22)

First-line liability for recoveries:

Beneficiary termination: Beneficiary concerned

Final payment: Coordinator

After final payment: Beneficiary concerned

Joint and several liability for enforced recoveries (in case of non-payment):

Limited joint and several liability of other beneficiaries — up to the maximum grant amount of the beneficiary

Joint and several liability of affiliated entities — n/a

5. Consequences of non-compliance, applicable law & dispute settlement forum

Applicable law (art 43):

Standard applicable law regime: EU law + law of Belgium

Dispute settlement forum (art 43):

Standard dispute settlement forum:

EU beneficiaries: EU General Court + EU Court of Justice (on appeal)

Non-EU beneficiaries: Courts of Brussels, Belgium (unless an international agreement provides for the enforceability of EU court judgements)

6. Other

Specific rules (Annex 5): Yes

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

Standard time-limits after project end:

Confidentiality (for X years after final payment): 5

Record-keeping (for X years after final payment): 5 (or 3 for grants of not more than EUR 60 000)

Reviews (up to X years after final payment): 5 (or 3 for grants of not more than EUR 60 000)

Audits (up to X years after final payment): 5 (or 3 for grants of not more than EUR 60 000)

Extension of findings from other grants to this grant (no later than X years after final payment): 5 (or 3 for grants of not more than EUR 60 000)

Impact evaluation (up to X years after final payment): 5 (or 3 for grants of not more than EUR 60 000)

CHAPTER 1 GENERAL

ARTICLE 1 — SUBJECT OF THE AGREEMENT

This Agreement sets out the rights and obligations and terms and conditions applicable to the grant awarded for the implementation of the action set out in Chapter 2.

ARTICLE 2 — DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Agreement, the following definitions apply:

Actions — The project which is being funded in the context of this Agreement.

Grant — The grant awarded in the context of this Agreement.

EU grants — Grants awarded by EU institutions, bodies, offices or agencies (including EU executive agencies, EU regulatory agencies, EDA, joint undertakings, etc.).

Participants — Entities participating in the action as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, third parties giving in-kind contributions, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties.

Beneficiaries (BEN) — The signatories of this Agreement (either directly or through an accession form).

Affiliated entities (AE) — Entities affiliated to a beneficiary within the meaning of Article 190 of EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509[4] which participate in the action with similar rights and obligations as the beneficiaries (obligation to implement action tasks and right to charge costs and claim contributions).

Associated partners (AP) — Entities which participate in the action, but without the right to charge costs or claim contributions.

Purchases — Contracts for goods, works or services needed to carry out the action (e.g. equipment, consumables and supplies) but which are not part of the action tasks (see Annex 1).

Subcontracting — Contracts for goods, works or services that are part of the action tasks (see Annex 1).

In-kind contributions — In-kind contributions within the meaning of Article 2(38) of EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509, i.e. non-financial resources made available free of charge by third parties.

[4] For the definition, see Article 190 Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast) ('EU Financial Regulation') (OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.9.2024): "**affiliated entities** [are]:
(a) entities that form a sole beneficiary [(i.e. where an entity is formed of several entities that satisfy the criteria for being awarded a grant, including where the entity is specifically established for the purpose of implementing an action to be financed by a grant)];
(b) entities that satisfy the eligibility criteria and that do not fall within one of the situations referred to in Article 138(1) and 143(1) and that have a link with the beneficiary, in particular a legal or capital link, which is neither limited to the action nor established for the sole purpose of its implementation".

Fraud — Fraud within the meaning of Article 3 of EU Directive 2017/1371[5] and Article 1 of the Convention on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests, drawn up by the Council Act of 26 July 1995[6], as well as any other wrongful or criminal deception intended to result in financial or personal gain.

Irregularities — Any type of breach (regulatory or contractual) which could impact the EU financial interests, including irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of EU Regulation 2988/95[7].

Grave professional misconduct — Any type of unacceptable or improper behaviour in exercising one's profession, especially by employees, including grave professional misconduct within the meaning of Article 138(1)(c) of EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509[8].

Applicable EU, international and national law — Any legal acts or other (binding or non-binding) rules and guidance in the area concerned.

Portal — EU Funding & Tenders Portal; electronic portal and exchange system managed by the European Commission and used by itself and other EU institutions, bodies, offices or agencies for the management of their funding programmes (grants, procurements, prizes, etc.).

CHAPTER 2 ACTION

ARTICLE 3 — ACTION

The grant is awarded for the action **101256752** — **EDIH-DIGIMAT 2.0** ('action'), as described in Annex 1.

ARTICLE 4 — DURATION AND STARTING DATE

The duration and the starting date of the action are set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 1).

CHAPTER 3 GRANT

ARTICLE 5 — GRANT

[5] Directive (EU) 2017/1371 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2017 on the fight against fraud to the Union's financial interests by means of criminal law (OJ L 198, 28.7.2017, p. 29).

[6] OJ C 316, 27.11.1995, p. 48.

[7] Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95 of 18 December 1995 on the protection of the European Communities financial interests (OJ L 312, 23.12.1995, p. 1).

[8] 'Professional misconduct' includes, in particular, the following: violation of ethical standards of the profession; wrongful conduct with impact on professional credibility; breach of generally accepted professional ethical standards; false declarations/misrepresentation of information; participation in a cartel or other agreement distorting competition; violation of IPR; attempting to influence decision-making processes by taking advantage, through misrepresentation, of a conflict of interests, or to obtain confidential information from public authorities to gain an advantage; incitement to discrimination, hatred or violence or similar activities contrary to the EU values where negatively affecting or risking to affect the performance of a legal commitment.

5.1 Form of grant

The grant is an action grant[9] which takes the form of a budget-based mixed actual cost grant (i.e. a grant based on actual costs incurred, but which may also include other forms of funding, such as unit costs or contributions, flat-rate costs or contributions, lump sum costs or contributions or financing not linked to costs).

5.2 Maximum grant amount

The maximum grant amount is set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 3) and in the estimated budget (Annex 2).

5.3 Funding rate

The funding rate for costs is 50% of the action's eligible costs.

Contributions are not subject to any funding rate.

5.4 Estimated budget, budget categories and forms of funding

The estimated budget for the action is set out in Annex 2.

It contains the estimated eligible costs and contributions for the action, broken down by participant and budget category.

Annex 2 also shows the types of costs and contributions (forms of funding)[10] to be used for each budget category.

If unit costs or contributions are used, the details on the calculation will be explained in Annex 2a.

5.5 Budget flexibility

The budget breakdown may be adjusted — without an amendment (see Article 39) — by transfers (between participants and budget categories), as long as this does not imply any substantive or important change to the description of the action in Annex 1.

However:

- changes to the budget category for volunteers (if used) always require an amendment
- changes to budget categories with lump sums costs or contributions (if used; including financing not linked to costs) always require an amendment
- changes to budget categories with higher funding rates or budget ceilings (if used) always require an amendment
- addition of amounts for subcontracts not provided for in Annex 1 either require an amendment or simplified approval in accordance with Article 6.2

[9] For the definition, see Article 183(2)(a) EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509: '**action grant**' means an EU grant to finance "an action intended to help achieve a Union policy objective".

[10] See Article 125 EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509.

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

- other changes require an amendment or simplified approval, if specifically provided for in Article 6.2

- flexibility caps: not applicable.

ARTICLE 6 — ELIGIBLE AND INELIGIBLE COSTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

In order to be eligible, costs and contributions must meet the **eligibility** conditions set out in this Article.

6.1 General eligibility conditions

The **general eligibility conditions** are the following:

(a) for actual costs:

(i) they must be actually incurred by the beneficiary

(ii) they must be incurred in the period set out in Article 4 (with the exception of costs relating to the submission of the final periodic report, which may be incurred afterwards; see Article 21)

(iii) they must be declared under one of the budget categories set out in Article 6.2 and Annex 2

(iv) they must be incurred in connection with the action as described in Annex 1 and necessary for its implementation

(v) they must be identifiable and verifiable, in particular recorded in the beneficiary's accounts in accordance with the accounting standards applicable in the country where the beneficiary is established and with the beneficiary's usual cost accounting practices

(vi) they must comply with the applicable national law on taxes, labour and social security and

(vii) they must be reasonable, justified and must comply with the principle of sound financial management, in particular regarding economy and efficiency

(b) for unit costs or contributions (if any):

(i) they must be declared under one of the budget categories set out in Article 6.2 and Annex 2

(ii) the units must:

- be actually used or produced by the beneficiary in the period set out in Article 4 (with the exception of units relating to the submission of the final periodic report, which may be used or produced afterwards; see Article 21)

- be necessary for the implementation of the action and

(iii) the number of units must be identifiable and verifiable, in particular supported by records and documentation (see Article 20)

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

(c) for flat-rate costs or contributions (if any):

(i) they must be declared under one of the budget categories set out in Article 6.2 and Annex 2

(ii) the costs or contributions to which the flat-rate is applied must:

- be eligible
- relate to the period set out in Article 4 (with the exception of costs or contributions relating to the submission of the final periodic report, which may be incurred afterwards; see Article 21)

(d) for lump sum costs or contributions (if any):

(i) they must be declared under one of the budget categories set out in Article 6.2 and Annex 2

(ii) the work must be properly implemented by the beneficiary in accordance with Annex 1

(iii) the deliverables/outputs must be achieved in the period set out in Article 4 (with the exception of deliverables/outputs relating to the submission of the final periodic report, which may be achieved afterwards; see Article 21)

(e) for unit, flat-rate or lump sum costs or contributions according to usual cost accounting practices (if any):

(i) they must fulfil the general eligibility conditions for the type of cost concerned

(ii) the cost accounting practices must be applied in a consistent manner, based on objective criteria, regardless of the source of funding

(f) for financing not linked to costs (if any): the results must be achieved or the conditions must be fulfilled as described in Annex 1.

In addition, for direct cost categories (e.g. personnel, travel & subsistence, subcontracting and other direct costs) only costs that are directly linked to the action implementation and can therefore be attributed to it directly are eligible. They must not include any indirect costs (i.e. costs that are only indirectly linked to the action, e.g. via cost drivers).

6.2 Specific eligibility conditions for each budget category

For each budget category, the **specific eligibility conditions** are as follows:

Direct costs

A. Personnel costs

A.1 Costs for employees (or equivalent) are eligible as personnel costs, if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions and are related to personnel working for the beneficiary under an employment contract (or equivalent appointing act) and assigned to the action.

They must be limited to salaries, social security contributions, taxes and other costs linked to the

remuneration, if they arise from national law or the employment contract (or equivalent appointing act) and be calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred, in accordance with the following method:

{daily rate for the person

multiplied by

number of day-equivalents worked on the action (rounded up or down to the nearest half-day)}.

The daily rate must be calculated as:

{annual personnel costs for the person

divided by

215}.

The number of day-equivalents declared for a person must be identifiable and verifiable (see Article 20).

The total number of day-equivalents declared in EU grants, for a person for a year, cannot be higher than 215.

The personnel costs may also include supplementary payments for personnel assigned to the action (including payments on the basis of supplementary contracts regardless of their nature), if:

- it is part of the beneficiary's usual remuneration practices and is paid in a consistent manner whenever the same kind of work or expertise is required

- the criteria used to calculate the supplementary payments are objective and generally applied by the beneficiary, regardless of the source of funding used.

If the beneficiary uses average personnel costs (unit cost according to usual cost accounting practices), the personnel costs must fulfil the general eligibility conditions for such unit costs and the daily rate must be calculated:

- using the actual personnel costs recorded in the beneficiary's accounts and excluding any costs which are ineligible or already included in other budget categories; the actual personnel costs may be adjusted on the basis of budgeted or estimated elements, if they are relevant for calculating the personnel costs, reasonable and correspond to objective and verifiable information

and

- according to usual cost accounting practices which are applied in a consistent manner, based on objective criteria, regardless of the source of funding.

A.2 and **A.3 Costs for natural persons working under a direct contract** other than an employment contract and costs for **seconded persons by a third party against payment** are also eligible as personnel costs, if they are assigned to the action, fulfil the general eligibility conditions and:

(a) work under conditions similar to those of an employee (in particular regarding the way the work is organised, the tasks that are performed and the premises where they are performed) and

(b) the result of the work belongs to the beneficiary (unless agreed otherwise).

They must be calculated on the basis of a rate which corresponds to the costs actually incurred for the direct contract or secondment and must not be significantly different from those for personnel performing similar tasks under an employment contract with the beneficiary.

A.4 The work of **SME owners** for the action (i.e. owners of beneficiaries that are small and medium-sized enterprises[11] not receiving a salary) or **natural person beneficiaries** (i.e. beneficiaries that are natural persons not receiving a salary) may be declared as personnel costs, if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions and are calculated as unit costs in accordance with the method set out in Annex 2a.

B. Subcontracting costs

Subcontracting costs for the action (including related duties, taxes and charges, such as non-deductible or non-refundable value added tax (VAT)) are eligible, if they are calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred, fulfil the general eligibility conditions and are awarded using the beneficiary's usual purchasing practices — provided these ensure subcontracts with best value for money (or if appropriate the lowest price) and that there is no conflict of interests (see Article 12).

Beneficiaries that are 'contracting authorities/entities' within the meaning of the EU Directives on public procurement must also comply with the applicable national law on public procurement.

Subcontracting may cover only a limited part of the action.

The tasks to be subcontracted and the estimated cost for each subcontract must be set out in Annex 1 and the total estimated costs of subcontracting per beneficiary must be set out in Annex 2 (or may be approved ex post in the periodic report, if the use of subcontracting does not entail changes to the Agreement which would call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants; 'simplified approval procedure').

C. Purchase costs

Purchase costs for the action (including related duties, taxes and charges, such as non-deductible or non-refundable value added tax (VAT)) are eligible if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions and are bought using the beneficiary's usual purchasing practices — provided these ensure purchases with best value for money (or if appropriate the lowest price) and that there is no conflict of interests (see Article 12).

Beneficiaries that are 'contracting authorities/entities' within the meaning of the EU Directives on public procurement must also comply with the applicable national law on public procurement.

---

[11] For the definition, see Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC: micro, small or medium-sized enterprise (SME) are enterprises

- engaged in an economic activity, irrespective of their legal form (including, in particular, self- employed persons and family businesses engaged in craft or other activities, and partnerships or associations regularly engaged in an economic activity) and
- employing fewer than 250 persons (expressed in 'annual working units' as defined in Article 5 of the Recommendation) and which have an annual turnover not exceeding EUR 50 million, and/or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding EUR 43 million.

C.1 Travel and subsistence

Purchases for **travel, accommodation** and **subsistence** must be calculated as follows:

- travel: on the basis of the costs actually incurred and in line with the beneficiary's usual practices on travel
- accommodation: on the basis of the costs actually incurred and in line with the beneficiary's usual practices on travel
- subsistence: on the basis of the costs actually incurred and in line with the beneficiary's usual practices on travel .

C.2 Equipment

Purchases of **equipment, infrastructure or other assets** used for the action must be declared as depreciation costs, calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred and written off in accordance with international accounting standards and the beneficiary's usual accounting practices.

Only the portion of the costs that corresponds to the rate of actual use for the action during the action duration can be taken into account.

Costs for **renting or leasing** equipment, infrastructure or other assets are also eligible, if they do not exceed the depreciation costs of similar equipment, infrastructure or assets and do not include any financing fees.

C.3 Other goods, works and services

Purchases of **other goods, works and services** must be calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred.

Such goods, works and services include, for instance, consumables and supplies, promotion, dissemination, protection of results, translations, publications, certificates and financial guarantees, if required under the Agreement.

D. Other cost categories

D.2 Internally invoiced goods and services

Costs for internally invoiced goods and services directly used for the action may be declared as unit cost according to usual cost accounting practices, if and as declared eligible in the call conditions, if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions for such unit costs and the amount per unit is calculated:

- using the actual costs for the good or service recorded in the beneficiary's accounts, attributed either by direct measurement or on the basis of cost drivers, and excluding any cost which are ineligible or already included in other budget categories; the actual costs may be adjusted on the basis of budgeted or estimated elements, if they are relevant for calculating the costs, reasonable and correspond to objective and verifiable information

and

- according to usual cost accounting practices which are applied in a consistent manner, based on objective criteria, regardless of the source of funding.

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

'Internally invoiced goods and services' means goods or services which are provided within the beneficiary's organisation directly for the action and which the beneficiary values on the basis of its usual cost accounting practices.

Indirect costs

E. Indirect costs

Indirect costs will be reimbursed at the flat-rate of 7% of the eligible direct costs (categories A-D, except volunteers costs and exempted specific cost categories, if any).

Contributions

Not applicable

6.3 Ineligible costs and contributions

The following costs or contributions are **ineligible**:

(a) costs or contributions that do not comply with the conditions set out above (Article 6.1 and 6.2), in particular:

(i) costs related to return on capital and dividends paid by a beneficiary

(ii) debt and debt service charges

(iii) provisions for future losses or debts

(iv) interest owed

(v) currency exchange losses

(vi) bank costs charged by the beneficiary's bank for transfers from the granting authority

(vii) excessive or reckless expenditure

(viii) deductible or refundable VAT (including VAT paid by public bodies acting as public authority)

(ix) costs incurred or contributions for activities implemented during grant agreement suspension (see Article 31)

(x) in-kind contributions by third parties

(b) costs or contributions declared under other EU grants (or grants awarded by an EU Member State, non-EU country or other body implementing the EU budget), except for the following cases:

(i) Synergy actions: not applicable

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

(ii) if the action grant is combined with an operating grant[12] running during the same period and the beneficiary can demonstrate that the operating grant does not cover any (direct or indirect) costs of the action grant

(c) costs or contributions for staff of a national (or regional/local) administration, for activities that are part of the administration's normal activities (i.e. not undertaken only because of the grant)

(d) costs or contributions (especially travel and subsistence) for staff or representatives of EU institutions, bodies or agencies

(e) other :

(i) country restrictions for eligible costs: not applicable

(ii) costs or contributions declared specifically ineligible in the call conditions.

6.4 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary declares costs or contributions that are ineligible, they will be rejected (see Article 27).

This may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

CHAPTER 4 GRANT IMPLEMENTATION

SECTION 1 CONSORTIUM: BENEFICIARIES, AFFILIATED ENTITIES AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS

ARTICLE 7 — BENEFICIARIES

The beneficiaries, as signatories of the Agreement, are fully responsible towards the granting authority for implementing it and for complying with all its obligations.

They must implement the Agreement to their best abilities, in good faith and in accordance with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

They must have the appropriate resources to implement the action and implement the action under their own responsibility and in accordance with Article 11. If they rely on affiliated entities or other participants (see Articles 8 and 9), they retain sole responsibility towards the granting authority and the other beneficiaries.

They are jointly responsible for the *technical* implementation of the action. If one of the beneficiaries fails to implement their part of the action, the other beneficiaries must ensure that this part is implemented by someone else (without being entitled to an increase of the maximum grant amount and subject to an amendment; see Article 39). The *financial* responsibility of each beneficiary in case of recoveries is governed by Article 22.

[12] For the definition, see Article 183(2)(b) EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509: '**operating grant**' means an EU grant to finance "the functioning of a body which has an objective forming part of and supporting an EU policy".

The beneficiaries (and their action) must remain eligible under the EU programme funding the grant for the entire duration of the action. Costs and contributions will be eligible only as long as the beneficiary and the action are eligible.

The **internal roles and responsibilities** of the beneficiaries are divided as follows:

(a) Each beneficiary must:

(i) keep information stored in the Portal Participant Register up to date (see Article 19)

(ii) inform the granting authority (and the other beneficiaries) immediately of any events or circumstances likely to affect significantly or delay the implementation of the action (see Article 19)

(iii) submit to the coordinator in good time:

- the prefinancing guarantees (if required; see Article 23)
- the financial statements and certificates on the financial statements (CFS) (if required; see Articles 21 and 24.2 and Data Sheet, Point 4.3)
- the contribution to the deliverables and technical reports (see Article 21)
- any other documents or information required by the granting authority under the Agreement

(iv) submit via the Portal data and information related to the participation of their affiliated entities.

(b) The coordinator must:

(i) monitor that the action is implemented properly (see Article 11)

(ii) act as the intermediary for all communications between the consortium and the granting authority, unless the Agreement or granting authority specifies otherwise, and in particular:

- submit the prefinancing guarantees to the granting authority (if any)
- request and review any documents or information required and verify their quality and completeness before passing them on to the granting authority
- submit the deliverables and reports to the granting authority
- inform the granting authority about the payments made to the other beneficiaries (report on the distribution of payments; if required, see Articles 22 and 32)

(iii) distribute the payments received from the granting authority to the other beneficiaries without unjustified delay (see Article 22).

The coordinator may not delegate or subcontract the above-mentioned tasks to any other beneficiary or third party (including affiliated entities).

However, coordinators which are public bodies may delegate the tasks set out in Point (b)(ii) last indent and (iii) above to entities with 'authorisation to administer' which they have created or which are controlled by or affiliated to them. In this case, the coordinator retains sole responsibility for the payments and for compliance with the obligations under the Agreement.

Moreover, coordinators which are 'sole beneficiaries'[13] (or similar, such as European research infrastructure consortia (ERICs)) may delegate the tasks set out in Point (b)(i) to (iii) above to one of their members. The coordinator retains sole responsibility for compliance with the obligations under the Agreement.

The beneficiaries must have **internal arrangements** regarding their operation and co-ordination, to ensure that the action is implemented properly.

If required by the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 1), these arrangements must be set out in a written **consortium agreement** between the beneficiaries, covering for instance:

- the internal organisation of the consortium
- the management of access to the Portal
- different distribution keys for the payments and financial responsibilities in case of recoveries (if any)
- additional rules on rights and obligations related to background and results (see Article 16)
- settlement of internal disputes
- liability, indemnification and confidentiality arrangements between the beneficiaries.

The internal arrangements must not contain any provision contrary to this Agreement.

ARTICLE 8 — AFFILIATED ENTITIES

Not applicable

ARTICLE 9 — OTHER PARTICIPANTS INVOLVED IN THE ACTION

9.1 Associated partners

Not applicable

9.2 Third parties giving in-kind contributions to the action

Other third parties may give in-kind contributions to the action (i.e. personnel, equipment, other goods, works and services, etc. which are free-of-charge), if necessary for the implementation.

Third parties giving in-kind contributions do not implement any action tasks. They may not charge costs or contributions to the action and the costs for the in-kind contributions are not eligible.

[13] For the definition, see Article 190(2) EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509: "Where several entities satisfy the criteria for being awarded a grant and together form one entity, that entity may be treated as the **sole beneficiary**, including where it is specifically established for the purpose of implementing the action financed by the grant."

The third parties and their in-kind contributions should be set out in Annex 1.

9.3 Subcontractors

Subcontractors may participate in the action, if necessary for the implementation.

Subcontractors must implement their action tasks in accordance with Article 11. The costs for the subcontracted tasks (invoiced price from the subcontractor) are eligible and may be charged by the beneficiaries, under the conditions set out in Article 6. The costs will be included in Annex 2 as part of the beneficiaries' costs.

The beneficiaries must ensure that their contractual obligations under Articles 11 (proper implementation), 12 (conflict of interest), 13 (confidentiality and security), 14 (ethics), 17.2 (visibility), 18 (specific rules for carrying out action), 19 (information) and 20 (record-keeping) also apply to the subcontractors.

The beneficiaries must ensure that the bodies mentioned in Article 25 (e.g. granting authority, OLAF, Court of Auditors (ECA), etc.) can exercise their rights also towards the subcontractors.

9.4 Recipients of financial support to third parties

If the action includes providing financial support to third parties (e.g. grants, prizes or similar forms of support), the beneficiaries must ensure that their contractual obligations under Articles 12 (conflict of interest), 13 (confidentiality and security), 14 (ethics), 17.2 (visibility), 18 (specific rules for carrying out action), 19 (information) and 20 (record-keeping)also apply to the third parties receiving the support (recipients).

The beneficiaries must also ensure that the bodies mentioned in Article 25 (e.g. granting authority, OLAF, Court of Auditors (ECA), etc.) can exercise their rights also towards the recipients.

ARTICLE 10 — PARTICIPANTS WITH SPECIAL STATUS

10.1 Non-EU participants

Participants which are established in a non-EU country (if any) undertake to comply with their obligations under the Agreement and:

- to respect general principles (including fundamental rights, values and ethical principles, environmental and labour standards, rules on classified information, intellectual property rights, visibility of funding and protection of personal data)
- for the submission of certificates under Article 24: to use qualified external auditors which are independent and comply with comparable standards as those set out in EU Directive 2006/43/EC[14]
- for the controls under Article 25: to allow for checks, reviews, audits and investigations (including on-the-spot checks, visits and inspections) by the bodies mentioned in that Article (e.g. granting authority, OLAF, Court of Auditors (ECA), etc.).

[14] Directive 2006/43/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2006 on statutory audits of annual accounts and consolidated accounts (OJ L 157, 9.6.2006, p. 87).

Special rules on dispute settlement apply (see Data Sheet, Point 5).

10.2 Participants which are international organisations

Participants which are international organisations (IOs; if any) undertake to comply with their obligations under the Agreement and:

- to respect general principles (including fundamental rights, values and ethical principles, environmental and labour standards, rules on classified information, intellectual property rights, visibility of funding and protection of personal data)
- for the submission of certificates under Article 24: to use either independent public officers or external auditors which comply with comparable standards as those set out in EU Directive 2006/43/EC[15]
- for the controls under Article 25: to allow for the checks, reviews, audits and investigations by the bodies mentioned in that Article, taking into account the specific agreements concluded by them and the EU (if any).

For such participants, nothing in the Agreement will be interpreted as a waiver of their privileges or immunities, as accorded by their constituent documents or international law.

Special rules on applicable law and dispute settlement apply (see Article 43 and Data Sheet, Point 5).

10.3 Pillar-assessed participants

Pillar-assessed participants (if any) may rely on their own systems, rules and procedures, in so far as they have been positively assessed and do not call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants or beneficiaries.

'Pillar-assessment' means a review by the European Commission on the systems, rules and procedures which participants use for managing EU grants (in particular internal control system, accounting system, external audits, financing of third parties, rules on recovery and exclusion, information on recipients and protection of personal data; see Article 157 EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509).

Participants with a positive pillar assessment may rely on their own systems, rules and procedures, in particular for:

- record-keeping (Article 20): may be done in accordance with internal standards, rules and procedures
- currency conversion for financial statements (Article 21): may be done in accordance with usual accounting practices
- guarantees (Article 23): for public law bodies, prefinancing guarantees are not needed
- certificates (Article 24):
    - certificates on the financial statements (CFS): may be provided by their regular internal

[15] Directive 2006/43/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2006 on statutory audits of annual accounts and consolidated accounts (OJ L 157, 9.6.2006, p. 87).

or external auditors and in accordance with their internal financial regulations and procedures

- certificates on usual accounting practices (CoMUC): are not needed if those practices are covered by an ex-ante assessment

and use the following specific rules, for:

- recoveries (Article 22): in case of financial support to third parties, there will be no recovery if the participant has done everything possible to retrieve the undue amounts from the third party receiving the support (including legal proceedings) and non-recovery is not due to an error or negligence on its part

- checks, reviews, audits and investigations by the EU (Article 25): will be conducted taking into account the rules and procedures specifically agreed between them and the framework agreement (if any)

- impact evaluation (Article 26): will be conducted in accordance with the participant's internal rules and procedures and the framework agreement (if any)

- grant agreement termination (Article 32): the final grant amount and final payment will be calculated taking into account also costs relating to contracts due for execution only after termination takes effect, if the contract was entered into before the pre-information letter was received and could not reasonably be terminated on legal grounds

- liability for damages (Article 33.2): the granting authority must be compensated for damage it sustains as a result of the implementation of the action or because the action was not implemented in full compliance with the Agreement only if the damage is due to an infringement of the participant's internal rules and procedures or due to a violation of third parties' rights by the participant or one of its employees or individual for whom the employees are responsible.

Participants whose pillar assessment covers procurement and granting procedures may also do purchases, subcontracting and financial support to third parties (Article 6.2) in accordance with their internal rules and procedures for purchases, subcontracting and financial support.

Participants whose pillar assessment covers data protection rules may rely on their internal standards, rules and procedures for data protection (Article 15).

The participants may however not rely on provisions which would breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants or beneficiaries or call into question the decision awarding the grant, such as in particular:

- eligibility (Article 6)

- consortium roles and set-up (Articles 7-9)

- security and ethics (Articles 13, 14)

- IPR (including background and results, access rights and rights of use), communication, dissemination and visibility (Articles 16 and 17)

- information obligation (Article 19)
- payment, reporting and amendments (Articles 21, 22 and 39)
- rejections, reductions, suspensions and terminations (Articles 27, 28, 29-32)

If the pillar assessment was subject to remedial measures, reliance on the internal systems, rules and procedures is subject to compliance with those remedial measures.

Participants must inform the coordinator without delay of any changes to the systems, rules and procedures that were part of the pillar assessment. The coordinator must immediately inform the granting authority.

Pillar-assessed participants that have also concluded a framework agreement with the EU, may moreover — under the same conditions as those above (i.e. not call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants or beneficiaries) — rely on the provisions set out in that framework agreement.

SECTION 2 RULES FOR CARRYING OUT THE ACTION

ARTICLE 11 — PROPER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION

11.1 Obligation to properly implement the action

The beneficiaries must implement the action as described in Annex 1 and in compliance with the provisions of the Agreement, the call conditions and all legal obligations under applicable EU, international and national law.

11.2 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 12 — CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

12.1 Conflict of interests

The beneficiaries must take all measures to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective implementation of the Agreement could be compromised for reasons involving family, emotional life, political or national affinity, economic interest or any other direct or indirect interest (‘conflict of interests’).

They must formally notify the granting authority without delay of any situation constituting or likely to lead to a conflict of interests and immediately take all the necessary steps to rectify this situation.

The granting authority may verify that the measures taken are appropriate and may require additional measures to be taken by a specified deadline.

12.2 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28) and the grant or the beneficiary may be terminated (see Article 32).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 13 — CONFIDENTIALITY AND SECURITY

13.1 Sensitive information

The parties must keep confidential any data, documents or other material (in any form) that is identified as sensitive in writing ('sensitive information') — during the implementation of the action and for at least until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6).

If a beneficiary requests, the granting authority may agree to keep such information confidential for a longer period.

Unless otherwise agreed between the parties, they may use sensitive information only to implement the Agreement.

The beneficiaries may disclose sensitive information to their personnel or other participants involved in the action only if they:

(a) need to know it in order to implement the Agreement and

(b) are bound by an obligation of confidentiality.

The granting authority may disclose sensitive information to its staff and to other EU institutions and bodies.

It may moreover disclose sensitive information to third parties, if:

(a) this is necessary to implement the Agreement or safeguard the EU financial interests and

(b) the recipients of the information are bound by an obligation of confidentiality.

The confidentiality obligations no longer apply if:

(a) the disclosing party agrees to release the other party

(b) the information becomes publicly available, without breaching any confidentiality obligation

(c) the disclosure of the sensitive information is required by EU, international or national law.

Specific confidentiality rules (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

13.2 Classified information

The parties must handle classified information in accordance with the applicable EU, international or national law on classified information (in particular, Decision 2015/444[16] and its implementing rules).

[16] Commission Decision 2015/444/EC, Euratom of 13 March 2015 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 53).

Deliverables which contain classified information must be submitted according to special procedures agreed with the granting authority.

Action tasks involving classified information may be subcontracted only after explicit approval (in writing) from the granting authority.

Classified information may not be disclosed to any third party (including participants involved in the action implementation) without prior explicit written approval from the granting authority.

Specific security rules (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

13.3 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 14 — ETHICS AND VALUES

14.1 Ethics

The action must be carried out in line with the highest ethical standards and the applicable EU, international and national law on ethical principles.

Specific ethics rules (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

14.2 Values

The beneficiaries must commit to and ensure the respect of basic EU values (such as respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and human rights, including the rights of minorities).

Specific rules on values (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

14.3 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 15 — DATA PROTECTION

15.1 Data processing by the granting authority

Any personal data under the Agreement will be processed under the responsibility of the data controller of the granting authority in accordance with and for the purposes set out in the Portal Privacy Statement.

For grants where the granting authority is the European Commission, an EU regulatory or executive agency, joint undertaking or other EU body, the processing will be subject to Regulation 2018/1725[17].

15.2 Data processing by the beneficiaries

The beneficiaries must process personal data under the Agreement in compliance with the applicable EU, international and national law on data protection (in particular, Regulation 2016/679[18]).

They must ensure that personal data is:

- processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subjects
- collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes
- adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which they are processed
- accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date
- kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the data is processed and
- processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the data.

The beneficiaries may grant their personnel access to personal data only if it is strictly necessary for implementing, managing and monitoring the Agreement. The beneficiaries must ensure that the personnel is under a confidentiality obligation.

The beneficiaries must inform the persons whose data are transferred to the granting authority and provide them with the Portal Privacy Statement.

15.3 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 16 — INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR) — BACKGROUND AND RESULTS —ACCESS RIGHTS AND RIGHTS OF USE

16.1 Background and access rights to background

[17] Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC (OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39).

[18] Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (‘GDPR’) (OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p. 1).

The beneficiaries must give each other and the other participants access to the background identified as needed for implementing the action, subject to any specific rules in Annex 5.

'Background' means any data, know-how or information — whatever its form or nature (tangible or intangible), including any rights such as intellectual property rights — that is:

(a) held by the beneficiaries before they acceded to the Agreement and

(b) needed to implement the action or exploit the results.

If background is subject to rights of a third party, the beneficiary concerned must ensure that it is able to comply with its obligations under the Agreement.

16.2 Ownership of results

The granting authority does not obtain ownership of the results produced under the action.

'Results' means any tangible or intangible effect of the action, such as data, know-how or information, whatever its form or nature, whether or not it can be protected, as well as any rights attached to it, including intellectual property rights.

16.3 Rights of use of the granting authority on materials, documents and information received for policy, information, communication, dissemination and publicity purposes

The granting authority has the right to use non-sensitive information relating to the action and materials and documents received from the beneficiaries (notably summaries for publication, deliverables, as well as any other material, such as pictures or audio-visual material, in paper or electronic form) for policy, information, communication, dissemination and publicity purposes — during the action or afterwards.

The right to use the beneficiaries' materials, documents and information is granted in the form of a royalty-free, non-exclusive and irrevocable licence, which includes the following rights:

(a) **use for its own purposes** (in particular, making them available to persons working for the granting authority or any other EU service (including institutions, bodies, offices, agencies, etc.) or EU Member State institution or body; copying or reproducing them in whole or in part, in unlimited numbers; and communication through press information services)

(b) **distribution to the public** (in particular, publication as hard copies and in electronic or digital format, publication on the internet, as a downloadable or non-downloadable file, broadcasting by any channel, public display or presentation, communicating through press information services, or inclusion in widely accessible databases or indexes)

(c) **editing or redrafting** (including shortening, summarising, inserting other elements (e.g. meta-data, legends, other graphic, visual, audio or text elements), extracting parts (e.g. audio or video files), dividing into parts, use in a compilation)

(d) **translation**

(e) **storage** in paper, electronic or other form

(f) **archiving**, in line with applicable document-management rules

(g) the right to authorise **third parties** to act on its behalf or sub-license to third parties the modes of use set out in Points (b), (c), (d) and (f), if needed for the information, communication and publicity activity of the granting authority

(h) **processing**, analysing, aggregating the materials, documents and information received and **producing derivative works**.

The rights of use are granted for the whole duration of the industrial or intellectual property rights concerned.

If materials or documents are subject to moral rights or third party rights (including intellectual property rights or rights of natural persons on their image and voice), the beneficiaries must ensure that they comply with their obligations under this Agreement (in particular, by obtaining the necessary licences and authorisations from the rights holders concerned).

Where applicable, the granting authority will insert the following information:

"© – [year] – [name of the copyright owner]. All rights reserved. Licensed to the [name of granting authority] under conditions."

16.4 Specific rules on IPR, results and background

Specific rules regarding intellectual property rights, results and background (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

16.5 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such a breach may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 17 — COMMUNICATION, DISSEMINATION AND VISIBILITY

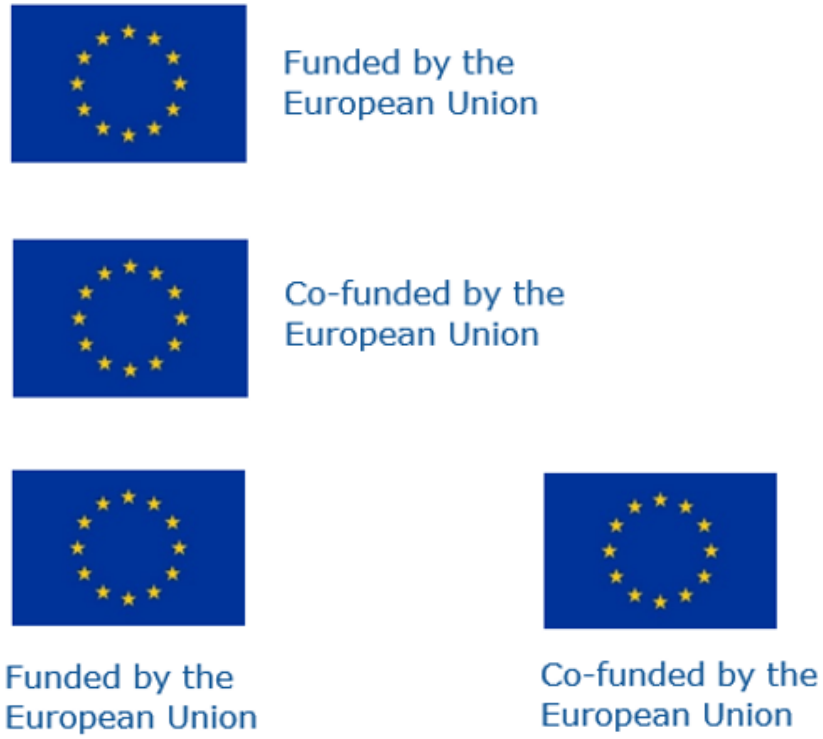
17.1 Communication — Dissemination — Promoting the action

Unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority, the beneficiaries must promote the action and its results by providing targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public), in accordance with Annex 1 and in a strategic, coherent and effective manner.

Before engaging in a communication or dissemination activity expected to have a major media impact, the beneficiaries must inform the granting authority.

17.2 Visibility — European flag and funding statement

Unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority, communication activities of the beneficiaries related to the action (including media relations, conferences, seminars, information material, such as brochures, leaflets, posters, presentations, etc., in electronic form, via traditional or social media, etc.), dissemination activities and any infrastructure, equipment, vehicles, supplies or major result funded by the grant must acknowledge EU support and display the European flag (emblem) and funding statement (translated into local languages, where appropriate):



The emblem must remain distinct and separate and cannot be modified by adding other visual marks, brands or text.

Apart from the emblem, no other visual identity or logo may be used to highlight the EU support.

When displayed in association with other logos (e.g. of beneficiaries or sponsors), the emblem must be displayed at least as prominently and visibly as the other logos.

For the purposes of their obligations under this Article, the beneficiaries may use the emblem without first obtaining approval from the granting authority. This does not, however, give them the right to exclusive use. Moreover, they may not appropriate the emblem or any similar trademark or logo, either by registration or by any other means.

17.3 Quality of information — Disclaimer

Any communication or dissemination activity related to the action must use factually accurate information.

Moreover, it must indicate the following disclaimer (translated into local languages where appropriate):

> "Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or [name of the granting authority]. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them."

17.4 Specific communication, dissemination and visibility rules

Specific communication, dissemination and visibility rules (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

17.5 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 18 — SPECIFIC RULES FOR CARRYING OUT THE ACTION

18.1 Specific rules for carrying out the action

Specific rules for implementing the action (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

18.2 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such a breach may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

SECTION 3 GRANT ADMINISTRATION

ARTICLE 19 — GENERAL INFORMATION OBLIGATIONS

19.1 Information requests

The beneficiaries must provide — during the action or afterwards and in accordance with Article 7 — any information requested in order to verify eligibility of the costs or contributions declared, proper implementation of the action and compliance with the other obligations under the Agreement.

The information provided must be accurate, precise and complete and in the format requested, including electronic format.

19.2 Participant Register data updates

The beneficiaries must keep — at all times, during the action or afterwards — their information stored in the Portal Participant Register up to date, in particular, their name, address, legal representatives, legal form and organisation type.

19.3 Information about events and circumstances which impact the action

The beneficiaries must immediately inform the granting authority (and the other beneficiaries) of any of the following:

(a) **events** which are likely to affect or delay the implementation of the action or affect the EU's financial interests, in particular:

(i) changes in their legal, financial, technical, organisational or ownership situation (including changes linked to one of the exclusion grounds listed in the declaration of honour signed before grant signature)

(ii) linked action information: not applicable

(b) **circumstances** affecting:

(i) the decision to award the grant or

(ii) compliance with requirements under the Agreement.

19.4 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 20 — RECORD-KEEPING

20.1 Keeping records and supporting documents

The beneficiaries must — at least until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6) — keep records and other supporting documents to prove the proper implementation of the action in line with the accepted standards in the respective field (if any).

In addition, the beneficiaries must — for the same period — keep the following to justify the amounts declared:

(a) for actual costs: adequate records and supporting documents to prove the costs declared (such as contracts, subcontracts, invoices and accounting records); in addition, the beneficiaries' usual accounting and internal control procedures must enable direct reconciliation between the amounts declared, the amounts recorded in their accounts and the amounts stated in the supporting documents

(b) for flat-rate costs and contributions (if any): adequate records and supporting documents to prove the eligibility of the costs or contributions to which the flat-rate is applied

(c) for the following simplified costs and contributions: the beneficiaries do not need to keep specific records on the actual costs incurred, but must keep:

(i) for unit costs and contributions (if any): adequate records and supporting documents to prove the number of units declared

(ii) for lump sum costs and contributions (if any): adequate records and supporting documents to prove proper implementation of the work as described in Annex 1

(iii) for financing not linked to costs (if any): adequate records and supporting documents to prove the achievement of the results or the fulfilment of the conditions as described in Annex 1

(d) for unit, flat-rate and lump sum costs and contributions according to usual cost accounting practices (if any): the beneficiaries must keep any adequate records and supporting documents to prove that their cost accounting practices have been applied in a consistent manner, based on objective criteria, regardless of the source of funding, and that they comply with the eligibility conditions set out in Articles 6.1 and 6.2.

Moreover, the following is needed for specific budget categories:

(e) for personnel costs: time worked for the beneficiary under the action must be supported by declarations signed monthly by the person and their supervisor, unless another reliable time-record system is in place; the granting authority may accept alternative evidence supporting the time worked for the action declared, if it considers that it offers an adequate level of assurance

(f) additional record-keeping rules: not applicable

The records and supporting documents must be made available upon request (see Article 19) or in the context of checks, reviews, audits or investigations (see Article 25).

If there are on-going checks, reviews, audits, investigations, litigation or other pursuits of claims under the Agreement (including the extension of findings; see Article 25), the beneficiaries must keep these records and other supporting documentation until the end of these procedures.

The beneficiaries must keep the original documents. Digital and digitalised documents are considered originals if they are authorised by the applicable national law. The granting authority may accept non-original documents if they offer a comparable level of assurance.

20.2 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, costs or contributions insufficiently substantiated will be ineligible (see Article 6) and will be rejected (see Article 27), and the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 21 — REPORTING

21.1 Continuous reporting

The beneficiaries must report on the progress of the action (e.g. **deliverables, milestones, outputs/ outcomes, critical risks, indicators,** etc; if any), in the Portal Continuous Reporting tool and in accordance with the timing and conditions it sets out (as agreed with the granting authority).

Standardised deliverables (e.g. progress reports not linked to payments, reports on cumulative expenditure, special reports, etc; if any) must be submitted using the templates published on the Portal.

21.2 Periodic reporting: Technical reports and financial statements

In addition, the beneficiaries must provide reports to request payments, in accordance with the schedule and modalities set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2):

- for additional prefinancings (if any): an **additional prefinancing report**
- for interim payments (if any) and the final payment: a **periodic report**.

The prefinancing and periodic reports include a technical and financial part.

The technical part includes an overview of the action implementation. It must be prepared using the template available in the Portal Periodic Reporting tool.

The financial part of the additional prefinancing report includes a statement on the use of the previous prefinancing payment.

The financial part of the periodic report includes:

- the financial statements (individual and consolidated; for all beneficiaries/affiliated entities)
- the explanation on the use of resources (or detailed cost reporting table, if required)
- the certificates on the financial statements (CFS) (if required; see Article 24.2 and Data Sheet, Point 4.3).

The **financial statements** must detail the eligible costs and contributions for each budget category and, for the final payment, also the revenues for the action (see Articles 6 and 22).

All eligible costs and contributions incurred should be declared, even if they exceed the amounts indicated in the estimated budget (see Annex 2). Amounts that are not declared in the individual financial statements will not be taken into account by the granting authority.

By signing the financial statements (directly in the Portal Periodic Reporting tool), the beneficiaries confirm that:

- the information provided is complete, reliable and true
- the costs and contributions declared are eligible (see Article 6)
- the costs and contributions can be substantiated by adequate records and supporting documents (see Article 20) that will be produced upon request (see Article 19) or in the context of checks, reviews, audits and investigations (see Article 25)
- for the final periodic report: all the revenues have been declared (if required; see Article 22).

Beneficiaries will have to submit also the financial statements of their affiliated entities (if any). In case of recoveries (see Article 22), beneficiaries will be held responsible also for the financial statements of their affiliated entities.

21.3 Currency for financial statements and conversion into euros

The financial statements must be drafted in euro.

Beneficiaries with general accounts established in a currency other than the euro must convert the costs recorded in their accounts into euro, at the average of the daily exchange rates published in the C series of the *Official Journal of the European Union* (ECB website), calculated over the corresponding reporting period.

If no daily euro exchange rate is published in the *Official Journal* for the currency in question, they must be converted at the average of the monthly accounting exchange rates published on the European Commission website (InforEuro), calculated over the corresponding reporting period.

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

Beneficiaries with general accounts in euro must convert costs incurred in another currency into euro according to their usual accounting practices.

21.4 Reporting language

The reporting must be in the language of the Agreement, unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 4.2).

21.5 Consequences of non-compliance

If a report submitted does not comply with this Article, the granting authority may suspend the payment deadline (see Article 29) and apply other measures described in Chapter 5.

If the coordinator breaches its reporting obligations, the granting authority may terminate the grant or the coordinator's participation (see Article 32) or apply other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 22 — PAYMENTS AND RECOVERIES — CALCULATION OF AMOUNTS DUE

22.1 Payments and payment arrangements

Payments will be made in accordance with the schedule and modalities set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2).

They will be made in euro to the bank account indicated by the coordinator (see Data Sheet, Point 4.2) and must be distributed without unjustified delay (restrictions may apply to distribution of the initial prefinancing payment; see Data Sheet, Point 4.2).

Payments to this bank account will discharge the granting authority from its payment obligation.

The cost of payment transfers will be borne as follows:

- the granting authority bears the cost of transfers charged by its bank
- the beneficiary bears the cost of transfers charged by its bank
- the party causing a repetition of a transfer bears all costs of the repeated transfer.

Payments by the granting authority will be considered to have been carried out on the date when they are debited to its account.

22.2 Recoveries

Recoveries will be made, if — at beneficiary termination, final payment or afterwards — it turns out that the granting authority has paid too much and needs to recover the amounts undue.

The general liability regime for recoveries (first-line liability) is as follows: At final payment, the coordinator will be fully liable for recoveries, even if it has not been the final recipient of the undue amounts. At beneficiary termination or after final payment, recoveries will be made directly against the beneficiaries concerned.

Beneficiaries will be fully liable for repaying the debts of their affiliated entities.

In case of enforced recoveries (see Article 22.4):

- the beneficiaries will be jointly and severally liable for repaying debts of another beneficiary under the Agreement (including late-payment interest), if required by the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 4.4)

- affiliated entities will be held liable for repaying debts of their beneficiaries under the Agreement (including late-payment interest), if required by the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 4.4).

22.3 Amounts due

22.3.1 Prefinancing payments

The aim of the prefinancing is to provide the beneficiaries with a float.

It remains the property of the EU until the final payment.

For **initial prefinancings** (if any), the amount due, schedule and modalities are set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2).

For **additional prefinancings** (if any), the amount due, schedule and modalities are also set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2). However, if the statement on the use of the previous prefinancing payment shows that less than 70% was used, the amount set out in the Data Sheet will be reduced by the difference between the 70% threshold and the amount used.

Prefinancing payments (or parts of them) may be offset (without the beneficiaries' consent) against amounts owed by a beneficiary to the granting authority — up to the amount due to that beneficiary.

For grants where the granting authority is the European Commission or an EU executive agency, offsetting may also be done against amounts owed to other Commission services or executive agencies.

Payments will not be made if the payment deadline or payments are suspended (see Articles 29 and 30).

22.3.2 Amount due at beneficiary termination — Recovery

In case of beneficiary termination, the granting authority will determine the provisional amount due for the beneficiary concerned. Payments (if any) will be made with the next interim or final payment.

The **amount due** will be calculated in the following step:

Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

The granting authority will first calculate the 'accepted EU contribution' for the beneficiary for all reporting periods, by calculating the 'maximum EU contribution to costs' (applying the funding rate to the accepted costs of the beneficiary), taking into account requests for a lower contribution to costs and CFS threshold cappings (if any; see Article 24.5) and adding the contributions (accepted unit, flat-rate or lump sum contributions and financing not linked to costs, if any).

After that, the granting authority will take into account grant reductions (if any). The resulting amount is the 'total accepted EU contribution' for the beneficiary.

The **balance** is then calculated by deducting the payments received (if any; see report on the distribution of payments in Article 32), from the total accepted EU contribution:

{total accepted EU contribution for the beneficiary

minus

{prefinancing and interim payments received (if any)}}.

If the balance is **positive**, the amount will be included in the next interim or final payment to the consortium.

If the balance is **negative**, it will be **recovered** in accordance with the following procedure:

The granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the beneficiary concerned:

- formally notifying the intention to recover, the amount due, the amount to be recovered and the reasons why and
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If no observations are submitted (or the granting authority decides to pursue recovery despite the observations it has received), it will confirm the amount to be recovered and ask this amount to be paid to the coordinator (**confirmation letter**).

The amounts will later on also be taken into account for the next interim or final payment.

22.3.3 Interim payments

Interim payments reimburse the eligible costs and contributions claimed for the implementation of the action during the reporting periods (if any).

Interim payments (if any) will be made in accordance with the schedule and modalities set out the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2).

Payment is subject to the approval of the periodic report. Its approval does not imply recognition of compliance, authenticity, completeness or correctness of its content.

The **interim payment** will be calculated by the granting authority in the following steps:

Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

Step 2 — Limit to the interim payment ceiling

Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

The granting authority will calculate the 'accepted EU contribution' for the action for the reporting period, by first calculating the 'maximum EU contribution to costs' (applying the funding rate to the accepted costs of each beneficiary), taking into account requests for a lower contribution to costs and CFS threshold cappings (if any; see Article 24.5) and adding the contributions (accepted unit, flat-rate or lump sum contributions and financing not linked to costs, if any).

After that, the granting authority will take into account grant reductions from beneficiary termination (if any). The resulting amount is the 'total accepted EU contribution'.

Step 2 — Limit to the interim payment ceiling

The resulting amount is then capped to ensure that the total amount of prefinancing and interim payments (if any) does not exceed the interim payment ceiling set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2).

Interim payments (or parts of them) may be offset (without the beneficiaries' consent) against amounts owed by a beneficiary to the granting authority — up to the amount due to that beneficiary.

For grants where the granting authority is the European Commission or an EU executive agency, offsetting may also be done against amounts owed to other Commission services or executive agencies.

Payments will not be made if the payment deadline or payments are suspended (see Articles 29 and 30).

22.3.4 Final payment — Final grant amount — Revenues and Profit — Recovery

The final payment (payment of the balance) reimburses the remaining part of the eligible costs and contributions claimed for the implementation of the action (if any).

The final payment will be made in accordance with the schedule and modalities set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2).

Payment is subject to the approval of the final periodic report. Its approval does not imply recognition of compliance, authenticity, completeness or correctness of its content.

The **final grant amount for the action** will be calculated in the following steps:

Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

Step 2 — Limit to the maximum grant amount

Step 3 — Reduction due to the no-profit rule

Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

The granting authority will first calculate the 'accepted EU contribution' for the action for all reporting periods, by calculating the 'maximum EU contribution to costs' (applying the funding rate to the total accepted costs of each beneficiary), taking into account requests for a lower contribution to costs, CFS threshold cappings (if any; see Article 24.5) and adding the contributions (accepted unit, flat-rate or lump sum contributions and financing not linked to costs, if any).

After that, the granting authority will take into account grant reductions (if any). The resulting amount is the 'total accepted EU contribution'.

Step 2 — Limit to the maximum grant amount

If the resulting amount is higher than the maximum grant amount set out in Article 5.2, it will be limited to the latter.

Step 3 — Reduction due to the no-profit rule

If the no-profit rule is provided for in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2), the grant must not produce a profit (i.e. surplus of the amount obtained following Step 2 plus the action's revenues, over the eligible costs and contributions approved by the granting authority).

'Revenue' is all income generated by the action, during its duration (see Article 4), for beneficiaries that are profit legal entities.

If there is a profit, it will be deducted in proportion to the final rate of reimbursement of the eligible costs approved by the granting authority (as compared to the amount calculated following Steps 1 and 2 minus the contributions).

The **balance** (final payment) is then calculated by deducting the total amount of prefinancing and interim payments already made (if any), from the final grant amount:

{final grant amount

minus

{prefinancing and interim payments made (if any)}}.

If the balance is **positive**, it will be **paid** to the coordinator.

The final payment (or part of it) may be offset (without the beneficiaries' consent) against amounts owed by a beneficiary to the granting authority — up to the amount due to that beneficiary.

For grants where the granting authority is the European Commission or an EU executive agency, offsetting may also be done against amounts owed to other Commission services or executive agencies.

Payments will not be made if the payment deadline or payments are suspended (see Articles 29 and 30).

If the balance is **negative**, it will be **recovered** in accordance with the following procedure:

The granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the coordinator:

- formally notifying the intention to recover, the final grant amount, the amount to be recovered and the reasons why
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If no observations are submitted (or the granting authority decides to pursue recovery despite the observations it has received), it will confirm the amount to be recovered (**confirmation letter**), together with a **debit note** with the terms and date for payment.

If payment is not made by the date specified in the debit note, the granting authority will **enforce recovery** in accordance with Article 22.4.

22.3.5 Audit implementation after final payment — Revised final grant amount — Recovery

If — after the final payment (in particular, after checks, reviews, audits or investigations; see

Article 25) — the granting authority rejects costs or contributions (see Article 27) or reduces the grant (see Article 28), it will calculate the **revised final grant amount** for the beneficiary concerned.

The **beneficiary revised final grant amount** will be calculated in the following step:

Step 1 — Calculation of the revised total accepted EU contribution

Step 1 — Calculation of the revised total accepted EU contribution

The granting authority will first calculate the 'revised accepted EU contribution' for the beneficiary, by calculating the 'revised accepted costs' and 'revised accepted contributions'.

After that, it will take into account grant reductions (if any). The resulting 'revised total accepted EU contribution' is the beneficiary revised final grant amount.

If the revised final grant amount is lower than the beneficiary's final grant amount (i.e. its share in the final grant amount for the action), it will be **recovered** in accordance with the following procedure:

The **beneficiary final grant amount** (i.e. share in the final grant amount for the action) is calculated as follows:

{{total accepted EU contribution for the beneficiary

divided by

total accepted EU contribution for the action}

multiplied by

final grant amount for the action}.

The granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the beneficiary concerned:

- formally notifying the intention to recover, the amount to be recovered and the reasons why and
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If no observations are submitted (or the granting authority decides to pursue recovery despite the observations it has received), it will confirm the amount to be recovered (**confirmation letter**), together with a **debit note** with the terms and the date for payment.

Recoveries against affiliated entities (if any) will be handled through their beneficiaries.

If payment is not made by the date specified in the debit note, the granting authority will **enforce recovery** in accordance with Article 22.4.

22.4 Enforced recovery

If payment is not made by the date specified in the debit note, the amount due will be recovered:

(a) by offsetting the amount — without the coordinator or beneficiary's consent — against any amounts owed to the coordinator or beneficiary by the granting authority.

In exceptional circumstances, to safeguard the EU financial interests, the amount may be offset before the payment date specified in the debit note.

For grants where the granting authority is the European Commission or an EU executive agency, debts may also be offset against amounts owed by other Commission services or executive agencies.

(b) by drawing on the financial guarantee(s) (if any)

(c) by holding other beneficiaries jointly and severally liable (if any; see Data Sheet, Point 4.4)

(d) by holding affiliated entities jointly and severally liable (if any, see Data Sheet, Point 4.4)

(e) by taking legal action (see Article 43) or, provided that the granting authority is the European Commission or an EU executive agency, by adopting an enforceable decision under Article 299 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) and Article 100(2) of EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509.

The amount to be recovered will be increased by **late-payment interest** at the rate set out in Article 22.5, from the day following the payment date in the debit note, up to and including the date the full payment is received.

Partial payments will be first credited against expenses, charges and late-payment interest and then against the principal.

Bank charges incurred in the recovery process will be borne by the beneficiary, unless Directive 2015/2366[19] applies.

For grants where the granting authority is an EU executive agency, enforced recovery by offsetting or enforceable decision will be done by the services of the European Commission (see also Article 43).

22.5 Consequences of non-compliance

22.5.1 If the granting authority does not pay within the payment deadlines (see above), the beneficiaries are entitled to **late-payment interest** at the rate applied by the European Central Bank (ECB) for its main refinancing operations in euros ('reference rate'), plus the rate specified in the Data Sheet (Point 4.2). The reference rate is the rate in force on the first day of the month in which the payment deadline expires, as published in the C series of the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

If the late-payment interest is lower than or equal to EUR 200, it will be paid to the coordinator only on request submitted within two months of receiving the late payment.

Late-payment interest is not due if all beneficiaries are EU Member States (including regional and local government authorities or other public bodies acting on behalf of a Member State for the purpose of this Agreement).

If payments or the payment deadline are suspended (see Articles 29 and 30), payment will not be considered as late.

[19] Directive (EU) 2015/2366 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015 on payment services in the internal market, amending Directives 2002/65/EC, 2009/110/EC and 2013/36/EU and Regulation (EU) No 1093/2010, and repealing Directive 2007/64/EC (OJ L 337, 23.12.2015, p. 35).

Late-payment interest covers the period running from the day following the due date for payment (see above), up to and including the date of payment.

Late-payment interest is not considered for the purposes of calculating the final grant amount.

22.5.2 If the coordinator breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28) and the grant or the coordinator may be terminated (see Article 32).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 23 — GUARANTEES

23.1 Prefinancing guarantee

If required by the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 4.2), the beneficiaries must provide (one or more) prefinancing guarantee(s) in accordance with the timing and the amounts set out in the Data Sheet.

The coordinator must submit them to the granting authority in due time before the prefinancing they are linked to.

The guarantees must be drawn up using the template published on the Portal and fulfil the following conditions:

(a) be provided by a bank or approved financial institution established in the EU or — if requested by the coordinator and accepted by the granting authority — by a third party or a bank or financial institution established outside the EU offering equivalent security

(b) the guarantor stands as first-call guarantor and does not require the granting authority to first have recourse against the principal debtor (i.e. the beneficiary concerned) and

(c) remain explicitly in force until the final payment and, if the final payment takes the form of a recovery, until five months after the debit note is notified to a beneficiary.

They will be released within the following month.

23.2 Consequences of non-compliance

If the beneficiaries breach their obligation to provide the prefinancing guarantee, the prefinancing will not be paid.

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 24 — CERTIFICATES

24.1 Operational verification report (OVR)

Not applicable

24.2 Certificate on the financial statements (CFS)

If required by the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 4.3), the beneficiaries must provide

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

certificates on their financial statements (CFS), in accordance with the schedule, threshold and conditions set out in the Data Sheet.

The coordinator must submit them as part of the periodic report (see Article 21).

The certificates must be drawn up using the template published on the Portal, cover the costs declared on the basis of actual costs and costs according to usual cost accounting practices (if any), and fulfil the following conditions:

(a) be provided by a qualified approved external auditor which is independent and complies with Directive 2006/43/EC[20] (or for public bodies: by a competent independent public officer)

(b) the verification must be carried out according to the highest professional standards to ensure that the financial statements comply with the provisions under the Agreement and that the costs declared are eligible.

The certificates will not affect the granting authority's right to carry out its own checks, reviews or audits, nor preclude the European Court of Auditors (ECA), the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) or the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) from using their prerogatives for audits and investigations under the Agreement (see Article 25).

If the costs (or a part of them) were already audited by the granting authority, these costs do not need to be covered by the certificate and will not be counted for calculating the threshold (if any).

24.3 Certificate on the compliance of usual cost accounting practices (CoMUC)

Beneficiaries which use unit, flat rate or lump sum costs or contributions according to usual costs accounting practices (if any) may submit to the granting authority, for approval, a certificate on the methodology stating that their usual cost accounting practices comply with the eligibility conditions under the Agreement.

The certificate must be drawn up using the template published on the Portal and fulfil the following conditions:

(a) be provided by a qualified approved external auditor which is independent and complies with Directive 2006/43/EC[21] (or for public bodies: by a competent independent public officer)

(b) the verification must be carried out according to the highest professional standards to ensure that the methodology for declaring costs according to usual accounting practices complies with the provisions under the Agreement.

If the certificate is approved, amounts declared in line with this methodology will not be challenged subsequently, unless the beneficiary concealed information for the purpose of the approval.

24.4 Systems and process audit (SPA)

Not applicable

[20] Directive 2006/43/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2006 on statutory audits of annual accounts and consolidated accounts (OJ L 157, 9.6.2006, p. 87).

[21] Directive 2006/43/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2006 on statutory audits of annual accounts and consolidated accounts (OJ L 157, 9.6.2006, p. 87).

24.5 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary does not submit a certificate on the financial statements (CFS) or the certificate is rejected, the accepted EU contribution to costs will be capped to reflect the CFS threshold.

If a beneficiary breaches any of its other obligations under this Article, the granting authority may apply the measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 25 — CHECKS, REVIEWS, AUDITS AND INVESTIGATIONS — EXTENSION OF FINDINGS

25.1 Granting authority checks, reviews and audits

25.1.1 Internal checks

The granting authority may — during the action or afterwards — check the proper implementation of the action and compliance with the obligations under the Agreement, including assessing costs and contributions, deliverables and reports.

25.1.2 Project reviews

The granting authority may carry out reviews on the proper implementation of the action and compliance with the obligations under the Agreement (general project reviews or specific issues reviews).

Such project reviews may be started during the implementation of the action and until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6). They will be formally notified to the coordinator or beneficiary concerned and will be considered to start on the date of the notification.

If needed, the granting authority may be assisted by independent, outside experts. If it uses outside experts, the coordinator or beneficiary concerned will be informed and have the right to object on grounds of commercial confidentiality or conflict of interest.

The coordinator or beneficiary concerned must cooperate diligently and provide — within the deadline requested — any information and data in addition to deliverables and reports already submitted (including information on the use of resources). The granting authority may request beneficiaries to provide such information to it directly. Sensitive information and documents will be treated in accordance with Article 13.

The coordinator or beneficiary concerned may be requested to participate in meetings, including with the outside experts.

For **on-the-spot visits**, the beneficiary concerned must allow access to sites and premises (including to the outside experts) and must ensure that information requested is readily available.

Information provided must be accurate, precise and complete and in the format requested, including electronic format.

On the basis of the review findings, a **project review report** will be drawn up.

The granting authority will formally notify the project review report to the coordinator or beneficiary concerned, which has 30 days from receiving notification to make observations.

Project reviews (including project review reports) will be in the language of the Agreement, unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 4.2).

25.1.3 Audits

The granting authority may carry out audits on the proper implementation of the action and compliance with the obligations under the Agreement.

Such audits may be started during the implementation of the action and until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6). They will be formally notified to the beneficiary concerned and will be considered to start on the date of the notification.

The granting authority may use its own audit service, delegate audits to a centralised service or use external audit firms. If it uses an external firm, the beneficiary concerned will be informed and have the right to object on grounds of commercial confidentiality or conflict of interest.

The beneficiary concerned must cooperate diligently and provide — within the deadline requested — any information (including complete accounts, individual salary statements or other personal data) to verify compliance with the Agreement. Sensitive information and documents will be treated in accordance with Article 13.

For **on-the-spot** visits, the beneficiary concerned must allow access to sites and premises (including for the external audit firm) and must ensure that information requested is readily available.

Information provided must be accurate, precise and complete and in the format requested, including electronic format.

On the basis of the audit findings, a **draft audit report** will be drawn up.

The auditors will formally notify the draft audit report to the beneficiary concerned, which has 30 days from receiving notification to make observations (contradictory audit procedure).

The **final audit report** will take into account observations by the beneficiary concerned and will be formally notified to them.

Audits (including audit reports) will be in the language of the Agreement, unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 4.2).

25.2 European Commission checks, reviews and audits in grants of other granting authorities

Where the granting authority is not the European Commission, the latter has the same rights of checks, reviews and audits as the granting authority.

25.3 Access to records for assessing simplified forms of funding

The beneficiaries must give the European Commission access to their statutory records for the periodic assessment of simplified forms of funding which are used in EU programmes.

25.4 OLAF, EPPO and ECA audits and investigations

The following bodies may also carry out checks, reviews, audits and investigations — during the action or afterwards:

- the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) under Regulations No 883/2013[22] and No 2185/96[23]
- the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) under Regulation 2017/1939
- the European Court of Auditors (ECA) under Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) and Article 263 of EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509.

If requested by these bodies, the beneficiary concerned must provide full, accurate and complete information in the format requested (including complete accounts, individual salary statements or other personal data, including in electronic format) and allow access to sites and premises for on-the-spot visits or inspections — as provided for under these Regulations.

To this end, the beneficiary concerned must keep all relevant information relating to the action, at least until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (Point 6) and, in any case, until any ongoing checks, reviews, audits, investigations, litigation or other pursuits of claims have been concluded.

25.5 Consequences of checks, reviews, audits and investigations — Extension of results of reviews, audits or investigations

25.5.1 Consequences of checks, reviews, audits and investigations in this grant

Findings in checks, reviews, audits or investigations carried out in the context of this grant may lead to rejections (see Article 27), grant reduction (see Article 28) or other measures described in Chapter 5.

Rejections or grant reductions after the final payment will lead to a revised final grant amount (see Article 22).

Findings in checks, reviews, audits or investigations during the action implementation may lead to a request for amendment (see Article 39), to change the description of the action set out in Annex 1.

Checks, reviews, audits or investigations that find systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or breach of obligations in any EU grant may also lead to consequences in other EU grants awarded under similar conditions ('extension to other grants').

Moreover, findings arising from an OLAF or EPPO investigation may lead to criminal prosecution under national law.

25.5.2 Extension from other grants

Results of checks, reviews, audits or investigations in other grants may be extended to this grant, if:

(a) the beneficiary concerned is found, in other EU grants awarded under similar conditions, to

[22] Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 September 2013 concerning investigations conducted by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1073/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (Euratom) No 1074/1999 (OJ L 248, 18/09/2013, p. 1).

[23] Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 of 11 November 1996 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the Commission in order to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities (OJ L 292, 15/11/1996, p. 2).

have committed systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant and

(b) those findings are formally notified to the beneficiary concerned — together with the list of grants affected by the findings — within the time-limit for audits set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6).

The granting authority will formally notify the beneficiary concerned of the intention to extend the findings and the list of grants affected.

If the extension concerns **rejections of costs or contributions**: the notification will include:

(a) an invitation to submit observations on the list of grants affected by the findings

(b) the request to submit revised financial statements for all grants affected

(c) the correction rate for extrapolation, established on the basis of the systemic or recurrent errors, to calculate the amounts to be rejected, if the beneficiary concerned:

(i) considers that the submission of revised financial statements is not possible or practicable or

(ii) does not submit revised financial statements.

If the extension concerns **grant reductions**: the notification will include:

(a) an invitation to submit observations on the list of grants affected by the findings and

(b) the **correction rate for extrapolation**, established on the basis of the systemic or recurrent errors and the principle of proportionality.

The beneficiary concerned has **60 days** from receiving notification to submit observations, revised financial statements or to propose a duly substantiated **alternative correction method/rate**.

On the basis of this, the granting authority will analyse the impact and decide on the implementation (i.e. start rejection or grant reduction procedures, either on the basis of the revised financial statements or the announced/alternative method/rate or a mix of those; see Articles 27 and 28).

25.6 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, costs or contributions insufficiently substantiated will be ineligible (see Article 6) and will be rejected (see Article 27), and the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 26 — IMPACT EVALUATIONS

26.1 Impact evaluation

The granting authority may carry out impact evaluations of the action, measured against the objectives and indicators of the EU programme funding the grant.

Such evaluations may be started during implementation of the action and until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6). They will be formally notified to the coordinator or beneficiaries and will be considered to start on the date of the notification.

If needed, the granting authority may be assisted by independent outside experts.

The coordinator or beneficiaries must provide any information relevant to evaluate the impact of the action, including information in electronic format.

26.2 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the granting authority may apply the measures described in Chapter 5.

CHAPTER 5 CONSEQUENCES OF NON-COMPLIANCE

SECTION 1 REJECTIONS AND GRANT REDUCTION

ARTICLE 27 — REJECTION OF COSTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

27.1 Conditions

The granting authority will — at beneficiary termination, interim payment, final payment or afterwards — reject any costs or contributions which are ineligible (see Article 6), in particular following checks, reviews, audits or investigations (see Article 25).

The rejection may also be based on the extension of findings from other grants to this grant (see Article 25).

Ineligible costs or contributions will be rejected.

27.2 Procedure

If the rejection does not lead to a recovery, the granting authority will formally notify the coordinator or beneficiary concerned of the rejection, the amounts and the reasons why. The coordinator or beneficiary concerned may — within 30 days of receiving notification — submit observations if it disagrees with the rejection (payment review procedure).

If the rejection leads to a recovery, the granting authority will follow the contradictory procedure with pre-information letter set out in Article 22.

27.3 Effects

If the granting authority rejects costs or contributions, it will deduct them from the costs or contributions declared and then calculate the amount due (and, if needed, make a recovery; see Article 22).

ARTICLE 28 — GRANT REDUCTION

28.1 Conditions

The granting authority may — at beneficiary termination, final payment or afterwards — reduce the grant for a beneficiary, if:

(a) the beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed:

(i) substantial errors, irregularities or fraud or

(ii) serious breach of obligations under this Agreement or during its award (including improper implementation of the action, non-compliance with the call conditions, submission of false information, failure to provide required information, breach of ethics or security rules (if applicable), failure to cooperate with checks, reviews, audits and investigations, etc.), or

(b) the beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed — in other EU grants awarded to it under similar conditions — systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or serious breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant (see Article 25).

The amount of the reduction will be calculated for each beneficiary concerned and proportionate to the seriousness and the duration of the errors, irregularities or fraud or breach of obligations, by applying an individual reduction rate to their accepted EU contribution.

28.2 Procedure

If the grant reduction does not lead to a recovery, the granting authority will formally notify the coordinator or beneficiary concerned of the reduction, the amount to be reduced and the reasons why. The coordinator or beneficiary concerned may — within 30 days of receiving notification — submit observations if it disagrees with the reduction (payment review procedure).

If the grant reduction leads to a recovery, the granting authority will follow the contradictory procedure with pre-information letter set out in Article 22.

28.3 Effects

If the granting authority reduces the grant, it will deduct the reduction and then calculate the amount due (and, if needed, make a recovery; see Article 22).

SECTION 2 SUSPENSION AND TERMINATION

ARTICLE 29 — PAYMENT DEADLINE SUSPENSION

29.1 Conditions

The granting authority may — at any moment — suspend the payment deadline if a payment cannot be processed because:

(a) the required report (see Article 21) has not been submitted or is not complete or additional information is needed

(b) there are doubts about the amount to be paid (e.g. ongoing audit extension procedure, queries about eligibility, need for a grant reduction, etc.) and additional checks, reviews, audits or investigations are necessary, or

(c) there are other issues affecting the EU financial interests.

29.2 Procedure

The granting authority will formally notify the coordinator of the suspension and the reasons why.

The suspension will **take effect** the day the notification is sent.

If the conditions for suspending the payment deadline are no longer met, the suspension will be **lifted** — and the remaining time to pay (see Data Sheet, Point 4.2) will resume.

If the suspension exceeds two months, the coordinator may request the granting authority to confirm if the suspension will continue.

If the payment deadline has been suspended due to the non-compliance of the report and the revised report is not submitted (or was submitted but is also rejected), the granting authority may also terminate the grant or the participation of the coordinator (see Article 32).

ARTICLE 30 — PAYMENT SUSPENSION

30.1 Conditions

The granting authority may — at any moment — suspend payments, in whole or in part for one or more beneficiaries, if:

(a) a beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed or is suspected of having committed:

(i) substantial errors, irregularities or fraud or

(ii) serious breach of obligations under this Agreement or during its award (including improper implementation of the action, non-compliance with the call conditions, submission of false information, failure to provide required information, breach of ethics or security rules (if applicable), failure to cooperate with checks, reviews, audits and investigations, etc.), or

(b) a beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed — in other EU grants awarded to it under similar conditions — systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or serious breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant.

If payments are suspended for one or more beneficiaries, the granting authority will make partial payment(s) for the part(s) not suspended. If suspension concerns the final payment, the payment (or recovery) of the remaining amount after suspension is lifted will be considered to be the payment that closes the action.

30.2 Procedure

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

Before suspending payments, the granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the beneficiary concerned:

- formally notifying the intention to suspend payments and the reasons why and
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If the granting authority does not receive observations or decides to pursue the procedure despite the observations it has received, it will confirm the suspension (**confirmation letter**). Otherwise, it will formally notify that the procedure is discontinued.

At the end of the suspension procedure, the granting authority will also inform the coordinator.

The suspension will **take effect** the day after the confirmation notification is sent.

If the conditions for resuming payments are met, the suspension will be **lifted**. The granting authority will formally notify the beneficiary concerned (and the coordinator) and set the suspension end date.

During the suspension, no prefinancing will be paid to the beneficiaries concerned. For interim payments, the periodic reports for all reporting periods except the last one (see Article 21) must not contain any financial statements from the beneficiary concerned (or its affiliated entities). The coordinator must include them in the next periodic report after the suspension is lifted or — if suspension is not lifted before the end of the action — in the last periodic report.

ARTICLE 31 — GRANT AGREEMENT SUSPENSION

31.1 Consortium-requested GA suspension

31.1.1 Conditions and procedure

The beneficiaries may request the suspension of the grant or any part of it, if exceptional circumstances — in particular *force majeure* (see Article 35) — make implementation impossible or excessively difficult.

The coordinator must submit a request for **amendment** (see Article 39), with:

- the reasons why
- the date the suspension takes effect; this date may be before the date of the submission of the amendment request and
- the expected date of resumption.

The suspension will **take effect** on the day specified in the amendment.

Once circumstances allow for implementation to resume, the coordinator must immediately request another **amendment** of the Agreement to set the suspension end date, the resumption date (one day after suspension end date), extend the duration and make other changes necessary to adapt the action to the new situation (see Article 39) — unless the grant has been terminated (see Article 32). The suspension will be **lifted** with effect from the suspension end date set out in the amendment. This date may be before the date of the submission of the amendment request.

During the suspension, no prefinancing will be paid. Costs incurred or contributions for activities implemented during grant suspension are not eligible (see Article 6.3).

31.2 EU-initiated GA suspension

31.2.1 Conditions

The granting authority may suspend the grant or any part of it, if:

(a) a beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed or is suspected of having committed:

(i) substantial errors, irregularities or fraud or

(ii) serious breach of obligations under this Agreement or during its award (including improper implementation of the action, non-compliance with the call conditions, submission of false information, failure to provide required information, breach of ethics or security rules (if applicable), failure to cooperate with checks, reviews, audits and investigations, etc.), or

(b) a beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed — in other EU grants awarded to it under similar conditions — systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or serious breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant

(c) other:

(i) linked action issues: not applicable

(ii) additional GA suspension grounds: not applicable.

31.2.2 Procedure

Before suspending the grant, the granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the coordinator:

- formally notifying the intention to suspend the grant and the reasons why and
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If the granting authority does not receive observations or decides to pursue the procedure despite the observations it has received, it will confirm the suspension (**confirmation letter**). Otherwise, it will formally notify that the procedure is discontinued.

The suspension will **take effect** the day after the confirmation notification is sent (or on a later date specified in the notification).

Once the conditions for resuming implementation of the action are met, the granting authority will formally notify the coordinator a **lifting of suspension letter**, in which it will set the suspension end date and invite the coordinator to request an amendment of the Agreement to set the resumption date (one day after suspension end date), extend the duration and make other changes necessary to adapt the action to the new situation (see Article 39) — unless the grant has been terminated (see

Article 32). The suspension will be **lifted** with effect from the suspension end date set out in the lifting of suspension letter. This date may be before the date on which the letter is sent.

During the suspension, no prefinancing will be paid. Costs incurred or contributions for activities implemented during suspension are not eligible (see Article 6.3).

The beneficiaries may not claim damages due to suspension by the granting authority (see Article 33).

Grant suspension does not affect the granting authority's right to terminate the grant or a beneficiary (see Article 32) or reduce the grant (see Article 28).

ARTICLE 32 — GRANT AGREEMENT OR BENEFICIARY TERMINATION

32.1 Consortium-requested GA termination

32.1.1 Conditions and procedure

The beneficiaries may request the termination of the grant.

The coordinator must submit a request for **amendment** (see Article 39), with:

- the reasons why
- the date the consortium ends work on the action ('end of work date') and
- the date the termination takes effect ('termination date'); this date must be after the date of the submission of the amendment request.

The termination will **take effect** on the termination date specified in the amendment.

If no reasons are given or if the granting authority considers the reasons do not justify termination, it may consider the grant terminated improperly.

32.1.2 Effects

The coordinator must — within 60 days from when termination takes effect — submit a **periodic report** (for the open reporting period until termination).

The granting authority will calculate the final grant amount and final payment on the basis of the report submitted and taking into account the costs incurred and contributions for activities implemented before the end of work date (see Article 22). Costs relating to contracts due for execution only after the end of work are not eligible.

If the granting authority does not receive the report within the deadline, only costs and contributions which are included in an approved periodic report will be taken into account (no costs/contributions if no periodic report was ever approved).

Improper termination may lead to a grant reduction (see Article 28).

After termination, the beneficiaries' obligations (in particular Articles 13 (confidentiality and security), 16 (IPR), 17 (communication, dissemination and visibility), 21 (reporting), 25 (checks, reviews, audits and investigations), 26 (impact evaluation), 27 (rejections), 28 (grant reduction) and 42 (assignment of claims)) continue to apply.

32.2 Consortium-requested beneficiary termination

32.2.1 Conditions and procedure

The coordinator may request the termination of the participation of one or more beneficiaries, on request of the beneficiary concerned or on behalf of the other beneficiaries.

The coordinator must submit a request for **amendment** (see Article 39), with:

- the reasons why
- the opinion of the beneficiary concerned (or proof that this opinion has been requested in writing)
- the date the beneficiary ends work on the action ('end of work date')
- the date the termination takes effect ('termination date'); this date must be after the date of the submission of the amendment request.

If the termination concerns the coordinator and is done without its agreement, the amendment request must be submitted by another beneficiary (acting on behalf of the consortium).

The termination will **take effect** on the termination date specified in the amendment.

If no information is given or if the granting authority considers that the reasons do not justify termination, it may consider the beneficiary to have been terminated improperly.

32.2.2 Effects

The coordinator must — within 60 days from when termination takes effect — submit:

(i) a **report on the distribution of payments** to the beneficiary concerned

(ii) a **termination report** from the beneficiary concerned, for the open reporting period until termination, containing an overview of the progress of the work, the financial statement, the explanation on the use of resources, and, if applicable, the certificate on the financial statement (CFS; see Articles 21 and 24.2 and Data Sheet, Point 4.3)

(iii) a second **request for amendment** (see Article 39) with other amendments needed (e.g. reallocation of the tasks and the estimated budget of the terminated beneficiary; addition of a new beneficiary to replace the terminated beneficiary; change of coordinator, etc.).

The granting authority will calculate the amount due to the beneficiary on the basis of the report submitted and taking into account the costs incurred and contributions for activities implemented before the end of work date (see Article 22). Costs relating to contracts due for execution only after the end of work are not eligible.

The information in the termination report must also be included in the periodic report for the next reporting period (see Article 21).

If the granting authority does not receive the termination report within the deadline, only costs and contributions which are included in an approved periodic report will be taken into account (no costs/ contributions if no periodic report was ever approved).

If the granting authority does not receive the report on the distribution of payments within the deadline, it will consider that:

- the coordinator did not distribute any payment to the beneficiary concerned and that
- the beneficiary concerned must not repay any amount to the coordinator.

If the second request for amendment is accepted by the granting authority, the Agreement is **amended** to introduce the necessary changes (see Article 39).

If the second request for amendment is rejected by the granting authority (because it calls into question the decision awarding the grant or breaches the principle of equal treatment of applicants), the grant may be terminated (see Article 32).

Improper termination may lead to a reduction of the grant (see Article 31) or grant termination (see Article 32).

After termination, the concerned beneficiary's obligations (in particular Articles 13 (confidentiality and security), 16 (IPR), 17 (communication, dissemination and visibility), 21 (reporting), 25 (checks, reviews, audits and investigations), 26 (impact evaluation), 27 (rejections), 28 (grant reduction) and 42 (assignment of claims)) continue to apply.

32.3 EU-initiated GA or beneficiary termination

32.3.1 Conditions

The granting authority may terminate the grant or the participation of one or more beneficiaries, if:

(a) one or more beneficiaries do not accede to the Agreement (see Article 40)

(b) a change to the action or the legal, financial, technical, organisational or ownership situation of a beneficiary is likely to substantially affect the implementation of the action or calls into question the decision to award the grant (including changes linked to one of the exclusion grounds listed in the declaration of honour)

(c) following termination of one or more beneficiaries, the necessary changes to the Agreement (and their impact on the action) would call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants

(d) implementation of the action has become impossible or the changes necessary for its continuation would call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants

(e) a beneficiary (or person with unlimited liability for its debts) is subject to bankruptcy proceedings or similar (including insolvency, winding-up, administration by a liquidator or court, arrangement with creditors, suspension of business activities, etc.)

(f) a beneficiary (or person with unlimited liability for its debts) is in breach of social security or tax obligations

(g) a beneficiary (or person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person

essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has been found guilty of grave professional misconduct

(h) a beneficiary (or person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed fraud, corruption, or is involved in a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking

(i) a beneficiary (or person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) was created under a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or other legal obligations in the country of origin (or created another entity with this purpose)

(j) a beneficiary (or person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed:

  (i) substantial errors, irregularities or fraud or

  (ii) serious breach of obligations under this Agreement or during its award (including improper implementation of the action, non-compliance with the call conditions, submission of false information, failure to provide required information, breach of ethics or security rules (if applicable), failure to cooperate with checks, reviews, audits and investigations, etc.)

(k) a beneficiary (or person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed — in other EU grants awarded to it under similar conditions — systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or serious breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant (extension of findings from other grants to this grant; see Article 25)

(l) despite a specific request by the granting authority, a beneficiary does not request — through the coordinator — an amendment to the Agreement to end the participation of one of its affiliated entities or associated partners that is in one of the situations under points (d), (f), (e), (g), (h), (i) or (j) and to reallocate its tasks, or

(m) other:

  (i) linked action issues: not applicable

  (ii) additional GA termination grounds: not applicable.

32.3.2 Procedure

Before terminating the grant or participation of one or more beneficiaries, the granting authority will send **a pre-information letter** to the coordinator or beneficiary concerned:

- formally notifying the intention to terminate and the reasons why and
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If the granting authority does not receive observations or decides to pursue the procedure despite

the observations it has received, it will confirm the termination and the date it will take effect (**confirmation letter**). Otherwise, it will formally notify that the procedure is discontinued.

For beneficiary terminations, the granting authority will — at the end of the procedure — also inform the coordinator.

The termination will **take effect** the day after the confirmation notification is sent (or on a later date specified in the notification; 'termination date').

32.3.3 Effects

(a) for **GA termination**:

The coordinator must — within 60 days from when termination takes effect — submit a **periodic report** (for the last open reporting period until termination).

The granting authority will calculate the final grant amount and final payment on the basis of the report submitted and taking into account the costs incurred and contributions for activities implemented before termination takes effect (see Article 22). Costs relating to contracts due for execution only after termination are not eligible.

If the grant is terminated for breach of the obligation to submit reports, the coordinator may not submit any report after termination.

If the granting authority does not receive the report within the deadline, only costs and contributions which are included in an approved periodic report will be taken into account (no costs/contributions if no periodic report was ever approved).

Termination does not affect the granting authority's right to reduce the grant (see Article 28) or to impose administrative sanctions (see Article 34).

The beneficiaries may not claim damages due to termination by the granting authority (see Article 33).

After termination, the beneficiaries' obligations (in particular Articles 13 (confidentiality and security), 16 (IPR), 17 (communication, dissemination and visibility), 21 (reporting), 25 (checks, reviews, audits and investigations), 26 (impact evaluation), 27 (rejections), 28 (grant reduction) and 42 (assignment of claims)) continue to apply.

(b) for **beneficiary termination**:

The coordinator must — within 60 days from when termination takes effect — submit:

(i) a **report on the distribution of payments** to the beneficiary concerned

(ii) a **termination report** from the beneficiary concerned, for the open reporting period until termination, containing an overview of the progress of the work, the financial statement, the explanation on the use of resources, and, if applicable, the certificate on the financial statement (CFS; see Articles 21 and 24.2 and Data Sheet, Point 4.3)

(iii) a **request for amendment** (see Article 39) with any amendments needed (e.g. reallocation of the tasks and the estimated budget of the terminated beneficiary;

addition of a new beneficiary to replace the terminated beneficiary; change of coordinator, etc.).

The granting authority will calculate the amount due to the beneficiary on the basis of the report submitted and taking into account the costs incurred and contributions for activities implemented before termination takes effect (see Article 22). Costs relating to contracts due for execution only after termination are not eligible.

The information in the termination report must also be included in the periodic report for the next reporting period (see Article 21).

If the granting authority does not receive the termination report within the deadline, only costs and contributions included in an approved periodic report will be taken into account (no costs/ contributions if no periodic report was ever approved).

If the granting authority does not receive the report on the distribution of payments within the deadline, it will consider that:

- the coordinator did not distribute any payment to the beneficiary concerned and that
- the beneficiary concerned must not repay any amount to the coordinator.

If the request for amendment is accepted by the granting authority, the Agreement is **amended** to introduce the necessary changes (see Article 39).

If the request for amendment is rejected by the granting authority (because it calls into question the decision awarding the grant or breaches the principle of equal treatment of applicants), the grant may be terminated (see Article 32).

After termination, the concerned beneficiary's obligations (in particular Articles 13 (confidentiality and security), 16 (IPR), 17 (communication, dissemination and visibility), 21 (reporting), 25 (checks, reviews, audits and investigations), 26 (impact evaluation), 27 (rejections), 28 (grant reduction) and 42 (assignment of claims)) continue to apply.

SECTION 3 OTHER CONSEQUENCES: DAMAGES AND ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS

ARTICLE 33 — DAMAGES

33.1 Liability of the granting authority

The granting authority cannot be held liable for any damage caused to the beneficiaries or to third parties as a consequence of the implementation of the Agreement, including for gross negligence.

The granting authority cannot be held liable for any damage caused by any of the beneficiaries or other participants involved in the action, as a consequence of the implementation of the Agreement.

33.2 Liability of the beneficiaries

The beneficiaries must compensate the granting authority for any damage it sustains as a result of the

implementation of the action or because the action was not implemented in full compliance with the Agreement, provided that it was caused by gross negligence or wilful act.

The liability does not extend to indirect or consequential losses or similar damage (such as loss of profit, loss of revenue or loss of contracts), provided such damage was not caused by wilful act or by a breach of confidentiality.

ARTICLE 34 — ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS AND OTHER MEASURES

Nothing in this Agreement may be construed as preventing the adoption of administrative sanctions (i.e. exclusion from EU award procedures and/or financial penalties) or other public law measures, in addition or as an alternative to the contractual measures provided under this Agreement (see, for instance, Articles 137 to 148 EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509 and Articles 4 and 7 of Regulation 2988/95[24]).

SECTION 4 FORCE MAJEURE

ARTICLE 35 — FORCE MAJEURE

A party prevented by force majeure from fulfilling its obligations under the Agreement cannot be considered in breach of them.

'Force majeure' means any situation or event that:

- prevents either party from fulfilling their obligations under the Agreement
- was unforeseeable, exceptional situation and beyond the parties' control
- was not due to error or negligence on their part (or on the part of other participants involved in the action) and
- proves to be inevitable in spite of exercising all due diligence.

Any situation constituting force majeure must be formally notified to the other party without delay, stating the nature, likely duration and foreseeable effects.

The parties must immediately take all the necessary steps to limit any damage due to force majeure and do their best to resume implementation of the action as soon as possible.

CHAPTER 6 FINAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 36 — COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE PARTIES

36.1 Forms and means of communication — Electronic management

EU grants are managed fully electronically through the EU Funding & Tenders Portal ('Portal').

[24] Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95 of 18 December 1995 on the protection of the European Communities financial interests (OJ L 312, 23.12.1995, p. 1).

All communications must be made electronically through the Portal, in accordance with the Portal Terms and Conditions and using the forms and templates provided there (except if explicitly instructed otherwise by the granting authority).

Communications must be made in writing and clearly identify the grant agreement (project number and acronym).

Communications must be made by persons authorised according to the Portal Terms and Conditions. For naming the authorised persons, each beneficiary must have designated — before the signature of this Agreement — a 'legal entity appointed representative (LEAR)'. The role and tasks of the LEAR are stipulated in their appointment letter (see Portal Terms and Conditions).

If the electronic exchange system is temporarily unavailable, instructions will be given on the Portal.

36.2 Date of communication

The sending date for communications made through the Portal will be the date and time of sending, as indicated by the time logs.

The receiving date for communications made through the Portal will be the date and time the communication is accessed, as indicated by the time logs. Formal notifications that have not been accessed within 10 days after sending, will be considered to have been accessed (see Portal Terms and Conditions).

If a communication is exceptionally made on paper (by e-mail or postal service), general principles apply (i.e. date of sending/receipt). Formal notifications by registered post with proof of delivery will be considered to have been received either on the delivery date registered by the postal service or the deadline for collection at the post office.

If the electronic exchange system is temporarily unavailable, the sending party cannot be considered in breach of its obligation to send a communication within a specified deadline.

36.3 Addresses for communication

The Portal can be accessed via the Europa website.

The address for paper communications to the granting authority (if exceptionally allowed) is the official mailing address indicated on its website.

For beneficiaries, it is the legal address specified in the Portal Participant Register.

ARTICLE 37 — INTERPRETATION OF THE AGREEMENT

The provisions in the Data Sheet take precedence over the rest of the Terms and Conditions of the Agreement.

Annex 5 takes precedence over the Terms and Conditions; the Terms and Conditions take precedence over the Annexes other than Annex 5.

Annex 2 takes precedence over Annex 1.

ARTICLE 38 — CALCULATION OF PERIODS AND DEADLINES

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

In accordance with Regulation No 1182/71[25], periods expressed in days, months or years are calculated from the moment the triggering event occurs.

The day during which that event occurs is not considered as falling within the period.

'Days' means calendar days, not working days.

ARTICLE 39 — AMENDMENTS

39.1 Conditions

The Agreement may be amended, unless the amendment entails changes to the Agreement which would call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants.

Amendments may be requested by any of the parties.

39.2 Procedure

The party requesting an amendment must submit a request for amendment signed directly in the Portal Amendment tool.

The coordinator submits and receives requests for amendment on behalf of the beneficiaries (see Annex 3). If a change of coordinator is requested without its agreement, the submission must be done by another beneficiary (acting on behalf of the other beneficiaries).

The request for amendment must include:

- the reasons why
- the appropriate supporting documents and
- for a change of coordinator without its agreement: the opinion of the coordinator (or proof that this opinion has been requested in writing).

The granting authority may request additional information.

If the party receiving the request agrees, it must sign the amendment in the tool within 45 days of receiving notification (or any additional information the granting authority has requested). If it does not agree, it must formally notify its disagreement within the same deadline. The deadline may be extended, if necessary for the assessment of the request. If no notification is received within the deadline, the request is considered to have been rejected.

An amendment **enters into force** on the day of the signature of the receiving party.

An amendment **takes effect** on the date of entry into force or other date specified in the amendment.

ARTICLE 40 — ACCESSION AND ADDITION OF NEW BENEFICIARIES

[25] Regulation (EEC, Euratom) No 1182/71 of the Council of 3 June 1971 determining the rules applicable to periods, dates and time-limits (OJ L 124, 8/6/1971, p. 1).

40.1 Accession of the beneficiaries mentioned in the Preamble

The beneficiaries which are not coordinator must accede to the grant by signing the accession form (see Annex 3) directly in the Portal Grant Preparation tool, within 30 days after the entry into force of the Agreement (see Article 44).

They will assume the rights and obligations under the Agreement with effect from the date of its entry into force (see Article 44).

If a beneficiary does not accede to the grant within the above deadline, the coordinator must — within 30 days — request an amendment (see Article 39) to terminate the beneficiary and make any changes necessary to ensure proper implementation of the action. This does not affect the granting authority's right to terminate the grant (see Article 32).

40.2 Addition of new beneficiaries

In justified cases, the beneficiaries may request the addition of a new beneficiary.

For this purpose, the coordinator must submit a request for amendment in accordance with Article 39. It must include an accession form (see Annex 3) signed by the new beneficiary directly in the Portal Amendment tool.

New beneficiaries will assume the rights and obligations under the Agreement with effect from the date of their accession specified in the accession form (see Annex 3).

Additions are also possible in mono-beneficiary grants.

ARTICLE 41 — TRANSFER OF THE AGREEMENT

In justified cases, the beneficiary of a mono-beneficiary grant may request the transfer of the grant to a new beneficiary, provided that this would not call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants.

The beneficiary must submit a request for **amendment** (see Article 39), with

- the reasons why
- the accession form (see Annex 3) signed by the new beneficiary directly in the Portal Amendment tool and
- additional supporting documents (if required by the granting authority).

The new beneficiary will assume the rights and obligations under the Agreement with effect from the date of accession specified in the accession form (see Annex 3).

ARTICLE 42 — ASSIGNMENTS OF CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT AGAINST THE GRANTING AUTHORITY

The beneficiaries may not assign any of their claims for payment against the granting authority to any third party, except if expressly approved in writing by the granting authority on the basis of a reasoned, written request by the coordinator (on behalf of the beneficiary concerned).

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

If the granting authority has not accepted the assignment or if the terms of it are not observed, the assignment will have no effect on it.

In no circumstances will an assignment release the beneficiaries from their obligations towards the granting authority.

ARTICLE 43 — APPLICABLE LAW AND SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

43.1 Applicable law

The Agreement is governed by the applicable EU law, supplemented if necessary by the law of Belgium.

Special rules may apply for beneficiaries which are international organisations (if any; see Data Sheet, Point 5).

43.2 Dispute settlement

If a dispute concerns the interpretation, application or validity of the Agreement, the parties must bring action before the EU General Court — or, on appeal, the EU Court of Justice — under Article 272 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU).

For non-EU beneficiaries (if any), such disputes must be brought before the courts of Brussels, Belgium — unless an international agreement provides for the enforceability of EU court judgements.

For beneficiaries with arbitration as special dispute settlement forum (if any; see Data Sheet, Point 5), the dispute will — in the absence of an amicable settlement — be settled in accordance with the Rules for Arbitration published on the Portal.

If a dispute concerns administrative sanctions, offsetting or an enforceable decision under Article 299 TFEU (see Articles 22 and 34), the beneficiaries must bring action before the General Court — or, on appeal, the Court of Justice — under Article 263 TFEU.

For grants where the granting authority is an EU executive agency (see Preamble), actions against offsetting and enforceable decisions must be brought against the European Commission (not against the granting authority; see also Article 22).

ARTICLE 44 — ENTRY INTO FORCE

The Agreement will enter into force on the day of signature by the granting authority or the coordinator, depending on which is later.

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

SIGNATURES

For the coordinator	For the granting authority

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

ANNEX 1

Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL)

Description of the action (DoA)

Part A

Part B

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION (PART A)

COVER PAGE

Part A of the Description of the Action (DoA) must be completed directly on the Portal Grant Preparation screens.

PROJECT *Grant Preparation (General Information screen) — Enter the info.*	
Project number:	101256752
Project name:	EDIH-DIGIMAT: Flexible Manufacturing Systems Using Artificial Intelligence
Project acronym:	EDIH-DIGIMAT 2.0
Call:	DIGITAL-2025-EDIH-EU-EEA-08
Topic:	DIGITAL-2025-EDIH-EU-EEA-08-CONSOLIDATION-STEP
Type of action:	DIGITAL-SIMPLE
Service:	CNECT/A/04
Project starting date:	fixed date: 1 May 2026
Project duration:	36 months

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Project summary 3
List of participants 3
List of work packages 4
Staff effort 10
List of deliverables 11
List of milestones (outputs/outcomes) 18
List of critical risks 19
Project reviews 22

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project summary

Grant Preparation (General Information screen) — Provide an overall description of your project (including context and overall objectives, planned activities and main achievements, and expected results and impacts (on target groups, change procedures, capacities, innovation etc)). This summary should give readers a clear idea of what your project is about.

Use the project summary from your proposal.

EDIH-DIGIMAT is a European Digital Innovation Hub (EDIH) dedicated to accelerating the adoption of advanced digital, automation, and artificial intelligence (AI) technologies among manufacturing SMEs, midcaps, and public sector organizations in the South Moravian region and neighbouring areas in eastern Czech Republic. The project is led by a strong consortium comprising INTEMAC, JIC, Brno University of Technology (BUT), Effectivity, and Tomas Bata University (TBU), strategically aligned with the Czech Republic's Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation (RIS3). The consortium supports the transition to smart manufacturing by promoting digital transformation in key technological domains, including smart connectivity, digital twins, intelligent control systems, autonomous robotics, sustainability, and industrial AI. Its objective is to foster the deployment of flexible manufacturing systems driven by industrial AI, enhancing productivity, efficiency, and the ability to adapt rapidly to change, thereby strengthening global competitiveness. To ensure broader impact and complementarity, EDIH-DIGIMAT collaborates with other European Digital Innovation Hubs, AI Factories, and Testing and Experimentation Facilities (TEFs), both within the Czech Republic and internationally. The project provides high-impact, practically oriented services tailored to the needs of its target groups, including awareness-raising, skills development, expert advisory, and proof-of-concept testing on dedicated testbeds. These services are designed to drive innovation, support digital maturity, and enhance long-term competitiveness in both regional and global markets. By serving as a driver of digital transformation, EDIH-DIGIMAT aims to empower regional stakeholders to lead in the next era of smart, sustainable, and resilient manufacturing.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

PARTICIPANTS

Grant Preparation (Beneficiaries screen) — Enter the info.

Number	Role	Short name	Legal name	Country	PIC
1	COO	JIC	JIC, ZAJMOVE SDRUZENI PRAVNICKCH OSOB	CZ	999780262
2	BEN	BUT	VYSOKE UCENI TECHNICKE V BRNE	CZ	999873091
3	BEN	INTEMAC	INTEMAC SOLUTIONS, SRO	CZ	934182460
4	BEN	Effectivity	EFFECTIVITY S.R.O	CZ	887659611
5	BEN	TBU	UNIVERZITA TOMASE BATI VE ZLINE	CZ	999880172

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

LIST OF WORK PACKAGES

Work packages

Grant Preparation (Work Packages screen) — Enter the info.

Work Package No	Work Package name	Lead Beneficiary	Effort (Person-Months)	Start Month	End Month	Deliverables
WP1	Project Management and Coordination Activities	3 - INTEMAC	36.70	1	36	D1.1 – Handbook on project organisation, strategy, data management and KPI reporting framework D1.2 – Report on the business model and sustainability for EDIH-DIGIMAT services D1.3 – Reporting of success stories in DTA D1.4 – KPI report 6M D1.5 – KPI report 12M D1.6 – KPI report 18M D1.7 – KPI report 24M D1.8 – KPI report 30M D1.9 – KPI report 36M
WP2	Testing on Testbed	2 - BUT	105.40	1	36	D2.1 – Report on executed tests and experiments with digital technologies D2.2 – Report on executed tests and experiments with innovative AI technologies in industrial environment
WP3	Awareness-raising, ecosystem building activities and project clustering	3 - INTEMAC	31.20	1	36	D3.1 – Report and evaluation of the initial event plan set-up D3.2 – Report on the collaboration opportunities within the EU environment
WP4	Digitalization, Sustainability and Finance Capacity Building for Enterprises	4 - Effectivity	121.00	1	36	D4.1 – Report on the setup of advisory services D4.2 – Mid-term report on companies passing the advisory services

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

Work packages

Grant Preparation (Work Packages screen) — Enter the info.

Work Package No	Work Package name	Lead Beneficiary	Effort (Person-Months)	Start Month	End Month	Deliverables
						D4.3 – Final report on companies passing the advisory services
WP5	Skills and Training	4 - Effectivity	79.40	1	36	D5.1 – Report on the design and methodology of the Academy, hands-on bootcamps and benchmarking visits
WP6	Marketing, Communication and Dissemination	3 - INTEMAC	27.40	1	36	D6.1 – Communication strategy and plan, including sustainability of project operations

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

Work package WP1 – Project Management and Coordination Activities

Work Package Number	WP1	Lead Beneficiary	3 - INTEMAC
Work Package Name	Project Management and Coordination Activities		
Start Month	1	End Month	36

Objectives
▪ To set up the organisational and data management structure. ▪ To ensure detailed project planning and review the EDIH progress. ▪ To manage project monitoring, evaluation and reporting. ▪ To ensure the AI impact is integrated into EDIH services. ▪ To ensure collaboration with Digital Transformation Accelerator (DTA).

Description
T1.1 Project management and coordination activities (INTEMAC, BUT, JIC, EFFECTIVITY, TBU) The task will deal with setting up the management structure of the project to ensure proper driving of the project. The activities in the task will ensure the performance of the consortium and define the correct data management. Within the task, regular reporting to the grant provider will be provided. T1.2 Finance capacity building for sustainability of EDIH-DIGIMAT (INTEMAC, BUT, JIC, EFFECTIVITY, TBU) The task activities will ensure the proper project business model. They will also address the use of synergistic grant calls and appropriate funding for the next life phases of the project. T1.3 Collaboration with Digital Transformation Accelerator (INTEMAC, BUT, JIC, EFFECTIVITY, TBU) The EDIH will: - provide to the DTA the necessary data/information on the overall Key Performance Indicators on at least on a 6 monthly basis or on request by the DTA; - participate actively in the relevant support activities of the DTA, such as matchmaking, training and capacity building events; - participate actively in the “Train the trainer” programme organised by the DTA, to acquire the needed knowledge on how to use the digital capacities supported by Digital Europe programme, with the objective to help the EDIH stakeholders to make use of them. This task only covers the specific activities for collaboration with DTA. The periodic reporting will include a description of the activities performed in collaboration with the DTA. T1.4 Unified KPI reporting (EFFECTIVITY, INTEMAC, BUT, JIC, TBU) The task focuses on implementing a standardized KPI reporting framework across all work packages to ensure consistent data collection used by different WP leaders.

Work package WP2 – Testing on Testbed

Work Package Number	WP2	Lead Beneficiary	2 - BUT
Work Package Name	Testing on Testbed		
Start Month	1	End Month	36

Objectives
▪ To provide test environments for evaluating sustainability, smart connectivity, digital twins, autonomous robotics, intelligent control systems, machine vision, and industrial AI. ▪ To allow innovative solution providers to test their solutions and support their decision in future technologies development by experiments in a close-to-real industrial environment. ▪ To support the prototyping and pre-production testing of innovative solutions, ensuring their feasibility for industrial deployment across diverse manufacturing sectors, with the aim of enhancing efficiency and automation. ▪ To allow production-oriented companies to evaluate properties of the advanced digital systems (including AI-based tools) and make an assessment of the suitability of implementation of such solutions.

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

▪ To foster efficient adoption of AI-based technologies (e.g., but not limited to, CNN, LLM, transformers) by solution providers and/or manufacturing companies.

Description
T2.1 Proof of concepts, development and testing of innovative automation and digital technologies applications (BUT, INTEMAC, TBU) The task will deal with advanced digital technologies, automation, and robotics in production technologies. Activities cover the whole chain from testing proof of concept, providing expertise to assist in the development of new digital technologies, as well as testing of the final application at the testbed in a close-to-real industrial environment. T2.2 Proof of concepts, development and testing of innovative AI applications (BUT, INTEMAC, TBU) Activities will be aimed at proof of concept, assistance in development and testing of innovative AI applications addressing robotics, systems diagnostics, quality control, production optimisation and others. Access to the testing environment, as well as necessary HPC resources, will be provided to allow proof of concept and testing of the final applications in a close-to-real industrial environment. Both classical (e.g. ANN) and currently emerging approaches (LLM, transformers) can be addressed based on the client's needs. In selected cases, this task will also cover benchmarking of AI algorithms to address complex engineering problems, specifically tailored to client needs in key areas such as autonomous systems, machine vision, and digital twins. The task will also explore possibilities of leveraging the use of generative AI for the automation of processes.

Work package WP3 – Awareness-raising, ecosystem building activities and project clustering

Work Package Number	WP3	**Lead Beneficiary**	3 - INTEMAC
Work Package Name	Awareness-raising, ecosystem building activities and project clustering		
Start Month	1	**End Month**	36

Objectives
▪ To inspire enterprises and spread best practices in automation and digitalisation of enterprises, and boost the take-up of modern technologies ▪ To motivate and enhance the enterprises to use the EDIH – DIGIMAT services ▪ To take care of the recent manufacturing business ecosystem and to contribute to its growth ▪ To introduce new opportunities for enterprises in respect to innovation, development, trade, and knowledge sharing on the international level within the EDIH and other initiatives networks using online channels and real international missions.

Description
T3.1 Awareness-raising, networking and ecosystem-building activities (INTEMAC, BUT, JIC, EFFECTIVITY, TBU) Webinars, Testbed open Days, ecosystem building activities, sharing of best practices, thematic networking events and other mass mostly free-of-charge popularisation activities connected to the scope of the project. When designing each activity, the potential integration of AI-related topics will be carefully considered wherever relevant. T3.2 EDIH and other relevant networks' collaboration (INTEMAC, BUT, EFFECTIVITY, TBU) The consortium will arrange events with current and new national and international partners. The scope of the events will be designed as a sharing of best practices on the services offered and as a brokerage event or company mission.

Work package WP4 – Digitalization, Sustainability and Finance Capacity Building for Enterprises

Work Package Number	WP4	**Lead Beneficiary**	4 - Effectivity
Work Package Name	Digitalization, Sustainability and Finance Capacity Building for Enterprises		
Start Month	1	**End Month**	36

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

Objectives
▪ To support the enterprises on the way to an automated, digitalised, and environmentally responsible company. ▪ To increase the maturity level of the enterprises in the field of automation, digitalisation, use of AI, sustainability, and the maturity of their products. ▪ To trigger the utilisation of the national and European grants for enterprises and encourage the use of their financial investments.

Description
T4.1 AI, digitalisation and process automation (EFFECTIVITY, INTEMAC, TBU) The implementation of well-established advisory programs to assist enterprises in adopting automation, digitalisation and sustainable business models, leveraging AI where beneficial, to ensure long-term competitiveness of the companies. T4.2 Sustainable development and process excellence (EFFECTIVITY, INTEMAC, JIC, TBU) The utilisation of proven advisory programs to support enterprises in achieving process excellence and adopting sustainable and circular business practices. T4.3 Strategy, Access to finance & Investment readiness (JIC) The utilisation of a proven JIC advisory programme to support enterprises in strategy development, screening for grants and other financial tools designed for their innovation.

Work package WP5 – Skills and Training

Work Package Number	WP5	**Lead Beneficiary**	4 - Effectivity
Work Package Name	Skills and Training		
Start Month	1	**End Month**	36

Objectives
▪ To offer standalone hands-on training courses covering a wide range of digitalisation, automation, AI and process optimisation aspects. ▪ To offer tailor-made courses for enterprises. ▪ To offer a comprehensive training programme of the Digital Transformation Academy. ▪ To offer different formats of excursions and inspirational visits.

Description
T5.1 Digital Transformation Academy (EFFECTIVITY, INTEMAC, TBU) The comprehensive program of courses will focus on process optimisation methodologies, advanced AI-driven tools, data analytics and automation solutions, equipping enterprises for digital transformation. The academy will integrate students' optimisation projects, supported by professional coaching and implementation guidance. This initiative builds upon the established EDIH-DIGIMAT Academy. T5.2 Training courses, hands-on bootcamps and inspirational visits (EFFECTIVITY, INTEMAC, BUT, TBU) Training courses and hands-on bootcamps will engage participants in the areas of smart connectivity, digital twins, autonomous robotics, intelligent control systems, machine vision, and efficient use of industrial AI across various manufacturing sectors, as well as other key topics aimed at enhancing company competitiveness, such as strategy planning, process optimization, and more. Customised courses will be developed based on specific industry demands. Benchmarking and best practice inspirational visits to other companies will provide participants with first-hand insights into successful business practices, innovative processes, and organisational strategies, fostering new ideas and networking opportunities.

Work package WP6 – Marketing, Communication and Dissemination

Work Package Number	WP6	**Lead Beneficiary**	3 - INTEMAC
Work Package Name	Marketing, Communication and Dissemination		

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

Start Month	1	End Month	36

Objectives
▪ Brand Awareness - raising awareness of EDIH services and their unique value proposition. ▪ Lead Generation and Sales Promotion - Providing active marketing support to secure leads for EDIH services. ▪ Content Marketing & Thought Leadership - Creating valuable content focused on raising awareness, benefits and advocacy around digital manufacturing and AI. ▪ Trust & Credibility - Building trust and credibility by showcasing real achievements and results of the project and digital technologies. ▪ Process goal: Setting individual internal KPIs for all consortium members. Creating a communication strategy, plan and design.

Description
T6.1 Marketing, communications and dissmination activities (INTEMAC, BUT, JIC, EFFECTIVITY, TBU) PR articles, social media posts/events, podcasts, influencer/ambassador engagement, video reports, press releases, video content, direct mailing, LinkedIn gen. leads, case studies, ads, involvement of partners and organisations, technical articles, expert interviews, whitepapers, flyers, project landing pages, success stories

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

STAFF EFFORT

Staff effort per participant

Grant Preparation (Work packages - Effort screen) — Enter the info.

Participant	WP1	WP2	WP3	WP4	WP5	WP6	Total Person-Months
1 - JIC	3.60		3.60	32.60		3.60	43.40
2 - BUT	7.00	52.00	6.00		6.00	6.00	77.00
3 - INTEMAC	18.00	35.40	14.50	30.00	18.60	11.50	128.00
4 - Effectivity	4.50		3.50	53.00	36.80	4.50	102.30
5 - TBU	3.60	18.00	3.60	5.40	18.00	1.80	50.40
Total Person-Months	36.70	105.40	31.20	121.00	79.40	27.40	401.10

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

LIST OF DELIVERABLES

Deliverables

Grant Preparation (Deliverables screen) — Enter the info.

The labels used mean:

Public — fully open (⚠ automatically posted online)
Sensitive — limited under the conditions of the Grant Agreement
EU classified —RESTREINT-UE/EU-RESTRICTED, CONFIDENTIEL-UE/EU-CONFIDENTIAL, SECRET-UE/EU-SECRET under Decision 2015/444

Deliverable No	Deliverable Name	Work Package No	Lead Beneficiary	Type	Dissemination Level	Due Date (month)
D1.1	Handbook on project organisation, strategy, data management and KPI reporting framework	WP1	3 - INTEMAC	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	3
D1.2	Report on the business model and sustainability for EDIH-DIGIMAT services	WP1	3 - INTEMAC	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	18
D1.3	Reporting of success stories in DTA	WP1	3 - INTEMAC	R — Document, report	PU - Public	36
D1.4	KPI report 6M	WP1	3 - INTEMAC	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	6
D1.5	KPI report 12M	WP1	3 - INTEMAC	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	12
D1.6	KPI report 18M	WP1	3 - INTEMAC	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	18
D1.7	KPI report 24M	WP1	3 - INTEMAC	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	24
D1.8	KPI report 30M	WP1	3 - INTEMAC	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	30
D1.9	KPI report 36M	WP1	3 - INTEMAC	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	36
D2.1	Report on executed tests and experiments with digital technologies	WP2	2 - BUT	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	18
D2.2	Report on executed tests and experiments with innovative AI technologies in industrial environment	WP2	2 - BUT	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	24

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

Deliverables

Grant Preparation (Deliverables screen) — Enter the info.

The labels used mean:

Public — fully open (⚠ automatically posted online)
Sensitive — limited under the conditions of the Grant Agreement
EU classified —RESTREINT-UE/EU-RESTRICTED, CONFIDENTIEL-UE/EU-CONFIDENTIAL, SECRET-UE/EU-SECRET under Decision 2015/444

Deliverable No	Deliverable Name	Work Package No	Lead Beneficiary	Type	Dissemination Level	Due Date (month)
D3.1	Report and evaluation of the initial event plan set-up	WP3	3 - INTEMAC	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	15
D3.2	Report on the collaboration opportunities within the EU environment	WP3	3 - INTEMAC	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	24
D4.1	Report on the setup of advisory services	WP4	4 - Effectivity	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	6
D4.2	Mid-term report on companies passing the advisory services	WP4	4 - Effectivity	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	18
D4.3	Final report on companies passing the advisory services	WP4	4 - Effectivity	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	36
D5.1	Report on the design and methodology of the Academy, hands-on bootcamps and benchmarking visits	WP5	4 - Effectivity	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	6
D6.1	Communication strategy and plan, including sustainability of project operations	WP6	3 - INTEMAC	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	6

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

Deliverable D1.1 – Handbook on project organisation, strategy, data management and KPI reporting framework

Deliverable Number	D1.1	**Lead Beneficiary**	3 - INTEMAC
Deliverable Name	Handbook on project organisation, strategy, data management and KPI reporting framework		
Type	R — Document, report	**Dissemination Level**	SEN - Sensitive
Due Date (month)	3	**Work Package No**	WP1

Description
A comprehensive guide on the project-wide management process, rules, and tools to be applied throughout the EDIH project implementation. It will introduce a unified KPI reporting framework to ensure standardised performance tracking across all work packages. PDF, English

Deliverable D1.2 – Report on the business model and sustainability for EDIH-DIGIMAT services

Deliverable Number	D1.2	**Lead Beneficiary**	3 - INTEMAC
Deliverable Name	Report on the business model and sustainability for EDIH-DIGIMAT services		
Type	R — Document, report	**Dissemination Level**	SEN - Sensitive
Due Date (month)	18	**Work Package No**	WP1

Description
A report providing a comprehensive analysis of the business model and sustainability strategy for EDIH services. A dedicated section will focus on economic sustainability and financial strategies to secure ongoing support for SMEs. PDF file, English

Deliverable D1.3 – Reporting of success stories in DTA

Deliverable Number	D1.3	**Lead Beneficiary**	3 - INTEMAC
Deliverable Name	Reporting of success stories in DTA		
Type	R — Document, report	**Dissemination Level**	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	36	**Work Package No**	WP1

Description
A report on the success stories and good practices, and their impact on the digital transformation of SMEs. PDF file, English

Deliverable D1.4 – KPI report 6M

Deliverable Number	D1.4	**Lead Beneficiary**	3 - INTEMAC
Deliverable Name	KPI report 6M		
Type	R — Document, report	**Dissemination Level**	SEN - Sensitive

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

Due Date (month)	6	Work Package No	WP1

Description
Update on the project's KPI status.

Deliverable D1.5 – KPI report 12M

Deliverable Number	D1.5	Lead Beneficiary	3 - INTEMAC
Deliverable Name	KPI report 12M		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	SEN - Sensitive
Due Date (month)	12	Work Package No	WP1

Description
Update on the project's KPI status.

Deliverable D1.6 – KPI report 18M

Deliverable Number	D1.6	Lead Beneficiary	3 - INTEMAC
Deliverable Name	KPI report 18M		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	SEN - Sensitive
Due Date (month)	18	Work Package No	WP1

Description
Update on the project's KPI status.

Deliverable D1.7 – KPI report 24M

Deliverable Number	D1.7	Lead Beneficiary	3 - INTEMAC
Deliverable Name	KPI report 24M		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	SEN - Sensitive
Due Date (month)	24	Work Package No	WP1

Description
Update on the project's KPI status.

Deliverable D1.8 – KPI report 30M

Deliverable Number	D1.8	Lead Beneficiary	3 - INTEMAC
Deliverable Name	KPI report 30M		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	SEN - Sensitive
Due Date (month)	30	Work Package No	WP1

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

Description
Update on the project's KPI status.

Deliverable D1.9 – KPI report 36M

Deliverable Number	D1.9	**Lead Beneficiary**	3 - INTEMAC
Deliverable Name	KPI report 36M		
Type	R — Document, report	**Dissemination Level**	SEN - Sensitive
Due Date (month)	36	**Work Package No**	WP1

Description
Update on the project's KPI status.

Deliverable D2.1 – Report on executed tests and experiments with digital technologies

Deliverable Number	D2.1	**Lead Beneficiary**	2 - BUT
Deliverable Name	Report on executed tests and experiments with digital technologies		
Type	R — Document, report	**Dissemination Level**	SEN - Sensitive
Due Date (month)	18	**Work Package No**	WP2

Description
The deliverable will provide an overview of executed testing and experimentation services. Experiments with digital technologies will be described with a focus on their contribution to decision processes in test-before-invest and proof-of-concept categories. PDF file, English

Deliverable D2.2 – Report on executed tests and experiments with innovative AI technologies in industrial environment

Deliverable Number	D2.2	**Lead Beneficiary**	2 - BUT
Deliverable Name	Report on executed tests and experiments with innovative AI technologies in industrial environment		
Type	R — Document, report	**Dissemination Level**	SEN - Sensitive
Due Date (month)	24	**Work Package No**	WP2

Description
The report will deal with executed experiments with different types of AI technologies (possibly CNN, transformers, LLM, but dependent on EDIH clients' needs). PDF file, English

Deliverable D3.1 – Report and evaluation of the initial event plan set-up

Deliverable Number	D3.1	**Lead Beneficiary**	3 - INTEMAC
Deliverable Name	Report and evaluation of the initial event plan set-up		

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

Type	R — Document, report	**Dissemination Level**	SEN - Sensitive
Due Date (month)	15	**Work Package No**	WP3

Description
Report on the evaluation of the event plan aimed at raising awareness of the possibilities of digital production (including AI). PDF file, English

Deliverable D3.2 – Report on the collaboration opportunities within the EU environment

Deliverable Number	D3.2	**Lead Beneficiary**	3 - INTEMAC
Deliverable Name	Report on the collaboration opportunities within the EU environment		
Type	R — Document, report	**Dissemination Level**	SEN - Sensitive
Due Date (month)	24	**Work Package No**	WP3

Description
Report on the extended collaboration opportunities within the EU environment. PDF file, English

Deliverable D4.1 – Report on the setup of advisory services

Deliverable Number	D4.1	**Lead Beneficiary**	4 - Effectivity
Deliverable Name	Report on the setup of advisory services		
Type	R — Document, report	**Dissemination Level**	SEN - Sensitive
Due Date (month)	6	**Work Package No**	WP4

Description
A report detailing the establishment and organisation of advisory services within the EDIH-DIGIMAT framework. It will outline the scope, structure and implementation approach of the services. PDF file, English

Deliverable D4.2 – Mid-term report on companies passing the advisory services

Deliverable Number	D4.2	**Lead Beneficiary**	4 - Effectivity
Deliverable Name	Mid-term report on companies passing the advisory services		
Type	R — Document, report	**Dissemination Level**	SEN - Sensitive
Due Date (month)	18	**Work Package No**	WP4

Description
An interim report presenting data on companies that have completed advisory services. It will be structured primarily through a Power BI dashboard, offering interactive visualisations and key metrics to track progress in providing advisory support. PDF file containing Power BI dashboards, English.

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

Deliverable D4.3 – Final report on companies passing the advisory services

Deliverable Number	D4.3	**Lead Beneficiary**	4 - Effectivity
Deliverable Name	Final report on companies passing the advisory services		
Type	R — Document, report	**Dissemination Level**	SEN - Sensitive
Due Date (month)	36	**Work Package No**	WP4

Description
A final report summarising the participation and outcomes of companies that completed advisory services throughout the project duration. PDF file, English

Deliverable D5.1 – Report on the design and methodology of the Academy, hands-on bootcamps and benchmarking visits

Deliverable Number	D5.1	**Lead Beneficiary**	4 - Effectivity
Deliverable Name	Report on the design and methodology of the Academy, hands-on bootcamps and benchmarking visits		
Type	R — Document, report	**Dissemination Level**	SEN - Sensitive
Due Date (month)	6	**Work Package No**	WP5

Description
A detailed report describing the structure, objectives and methodologies of the Academy program, hands-on bootcamps, and benchmarking visits. PDF file, English

Deliverable D6.1 – Communication strategy and plan, including sustainability of project operations

Deliverable Number	D6.1	**Lead Beneficiary**	3 - INTEMAC
Deliverable Name	Communication strategy and plan, including sustainability of project operations		
Type	R — Document, report	**Dissemination Level**	SEN - Sensitive
Due Date (month)	6	**Work Package No**	WP6

Description
A methodology for a unified approach to achieving communication goals, including a tactical plan, recommended tools, and a design manual. It also describes an additional mandatory deliverable, how EDIH ensures the sustainability of its operations. PDF file, English.

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

LIST OF MILESTONES

Milestones

Grant Preparation (Milestones screen) — Enter the info.

Milestone No	Milestone Name	Work Package No	Lead Beneficiary	Means of Verification	Due Date (month)
1	The first Advisory Board Meeting	WP1	3 - INTEMAC	Attendees approve the designed road map of the EDIH action.	6
2	The first AI implementation	WP2	2 - BUT	Finalised experiment with AI technologies, experiment documentation includes an estimated timeline of implementation of tested AI technology in real industrial scenario.	24
3	EDIH-DIGIMAT Conference	WP3	3 - INTEMAC	The attendance list and satisfaction questionnaire.	10
4	The first international event within the EDIH network introducing AI possibilities	WP3	3 - INTEMAC	The attendance list and satisfaction questionnaire.	12
5	Deployment of full advisory service portfolio	WP4	4 - Effectivity	Advisory services launched and documented, with client cases and initial feedback available across all three streams.	18
6	The first Digital Transformation Academy	WP5	4 - Effectivity	The first run of the Digital Transformation Academy is finished, documented through evaluation questionnaires and attendance records.	12

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

LIST OF CRITICAL RISKS

Critical risks & risk management strategy

Grant Preparation (Critical Risks screen) — Enter the info.

Risk number	Description	Work Package No(s)	Proposed Mitigation Measures
1	Inefficient EDIH management, project coordination. Delay in the fulfilment of the work plan and low quality of project outputs. Impact/ Likelihood: Medium/Low	WP3, WP1, WP4, WP5, WP2, WP6	The consortium builds on a proven management structure from the activity of the existing EDIH, with an experienced coordinator and project management team. The structure of the governing bodies of EDIH with their specific roles is demonstrated in Sec. 2.2. The operating rules and processes for the proper delivery of all outcomes will be detailed in D1.1. The project team with concrete responsibilities is presented in Sec. 2.3. More than one partner covers each WP to facilitate the redistribution of work in any unexpected changes in the consortium project team.
2	Uncertain national co-financing structure. The remaining 50 % outside the DEP is expected to come partly from national funds (sources), assumed 30 %, client's participation of the remaining 20%. If national co-financing is lower than planned, it may impact the achievement of the KPIs. Ipmact/ Likelihood: High/Medium	WP3, WP1, WP4, WP5, WP2, WP6	The consortium, together with other Czech EDIHs, will maintain active communication with the relevant national authorities to ensure early clarification of available funding schemes. In parallel, alternative funding mechanisms will be explored, including synergies with other national programmes.
3	Delay in delivering services. The start of service delivery may be delayed due to postponed national co-funding decisions linked to the 2025 parliamentary elections and the resulting late contract with the Ministry of Industry and Trade. Impact/Likelihood: High/High	WP3, WP1, WP4, WP5, WP2, WP6	The consortium, together with other Czech EDIHs, will maintain active communication with the relevant national authorities. Meanwhile, all services, contracts, and other administrative steps will be prepared in advance, and early client engagement will allow immediate launch once funding is secured.
4	Inadequate business model. The proposed pricing, service structure, or value proposition may not adequately meet the needs of SMEs/mid-caps or align with market conditions, potentially hindering the service portfolio. Impact/Likelihood: High/Low	WP1	The mitigation strategy incorporates the lessons learned and the insights gained from the ongoing activities of the existing EDIH. It includes validating the proposed scenarios through direct feedback from SMEs.
5	Low interest of companies in test bed experiments. Impact/Likelihood: Medium/Medium	WP2	Awareness-raising activities will be implemented to support knowledge of AI and digital

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

Critical risks & risk management strategy

Grant Preparation (Critical Risks screen) — Enter the info.

Risk number	Description	Work Package No(s)	Proposed Mitigation Measures
			technologies' benefits, as well as the capabilities of available testing and experimentation facilities.
6	SMEs not advanced enough to implement AI, fear of AI regulations, transparency, and reliability. Impact/ Likelihood: Medium/High	WP4, WP5, WP2	DIGIMAT will provide support for AI implementation on a broad range of technical levels. AI training services will be provided (AI.Bootcamp, Vision.Bootcamp) to support SMEs skills to implement AI technologies.
7	Missing competence or equipment for experiment. Impact/Likelihood: Low/High	WP2	DIGIMAT has access to the state-of-the-art infrastructure of RICAIP testbed Brno. As topics of the experiments are driven by DIGIMAT clients' needs and cannot be fully planned ahead, the necessity of additional expertise or equipment can arise. In such a situation, DIGIMAT is backed by the expertise of several thousand employees and Ph.D. students of Brno University of Technology able to extend DIGIMAT teem. Specialised laboratories and BUT can also provide additional special equipment necessary for the experiment execution.
8	Excessive offer of events for the target group. Due to the high saturation of the market with similar awarenessraising events, there is a risk of low participation of the target group from manufacturing companies. Impact/Likelihood: Low/Low	WP3	The number of organised events is adjusted with a focus on high-quality content and execution. Indicators include the participation of public sector representatives who can help raise awareness of EDIH-DIGIMAT services.
9	Low adoption rate of advisory initiatives by enterprises. Impact/Likelihood: Medium/Medium	WP4	Conduct targeted awareness campaigns on the long-term benefits of digitalisation and its alignment with financial incentives and provide examples of successful case studies of initiatives implemented in similar enterprises.
10	Mismatch between training content and real industry needs. Impact/Likelihood: Low/Low	WP5	Conduct regular skill gap analyses and update training content accordingly, regular feedback loops to adjust and refine course offerings, and advisory boards to provide ongoing input into curriculum development.
11	Ineffective marketing communication due to market saturation and required SME cofinancing. The combination of a highly saturated target market and the need for SMEs to partially cofinance services may significantly reduce the effectiveness of marketing and outreach efforts. Many companies	WP6	The communication strategy will be refined to reflect the new market conditions. This includes targeted segmentation, tailored messaging based on digital maturity levels, and clear communication of the added value and return on investment of each service. Proven tools such as case studies, testimonials, and peer success stories will be used to build trust and demonstrate impact. Additional efforts will focus on improving message relevance, timing, and delivery channels to overcome audience fatigue.

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

Critical risks & risk management strategy

Grant Preparation (Critical Risks screen) — Enter the info.

Risk number	Description	Work Package No(s)	Proposed Mitigation Measures
	may ignore or reject offers upfront, especially those with low digital readiness or limited internal resources, leading to lower engagement and conversion rates. Impact/Likelihood: High/High		
12	Ineffective cross-selling of different EDIH services making the client journey confusing or incomplete. Impact/Likelihood: Medium/Low	WP3, WP1, WP4, WP5, WP2, WP6	Establish clear internal guidelines and provide training for partners on how to effectively explain and offer all EDIH services. Use shared tools to track client needs and ensure they are referred to the most appropriate service. Regularly collect feedback from clients and partners to improve the cross-selling process as needed.

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

PROJECT REVIEWS

Project Reviews

Grant Preparation (Reviews screen) — Enter the info.

Review No	**Timing** (month)	**Location**	**Comments**
RV1	20	TBC	
RV2	36	TBC	

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION (PART B)

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	12.08.2025	Initial version
2.0	16.11.2025	Change of the project`s acronym to „EDIH-DIGIMAT 2.0“; Adding new deliverables in WP1: D1.4, D1.5, D1.6, D1.7 and D1.8; Adding the budget tables for WPs in Part B, Section 4; Change of the description of T1.3 within WP1; Change of Coordinator contact: Jakub Masri, JIC

COVER PAGE

Part B of the Description of the Action (DoA) must be uploaded on the Portal Grant Preparation Documents screen.

PROJECT	
Project name:	EDIH-DIGIMAT: Flexible Manufacturing Systems Using Artificial Intelligence
Project acronym:	EDIH-DIGIMAT 2.0
Coordinator contact:	Jakub Masri, JIC, ZAJMOVE SDRUZENI PRAVNICKCH OSOB

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION (PART B) **1**
COVER PAGE **1**
1. RELEVANCE **3**
1.1 Objectives and activities 3
1.2 Contribution to long-term policy objectives, policies and strategies — Synergies 6
1.3 Digital technology supply chain 8
2. IMPLEMENTATION **10**
2.1 Maturity 10
2.2 Implementation plan and efficient use of resources 12
2.3 Capacity to carry out the proposed work 16
3.1 Expected outcomes and deliverables — Dissemination and communication 22
3.2 Competitiveness and benefits for society 26
3.3 Environmental sustainability and contribution to European Green Deal goals 27
4. WORK PLAN, WORK PACKAGES, ACTIVITIES, RESOURCES AND TIMING **28**
4.1 Work plan 28
4.2 Work packages, activities, resources and timing 29
Subcontracting (n/a for prefixed Lump Sum Grants) *29*
Purchases and equipment *35*
Other cost categories *37*
Timetable *38*
5. OTHER **40**
5.1 Ethics 40
5.2 Security 42
6. DECLARATIONS **42**
ANNEXES **43**

1. RELEVANCE

1.1 Objectives and activities

Objectives and activities

Describe how the project is aligned with the objectives and activities as described in the Call document.

How does the project address the general objectives and themes and priorities of the call? What is the project's contribution to the overall Digital Europe Programme objectives?

The objective of EDIH-DIGIMAT is to enhance the competitiveness and labour productivity of the South Moravian region in the eastern Czech Republic, home to approximately 4 million inhabitants, and to seamlessly build on the results and lessons learned from the current EDIH-DIGIMAT initiative (ID 101083672). This will be achieved by accelerating the adoption of advanced digital, automation, and artificial intelligence (AI) technologies among manufacturing SMEs (fewer than 250 employees), mid-caps (fewer than 3,000 employees). The consortium is committed to supporting SMEs and mid-caps in their transition to smart manufacturing by helping them identify and implement the most relevant, cutting-edge digital solutions, tailored to their specific needs and strategic priorities through a targeted set of services covering awareness-raising, skills development, expert advisory services, and proof-of-concept testing in a dedicated Testbed environment. These activities aim to improve operational efficiency, enhance flexibility, and enable rapid adaptation to change, ultimately strengthening their competitiveness in the global market. Public sector organisations, as a secondary target group, are engaged primarily through awareness-raising, networking, and ecosystem development activities.

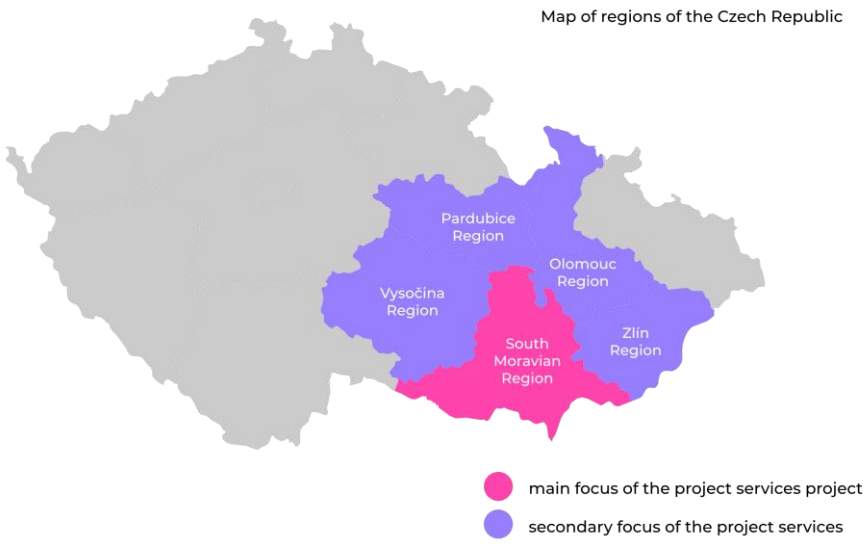
The EDIH-DIGIMAT consortium **built on a well-established and cohesive partnership** that has supported over 170 unique SMEs in digital transformation through tailored services. It brings together five complementary partners: Intemac Solutions, s.r.o. (INTEMAC) as coordinator and expert in industrial AI and test-before-invest services; Brno University of Technology (BUT) providing top-tier research in AI, robotics and cybernetics; JIC, zájmové sdružení právnických osob (JIC) supporting innovation and SME growth while bridging EDIH and Enterprise Europe Network (EEN); Effectivity s.r.o. (Effectivity) offering hands-on training and digital transformation support, and Tomas Bata University in Zlín (TBU) contributing expertise in digitalisation and smart manufacturing through applied research.

EDIH-DIGIMAT **will establish and operate a European Digital Innovation Hub** focused on accelerating the implementation of flexible manufacturing systems driven by industrial artificial intelligence to enhance productivity and efficiency. The consortium will leverage existing high-tech infrastructures, including machining centres, intelligent control systems, industrial and collaborative robots, precision sensor systems, high-performance computing resources, and other advanced technologies. These facilities will provide SMEs and mid-caps with access to experimentation testbeds that enable the prototyping and validation of digital and AI-driven solutions under near-industrial conditions. To maximise impact and ensure complementarity with national and European initiatives, EDIH-DIGIMAT will build on the strengths of ongoing regional activities and established infrastructures. This includes collaboration with universities, research centres, technology parks, and industrial clusters. The project will also engage with other European Digital Innovation Hubs, AI Testing and Experimentation Facilities (TEFs), and AI Factories across the Czech Republic and Europe. These partnerships, formalised through Memoranda of Understanding or Letters of Support included in the annex, will promote cross-regional and international knowledge exchange and operational synergy. In addition, the consortium will work with the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) to co-host matchmaking events, share information about available services, and support the internationalisation of SMEs. Through this coordinated and collaborative approach, EDIH-DIGIMAT will ensure high-impact, accessible, and sustainable innovation support for its target groups.

To underpin the relevance and scope of the proposed activities, INTEMAC, in cooperation with B2B research agency B-Inside, conducted **a comprehensive survey on the current state of digitalisation in manufacturing companies across the Czech Republic**, with a particular focus on the regions of South Moravia, Vysočina, Pardubice, Olomouc, and Zlín — the core area where the EDIH-DIGIMAT consortium plans to support SMEs in increasing their competitiveness on the global market. The findings highlight critical gaps in digital maturity, regional and sectoral needs, and opportunities for service-based intervention:

- The Czech Republic hosts approximately 5,500 small and medium-sized manufacturing companies, including 700 in the South Moravian Region, the primary geographical focus of this project.
- 43% of SMEs have not digitalised their production processes or have done so only at a basic level. An additional 43% have reached a medium level of digitization, while the remaining 14% have achieved a high level of digitization.

- The data clearly demonstrates that companies that adopt digital technologies tend to grow more rapidly in terms of revenue.
- 48% of companies plan to invest in digital technologies, especially those already seeing positive results from early digital adoption.
- Key focus areas include robotics, automation, data monitoring and analysis, predictive maintenance, and quality control.
- The demand for AI deployment continues to grow as current trends show, but most small and medium-sized companies are still quite cautious about deploying this technology. This highlights the need not only for technological support, but also for awareness-building, capacity development, and trusted experimentation environments.
- Major barriers include lack of internal expertise, unclear ROI, and reluctance to replace traditional practices.



The survey confirms a strong demand for services that are directly aligned with the actions of EDIH-DIGIMAT, which are specifically tailored to support SMEs in their digital transformation efforts. These include:

- Proof-of-Concept Development, Prototyping, and Testing on the Testbed (Work Package 2)
- Awareness Building, Networking, and Ecosystem Development (Work Package 3)
- Advisory Services including long-term strategic support, short-term expert guidance, and access to funding opportunities (Work Package 4)
- Digital Skills Development and Training Programmes (Work Package 5)
- Communication, Dissemination, and Knowledge Transfer (Work Package 6)

These regional insights, aligned with findings from the State of Play Report 2024 (JRC Publications Repository - European Digital Innovation Hubs Network's activities and customers), directly inform the design of the EDIH-DIGIMAT service portfolio. This ensures that the provided support is fully tailored to the specific needs of the target group, covering awareness-raising, skills development, expert advisory services, and proof-of-concept testing. Recent Eurostat data indicates that in 2024 (Usage of AI technologies increasing in EU enterprises), 11.3% of Czech enterprises with 10 or more employees reported using AI technologies—an increase from 5.9% in 2023. Nevertheless, this remains below the EU average of 13.5%, underscoring the need for focused action to advance AI adoption. In this context, initiatives such as EDIH-DIGIMAT are vital to accelerating digital transformation. Through its integrated support model, EDIH-DIGIMAT aims to bridge the digital gap and enhance the competitiveness of Czech enterprises in an increasingly innovation-driven European economy.

The service portfolio of EDIH-DIGIMAT has been strategically designed to drive the adoption of advanced digital technologies, particularly industrial artificial intelligence (AI), while enhancing digital and AI competencies among manufacturing SMEs, midcaps, and public sector organisations. **The structure of the portfolio reflects the key objectives of the Digital Europe Programme** and is closely aligned with the activities outlined across the project's work packages (WPs). Services are offered with transparent pricing to maximise accessibility and impact.

List of services provided by EDIH-DIGIMAT:

	Service Description	Unit of Measure	Nominal Price	State Aid Amount	Client Co-payment **
1	Experimentation on the BUT testbed without expert support. The full testbed is accessible, and costs are charged proportionally based on the equipment used. *	Testbed Day	11 000 €	3 300 €	2 200 €
2	Experimentation on the INTEMAC testbed without expert support. The full testbed is accessible, and costs are charged proportionally based on the equipment used. *	Testbed Day	3 000 €	900 €	600 €
3	Experimentation on the TBU testbed without expert support. The full testbed is accessible, and costs are charged proportionally based on the equipment used. *	Testbed Day	1 600 €	480 €	320 €
4	Expert-Supported Experimentation on Testbed	Hour	51 €	15.3 €	10.2 €
5	High-Performance Computing (HPC) – NVIDIA DGX A100 (1 GPU) *	Computing Hour	5 €	1.5 €	1.0 €
6	High-Performance Computing (HPC) – NVIDIA DGX H100 (1 GPU) *	Computing Hour	10 €	3.0 €	2.0 €
7	Awareness-Raising, Networking, and Ecosystem Development Activities	Client Fee	0 €	0.0 €	0 €
8	National and international networking and brokerage events, including business missions and matchmaking activities with EDIHs, AI Factories, and industrial stakeholders.	Client Fee	0 €	0.0 €	0 €
9	Comprehensive Onsite Advisory Support	Hour	163 €	48.9 €	32.6 €
10	General Advisory Support	Hour	122 €	36.6 €	24.4 €
11	Advisory Support in Strategy, Access to Finance & Investment Readiness	Hour	122 €	36.6 €	24.4 €
12	Digital Transformation Academy	Client Fee	6 367 €	1 910.1 €	1 273.4 €
13	Tailored Training Courses	Training Day	404 €	121.2 €	80.8 €
14	Hands-on Bootcamps and Practical Workshops with Testbed Infrastructure *	Training Day	808 €	242.4 €	161.6 €
15	Inspirational Industry Visits	Client Fee	404 €	121.2 €	80.8 €

** These services include only equipment-related costs, such as machine hours, energy consumption and material usage, and do not include personnel costs.*
*** Client co-payment is based on an assumed national co-financing structure: 50% of the cost outside the Digital Europe Programme (DEP) is expected to be covered by national sources (estimated at 30%) and client contributions (estimated at 20%).*

Awareness-raising, networking, and ecosystem-building services directly support Work Package 3, which aims to inspire innovation and foster collaboration. Through webinars, international business missions, and partnerships with industry clusters such as Brno.AI, these services promote knowledge sharing, technology diffusion, and cross-border collaboration - motivating companies toward automation and digitalisation. EDIH-DIGIMAT actively connects with European AI innovation infrastructures such as other EDIHs, AI Factories, and AI Testing and Experimentation Facilities (TEFs) to ensure access to best practices, shared resources, and collaboration opportunities across the EU.

The testbed-related services form the core of Work Package 2, providing access to advanced experimental environments at BUT, INTEMAC, and TBU. Companies can evaluate and prototype digital solutions, including digital twins, autonomous robotics, and machine vision, as well as experiment with AI tools such as CNNs, LLMs, and transformers. These activities are further supported by high-performance computing (HPC) resources, including access to the NVIDIA DGX A100 and H100 infrastructure to efficiently process complex AI workloads. Strategic partnerships with industry leaders such as B&R Automation, ABB, SMC Industrial Automation, Sewio and others, formalised through MoUs included in the annex, further enhance the industrial relevance and technological depth of these services.

Advisory services are part of Work Package 4, offering tailored analyses, technology roadmaps, sustainability assessments, and guidance on accessing EU and national funding. These services leverage proven frameworks to deliver high-impact support that increases the digital maturity and investment readiness of client companies.

Training activities within Work Package 5 include the Digital Transformation Academy, tailored courses, and hands-on bootcamps focused on the application of AI in manufacturing. Using a sophisticated, modular approach, these programs equip participants with the practical skills needed to implement digital technologies and drive effective transformation within their organisations.

Marketing and communication activities are an integral part of Work Package 6, ensuring strong brand positioning, thought leadership, and visibility for EDIH-DIGIMAT. Targeted campaigns and content-driven outreach, including expert articles and case studies, are designed to engage potential customers and convert interest into participation. Collaboration with the Digital Transformation Accelerator will further strengthen efforts in awareness, ecosystem development, and capability building.

The integrated portfolio of services offered by EDIH-DIGIMAT facilitates comprehensive support throughout the innovation cycle, encompassing the stages of awareness, experimentation, implementation, and scaling. This enables Czech manufacturing SMEs and midcaps to successfully adopt advanced digital technologies, thereby enhancing their competitiveness in European and global markets.

1.2 Contribution to long-term policy objectives, policies and strategies — Synergies

Contribution to long-term policy objectives, policies and strategies — Synergies

Describe how the project contributes to long-term policy objectives of the call's domain/area and to the relevant policies and strategies, and how it is based on a sound needs analysis in line with the activities at European and national level.

What challenge does the project aim to address?

The objectives should be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound within the duration of the project.

The Czech Republic aims to excel in cutting-edge technologies like quantum and microchips, as well as upskill its population to keep up with Innovation. According to the Special Eurobarometer Digital Decade 2024, 78 % of its population considers that digitalising everyday public and private services make their lives easier. However, Czechia is facing persistent challenges in achieving a balanced and equitable digital transformation, particularly among small and medium-sized enterprises. Digital Decade Country Report 2024: Czechia mentions that the country ranks below the EU average in several key dimensions of the Digital Decade targets. Only 49.3% of SMEs have at least a basic level of digital intensity, which is below the EU average of 57.7%. The adoption rate of AI, cloud, and data analytics stands at 43,1 %, compared to the EU average of 54,6 %, reflecting the country's overall low uptake of these technologies. In 2024, 11.3% of Czech enterprises with 10 or more employees reported using AI technologies, representing an increase from 5.9% in 2023, although this remains below the EU average of 13.5%. Unaware of the benefits, traditional SMEs are reluctant to embrace digitalisation. SME employees still lack the specific skills to master business IT tools, and companies in general face a shortage of ICT experts. This issue is also reflected in the Research and Innovation Strategy for Intelligent Specialisation (RIS3) of the Czech Republic, where digitalisation is one of the four horizontal priorities. The strategy notes that aside from startups, most Czech companies tend to focus on low-level digitalisation, such as modernising user interfaces or digitising paperwork, with insufficient attention paid to more transformative changes, which affect the overall structure of the company and bring higher added value. At 80 %, the country's target for the digital intensity of SMEs is below the EU target. To meet both national ambitions and EU targets, a more strategic and supported approach is needed.

These strategic objectives are further supported by insights from a digitalisation survey conducted by INTEMAC and the B2B research agency B-Inside (see section 1.1). The study assessed the digital maturity of SMEs and identified three segments based on their level of digitalisation and automation, each requiring a tailored form of support. For example, companies in the early phase benefit most from inspirational case studies and simplified messaging, while those at a more advanced stage require expert technical guidance, hands-on experimentation, and process-specific advice. The proposed service model is designed to address the specific needs of each segment, offering awareness building and peer inspiration for firms with low digital maturity, as well as expert-led technical workshops, test-before-invest opportunities, and comprehensive transformation support for companies at an advanced stage of digital maturity.

The proposed EDIH 2.0 project builds on the success of the EDIH-DIGIMAT initiative and aims to significantly strengthen the regional capacity for digital transformation, with an enhanced focus on applied industrial artificial intelligence. Operating in the South Moravian Region, Zlín Region, and Vysočina, the hub supports SMEs and mid-caps in the manufacturing sector to respond to the challenges of digitalisation, sustainability, and global market changes. The project directly contributes to the long-term objectives of the Digital Europe Programme, namely, to reinforce Europe's digital capacity in high-impact technologies such as AI, and to make such capabilities accessible to all regions, particularly to SMEs. The activities are designed in accordance with the objectives of Europe's Digital Decade and the strategic goal of making Europe "fit for the digital age".

The project aligns with and supports the implementation of several key European strategies:

- **The Coordinated Plan on Artificial Intelligence 2021 and the latest AI Innovation Package (2024),** by fostering trustworthy and human-centric AI deployment, tailored to the needs of industry.
- **The AI Continental Action Plan** supports the focus of EDIHs towards fostering AI adoption in SMEs, mid-caps, and public administrations. DIGIMAT is fully committed to this goal and will actively promote AI uptake across its services.
- **The European Green Deal**, through support for AI-driven optimisation and digitalisation of production processes, contributes to energy efficiency, resource savings, and smart manufacturing solutions, helping SMEs adopt low-carbon technologies and enhance sustainability throughout their operations.

- **The New European Innovation Agenda**, by acting as a regional connector in the innovation ecosystem, fostering academia-industry collaboration, and facilitating the deployment of deep-tech solutions in the market.

On the national level, the project is fully aligned with:

- **The Smart Specialisation Strategy of the Czech Republic (RIS3)**, particularly by promoting digitalisation, automation, and the adoption of new technologies across sectors. Through its focus on practical AI deployment, advisory services, and infrastructure for digital Innovation, it contributes to the development of more coherent and effective support system for digital transformation in the Czech business development. At the regional level, the topic of digital transformation has been a firm component of **Regional Innovation Strategy of South Moravia** since 2014. INTEMAC was also the first initiator of the first DIH to be launched in the country (in partnership with BUT and JIC) back in 2016 and designed the digital transformation advisory programme for SMEs called DIGIMAT. Based on positive feedback from clients to the pilot, the DIGIMAT programme was subsequently mainstreamed with the support of Regional Government of South Moravia and became an inspiration for other regions.
- **The National Artificial Intelligence Strategy of the Czech Republic**, to increase the adoption of AI in the business sector, supporting the creation of new business models and accelerating the shift toward a higher value-added economy.
- **The Digital Czech Republic framework**, especially within the pillar of Digital Economy and Society, by supporting digitalisation across the private sector.

Building on the experiences and insights gained from the previous EDIH-DIGIMAT initiative, the proposed project aims to enhance the digital transformation capabilities of small and medium enterprises and mid-caps, with a particular focus on the manufacturing sector. Through our previous work, we have identified key barriers that companies face in their digitalisation journey, including insufficient awareness of the benefits of digital technologies, a lack of specialised digital skills and a general reluctance to adopt transformative innovations like artificial intelligence.

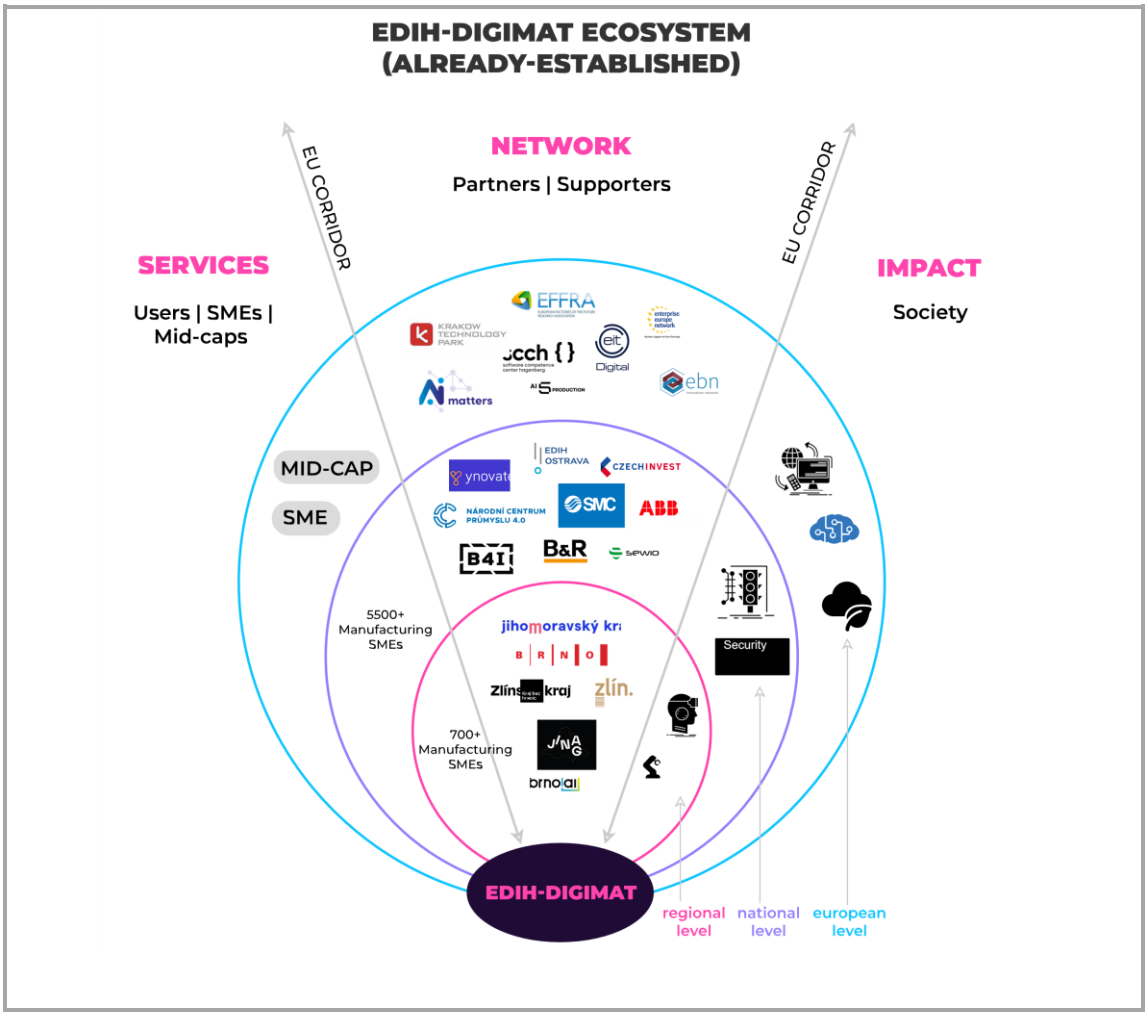
The project addresses the identified challenges through the following specific and measurable objectives, to be achieved within the three-year implementation period:

- Deliver **a minimum of 300 services across the entire service portfolio**, including **at least 50 directly related to the development and uptake of AI solutions**, to strengthen the digital competence of SMEs and mid-caps, including targeted advice, hands-on training, experimentation services that leverage the existing testbed infrastructure, including access to high-performance computing (HPC). This is complemented by continued emphasis on the Digital Transformation Academy, which serves as a gateway for companies to engage with the EDIH ecosystem.
- Raise awareness and understanding of digital transformation **among 600+ participants** via targeted awareness-raising and networking activities, with a focus on overcoming initial reluctance and knowledge gaps.
- **Strengthen synergies with European AI and innovation infrastructures**, including referring **at least 5 companies to relevant AI initiatives** (e.g. TEFs, AI Factories) and actively participating in the EDIH and the Enterprise Europe Networks.

The EDIH-DIGIMAT project will seek synergies with EEN by sharing contacts, referring clients, co-organizing events, and aligning communication strategies. These synergies will enable more effective matchmaking, facilitate access to international markets, and improve support in areas such as access to finance or legal advice. As JIC is a partner in both EDIH-DIGIMAT and EEN, it will play a key role in connecting services and ensuring smooth cooperation between the two networks, ensuring that SMEs receive coordinated and complementary support across EU instruments.

The achievement of these objectives **will be measured through a set of clearly defined Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)**, aligned with the consortium-approved service catalogue and implementation plan, with detailed indicators and expected outputs described in section 3.1.

The established EDIH-DIGIMAT ecosystem, illustrated below, **demonstrates the strong foundation of regional, national, and European partnerships already in place to support implementation and maximise impact**. It represents a dynamic structure that will continue to evolve and expand throughout the project's implementation, reflecting new collaborations, stakeholder engagement, and emerging innovation needs.



1.3 Digital technology supply chain

Digital technology supply chain *Explain to what extent the project would reinforce and secure the digital technology supply chain in the EU.* ⚠ *This criterion might not be applicable to all topics — for details refer to the Call document.*
NOT APPLICABLE

1.4 Financial obstacles

Financial obstacles

Describe to what extent the project can overcome financial obstacles such as the lack of market finance.

⚠ *This criterion might not be applicable to all topics — for details refer to the Call document.*

Access to finance is **one of the most critical obstacles** impeding the digital transformation of SMEs. The lack of access to market finance, combined with perceived investment risks and information asymmetry, substantially hinders innovation adoption.

The Czech SMEs in the manufacturing segment typically operate as lower-tier suppliers of OEMs whose headquarters are based in Western European countries or overseas. Therefore, they operate with lower gross margins than companies higher up the supply chain or segments such as ICT. Additionally, the recent data of the Czech National Bank shows that the interest rate of 2.75% approved on February 7, 2025, is 0,5% above the EU Central Bank's discount rate (2.25%), which must be considered by SMEs when evaluating financial options.

These factors combined create a substantial barrier to further advancement of digitalisation among Czech SMEs, even among those whose awareness of the importance of this issue is high. Based on the experience of the EDIH-DIGIMAT project, another substantial barrier is the bureaucracy of the national co-funding (de minimis register, VAT rules and legislative restrictions, and the co-financing of the services in general). The readiness and thinking of the Czech SMEs about the investments in the advanced digitalisation is much too low compared to Austrian and German SMEs, which can be compared thanks to the EU EDIH network. The EDIH-DIGIMAT project brought us interesting information about the digital and asset readiness of SMEs in Austria.

As part of this approach, **the service portfolio includes tiered financial advisory** including access to grants, venture capital, blended finance, and loans; Pre-screening of Digital Maturity via harmonised DMA tools; Mentoring and pitch preparation to boost investor readiness; Investor and funding matchmaking – expanded with AI-based mapping; Project financial sustainability consulting – supporting SMEs to prepare business cases, ROI analyses and funding diversification strategies.

Regarding these facts, access to finance remains a fundamental barrier to the successful digital transformation of SMEs and mid-caps. Building upon the proven foundation of the EDIH-DIGIMAT project, the new phase will strengthen and expand support structures to overcome such financial obstacles. DIGIMAT's service model – incorporating financial advisory, matchmaking, and project sustainability consulting – has shown measurable success, facilitating and enabling first-time access to digital investment for dozens of SMEs (in EDIH I, more than 170 unique SMEs were served, and the project overcame its target of triggering EUR 3 million in investments). The new EDIH will expand this model by introducing predictive AI tools to match clients with suitable financing schemes, and enhanced cooperation with EU-level platforms such as the AI-on-Demand and Digital Transformation Accelerator (DTA).

The expenditures of EDIH DIGIMAT are structured so that **50% is covered by the Digital Europe Programme**. **The remaining 50%** (Financial contributions) **is split between complementary Czech national funding and direct co-financing from clients**. As consortium leader, INTEMAC maintains regular contact with the Ministry of Industry and Trade to secure national co-financing. Current discussions suggest that the national contribution may cover 30% to 40% of total costs, significantly reducing the financial burden on SMEs and mid-caps. This ensures that clients will not be responsible for the full 50% co-financing share. This funding structure is designed to lower financial barriers to digitalisation, particularly for SMEs. By introducing a direct co-financing model alongside dedicated access to finance support services, we aim to promote a culture of investment in digital transformation and AI adoption.

While the EDIH I project offered services at 0% co-financing, this model did not sufficiently encourage long-term investment behaviour. The new approach incentivises SMEs to commit part of their revenues to innovation, driving a sustainable shift in mindset. Research conducted with the B2B agency B-Inside (see Section 1.1) confirms that SMEs investing in digitalisation tend to be more competitive at both EU and global levels. The effectiveness of this co-financing model, including the amount of additional investments successfully triggered, will be monitored through established KPIs.

Moreover, all the services will be **transparently published in the Price List**, tailored by service format and financial conditions. Pricing will comply with State Aid rules (e.g., de minimis), supporting equitable and transparent access to digital transformation services. The project wisely addresses the critical financial obstacles that SMEs and mid-cap organisations face in accessing market-based finance for

digital transformation. Building upon the successful experience of EDIH-DIGIMAT, the project will implement a comprehensive strategy based on three key pillars:

Awareness raising and demonstration of activities in WP3
The awareness-raising activities of EDIH-DIGIMAT will build on its good practice in showcasing examples of companies that can demonstrate concrete financial benefits of digital transformation. This will be further enhanced by the possibility to use the testbed facility for demonstration projects and customised test-before-invest projects to the requirements of client SMEs and mid-caps. The testbed open days are planned to incentivise the SMEs to try out novel technologies for flexible manufacturing systems. EDIH-DIGIMAT plans to execute actions at the testbed, including experimenting with novel technologies, proofs of concept, development projects, benchmarking and novel AI technologies adoption. The testbed is also going to act as a supply chain integration element, enabling SMEs to network with the technology providers, establishing effective working relations whilst de-risking the collaboration with the suppliers.

Advisory services in WP4
Following the WP3 the digitalisation capacity building and advisory services provided by the EDIH-DIGIMAT consortium in WP4 will include the assessment of the best investment scenario with quantification of investment return for the capital expenditure that will, in many cases, represent a substantial barrier for many SMEs. This specific expertise and service provided by the consortium has a proven track record of having a fundamental impact on the readiness of SMEs to invest in new digital technologies and circularity principles, thus substantially lowering the risk of such investments for them. These activities will lead and help customers (clients) approach the Test before the invest/proof of concept activities handled in WP2.

Access to finance services in WP4
The EDIH's access to finance services for SMEs will complement the advisory services mentioned above. The service encompasses a wide spectrum of funding opportunities, including grant programmes (esp. for capital investments), subsidised loans and guarantees, as well as VC funding and matching with investors. In this context, the expertise and best practices of JIC, a long-standing innovation support provider, form a strong foundation for implementation. The service will cover the international funding opportunities (esp. cascaded funding opportunities in Horizon Europe, Digital Europe), as well as newly available national funding through the Operational Programme Technologies and Applications for Competitiveness (OP TAK), by Ministry of Industry and Trade and implemented party by National Development Bank and will guide the client companies to the most suitable funding mix of their digital and green transformation projects.

Through the combination of practical demonstrations, expert advisory services, matchmaking, training, and integration into EU-wide financial ecosystems, the EDIH will significantly overcome the structural financial obstacles faced by its target group. It will empower them not only to access existing market finance but also to mobilise new investments in their digital transition journeys. This strategic approach directly satisfies the award criterion on the extent to which the project can overcome financial obstacles, such as a lack of market finance.

2. IMPLEMENTATION

2.1 Maturity

Maturity

Explain the maturity of the project, i.e. the state of preparation and the readiness to start the implementation of the proposed activities.

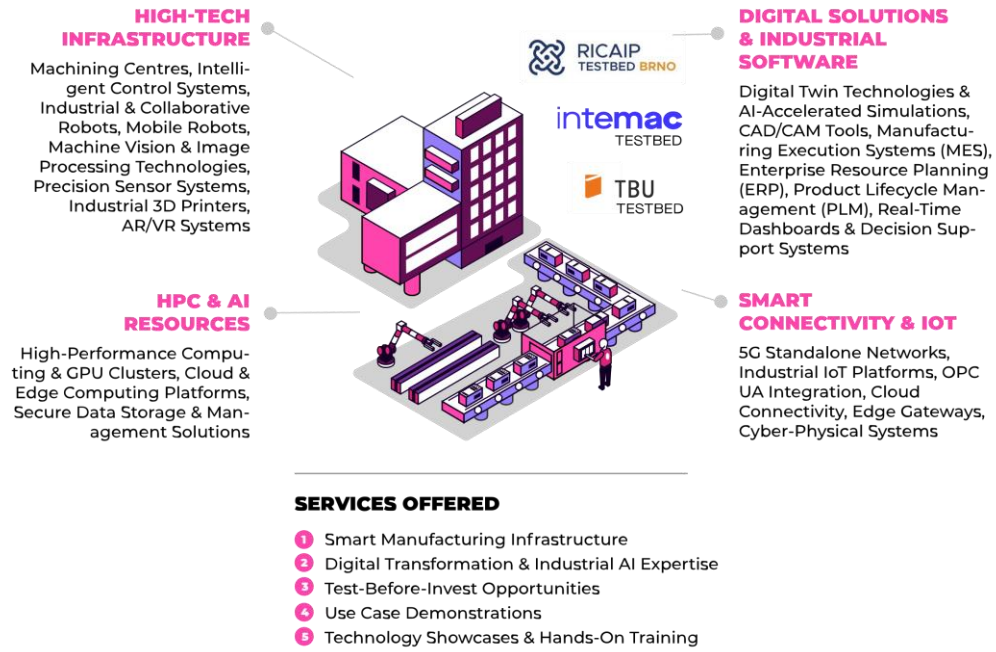
The proposal is **built on a well-established and cohesive partnership that has evolved over nearly a decade of collaboration**. The partners INTEMAC, JIC, and Brno University of Technology (BUT) began their collaboration in 2016, which intensified during the first phase of the EDIH-DIGIMAT initiative launched in 2021. This phase also marked the addition of Effectivity, further strengthening the consortium's expertise and service portfolio. Building on this solid foundation, the current project proposal **represents a logical continuation and expansion of proven services and structures**. The project's maturity is further demonstrated by the composition of the consortium. All core partners have proven experience from the previous phase and bring complementary expertise, clear roles, and strong regional presence, as well as direct experience in delivering digital transformation services under the first EDIH-DIGIMAT phase.

Over time, **the consortium has repeatedly demonstrated** its ability to engage regional and national stakeholders, develop and scale services, and meet performance targets. In the current project, it continues to deliver on its defined KPIs, further confirming its effectiveness and operational maturity. The partnership has been expanded with a new member, further enhancing the consortium's capacity, regional outreach, and collective knowledge.

A brief overview of the consortium's composition, including its involvement in networks and organisations relevant to the activities and implementation of the project, is provided below. Full details can be found in Section 2.3.

- **INTEMAC** is a research and innovation centre established in 2013 as part of the South Moravian Innovation Centre (JIC) ecosystem. Since 2024, INTEMAC has been a member of EFFRA (European Factories of the Future Research Association), which enables stronger alignment with EU-level manufacturing innovation priorities and opens further opportunities for collaboration and knowledge exchange. The organisation employs a team of approximately 20 experts.
- **BUT** is one of the largest and most respected technical universities in Central Europe. Established in 1899, it currently comprises eight faculties, three university institutes, and serves over 17,000 students. It is internationally recognised for its excellence in education, research, and innovation, particularly in engineering and applied sciences. In this project, BUT is represented by CEITEC BUT (Central European Institute of Technology), with a team of approximately 70 researchers. BUT is one of six founding members of the National Centre for Industry 4.0, a key national platform for Industry 4.0 awareness and policy support. The team has extensive experience in coordinating technical activities and participating in large-scale international projects, including 16 H2020 and 6 Horizon Europe projects related to AI and digitalisation in manufacturing.
- **JIC** is the leading regional Innovation agency in the Czech Republic, established in 2003 by the South Moravian Region, the statutory city of Brno and four universities. With a staff of 70, JIC works with more than 100 companies annually and coordinates a regional community of more than 400 technology entrepreneurs. JIC is a long-standing and active member of the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN), facilitating links between SMEs and international innovation and business opportunities. The project builds on these synergies by establishing structured cooperation between EDIH-DIGIMAT and EEN, in line with the objectives of the call, through coordinated events, matchmaking and joint support services. A signed Letter of Support from CzechInvest, the forthcoming EEN National Coordinator (from July 2025), is attached to confirm this commitment.
- **Effectivity** is a Europe-wide established provider of consulting, coaching and training services, including approaches to process optimisation and digitalisation to enhance the productivity and competitiveness of SMEs and midcaps.
- **TBU** is a Czech public university known for its strong links to industry, interdisciplinary research, and focus on Innovation and applied science. In this project, TBU is represented by the Institute of Industrial Engineering and Information Systems (UPIaIS) at the Faculty of Management and Economics, a leading academic and research centre focused on improving enterprise performance through digitalisation, automation, and Industry 4.0 concepts.

The project **is fully prepared for immediate implementation**. The structure of work packages remains consistent with the previous phase, with only a minor adjustment. The collaboration with EDIH and other relevant networks, previously under WP6, is now integrated into WP3 to better reflect the nature of ecosystem-building activities. Most services have already been developed, piloted, or continuously provided during the first phase, including testbed access, advisory programmes, training formats, and client onboarding tools. Existing infrastructures and expert teams are in place and ready to operate without delay. An overview of the testbed facilities is provided in the diagram below.



The management structure has been enhanced to ensure smoother coordination and more effective decision-making. In addition to the Project Management Meetings, Executive Board, and Advisory Board, new formats such as Work Package Leaders Meetings and Consortium Meetings will facilitate cross-WP collaboration. With a deeper understanding of demand, service complexity, and cost-effectiveness, the consortium is **now defining more realistic KPIs, clearly distinguishing between output indicators** (e.g. number of services delivered) and impact indicators (e.g. number of unique entities supported or the amount of investment leveraged). A common KPI reporting framework will be established within WP1 to ensure transparency and comparability across all activities. Internal partner performance evaluations will also be reinforced to support quality assurance and early detection of potential issues.

In summary, the project builds on a solid foundation of operational experience, validated Testbed-based service models, and a proven partnership. **The high level of technical, organisational, and procedural readiness enables a rapid and efficient launch**. With the project structure, tools, and internal processes already in place, continuity and scalability are ensured. The consortium's strong track record further reinforces its capability to deliver impact from the outset. Further details on the implementation logic, resource allocation, and risk mitigation measures are provided in Section 2.2 Implementation Plan.

2.2 Implementation plan and efficient use of resources

Implementation plan

Show that the implementation work plan is sound by explaining the rationale behind the proposed work packages and how they contribute to achieve the objectives of the project.

Explain the coherence between the objectives, activities, planned resources and project management processes.

Show how the project integrates, builds on and follows up on any pre-existing work or EU funded projects. Provide details (including architecture and deliverables) about pre-existing technical solutions.

The implementation plan follows the work breakdown structure in terms of distinct work packages. **Each work package is structured to address specific aspects of the EDIH-DIGIMAT objectives**. Together, these WPs form a coherent implementation structure that covers the full lifecycle of support, from initial awareness and skills development, through hands-on testing and advisory services, to long-term ecosystem building and sustainability.

WP1: Project Management and Coordination (Lead: INTEMAC) provides overall management and coordination of the activities of the entire EDIH-DIGIMAT project. The aim is to ensure the smooth running

of all work packages and the achievement of milestones, deliverables and budget targets in line with the project schedule and the strategic objectives of the Digital Europe initiative. Identifying and actively mitigating project risks is an integral part of this. The project is managed through a multi-level structure described in detail in the following chapter. It includes regular meetings of the implementation teams, meetings of the WP Leaders, as well as strategic oversight and advisory support to management. This structure is based on best practices and lessons learned from previous European projects.

WP2: Testing on Testbed (Lead: BUT) is an integral part of EDIH-DIGIMAT's service offering and has a direct impact on companies' production processes. This work package, which includes access to professional test environments and expert support, enables experimentation, proof-of-concept development, rapid prototyping, and testing of advanced digital and AI technologies under the test-before-invest model. The testbeds support the exploration of modern manufacturing approaches involving industrial AI, complex physical simulations, human-machine collaboration, system diagnostics, quality inspection, data analysis, process optimisation, and predictive maintenance. Supported by High-Performance Computing (HPC) infrastructure, companies can efficiently handle computationally intensive tasks, facilitating the effective implementation of cutting-edge technologies. The testbeds are also designed to integrate with enterprise information systems such as MES, ERP, and other relevant platforms such as APS and WMS, ensuring seamless connectivity between digital innovation and real-world manufacturing environments. By validating technologies in a controlled environment before full-scale deployment, the test-before-invest approach significantly reduces the risk of costly investments. Manufacturing companies can choose the level of collaboration based on their specific needs, from simple machine-time rental to expert-assisted experimentation, enabling for tailored solutions that advance their digital transformation goals.

WP3: Awareness-raising, ecosystem building activities and project clustering (Lead: INTEMAC) will include webinars, seminars, and events using testbed infrastructures to add practical value. The aim is to support knowledge sharing and best practises in digitalization of manufacturing companies and foster connections between technology providers and manufacturers. Activities will build on existing network of clients and will be enriched through cooperation with the Brno.AI platform that finds applications for AI and their implementation into business. Selected activities will be co-organised with other EDIHs to broaden thematic coverage, and consortium members will also participate in external events to strengthen collaboration and exchange.

WP4: Digitalization, sustainability and finance capacity building (Lead: Effectivity) is designed to provide tiered support for enterprises on their journey towards process excellence, automation, digitalization and sustainability. This WP provides a range of consulting activities, including one-day quick check analyses as well as more complex in-depth analyses and long-term transformational support. This flexibility ensures that enterprises receive the appropriate level of support based on their specific needs and maturity level. The advisory services range from consulting aimed at the implementation of digital and automation technologies, including system integration, data collection, evaluation and management, process automation, use of AI and machine learning etc., to process optimization and the deployment of advanced solutions tailored to the enterprise's goals. In parallel, sustainability services are provided, focusing on efficient (re-)use of raw materials, energy preservation, and circularity principles. To complement these efforts, WP4 offers a financial advisory module to help SMEs/midcaps identify the most beneficial mix of funding options for their innovation activities. The advisory services not only drive immediate improvements, but also foster long-term relationships with enterprises, positioning them for sustainable growth and competitiveness.

WP5: Skills and training (Lead: Effectivity) focuses on providing the enterprises with further skills development and training services. These include a wide range of standalone courses covering foundational digital skills, AI applications and advanced process optimization techniques. The services include one and two-days hands-on bootcamps, workshops, training courses and customized trainings tailored to the specific needs of the enterprises. The proven concept of the Digital Transformation Academy program, combining training, workshops and inspirational visits, is an inherent part of the work package. WP5 also covers inspirational visits of different formats, including benchmarking visits to other companies, testbeds or partner EDIHs.

WP6: Marketing, Communication and Dissemination (Lead: INTEMAC) aims to raise awareness of the services and activities of the EDIH-DIGIMAT project, to provide active marketing support to secure the project's potential customers. This work package includes the creation of expert content focused on the benefits of digital manufacturing and AI, particularly through practical case studies and success stories of SMEs and Midcaps that have undergone digital transformation. Trust-building is a core element, supported by strong PR activities and direct communication tailored to different levels of digital maturity among target groups. Marketing and dissemination efforts will also involve the preparation of functional

outreach materials and content, including the dissemination of service results, with the goal of raising awareness, building credibility, stimulating interest, and generating qualified leads.

The structure of the work plan reflects a balanced and efficient use of partners' expertise and available resources. **This implementation plan is based on the operational setup developed and validated during the first phase of EDIH-DIGIMAT**. The work package structure remains consistent to maintain continuity, with only minor adjustments made in response to lessons learned, partner feedback, and the evolving needs of SMEs.

Project management, quality assurance and monitoring and evaluation strategy

Describe the measures planned to ensure that the project implementation is of high quality and completed in time.

Describe the methods to ensure good quality of monitoring, planning and control activities.

Describe the evaluation methods and indicators (quantitative and qualitative) to monitor and verify the outreach and coverage of the activities and results. The indicators proposed to measure progress should be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound.

The project will be governed through a multi-layered management structure:

- **Work Package (WP) Meetings:** Regular meetings of each WP team will be held to coordinate day-to-day implementation, ensure alignment with deliverables and timelines, and solve operational issues in real-time. Once per 2 weeks.
- **WP Leaders' Meetings (Project Management Meetings):** Scheduled monthly, these meetings ensure coordination among work packages, promote knowledge sharing, allow for early identification of cross-cutting issues, and support ongoing risk monitoring. They serve as the core instrument of operational project management.
- **Consortium Meetings:** Held twice per year, consortium meetings will serve to summarise annual progress, review strategic goals, foster collaboration among partners, and align on upcoming activities. These meetings will also provide a forum to share lessons learned and successful practices.
- **Executive Board:** Composed of key representatives from each partner organisation, the Executive Board will oversee the overall progress, approve key decisions and evaluate and direct further project strategy. It will convene semi-annually or ad hoc as needed.
- **Advisory Board:** An external body of experts providing strategic guidance, risk assessment, and feedback on the project's direction. It will meet once per year and contribute particularly to quality assurance and the relevance of outputs.

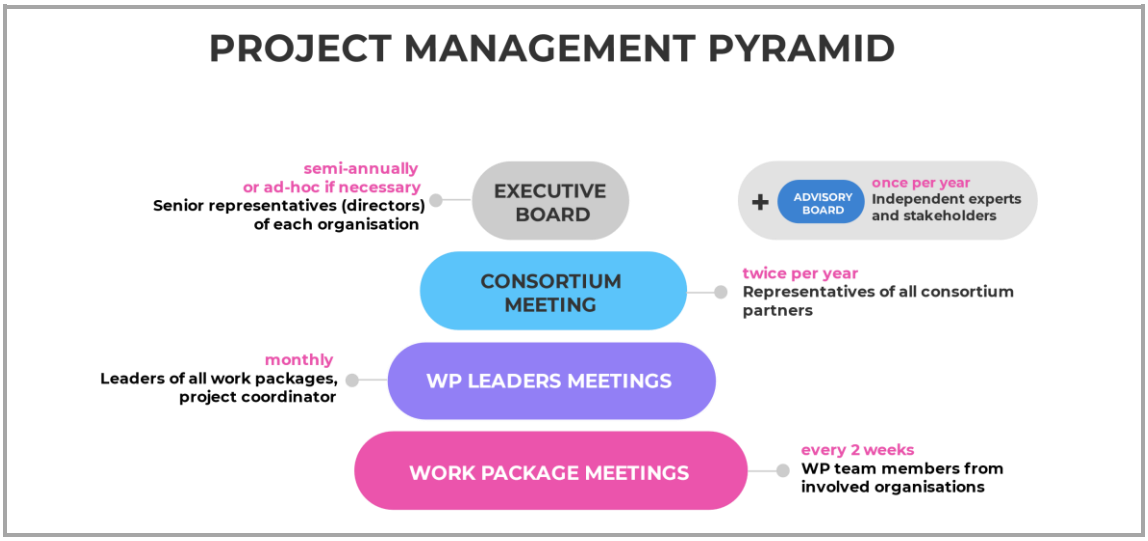
To maintain consistent and quality implementation throughout the project life cycle, the structured monitoring, planning and control methods will be applied, such as:

- Regular updates on work progress from WP leaders, reviewed during monthly WP Leaders' Meetings
- Tracking milestones and deliverables in the EU Funding & Tenders Portal, accessible to all partners
- Internal peer review of deliverables, tracking issues, and monitoring lessons learned
- Change management procedure
- Risk monitoring framework, regularly reviewed in Project Management Meetings and supported by a central risk register maintained by the coordinator
- A unified KPI reporting framework across all WPs, coordinated under WP1

Key Performance Indicators defined at the WP and overall project level will be monitored using a shared Excel-based tracker, integrated with Power BI for real-time visualisation. This allows the project coordinator and all partners to monitor progress continuously, identify delays or bottlenecks early, and adapt plans as necessary. In addition to these quantitative indicators, qualitative evaluation will provide insights into the relevance of the project and will include:

- Success stories that highlight the impact at both organisational and individual levels
- User satisfaction with the services provided, primarily for awareness and networking events measured through post-activity surveys.

Reporting to key stakeholders, including the European Commission, the Czech Ministry of Industry and Trade, and the South Moravian Region, will form a core part of project governance. Reports will cover budget adherence, milestone achievement, and KPI fulfilment. INTEMAC, as project coordinator, will be responsible for their coordination and submission.



Cost effectiveness and financial management *(n/a for prefixed Lump Sum Grants)*

Describe the measures adopted to ensure that the proposed results and objectives will be achieved in the most cost-effective way.

Indicate the arrangements adopted for the financial management of the project and, in particular, how the financial resources will be allocated and managed within the consortium.

⚠ *Do NOT compare and justify the costs of each work package, but summarize briefly why your budget is cost effective.*

The proposed EDIH-DIGIMAT **budget has been carefully structured to ensure the efficient and economical use of resources while delivering maximum impact**. Cost-effectiveness principles have been embedded at all levels of the project structure and service delivery. The budget has been calculated based on a detailed work plan, clear KPI targets, and the service Price List, ensuring that every expenditure directly contributes to the expected outcomes.

The organisational structure optimises synergies among consortium partners to avoid duplication of efforts and resources, leveraging shared infrastructures such as testbeds, DMA tools, and AI innovation platforms. Travel, subcontracting, and equipment expenses have been minimised, focusing primarily on service delivery and client support activities. The cost categories fully comply with the DIGITAL programme's budget eligibility rules, including personnel, travel, equipment, and other goods, works and services.

Financial Management and Monitoring will follow strict professional standards to ensure transparency, compliance, and accountability. A dedicated Financial Management Team, coordinated by the lead beneficiary, will oversee the budget execution, reporting, and risk management. Budget monitoring will occur quarterly, with mid-year and annual internal reviews comparing actual costs to planned budgets and KPIs.

Payments from the European Commission and the Czech national grant will be distributed promptly to consortium partners based on verified cost reports, in line with Grant Agreement conditions. Any significant deviation from the planned budget must be approved by the Executive Board, following the governance structure established (Project Management Meetings, Executive Board, Advisory Board).

<u>The direct costs of 2,321 mil EUR follow a realistic and balanced structure:</u>

- Personnel costs: 1,734 mil EUR = 74,71% (reflecting high knowledge-based service intensity)
- Equipment costs: 0% (no investment expenditures; existing equipment obtained through the previous EDIH programme and synergy grants will be used)
- Travel and subsistence (networking, expert visits, etc.): 0,074 mil EUR = 3,19%
- Other goods and services (external experts, Ynovate, speakers, etc.): 0,513 mil EUR = 22,1%
- Indirect costs (flat-rate 7% of eligible direct costs): 0,162 mil EUR

Subcontracting is kept at 0% to maximise internal execution capacity and control, which shows the total budget of 2 483 878 EUR for the whole project realisation.

Total estimated project income (100%) consists of 50% DEP income and 50% of the other resources income, which is why there is the "Financial contributions" part in the estimated budget. This represents the co-financing of 50% from other sources, split between complementary Czech national funding and direct co-financing from clients.

Ensuring Financial sustainability and Risk management, relevant strategies have been adopted to mitigate potential financial risks, including contingency planning, diversification of funding sources, and financial reserve allocation. All financial activities are governed by the principles of sound financial management: economy, efficiency, and effectiveness, as outlined in the call fiche and principles of DEP.

This EDIH is firmly committed to ensuring cost-effectiveness and financial management, delivering maximum value for public resources and creating a sustainable long-term service hub for SMEs and midcap organisations in the South Moravian region and neighbouring regions.

Consortium partners will contribute to all necessary monitoring processes defined by the granting authorities (European Commission and the Czech Ministry of Industry and Trade). The internal arrangements for the financial management of the project will be outlined in the Consortium Agreement, which the consortium partners will sign before signing the Grant Agreement. The coordinator will ensure that the funding under these two grants does not exceed 100% of the declared costs. The consortium will ensure the funds are spent most effectively through measures described in the section above: "Project management, quality assurance and monitoring and evaluation strategy".

2.3 Capacity to carry out the proposed work

Consortium cooperation and division of roles (if applicable)

Describe the participants (Beneficiaries, Affiliated Entities and Associated Partners, if any) and explain how they will work together to implement the project. How will they bring together the necessary expertise? How will they complement each other?

In what way does each of the participants contribute to the project? Show that each has a valid role and adequate resources to fulfil that role.

***Note:** When building your consortium you should think of organisations that can help you reach objectives and solve problems.*

The EDIH-DIGIMAT consortium comprises **complementary organizations with deep regional roots and internationally recognized expertise in industrial digitalization**. Each partner brings unique strengths aligned to the objectives of the proposal, with clear responsibilities and the resources necessary to implement the project effectively.

INTEMAC, JIC, and Brno University of Technology have been collaborating since 2016, with formal cooperation under the EDIH-DIGIMAT initiative beginning in 2021, alongside the addition of the new partner Effectivity. **Supported by Letters of Intent from participating SMEs** (see annex), this collaboration demonstrates a proven track record in delivering digital transformation services to manufacturing SMEs. To enhance the scope and quality of services provided, the consortium has been extended to include Tomas Bata University in Zlín. TBU brings valuable expertise in industrial engineering and information systems, and contributes a third testbed facility, complementing the existing testbeds at INTEMAC and CEITEC. This addition significantly strengthens the consortium's capabilities in providing "Test-before-Invest" services.

Together, **the consortium targets critical technological domains identified in the Czech Republic's Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation (RIS3),** particularly for the South Moravian region and neighbouring areas. The partners will strategically align their capabilities to support manufacturing SMEs with digital transformation, focusing on smart connectivity, digital twins, intelligent control systems, autonomous robotics, sustainability and industrial AI.

The consortium's goal is to deliver high-impact, practically oriented services tailored to the needs of SMEs, thereby fostering innovation, productivity, and competitiveness in the region.

INTEMAC is a Czech-based, non-profit Research and Technology Organisation (RTO) whose core mission is to support applied research, education, and advisory services in key domains such as industrial automation, machine vision, digital twins, and the application of industrial AI technologies in modern

manufacturing. In alignment with the South Moravian Region's innovation strategy, INTEMAC actively supports industrial enterprises in their pursuit of global excellence by deepening their understanding of advanced technologies, improving operational efficiency, and strengthening overall competitiveness. As the coordinator of the EDIH-DIGIMAT initiative for the digital transformation of manufacturing SMEs, INTEMAC offers a comprehensive portfolio of services, including expert consultations, targeted training programs, and Test-before-Invest opportunities, particularly focused on the practical application of artificial intelligence in industrial environments. A central element of INTEMAC's offering is its modern Testbed for smart manufacturing, designed to support proof-of-concept development, rapid prototyping, and hands-on trainings. The Testbed incorporates a broad range of advanced technologies tailored for flexible manufacturing and automation. These include robotic structures equipped with both standard and modular end-effectors, advanced automation components, and precision sensor systems. It also features two-dimensional and three-dimensional machine vision technologies, 3D printers for rapid prototyping, and computing infrastructure to support neural network training and the development of complex physical simulations. Depending on the specific needs of clients, the Testbed is further enhanced with additional technologies provided through collaboration with industrial partners. Through this advanced infrastructure, INTEMAC enables SMEs to experiment with new technologies in a controlled, low-risk environment before committing to full-scale investments.

JIC is a public non-profit innovation agency, established in 2003 by the South Moravian Region, statutory city of Brno and four universities. Since then, it has been helping to create one of the most dynamic innovative ecosystems in the Central Europe. JIC has a total of 70 staff and an annual budget of more than 4 mil EUR. It has two daughter companies: JIC Ventures and INTEMAC Solutions, the leader of EDIH-DIGIMAT. JIC is also behind the platform Brno.AI which brings together companies, academics and public sector with a shared interest in artificial intelligence, its application, education and awareness-raising. Within this EDIH, JIC will capitalise mainly on its expertise in access to funding services, and strategy and sustainability consulting which proved to be very successful in the current EDIH. JIC's extensive national and international network and track record in matchmaking, partnering and brokerage events will be available to partners within EDIH consortium. JIC's extensive experience in international grants will be leveraged to scout for new international funding opportunities that may contribute to the financial sustainability of EDIH-DIGIMAT.

Brno University of Technology (BUT) will be represented by CEITEC BUT (Central European Institute of Technology) in the project, through its research groups in Cybernetics and Robotics. This group brings strong expertise in robotics, automation, AI applications in industrial systems, and cyber-physical systems, with a particular focus on smart manufacturing environments. BUT will contribute knowledge in autonomous robotics and intelligent control systems, including advanced actuators, and in smart sensors, vibration and noise sensing, and vibrodiagnostics for machinery. BUT also specializes in AI and machine perception for human-machine cooperation, systems diagnostics, and quality inspection. Additionally, BUT is experienced in data processing using High-Performance Computing (HPC) systems. When broader expertise is required, BUT can tap into the university's extensive knowledge base to address a wide range of technical challenges. To support experimental activities, BUT will provide access to advanced equipment, including the RICAIP Testbed in Brno, an experimental smart factory developed under the H2020 RICAIP Teaming Project. This testbed includes production technologies such as laser cutting, 3D printing, 5-axis and 3-axis machining, and turning machines. It also houses industrial manipulators, cobots, and mobile robots from leading manufacturers like KUKA, FANUC, ABB, and Boston Dynamics. Additional features include 3D scanning technology, AR/VR systems, rotational and linear actuators, vibration and sound sensing instrumentation, and a 5G standalone private network for IoT and connectivity testing. The RICAIP Testbed is part of the testbed network of the AI Testing and Experimentation Facility (TEF) project AI-MATTERS. As BUT is a partner in AI-MATTERS, this connection will provide a direct link to additional expertise and advanced technologies across the TEF network, which can be leveraged to address specific needs of EDIH clients. With its strong research infrastructure and experience in managing large-scale international initiatives, BUT is well-prepared to contribute to the successful implementation of the project.

Effectivity plays an important role in the EDIH-DIGIMAT consortium, building on its success in the previous project, where Effectivity led the skills and training work package (WP5) and actively participated in the project. There, Effectivity demonstrated its capabilities, successfully delivering training programs that addressed the growing demand for skills development and providing numerous advisory services. The increased demand for the company´s services, reflecting the company´s ability to deliver impactful services, led to recurring transfers of funds from other partners to Effectivity. The company's strong performance in the first project is expected to continue in the follow-up, where Effectivity will take the lead of two work packages: WP4 and WP5 and will be responsible for the successful implementation of activities across both work packages mentioned. Effectivity benefits from a solid base of expert lecturers, trainers, consultants and strong and stable partners from AI and digitalization field, ensuring high-quality expertise for the provided services. The company will continue to leverage its team to support the

successful implementation of the project, while maintaining strong collaboration across all work packages within the consortium to contribute to the overall success of the initiative.

Tomas Bata University in Zlín (TBU) provides strong academic and applied research expertise to the consortium, represented primarily by the Institute of Industrial Engineering and Information Systems (UPIaIS). TBU contributes in key areas such as industrial process digitalization, smart manufacturing, and the integration of AI-driven solutions into production environments. Core competencies include the development and deployment of advanced digital technologies such as digital twins, additive manufacturing, mixed reality applications, and AI-based automation tools. TBU specializes in the use of artificial intelligence for production process optimization, real-time quality monitoring with computer vision, predictive maintenance, and smart logistics management. TBU brings hands-on experience from numerous national and European R&D projects focused on Industry 4.0 and 5.0, human-centered AI, and sustainable innovation. UPIaIS operates advanced laboratories equipped with large-format 3D printers, mobile robotic platforms, collaborative robots (Techman Robot TM5 and TM12), Microsoft HoloLens 2™ for augmented reality, and digital metrology tools including scanning electron microscopy and nanoindentation. The university has developed ERP-integrated digital twin platforms (Infinity 360 and Infinity TWIN), enabling real-time data-driven decision-making, along with AI-based systems for operational data collection, anomaly detection, and autonomous optimization. With these technical capabilities and infrastructure, TBU will actively support the consortium in driving digital transformation in manufacturing and logistics, piloting AI technologies, developing intelligent support systems, and delivering capacity-building activities to foster the effective and sustainable adoption of digital and AI innovations.

Project teams and staff

Describe the project teams and how they will work together to implement the project.

List the staff included in the project budget (budget category A) by function/profile (e.g. project manager, senior expert/advisor/researcher, junior expert/advisor/researcher, trainers/teachers, technical personnel, administrative personnel etc. — use the same profiles as in the detailed budget table, if any (n/a for prefixed Lump Sum Grants)) and describe briefly their tasks.

Name and function	Organisation	Role/tasks/professional profile and expertise
Jindřich Weiss, CEO	INTEMAC	Provides strategic oversight and ensures alignment with regional innovation policies. Experienced in innovation management and ecosystem development, with over 10 years of leadership experience in supporting SME growth and technology adoption.
Veronika Večeřová, Project Manager	INTEMAC	Overall project management and communication. Project coordination with 6+ years of experience in managing digital projects.
Miloslav Ambruzík, Financial Manager	INTEMAC	Responsible for financial planning, budget monitoring, implementation and reporting. Experienced in EU project accounting and cost eligibility assessment, 12+ years - OP Education for Competitiveness, OP Research, Development and Education, Horizon Europe, Interreg Central Europe, Interreg AT-CZ, Digital Europe Programme.
Roman Parák, Senior Research Scientist	INTEMAC	Responsible for leading WP2 at INTEMAC, providing expert guidance on artificial intelligence across all work packages. Specialises in autonomous systems, robotics, simulations, and AI deployment in both experimental and testing environments. Supervises the R&D team at INTEMAC to ensure the successful execution of test-before-invest activities.
Romana Putnová,	INTEMAC	WP3 leader for the consortium, responsible for organising and managing awareness-raising actions and networking activities.

Event Coordinator		Experienced in event management, community building, and stakeholder engagement.
Lukáš Toman, Marketing Manager	INTEMAC	WP6 leader for the consortium, overseeing all project communication, marketing activities, and dissemination efforts. Expertise in digital marketing, public relations, and communication strategies.
Pavel Václavek, Team leader	BUT	Team leader at BUT. WP2 leader, coordination of test before invest activities across the project. Experienced in management of large scale projects funded within H2020, Horizon Europe and Digital Europe programmes. Relations with AI TEF AI-MATTERS.
Klára Holičová, Project manager	BUT	Project management at BUT. Communication activities towards industrial clients, design of services based on client needs.
Zbyněk Ondra, Clients acquisition	BUT	Clients acquisition, analysis of the clients' needs with respect to experiments and test on testbeds. Development of experimentation services.
Jakub Hrabec, Testbed coordination	BUT	Expert in robotics, coordination of experiments at BUT, responsible for implementation of test before invest experiments on RICAIP testbed Brno infrastructure. Supervision of ongoing experts.
Ladislav Dobrovský, HPC expert	BUT	Provides expertise in HPC and computing tools for AI applications necessary for experiments on testbed. Assists EDIH clients in adoption of HPC and AI technologies in their industrial applications.
Monika Vrbková, Team Leader and Senior Consultant	JIC	WP4 Senior project manager and financing expert responsible for WP4 access to finance advisory services
Ondřej Petrášek, Key Account Manager	JIC	WP4 Key account manager responsible for delivering and quality control of sustainable development, process excellence and strategy consultations
Zuzana Hadašová, Senior Consultant	JIC	WP4 Financing expert responsible for WP4 access to finance advisory services
Martin Dokoupil, Senior Consultant	JIC	WP4 Senior consultant and internal expert at JIC – focuses on company strategy and sustainability
Jan Bárta, Community Manager	JIC	WP3 Senior expert and coordinator of Brno.AI
Samuel Pacek, Marketing Specialist	JIC	WP6 Marketing specialist responsible for communications, campaigns and marketing at JIC

Jakub Masri, Project Manger	JIC	WP1 Project manager responsible for project management at JIC
Petra Smolejová, Project Leader and Lean Consultant	Effectivity	EDIH project leader at Effectivity, responsible for administrative coordination, documentation and project support across WP1, WP3, WP6. WP4 and WP5 lead. Lecturer, consultant.
Gabriela Kopřivová, CEO and Senior Expert	Effectivity	Effectivity leader, responsible for strategy, EDIH client acquisition and project administration. Lecturer, consultant.
Jozef Maudry, Managing Partner and Senior Expert	Effectivity	Responsible for strategy, EDIH client acquisition and project administration. Lecturer and senior expert in company transformations.
Jan Vícha, Lean Consultant	Effectivity	Lecturer, consultant
Jiří Kopřiva, Consultant	Effectivity	Lecturer and consultant, focuses on data management and AI implementation.
Petra Motyčková, Project and Administrative Coordinator	TBU	Responsible for administrative coordination, documentation, and project support across all WPs. Experienced in managing university-industry collaboration and coordinating financial and operational aspects of EU-funded projects.
David Tuček, Senior Expert on Industrial Engineering and Digital Innovation	TBU	Leads strategic activities within WP2 and WP4. Brings 20+ years of experience in industrial engineering, process optimization, and digital transformation in manufacturing. Expert in integrating Industry 4.0/5.0 tools, ergonomics, and AI into operational environments. Former dean of FaME and head of the Institute of Industrial Engineering and Information Systems.
Roman Šenkeřík, Expert on Artificial Intelligence and Local AI Deployment	TBU	Contributes to WP2 and WP5 with expertise in AI-driven process automation, local (on-premises) AI applications, and optimization. Focuses on integration of generative AI, digital twins, and machine learning into production and logistics. Experienced in interpretable/explainable AI, and developing effective, safe, and GDPR-compliant AI solutions for smart manufacturing.
Martin Mikeska, Event and Dissemination Coordinator	TBU	Leads WP3 activities at UTB, responsible for planning and delivering awareness-raising events and training activities. Experienced in university-industry outreach, stakeholder engagement, and dissemination of research and innovation results.
Felicita Chromjaková, Senior Researcher in	TBU	Contributes to WP5 with focus on process mapping, lean management, and value-added analysis. Specializes in human-centric design of production systems, change management, and digital process redesign for improved efficiency and sustainability.

Process Optimization and Lean Management		
Petra Svěráková	TBU	WP6 marketing specialist responsible for communications, campaigns and marketing at TBU.

Outside resources (subcontracting, seconded staff, etc)

If you do not have all skills/resources in-house, describe how you intend to get them (contributions of members, partner organisations, subcontracting, etc.) and for which role/tasks/professional profile/expertise

If there is subcontracting, please also complete the table in section 4.

The consortium members cover most of the required skills and resources. For specific skills, the consortium uses the existing pool of supported external experts currently collaborating on the Ynovate platform (a professional innovation network of more than 200 experts). The experts will be complementary, and there will be different forms of engagement with the EDIH. **No subcontracting will be applied.**

Consortium management and decision-making (if applicable)

Explain the management structures and decision-making mechanisms within the consortium. Describe how decisions will be taken and how regular and effective communication will be ensured. Describe methods to ensure planning and control.

***Note:** The concept (including organisational structure and decision-making mechanisms) must be adapted to the complexity and scale of the project.*

The project will follow a structured and transparent decision-making process designed to ensure efficiency, accountability, and inclusivity:

- **Operational Decisions** (related to day-to-day project activities) are taken at the WP level by WP leaders, with coordination through the Project Coordinator. The work package teams meets bi-weekly to assess service delivery, reviews KPIs, milestone progress, deliverables status, and budget compliance and prepares recommendations for necessary adjustments.
- **Strategic Decisions** (affecting scope, budget, consortium composition, milestones) require approval by the Executive Board. The Executive Board reviews data, WP leader's recommendations, and decides on potential changes to the execution plan.
    - In case of deviations beyond defined tolerances, it initiates corrective measures through formal Change Requests.

Project control is based on continuous evaluation of actual vs. planned performance across three key dimensions:

- Completion of deliverables and milestones
- Fulfilment of KPIs assigned to each work package
- Budget Compliance comparing actual spend to planned expenditure

Decisions will strive for consensus. If consensus cannot be reached, a qualified majority (e.g., two-thirds of the Executive Board members) will be required for approval.

Critical changes also require consultation with the funding authority (European Commission and national donor). All decisions will be documented in official minutes of meeting stored on the project's internal platform and communicated promptly to all partners.

3. IMPACT

3.1 Expected outcomes and deliverables — Dissemination and communication

Expected outcomes and deliverables

Define and explain the extent to which the project will achieve the expected impacts listed in Call document.

The EDIH-DIGIMAT project is **designed to generate a measurable impact on the digital transformation and competitiveness of manufacturing SMEs and midcaps in the South Moravian region and beyond**. Based on an in-depth needs analysis, it aims to act as a regional catalyst for digital transformation, particularly in the manufacturing sector, targeting key barriers to digital adoption, including a lack of internal expertise, low digital maturity, and cautious attitudes toward AI technologies. By providing a comprehensive and accessible portfolio of services, EDIH-DIGIMAT will directly contribute to the expected impacts of the Call, including increased uptake of advanced digital technologies (notably AI), improved productivity and sustainability of SMEs, and strengthened regional innovation ecosystems. These outcomes are supported by service delivery mechanisms, a co-funding model, regional partnership formalised through Memoranda of Understanding, ongoing collaboration with the EDIH network, the Digital Transformation Accelerator and new close collaboration with European AI innovation infrastructures.

Testing on Testbed (WP2) supports and guides companies on their digitalisation and automation journey in a rapidly evolving industrial environment. The “Test-Before-Invest” approach significantly reduces capital expenditure, shortens time-to-market, and mitigates risks associated with the implementation of innovative technologies. Special emphasis is placed on the provision of AI-related services. All services are delivered according to a unified price list, which outlines nominal rates for expert support, HPC resources, and various types of experiments tailored to the selected testbed environment and the scope of activities. Price differentiation among testbeds and laboratories reflects the specific equipment and capabilities available at each site. As a reference, the price list provides daily rates for full testbed usage. However, the final price for each experiment will be calculated individually, based on the specific equipment and resources used, ensuring alignment with the actual commercial value of the service provided.

Awareness-raising, ecosystem building activities and project clustering (WP3)
Survey data collected in autumn 2024 in collaboration with the B2B research agency B-Inside show that 43% of small and medium-sized manufacturing companies in the South Moravian Region, reflecting the broader situation across the Czech Republic, have implemented little or no digitalisation in their production processes. One of the major barriers is that many company leaders and decision-makers struggle to envision how automation and digital technologies could be effectively applied in their specific operational context. EDIH DIGIMAT addresses this challenge through targeted awareness raising initiatives that demonstrate the practical benefits of digitalisation and automation. These activities will feature relatable SME case examples and live demonstrations within the consortium’s testbed environments, helping to make digital transformation more tangible and easier to understand.

Alongside actual technology demonstrations, part of the target audience – manufacturing companies – will have the opportunity at the awareness rising and networking events to engage with technology providers and integrators. Moreover, apart from inspiring the local manufacturing companies, these events will also trigger new opportunities for the local technological sector as a supplier of advanced solutions. It is also necessary to continuously communicate and remind the benefits of digitalization (WP6 activities) and to help companies to overcome implementation barriers and financing which are provided by WP2, WP4 and WP5 activities.

Digitalization is a constantly evolving field, and there might be circumstances when EDIH-DIGIMAT might not possess the right capacities to conduct the requested assignment. There is a network of supporting national, and foremost international EDIHs to complement the EDIH-DIGIMAT scope.

EDIH-DIGIMAT will continue to develop and strengthen the partnerships it has successfully cultivated, both at the national and international levels. Within the Czech Republic, **we collaborate with all national EDIHs**, including EDIH Brain4Industry, EDIH Ostrava, EDIH CIH, and others. These partnerships are essential for aligning our efforts, sharing best practices, and delivering coordinated support to SMEs organizations across the country.

At the international level, EDIH-DIGIMAT is an active member of the European EDIH network, which provides valuable opportunities for knowledge sharing, joint activities, and cross-border cooperation.

Building on the successful cooperation established during the first DIGIMAT project, we aim to continue and deepen our collaboration with Central European EDIHs. This shared commitment is formalized in a joint Memorandum of Understanding, which is included as an annex to this proposal.

Participating EDIHs include EXPANDI 4.0 (Hungary), EDIH Cassovium (Slovakia), Slovak Center for Digital Innovations (SCDI), Center for Innovative Healthcare (CIH, Slovakia), EDIH Applied CPS (Austria), EDIH Innovate (Austria),Technopark Kielce DIH, hub4industry (Kraków), WAMA EDIH (Warsaw), WRO4digITal (Wrocław), EDIH re_d (Łódź), EDIH SILESIA (Gliwice), EDIH Thuringia (Germany), EDIH pro_digital (Brandenburg), and the DInA (Bavaria). These hubs offer complementary expertise in areas such as AI, robotics, flexible manufacturing, automation and digitalization, making them strategic partners in our mission to drive digital transformation.

In addition to these Central European partnerships, DIGIMAT seeks to broaden its network to include EDIHs with similar thematic focuses. For instance, DIGIS3, based in Castilla y León, Spain, promotes smart, sustainable, and cohesive digital transformation of SMEs. It offers services structured around Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence, High Performance Computing, and Advanced Digital Skills. Similarly, EDIH DO, located in Dortmund, Germany, focuses on increasing the dissemination, acceptance, and adoption of digital technologies among SMEs, particularly in logistics, manufacturing, and production sectors.

We see in these hubs potential long-term partners who can support our mission in advancing AI adoption in industry. In particular, we expect that partnerships with hubs like DIGIS3 and EDIH DO could grow into the kind of productive collaboration we already have with EDIH Hub4Industry, EDIH Saarland and AI5Production, both of whom have contributed valuable expertise to our AI-related, digitalization and automation initiatives.

Through a comprehensive offering of **consulting services, hands-on technology support, a wide range of training opportunities, and the structured Digital Transformation Academy**, the project will enable a broad range of companies to advance their digital maturity. **WP4 and WP5** will provide flexible and targeted interventions, ranging from quick digital diagnostics to in-depth transformation projects and specialized skills development programmes. These will address strategic technologies such as artificial intelligence, digital twins, automation, smart connectivity, and green digital solutions, with a strong focus on practical application in the manufacturing sector. Advisory services will help companies understand where digitalisation can bring the greatest value, enabling data-driven decisions, improving process performance, reducing production waste, and identifying the most cost-effective technologies. At the same time, sustainability-focused consulting supports the transition to circular production models and greener supply chains, enhancing both environmental impact and market positioning. Hands-on training, bootcamps, and tailored programmes complements this by closing the digital skills gap and empowering employees to own transformation.

In line with the objectives of the Call, EDIH-DIGIMAT will also act as a **first-line AI help desk for SMEs,** offering initial guidance on AI technologies, including basic information on compliance with the AI Act, and signposting to further resources. In this role, DIGIMAT will serve as **a regional contact point** for the broader network of European AI innovation infrastructures. A key component of this role will be ensuring a **flexible journey through the AI innovation infrastructures**, by referring clients to services provided by these infrastructures where appropriate and avoiding duplication of effort. During the initial implementation phase, the cooperation will focus on building links with the Testing and Experimentation Facilities, while gradually expanding cooperation with AI Factories to ensure that companies benefit from specialised services where appropriate. Responsibility for maintaining up-to-date contacts and referral mechanisms will lie with the project coordinator, INTEMAC, in close cooperation with partners involved in WP2. This structure will ensure smooth navigation of the European AI landscape and enable DIGIMAT's clients to access the best available expertise and experimentation opportunities, both locally and across Europe.

Through these services, the project will deliver measurable progress in the uptake of advanced digital technologies, boost the adoption of European AI solutions, and strengthen regional innovation ecosystems. To reflect the differing intensity and resource demands of support activities, our pricing differentiates between *Intensive Onsite Advisory and General Advisory Services*. Intensive Onsite Advisory involves dedicated in-person support, often requiring travel, accommodation, and full-time availability, which leads to higher operational costs. In contrast, our other advisory services are delivered remotely or with lower logistical demands, allowing us to offer more competitive rates while maintaining quality. The rates listed are consistent with market prices for comparable professional services.

The project's objectives are translated into concrete impacts through the implementation of its Work Packages, each contributing to the delivery of targeted services and expected outcomes. To ensure

transparent and consistent progress monitoring, **KPIs have been defined at both the individual Work Package level and for the project as a whole**. KPIs are structured as either output indicators (e.g. number of services delivered) or impact indicators (e.g. number of unique supported entities or investments triggered), enabling both operational tracking and strategic evaluation.

WP	Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Value/ Quantity
WP2	Total Number of Experimentation Services Delivered for Proof-of-Concept, Prototyping, and Testbed Testing	38
	Total Unique Entities Using WP2 Services	32
WP3	Total Participants in Events *	660
	Total Planned Collaborations with EDIHs and EU-level Stakeholders	13
WP4	Total Advisory Services Delivered Covering Short- and Long-Term Support **	237
	Total Unique Entities Using WP4 Services	55
	Total Amount of Additional Investments Successfully Triggered	5,000,000 €
WP5	Total Number of Training Services Delivered in Digital Transformation Academy, Courses, Bootcamps, and Workshops ***	25
	Total Unique Entities Using WP5 Services	57
All	Total AI-related Services Delivered	50
All	Total Referrals to European AI Innovation Infrastructures	5

** This KPI is the only one to include public sector organisations (as a secondary target group).*
*** Any advisory support, ranging from a several-hour meeting to a multi-day long-term transformational support, counts as a single service.*
**** Each Digital Transformation Academy, as well as multi-day training courses, bootcamps or workshops, count as a single service.*

For a complete overview of KPIs and related targets, please refer to the annex “Summary of KPIs and Targets”.

In addition to the KPIs defined above, EDIH-DIGIMAT will actively contribute to collecting and reporting additional impact indicators with the support of the Digital Transformation Accelerator (DTA). In particular, **the project will monitor the digital maturity of supported entities through the DTA-provided assessment questionnaire**, applied in cases where it is practically relevant to the type and scope of the service. Furthermore, EDIH-DIGIMAT **will track and document cases of increased adoption of European AI technologies**, ensuring alignment with the broader goal of accelerating the deployment of trustworthy AI solutions across the EU. The service portfolio will be continuously reviewed and adapted based on client feedback, performance data, and technological developments.

Dissemination and communication of the project and its results

If relevant, describe the communication and dissemination activities, activities (target groups, main messages, tools, and channels) which are planned in order to promote the activities/results and maximise the impact. The aim is to inform and reach out to society and show the activities performed, and the use and the benefits the project will have for citizens

Clarify how you will reach the target groups, relevant stakeholders, policymakers and the general public and explain the choice of the dissemination channels.

Describe how the visibility of EU funding will be ensured.

⚠ *In case your proposal is selected for funding, you will have to provide a more detailed plan for these activities (dissemination and communication plan), within 6 months after grant signature. This plan will have to be periodically updated; in line with the project progress.*

Marketing, communication, and dissemination activities are designed to maximise the achievement of project objectives, increase visibility, and raise awareness about the offered services and their benefits for manufacturing SMEs and mid-caps. The communication efforts will strategically inform both target groups and the general public about project activities, results, and their tangible impact. The aim is to

demonstrate the project's practical contribution to the digital transformation of Czech industry and to reinforce its long-term sustainability.

Target groups and key messages

Primary Target Groups

The strategy reflects the project's focus on supporting small and medium-sized manufacturing enterprises and mid-caps with varying levels of digital maturity, particularly in South Moravia and neighbouring regions. These companies are the main beneficiaries of subsidised EDIH-DIGIMAT services, which offer measurable financial value and real impact on their digital transformation.

The communication approach and messaging will be tailored to the company's stage of digital maturity:

- **Early-stage companies** will receive basic information about digitalisation, AI adoption, and automation, supported by practical examples of increased productivity and competitiveness.
- **Digitally advanced companies** will be addressed with content focused on AI, proof-of-concept testing, and automation for operational excellence and sustainable growth.

Messaging will be further tailored to specific roles within companies:

- **Decision-makers (CEOs, production directors, innovation managers):** Highlighting strategic advantages, ROI, and long-term business value of digital transformation.
- **Technical and production staff (AI engineers, automation specialists):** Providing practical examples, implementation guides, and technical insights to build capacity and drive adoption.

Secondary Target Groups

To amplify outreach and ensure alignment with broader innovation and policy goals, the project also targets:

- **Public sector institutions** (e.g., municipalities, regional agencies): Engaged to support ecosystem development.
- **Technology providers and solution developers**: Informed about opportunities to test, validate, and scale solutions in collaboration with SMEs and research partners.
- **Policy makers** (regional, national, EU): Targeted to demonstrate alignment with initiatives such as the Digital Decade, AI Act, and national S3 strategies, and to promote long-term policy relevance.
- **Scientific and research community**: Involved through collaborative use cases and knowledge exchange in testbed environments.
- **General public**: Engaged via regional and digital channels to raise awareness about how digital innovation enhances services, drives growth, and improves quality of life.

Outreach to stakeholders and the public will be reinforced through direct engagement at expert events, participation in industry platforms, and close cooperation with regional media and partners to support localised communication.

Communication tools and channels

The communication tools and channels have been selected for their effectiveness in reaching specific target groups and will combine digital, print, and in-person formats. Content will be tailored based on sector, digital maturity, and audience preferences. Activities will focus on promoting EDIH 2.0 services, generating leads, building trust, and highlighting tangible results.

Selected tools include:

- Regular LinkedIn posts and event promotion, supported by paid campaigns (Sales Navigator)
- Press releases and sponsored media promotion in industry-specific publications
- Case studies with targeted (including paid) distribution
- Video campaigns – invitations, educational content, and event reports
- Direct mailing to segmented databases based on sector and digital maturity
- Ambassador marketing – involving experts, ambassadors, and micro-influencers + paid campaigns
- Participation and presentations at external events (e.g. trade fairs, workshops)
- PR and expert articles (both sponsored and editorial collaborations)
- Success stories and peer-to-peer outreach
- White papers describing the EDIH service offering
- Continuous updates of the project website, including interactive features and analytics
- Interviews and podcasts with project experts and representatives
- New roll-up banners and printed materials for offline promotion

These tools have been proven in previous phases of the EDIH-DIGIMAT project and will support impact tracking across all outreach efforts.

Visibility of EU funding
All project outputs and communication materials will clearly display the mandatory EU visual and textual elements, including the EU emblem and funding statement, in accordance with official guidelines. This applies to the website, printed materials, presentations, videos, and all promotional activities.

Communication strategy as a project deliverable
One of the key deliverables of this work package will be the "Communication Strategy and Plan" document, which defines a methodology for a unified approach to project communication and will be updated regularly in line with the project progress, market developments, and feedback from target groups. The document will include:

- A tactical plan and timeline of activities
- Recommended tools and channels
- A visual identity and content manual
- A clear definition of partner responsibilities
- Internal KPIs and methods for monitoring communication effectiveness

This deliverable will also include the mandatory project output focused on the sustainability of EDIH operations after the end of the project. It will describe how EDIH will continue to operate and make use of the data collected during the project, both during its implementation and after its conclusion. It will also outline strategies for service development, partnership building, and the continuation of effective communication with the market.

3.2 Competitiveness and benefits for society

Competitiveness and benefits for the society

Describe the extent to which the project will strengthen competitiveness and bring important benefits for society

EDIH-DIGIMAT will build on the foundations laid in the section 2.1 Maturity, recognizing that challenges such as co-financing, contracting procedures, and legislative constraints may still arise. While these systemic barriers could potentially slow implementation, the EDIH-DIGIMAT consortium is committed to overcoming them through proactive collaboration with national authorities and by leveraging EU-level best practices to minimize their impact.

In the context of cutting-edge technologies such as industrial AI, sustainability, advanced robotics, visual inspection, simulation, predictive maintenance, and data-driven optimisation for production flexibility, EDIH-DIGIMAT will focus not only on deploying cutting-edge technologies but also on driving digital transformation and workforce skills development. These are essential for preparing manufacturing employees to meet the demands of the future.

Across the EU, SMEs that actively engage in innovation and digitalisation through the adoption of AI, machine vision, digital twins, or energy-efficient technologies demonstrate greater economic resilience and competitiveness. To address this, EDIH-DIGIMAT will prioritize awareness-raising, educational programs and tailored advisory services to help SMEs identify their technology needs, increase productivity generate higher value, and maintain long-term competitiveness.

In the short term, EDIH-DIGIMAT will boost awareness and readiness among SMEs in the manufacturing sector through a range of tailored services. These include:

- **Proof-of-Concept Development, Prototyping, and Testing on the Testbed:** Allowing SMEs to experiment with new technologies in a controlled environment before large-scale implementation.
- **Awareness Building, Networking, and Ecosystem Development**: Engaging SMEs to connect with a broader innovation ecosystem and raise awareness of digital opportunities.
- **Digital Skills Development and Training Programs:** Equipping employees with the necessary skills to manage and implement new technologies.
- **Advisory Support**: Providing expert guidance to help SMEs assess their digital readiness, identify key technological needs, and overcome initial barriers.

These efforts will create a strong foundation for SMEs to begin their digital transformation journey, ensuring they are better equipped for future challenges.

In the medium term, the integration of these technologies will improve SMEs' competitiveness, operational efficiency, and environmental performance. Key services in this phase include:

- **Advisory Services, including Long-Term Strategic Support:** Assisting SMEs in adapting and integrating new technologies into their business models, with a focus on sustainable growth strategies.
- **Access to Finance:** Facilitating access to financial resources, enabling SMEs to scale up their digital initiatives.
- **Ecosystem Development:** Continuing networking and ecosystem-building to foster collaboration and create an environment conducive to innovation and growth.

The result will be improved competitiveness and resilience of SMEs in global markets.
In the long term, EDIH-DIGIMAT aims to contribute to the development of a digitally mature and innovation-driven industrial ecosystem in the South Moravian region and neighboring areas. This will lead to:

- **New Business Models:** Advanced technologies will support develop innovative business models that align with the evolving industrial landscape.
- **Increased Participation in Resilient European Value Chains:** SMEs will benefit from stronger links to European value chains, improving their market position.
- **Societal Benefits:** Job resilience, sustainability, and economic growth will be key outcomes. The project will support SMEs in creating jobs, improving sustainability, and contributing to regional economic development.

The broader societal impact of EDIH-DIGIMAT will extend beyond individual companies. The project will help increase the digital maturity of the entire manufacturing sector, improving productivity, sustainability and competitiveness across industries. The development of new technologies and business models will have a cascading effect on the regional economy, contributing to long-term growth and job creation. Moreover, EDIH-DIGIMAT will serve as a regional contact point for the broader network of European AI innovation infrastructures, ensuring the integration of local manufacturing companies into a larger ecosystem of AI and digital innovation.

These services and their expected outcomes will be further supported by communication, dissemination and knowledge transfer efforts to ensure that the knowledge gained through the project is shared throughout the region and beyond. Lessons learned from previous EDIH operations will guide the development of EDIH-DIGIMAT’s strategies and activities, ensuring that the project builds on the successes and insights gained from the ongoing programme.

3.3 Environmental sustainability and contribution to European Green Deal goals

Environmental sustainability and contribution to European Green Deal goals

Describe the extent to which the project will contribute to environmental sustainability and in particular to European Green Deal goals

⚠ *This might not be applicable to all topics — for details refer to the Call document.*

NOT APPLICABLE

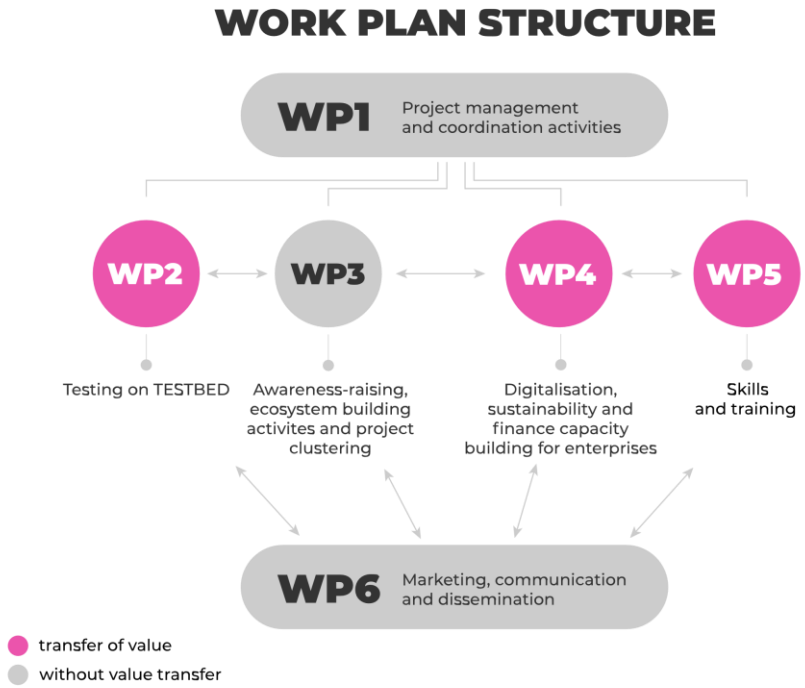
4. WORK PLAN, WORK PACKAGES, ACTIVITIES, RESOURCES AND TIMING

4.1 Work plan

Work plan

Provide a brief description of the overall structure of the work plan (list of work packages or graphical presentation (Pert chart or similar)).

The work plan is divided into six work packages, which cover the full scope and objectives of the project as described above. The following graphic illustrates its structure.



4.2 Work packages, activities, resources and timing

Work Package 1 – Project Management and Coordination Activities

Estimated budget — Resources												
Participant	Costs *(n/a for Lump Sum Grants)* in EUR											
	A. Personnel		B. Subcontracting	C.1 Travel and subsistence	C.2 Equipment	C.3 Other goods, works and services	D.1 Financial support to third parties		D.2 Internally invoiced goods and services	D.3 PAC procurement costs *(for PAC Grants for Procurement)*	E. Indirect costs	Total costs
INTEMAC	18 person months	77 040	0	7 000	0	500	0	0	0	0	5 918	90 458
BUT	7 person months	31 500	0	4 800	0	0	0	0	0	0	2 541	38 841
JIC	3,6 person months	14 400	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 008	15 408
Effectivity	4,5 person months	19 755	0	1 000	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 453	22 208
TBU	3,6 person months	11 600	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	812	12 412
Total	36,7 person months	154 295	0	12 800	0	500	0	0	0	0	11 732	179 327

For Lump Sum Grants, see detailed budget table/calculator (annex 1 to Part B; *see* Portal Reference Documents).

Work Package 2 – Testing on Testbed

Estimated budget — Resources												
Participant	Costs *(n/a for Lump Sum Grants)* in EUR											
	A. Personnel		B. Subcontracting	C.1 Travel and subsistence	C.2 Equipment	C.3 Other goods, works and services	D.1 Financial support to third parties		D.2 Internally invoiced goods and services	D.3 PAC procurement costs *(for PAC Grants for Procurement)*	E. Indirect costs	Total costs
BUT	52 person months	234 000	0	5 000	0	60 000	0	0	0	0	20 930	319 930
INTEMAC	35.4 person months	151 512	0	7 500	0	18 000	0	0	0	0	12 391	189 403
TBU	18 person months	82 000	0	3 000	0	6 000	0	0	0	0	6 370	97 370
Total	105.4 person months	467 512	0	15 500	0	84 000	0	0	0	0	39 691	606 703
For Lump Sum Grants, see detailed budget table/calculator (annex 1 to Part B; *see* Portal Reference Documents).												

Work Package 3 – Awareness-raising, ecosystem building activities and project clustering

Estimated budget — Resources												
Participant	**Costs** *(n/a for Lump Sum Grants)* **in EUR**											
	A. Personnel		B. Subcontracting	C.1 Travel and subsistence	C.2 Equipment	C.3 Other goods, works and services	D.1 Financial support to third parties		D.2 Internally invoiced goods and services	D.3 PAC procurement costs *(for PAC Grants for Procurement)*	E. Indirect costs	**Total costs**
INTEMAC	14,5 person months	62 060	0	0	0	21 000	0	0	0	0	5 814	88 874
BUT	6 person months	27 000	0	4 800	0	12 000	0	0	0	0	3 066	46 866
JIC	3,60 person months	14 400	0	0	0	1 000	0	0	0	0	1 078	16 478
Effectivity	3,50 person months	15 365	0	2000	0	10 000	0	0	0	0	1 916	29 281
TBU	3,60 person months	12 500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	875	13 375
Total	31,20 person months	131 325	0	6 800	0	44 000	0	0	0	0	12 749	194 874
For Lump Sum Grants, see detailed budget table/calculator (annex 1 to Part B; *see* Portal Reference Documents).												

Work Package 4 – Digitalization, Sustainability and Finance Capacity Building for Enterprises

Estimated budget — Resources												
Participant	Costs *(n/a for Lump Sum Grants)* in EUR											
	A. Personnel		B. Subcontracting	C.1 Travel and subsistence	C.2 Equipment	C.3 Other goods, works and services	D.1 Financial support to third parties		D.2 Internally invoiced goods and services	D.3 PAC procurement costs *(for PAC Grants for Procurement)*	E. Indirect costs	Total costs
Effectivity	53 person months	232 670	0	24 000	0	19 000	0	0	0	0	19 297	294 967
INTEMAC	30 person months	128 400	0	0	0	146 200	0	0	0	0	19 222	293 822
JIC	32,6 person months	130 400	0	0	0	141 017	0	0	0	0	18 999	290 416
TBU	5,4 person months	22 500	0	3 000	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 785	27 285
Total	121 person months	513 970	0	27 000	0	306 217	0	0	0	0	59 303	906 490
For Lump Sum Grants, see detailed budget table/calculator (annex 1 to Part B; *see* Portal Reference Documents).												

Work Package 5 – Skills and Training

Estimated budget — Resources												
Participant	Costs *(n/a for Lump Sum Grants)* in EUR											
	A. Personnel		B. Subcontracting	C.1 Travel and subsistence	C.2 Equipment	C.3 Other goods, works and services	D.1 Financial support to third parties		D.2 Internally invoiced goods and services	D.3 PAC procurement costs *(for PAC Grants for Procurement)*	E. Indirect costs	Total costs
Effectivity	36,8 person months	161 552	0	8 000	0	7 000	0	0	0	0	12 359	188 911
INTEMAC	18,6 person months	79 608	0	0	0	12 000	0	0	0	0	6 413	98 021
BUT	6 person months	27 000	0	0	0	3 000	0	0	0	0	2 100	32 100
TBU	18 person months	82 000	0	3 800	0	0	0	0	0	0	6 006	91 806
Total	79,4 person months	350 160	0	11 800	0	22 000	0	0	0	0	26 877	410 837
For Lump Sum Grants, see detailed budget table/calculator (annex 1 to Part B; *see* Portal Reference Documents).												

Work Package 6 – Marketing, Communication and Dissemination

Estimated budget — Resources												
Participant	Costs *(n/a for Lump Sum Grants)* in EUR											
	A. Personnel		B. Subcontracting	C.1 Travel and subsistence	C.2 Equipment	C.3 Other goods, works and services	D.1 Financial support to third parties		D.2 Internally invoiced goods and services	D.3 PAC procurement costs *(for PAC Grants for Procurement)*	E. Indirect costs	Total costs
INTEMAC	11,5 person months	49 220	0	0	0	39 600	0	0	0	0	6 217	95 037
BUT	6 person months	27 000	0	0	0	6 000	0	0	0	0	2 310	35 310
JIC	3,6 person months	14 400	0	0	0	2 327	0	0	0	0	1 171	17 898
Effectivity	4,5 person months	19 755	0	0	0	8 000	0	0	0	0	1 943	29 698
TBU	1,8 person months	7 200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	504	7 704
Total	27,4 person months	117 575	0	0	0	55 927	0	0	0	0	12 145	185 647
For Lump Sum Grants, see detailed budget table/calculator (annex 1 to Part B; *see* Portal Reference Documents).												

Subcontracting (n/a for prefixed Lump Sum Grants)

No subcontracting will be applied within the EDIH-DIGIMAT project.

Purchases and equipment

Purchase costs (travel and subsistence, equipment and other goods works and services)

Details for major cost items (needed if costs declared under 'purchase costs' are higher than 15% of the claimed personnel costs). Start with the most expensive cost items, down to the 15% threshold.

Participant 1:	INTEMAC			
Cost item name	Category	WP(s)	Explanations	Costs (EUR)
Testbed consumables	Other goods and services	WP2, WP5	Components for building experiments, 3D printing materials, and other essential electronics, including sensors, prototyping tools, edge computing devices, and more, for conducting experiments and hands-on workshops.	30 000
External experts	Other goods and services	WP4	Expenditures for contracting certified external experts (Ynovate) for the advisory services provided and described within WP4 (AI, digitalisation and process automation; Sustainable development and process excellence). The hourly rate for the Ynovate expert is 80 – 85 EUR/hour (depends on the exchange rate CZK/EUR), and we expect the amount of 1720 – 1828 expert labour hours for the advisory services.	146 200
			Total	176 200

Participant 2:	BUT			
Cost item name	Category	WP(s)	Explanations	Costs (EUR)
Testbed consumables	Other goods and services	WP2, WP3, WP5	Components for building experiments, consumables for 3D printing, raw materials for production technologies (steel for machining, gases for laser cutting/welding).	69 000
Communication materials and campaigns	Other goods and services	WP6	Leaflets, brochures to inform potential clients about testbed services, online campaigns fees	6 000
			Total	75 000
Participant 3:	JIC			
Cost item name	Category	WP(s)	Explanations	Costs (EUR)
External experts	Other goods and services	WP4	Expenditures for contracting certified external experts (Ynovate) for the services provided and described within WP4. The hourly rate for the Ynovate expert is 80 - 85 EUR/hour (depends on the exchange rate CZK/EUR).	141 017
			Total	141 017
Participant 4:	Effectivity			
Cost item name	Category	WP(s)	Explanations	Costs (EUR)
Travel costs – advisory services	Travel and Subsistence	WP4	The travel costs reflect the nature of our consulting services, which are primarily delivered on-site at client premises. Our experts operate in various regions across the	24 000

			Czech Republic and regularly travel to the clients to provide hands-on support.	
			Total	24 000
Participant 5:	TBU			
Cost item name	Category	WP(s)	Explanations	Costs (EUR)
xxx			There are no cost items exceeding 15 % of the claimed personnel costs.	
			Total	xxx
			Total purchase costs > 15% (all participants)	252 418
			Remaining purchase costs < 15% (all participants)	260 226
			Total purchase costs (all participants)	512 644

Equipment with full-cost option

For calls where full-capitalised costs are exceptionally eligible for listed equipment (see Call document), indicate below the equipment items for which you request the full-cost option, and justify your request. Ensure consistency with the budget details provided in the previous table.

Equipment Name	Description (including WP, task number and BEN/AE to which it is linked)	Estimated Costs (EUR)	Justification (why is reimbursement at full-cost needed?)	Best-Value-for-Money (how do you intend to ensure it?)
N/A				

Other cost categories

Other cost categories (financial support to third parties, internally invoiced goods and services, etc) will not be applied in the EDIH-DIGIMAT project.

Timetable

The implementation of the project is planned from **1 May 2026 to 30 April 2029**, in full compliance with the 36-month duration required by the Call.

Timetable (projects of more than 2 years)

Fill in cells in beige to show the duration of activities. Repeat lines/columns as necessary.

***Note:** Use actual calendar years and quarters. In the timeline you should indicate the timing of each activity per WP. You may add additional columns if your project is longer than 6 years.*

ACTIVITY	2026				2027				2028				2029			
	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4
Task 1.1 – Project management and coordination activities																
Task 1.2 – Finance capacity building for sustainability of EDIH-DIGIMAT																
Task 1.3 – Collaboration with Digital Transformation Accelerator (DTA)																
Task 1.4 – Unified KPI reporting																
Task 2.1 – Proof of concepts, development and testing of innovative automation and digital technologies applications																
Task 2.2 – Proof of concepts, development and testing of innovative AI applications																
Task 3.1 – Awareness-raising, networking and ecosystem building activities																

Task 3.2 – EDIH and other relevant networks collaboration																
Task 4.1 – AI, digitalization and process automation																
Task 4.2 – Sustainable development and process excellence																
Task 4.3 – Strategy, Access to finance & Investment Readiness																
Task 5.1 – Digital Transformation Academy																
Task 5.2 – Training courses, hands-on bootcamps and inspirational visits																
Task 6.1 – Marketing, communication and dissemination activities																

5. OTHER

5.1 Ethics

Ethics

If the Call document contains a section on ethics, the ethics issues and measures you intend to take to solve/avoid them must be described in Part A.

Ethics Issues Table

1. Human embryonic stem cells and human embryos			Page
Does this activity involve human embryonic stem cells (hESCs)?	○ Yes	◉ No	
Does this activity involve the use of human embryos?	○ Yes	◉ No	
2. Humans			**Page**
Does this activity involve human participants?	○ Yes	◉ No	
Does this activity involve interventions (physical also including imaging technology, behavioural treatments, tracking and tracing etc.) on the study participants?	○ Yes	◉ No	
3. Human cells / tissues			**Page**
Does this activity involve the use of human cells or tissues (not covered by section 1)?	○ Yes	◉ No	
4. Personal data			**Page**
Does this activity involve processing of personal data?	◉ Yes	○ No	36
Does it involve the processing of special categories of personal data (e.g. sexual lifestyle, ethnicity, genetic, biometric and health data, political opinion, religious or philosophical beliefs)?	○ Yes	◉ No	
Does it involve processing of genetic, biometric or health data?	○ Yes	◉ No	
Does it involve profiling, systematic monitoring of individuals, or processing of large scale of special categories of data or intrusive methods of data processing (such as, surveillance, geolocation tracking etc.)?	○ 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?	○ Yes	◉ No	
5. Animals			**Page**
Does this activity involve animals?	○ Yes	◉ No	
6. Non-EU countries			**Page**
Will some of the activities be carried out in non-EU countries?	○ Yes	◉ No	
In case non-EU countries are involved, do the activities undertaken in these countries raise potential ethics issues?	○ Yes	◉ No	
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.)?	○ Yes	◉ No	
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.*	○ Yes	◉ No	
Is it planned to export any material (other than data) from the EU to non-EU countries? *For data exports, see section 4.*	○ Yes	◉ No	

7. Environment, health and safety			Page
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)?	○ Yes	◉ No	
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	◉ No	
8. Artificial intelligence			**Page**
Does this activity involve the development, deployment and/or use of Artificial Intelligence-based systems?	◉ Yes	○ No	36
if yes, detail in the self-assessment whether that could raise ethical concerns related to human rights and values and detail how this will be addressed.			
9. Other ethics issues			**Page**
Are there any other ethics issues that should be taken into consideration?	○ Yes	◉ No	
I confirm that I have taken into account all ethics issues above and that, if any ethics issues apply, I will complete the ethics self-assessment as described in the guidelines How to Complete your Ethics Self-Assessment	☒		

Ethics Self-Assessment

Ethical dimension of the objectives, methodology and likely impact
The proposed project involves limited processing of personal data within educational and training activities as well as organizational aspects of project events. The data scope includes only basic identification and contact details (name, email, phone number) along with the employer information and professional interests or expertise. Data collection and processing will strictly adhere to GDPR principles, including informed consent, minimization, and purpose limitation. Advanced AI methodologies will be implemented for diagnostics, optimization, control of production technologies, predictive maintenance, and enhanced workplace safety. AI-based monitoring systems will aim to ensure worker safety and efficient human-machine collaboration rather than replacing human operators or evaluating their performance. With the emergence of generative AI, additional focus will be placed on data security, preventing inadvertent exposure or misuse of sensitive business information, and robust management of AI-generated content. Ethical concerns regarding AI system safety, reliability, interpretability, and fairness will be actively addressed. In alignment with the European AI Act, all deployed AI systems will undergo validation processes ensuring safety, accuracy, reliability, and transparency. Where technically applicable, depending on particular use case, special attention will be devoted to interpretability of AI outcomes, supporting human-centric decision-making and building trustworthy human-AI interactions. Potential biases and unintended adverse impacts arising from training data or model predictions will be systematically identified, monitored, and mitigated. Also, where applicable, industry-recognized verification methodologies for logic-based AI models, comprehensive benchmarking procedures, and explainability frameworks for machine learning models will be utilized. The project will also align activities with recognized best practices, deliverables, and outputs from existing European initiatives, such as EU-funded projects AI4DI (Artificial Intelligence for Digitising Industry) and newer BRAINE (Big data pRocessing and Artificial Intelligence at the Network Edge), KDT JU (Key Digital Technologies Joint Undertaking), which is following ArchitectECA2030 focused on security and reliability of AI systems, and finally RICAIP (Research and Innovation Centre on Advanced Industrial Production) and DIH4AI (Digital Innovation Hubs for AI), and of course recent developments in responsible AI.

Compliance with ethical principles and relevant legislation
Personal data collected within project activities will be processed strictly for organizational purposes related to training, education, and dissemination events. Data handling will be fully compliant with GDPR, emphasizing explicit informed consent, data minimization, retention policies limited to project duration, and ensuring robust security measures, especially relevant for cloud-based and on-premise deployments. The project implementation will adhere to the requirements set forth by the European AI Act, which classifies AI systems into four risk levels: unacceptable, high, limited, and minimal. Based on the intended use of AI in digitization, automation and optimization of processes, industrial engineering, ergonomics, and similar, without directly controlling safety-critical systems, the majority of the project's AI components are expected to fall within the limited-risk category. This involves obligations such as ensuring transparency, clear disclosures that the user is interacting with AI, and appropriate human oversight. The project will incorporate current industrial standards such as ISO/IEC TR 24027:2021 (Bias in AI systems), ISO/IEC TR 24028:2020 (Trustworthiness in artificial intelligence), ISO/IEC TR 24029-1:2021 and ISO/IEC 24029-2:2023 (Assessment of neural network robustness). Additionally, the project will integrate newly published standards, including ISO/IEC TR 5469:2024 (Functional safety and AI systems), ISO/IEC TS 8200:2024 (Controllability of automated AI systems), and ISO/IEC TR 24368:2022 (Ethical and societal considerations in AI). Explicit attention will be given to the security and ethical implications of generative AI, ensuring proper governance mechanisms, secure deployment (preferably on-premise), data confidentiality and management, and mitigation of potential ethical risks associated with automatically generated content. This proactive and comprehensive approach will ensure that the project remains fully compliant with evolving legal frameworks, ethical standards, and industry best practices.

5.2 Security

Security
The security issues and the measures you intend to take to solve/avoid them must be described in Part A. ***Note:** Beneficiaries must ensure that their projects are not subject to national/third country security requirements that could affect the implementation or put into question the award of the grant (e.g. technology restrictions, national security classification, etc).*
See Application Form Part A.

6. DECLARATIONS

Double funding	
Information concerning other EU grants ⚠ *Please note that there is a strict prohibition of double funding from the EU budget (except under EU Synergies actions).*	**YES/NO**
We confirm that to our best knowledge none of the projects under the action plan as a whole or in parts have benefitted from any other EU grant *(including EU funding managed by authorities in EU Member States or other funding bodies, e.g. EU Regional Funds, EU Agricultural Funds, etc)*. If NO, explain and provide details.	YES
We confirm that to our best knowledge none of the projects under the action plan as a whole or in parts are (nor will be) submitted for any other EU grant *(including EU funding managed by authorities in EU Member States or other funding bodies, e.g. EU Regional Funds, EU Agricultural Funds, etc)*. If NO, explain and provide details.	YES

Financial support to third parties (if applicable)
If in your project the maximum amount per third party will be more than the threshold amount set in the Call document, justify and explain why the higher amount is necessary in order to fulfil your project's objectives.
N/A

ANNEXES

LIST OF ANNEXES

Standard
Detailed budget table/Calculator (annex 1 to Part B) — *mandatory for certain Lump Sum Grants (see Portal Reference Documents) – not applicable*
CVs (annex 2 to Part B) — *not applicable*
Annual activity reports (annex 3 to Part B) — *not applicable*
List of previous projects (annex 4 to Part B) — *see Annex saved in the portal*

Special
Proof of MS designation (annex 5 to Part B) – see annex saved in the portal
Other annexes (annex 6 to Part B) – see annexes saved in the portal

- List of services and prices;
- Summary of KPIs and targets;
- Support Letters – The annex includes a full list of all received letters and a representative selection of support letters from companies that received services under the first phase of EDIH-DIGIMAT. As the letters follow a unified structure and content, only selected examples are provided;
- Memorandum of Understanding or Letters of Intent with other EDIHs, AI Innovation Infrastructures (TEF: AI-MATTERS) and local actors planning mutual support with the EDIH-DIGIMAT;
- Memorandum of Understanding with selected technology partners to confirm strategic cooperation in service delivery and ecosystem development.

  The selected attachments contain electronic signatures which become invalid when merged into a single document, and in some cases, the signature may not be visibly displayed. Original signed versions can be provided upon request.

List of previous projects

Please provide a list of your previous projects for the last 2 years.

Participant	Project Reference No and Title, Funding programme	Period (start and end date)	Role (COO, BEN, AE, OTHER)	Amount (EUR)	Website (if any)
INTEMAC	ID 101083672, EDIH-DIGIMAT: Flexible Manufacturing Systems Using Artificial Intelligence, Digital Europe Programme – 50 %; ID EDIH1.5.01.3, DIGIMAT, RRF (National R&R plan) – 50 %	01/2023 – 12/2025	COO	1,023,247	EDIH DIGIMAT
INTEMAC	ID ATCZ00060, IPMAI: Interpretable Prescriptive Maintenance using Artificial Intelligence, Interreg AT-CZ	01/2024 – 12/2026	BEN	280,456	
INTEMAC	ID CE0100007, SMART CIRCUIT: enabling SMARTer, CIRCUlar digITal innovation hubs to enhance Central Europe's manufacturing eco-system towards a greener & more competitive future, Interreg Central Europe	04/2023 – 03/2026	BEN	199,175	Cleaning up the manufacturing industry - Interreg Central Europe
JIC	ID 101083672, EDIH-DIGIMAT: Flexible Manufacturing Systems Using Artificial Intelligence, Digital Europe Programme – 50 %; ID EDIH1.5.01.3, DIGIMAT, RRF (National R&R plan) – 50 %	01/2023 - 12/2025	BEN	541,103	EDIH DIGIMAT
JIC	ID 101052776 BISON3T: Business Innovation Support Network 3, Single Market Programme	01/2022 - 06/2025	BEN	442,141	https://enterprise-europe-network.cz
JIC	ID 101087529 CHESS: Cyber-security Excellence Hub in Estonia and South Moravia, Horizon Europe	01/2023 - 12/2026	AE	0	https://chess-eu.cs.ut.ee
JIC	ID 101091367 Up2Circ: Boosting the uptake of circular business model, product and process innovation, Horizon Europe	01/2023 - 12/2026	BEN	243,825	https://up2circ.eu/
JIC	ID 101217762 CSC: Czech Semiconductor Centre, Digital Europe Programme	03/2025 - 02/2029	BEN	581,652	https://czechsemiconductorcentre.cz/
JIC	ID 101193512 DEEPSAFE: Introducing SAFE to European deep tech industry, Horizon Europe	01/2025 - 12/2026	BEN	154,375	https://eu-safe.eu

JIC	ID 101213091 BrigiTTe: Bridging Academia and Enterprise by AI-powered Talent Scouting, Female Empowering, Sciencepreneurship and Prototyping for Start-up and Spin-off Ecosystems Enhancement, Horizon Europe	01/2025 - 12/2027	COO	119,754	
BUT	ID 101083672, EDIH-DIGIMAT: Flexible Manufacturing Systems Using Artificial Intelligence, Digital Europe Programme – 50 %; ID EDIH1.5.01.3, DIGIMAT, RRF (National R&R plan) – 50 %	01/2023 - 12/2025	BEN	803,031	EDIH DIGIMAT
BUT	ID 101100707 AI TEF AI-MATTERS: AI MAnufacturing Testing and experimenTation network For EuROpean industrieS, Digital Europe Programme	01/2023 – 12/2027	BEN	1,579,001	https://ai-matters.eu/
BUT	ID 857306 TEAMING RICAIP: Research and Innovation Centre on Advanced Industrial Production, H2020 CSA	09/2019 – 02/2026	BEN	3,940,555 (+ 14 mil.€ national funding)	https://ricaip.eu/
BUT	ID 101112338 R-PODID: Reliable Powerdown for Industrial Drives, Horizon Europe	09/2023 – 08/2026	BEN	1,185,750	https://www.r-podid.eu/
BUT	ID 101096658 A-IQ Ready: Artificial Intelligence using Quantum measured Information for realtime distributed systems at the edge, Horizon Europe	01/2023 – 12/2025	BEN	1,203,187	https://www.aiqready.eu/
Effectivity	ID 101083672, EDIH-DIGIMAT: Flexible Manufacturing Systems Using Artificial Intelligence, Digital Europe Programme – 50 %; ID EDIH1.5.01.3, DIGIMAT, RRF (National R&R plan) – 50 %	01/2023 - 12/2025	BEN	325,088	EDIH DIGIMAT
TBU	ID 101071300 The SUSTAINABLE HORIZONS PROJECT: European Universities Designing the Horizons of Sustainability, Horizon Europe	9/2022 – 8/2024	BEN	115,812	
TBU	ID CL02000092 Tool for optimization of public transport systems offer: Sustainable mobility and its financing, The Technology Agency of the Czech Republic (TACR) Programme “TRANSPORT”	01/2025 - 12/2027	BEN	797,900	
TBU	ID CZ.01.01.01/01/22_002/0000391 Research and development of means to automate and streamline the operation of complex IPTV/OTT solutions for small and medium-sized content owners, Operational Programme Technologies and Applications for Competitiveness (OP TAK)	09/2024 – 06/2026	BEN	331,474	

TBU	ID EG21_374/0026739 NETDIRECT s.r.o. – Blockchain Technologies in Business Intelligence (BI) Application, Operational Programme Enterprise and Innovation for Competitiveness (OP PIK)	05/2022 - 10/2023	BEN	70,118	
TBU	ID CZ.01.1.02/0.0/0.0/20_321/0023805 Robotized camera workplace for measuring and checking shape defects of forgings and workpieces using artificial intelligence, Operational Programme Enterprise and Innovation for Competitiveness (OP PIK)	10/2020 - 05/2023	BEN	269,422	
TBU	ID EG19_262/0020292 Expert system for custom products manufacturing companies with AI support, Operational Programme Enterprise and Innovation for Competitiveness (OP PIK)	10/2020 - 12/2023	BEN	175,010	

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025
Ref. Ares(2022)1378663 - 23/02/2022

Karel Havlíček
Deputy Prime Minister,
Minister of Industry and Trade
and Minister of Transport of the Czech Republic

Prague , 16 December 2021
No. MPO 635315/21/71000/01000

LETTER OF DESIGNATION

Dear Mr. Zbožínek,

This letter is to confirm that the project "EDIH DIGIMAT – Flexible Manufacturing Systems Using Artificial Intelligence" was selected as a candidate to participate in the European call on the European Digital Innovation Hubs under the Digital Europe Programme. EDIH DIGIMAT – Flexible Manufacturing Systems Using Artificial Intelligence was evaluated by independent national and international evaluators in the national call in December 2020. The Czech Republic designates this project.

Ing. Radomír Zbožínek
CEO
Intemac Solutions, s.r.o.
Kuřim

LIST OF SERVICES AND PRICES

Item no	WP	Service Title and Description	Service Category	Type of Service	Target Client	Unit of Measure	Nominal Price	State Aid Amount	Price remaining to be paid by Client **
1	WP2	Experimentation on the BUT testbed without expert support. The full testbed is accessible, and costs are charged proportionally based on the equipment used *	Test before Invest	Individual	SME, midcap	Testbed Day	11 000 €	3 300.00 €	2 200.00 €
2	WP2	Experimentation on the INTEMAC testbed without expert support. The full testbed is accessible, and costs are charged proportionally based on the equipment used *	Test before Invest	Individual	SME, midcap	Testbed Day	3 000 €	900.00 €	600.00 €
3	WP2	Experimentation on the TBU testbed without expert support. The full testbed is accessible, and costs are charged proportionally based on the equipment used *	Test before Invest	Individual	SME, midcap	Testbed Day	1 600 €	480.00 €	320.00 €
4	WP2	Expert-Supported Experimentation on Testbed	Test before Invest	Individual	SME, midcap	Hour	51 €	15.30 €	10.20 €
5	WP2	High-Performance Computing (HPC) – NVIDIA DGX A100 (1 GPU) *	Test before Invest	Individual	SME, midcap	Computing Hour	5 €	1.50 €	1.00 €
6	WP2	High-Performance Computing (HPC) – NVIDIA DGX H100 (1 GPU) *	Test before Invest	Individual	SME, midcap	Computing Hour	10 €	3.00 €	2.00 €
7	WP3	Awareness-raising, networking and ecosystem-building activities	Innovation ecosystem and networking	Event	SME, midcap, public sector	Client Fee	0 €	0.00 €	0.00 €
8	WP3	National and international networking and brokerage events, including business missions and matchmaking activities with EDIHs, AI Factories, and industrial stakeholders	Innovation ecosystem and networking	Event	SME, midcap, public sector	Client Fee	0 €	0.00 €	0.00 €
9	WP4	Intensive onsite advisory services	Test before Invest	Individual	SME, midcap	Hour	163 €	48.90 €	32.60 €
10	WP4	General advisory services	Test before Invest	Individual	SME, midcap	Hour	122 €	36.60 €	24.40 €

11	WP4	Advisory support in strategy, Access to finance & Investment Readiness	Access to Finance	Individual	SME, midcap	Hour	122 €	36.60 €	24.40 €
12	WP5	Digital Transformation Academy	Training and skills development	Class	SME, midcap	Client Fee	6 367 €	1 910.10 €	1 273.40 €
13	WP5	Tailored Training Courses	Training and skills development	Class, Individual	SME, midcap	Training Day	404 €	121.20 €	80.80 €
14	WP5	Hands-on Bootcamps and Practical Workshops with Testbed Infrastructure *	Training and skills development	Class	SME, midcap	Training Day	808 €	242.40 €	161.60 €
15	WP5	Inspirational Industry Visits	Training and skills development	Individual, Collective	SME, midcap	Client Fee	404 €	121.20 €	80.80 €

** These services include only equipment-related costs, such as machine hours, energy consumption and material usage, and do not include personnel costs.*

*** Client co-payment is based on an assumed national co-financing structure: 50% of the cost outside the Digital Europe Programme (DEP) is expected to be covered by national sources (estimated at 30%) and client contributions (estimated at 20%).*

SUMMARY OF KPIs AND TARGETS

KPI Title and Description	Type of KPI	Reference to the description in Part B	Category	Targeted clients	Type of Services	Total Target (Value or quantity in EUR)
Total Number of Experimentation Services Delivered for Proof-of-Concept, Prototyping, and Testbed Testing	Output	3.1 Expected outcomes and deliverables	Test before Invest	SME, Midcaps	Individual	38
Total number of unique entities using WP2 service	Impact		Test before Invest	SME, Midcaps	Individual	32
Number of participants attending events *	Output		Innovation ecosystem & networking	SME, Midcaps, Public Sector	Event	660
Number of collaborations foreseen with other EDIHs and stakeholders outside the region at EU level.	Output		Innovation ecosystem & networking	Non-Profit Organisations	Individual, collective or event	13
Total advisory services delivered covering intensive onsite advisory services and general advisory services **	Output		Test before Invest	SME, Midcaps	Individual	237
Total number of unique entities using WP4 service	Impact		Test before Invest	SME, Midcaps	Individual	55
Amount of additional investments successfully triggered	Impact		Access to Finance	SME, Midcaps	Individual	5 000 000
Total number of training services delivered in Digital Transformation Academy, Courses, Bootcamps, and Workshops ***	Output		Training and skills development	SME, Midcaps	Individual or collective	25
Total number of unique entities using the WP5 service	Impact		Training and skills development	SME, Midcaps	Individual or collective	57
Number of services related to develop and uptake AI solutions	Impact		All types of services	SME, Midcaps	Individual or collective	50
Total Referrals to European AI Innovation Infrastructures	Output		Test before Invest	SME, Midcaps	Individual	5

** This KPI is the only one to include public sector organisations (as a secondary target group).*

*** Any advisory support, ranging from a several-hour meeting to a multi-day long-term transformational support, counts as a single service.*

**** Each Digital Transformation Academy, as well as multi-day training courses, bootcamps or workshops, count as a single service.*

FULL LIST OF ALL RECEIVED SUPPORT LETTERS
from companies that received services under the first phase of EDIH-DIGIMAT

Company Name
AVALTAR Tech s.r.o.
Agiception s.r.o.
ALUCAST, s.r.o.
TRANSFORM a.s. Lázně Bohdaneč
ZEBR s.r.o.
Karel Kaňák, s.r.o.
Edmund s.r.o.
WALMAG MAGNETICS s.r.o.
Aiviro s.r.o.
Plastic Guys
AUTOLIFT PRODUCTION s.r.o.
Cars Technology s.r.o.
MAUTING s.r.o.
DI industrial spol. s r.o.
DŘEVODÍLO Rousínov, výrobní družstvo
EC - TECH a.s.
EK-INDUSTRY, s.r.o.
ENERGO CHOCEŇ, s.r.o.
Fluidea s.r.o
HIGHFIVE, s.r.o.
SAFIRAL s.r.o.
ZLOMEK, s.r.o.
Mejzlik Propellers s.r.o.
MESING, spol. s r.o.
Princ parket s.r.o.
Smart View s.r.o.
TEVAL tech s.r.o.
TIERRA VERDE s.r.o.
QPAG s.r.o.

As the letters follow a unified structure and content, only selected examples are given in the annexes.

Envelope ID DigiSign.org:0195d7ed-4146-7106-a826-88bf43c587bb
Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

intemac

Intemac Solutions s.r.o.
Blanenská 1288/27
664 34 Kuřim
Czech Republic

In Kuřim, on 27th March 2025

Expression of Continued Interest in Collaborating with the EDIH-DIGIMAT Consortium under the Digital Europe Programme

We reaffirm our commitment to collaborating with the EDIH-DIGIMAT consortium under the Digital Europe Programme, supporting the continuation of EDIH 2.0. This initiative plays a key role in advancing sustainability, digitalization, and artificial intelligence in manufacturing to improve efficiency and automation.

Led by INTEMAC, alongside CEITEC, JIC, and Effectivity, the consortium has been instrumental in driving innovation in the South Moravian region and neighbouring areas. Its high-quality services have significantly benefited SMEs, helping them adopt cutting-edge technologies and remain competitive globally. Continuing this work is essential for further technological advancement in Czech industry.

EDIH-DIGIMAT

EDIH 2.0 targets critical technologies such as smart connectivity, digital twins, autonomous robotics, intelligent control systems, and industrial AI—aligning with RIS3 priorities. We see great value in the programme's offerings, including Test Before Invest, training, financial capacity building, and networking opportunities, all of which support innovation and collaboration.

Our experience with EDIH-DIGIMAT has been highly positive, enhancing our digitalization and productivity. Given the transformative impact of these services, we are eager to continue leveraging them in EDIH 2.0. Adopting modern technologies is crucial for sustaining our growth and competitiveness, and we recognize EDIH as a vital partner in strengthening our technological capabilities.

We are particularly interested in industrial AI, digitalization, and automation to optimize productivity and system flexibility. Engaging with EDIH 2.0 will allow us to test innovations, enhance internal competencies, and connect with key stakeholders.

We look forward to continuing this collaboration and contributing to the success of EDIH 2.0 in strengthening Czech industry's global position.

Envelope ID DigiSign.org: 0195d7ed-4146-7106-a826-88bf43c587bb
Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

intemac

BARBORA VALTAROVÁ
ID: 0195ebac-8ecf-7047-8d82-e1b5fcedbe49
DigiSign.org 31.3.2025 12:08:29

.....

Mgr. Barbora Valtarová
Jednatel
AVALTAR Tech s.r.o.
Plynárenská 499/1, Zábrdovice, 602 00
Brno

Envelope ID DigiSign.org: 0195dbed-62d0-7100-bf22-629a4e83fd24
Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

intemac

Intemac Solutions s.r.o.
Blanenská 1288/27
664 34 Kuřim
Czech Republic

In Kuřim, on 28th March 2025

Expression of Continued Interest in Collaborating with the EDIH-DIGIMAT Consortium under the Digital Europe Programme

We reaffirm our commitment to collaborating with the EDIH-DIGIMAT consortium under the Digital Europe Programme, supporting the continuation of EDIH 2.0. This initiative plays a key role in advancing sustainability, digitalization, and artificial intelligence in manufacturing to improve efficiency and automation.

Led by INTEMAC, alongside CEITEC, JIC, and Effectivity, the consortium has been instrumental in driving innovation in the South Moravian region and neighbouring areas. Its high-quality services have significantly benefited SMEs, helping them adopt cutting-edge technologies and remain competitive globally. Continuing this work is essential for further technological advancement in Czech industry.

EDIH-DIGIMAT

EDIH 2.0 targets critical technologies such as smart connectivity, digital twins, autonomous robotics, intelligent control systems, and industrial AI—aligning with RIS3 priorities. We see great value in the programme's offerings, including Test Before Invest, training, financial capacity building, and networking opportunities, all of which support innovation and collaboration.

Our experience with EDIH-DIGIMAT has been highly positive, enhancing our digitalization and productivity. Given the transformative impact of these services, we are eager to continue leveraging them in EDIH 2.0. Adopting modern technologies is crucial for sustaining our growth and competitiveness, and we recognize EDIH as a vital partner in strengthening our technological capabilities.

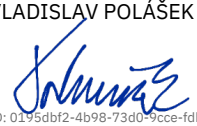
We are particularly interested in industrial AI, digitalization, and automation to optimize productivity and system flexibility. Engaging with EDIH 2.0 will allow us to test innovations, enhance internal competencies, and connect with key stakeholders.

Envelope ID DigiSign.org: 0195dbed-62d0-7100-bf22-629a4e83fd24
Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

intemac

We look forward to continuing this collaboration and contributing to the success of EDIH 2.0 in strengthening Czech industry's global position.

VLADISLAV POLÁŠEK



ID: 0195dbf2-4b98-73d0-9cce-fdb5b1ae98f4
DigiSign.org 28.3.2025 09:50:44

.....

Ing. Vladislav Polášek
Jednatel
Karel Kaňák, s.r.o.
Tovární 1237/35, 696 01 Rohatec

Envelope ID DigiSign.org: 0195d809-c167-7340-93eb-a63151545dcd
Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

intemac

Intemac Solutions s.r.o.
Blanenská 1288/27
664 34 Kuřim
Czech Republic

In Kuřim, on 27th March 2025

Expression of Continued Interest in Collaborating with the EDIH-DIGIMAT Consortium under the Digital Europe Programme

We reaffirm our commitment to collaborating with the EDIH-DIGIMAT consortium under the Digital Europe Programme, supporting the continuation of EDIH 2.0. This initiative plays a key role in advancing sustainability, digitalization, and artificial intelligence in manufacturing to improve efficiency and automation.

Led by INTEMAC, alongside CEITEC, JIC, and Effectivity, the consortium has been instrumental in driving innovation in the South Moravian region and neighbouring areas. Its high-quality services have significantly benefited SMEs, helping them adopt cutting-edge technologies and remain competitive globally. Continuing this work is essential for further technological advancement in Czech industry.

EDIH-DIGIMAT

EDIH 2.0 targets critical technologies such as smart connectivity, digital twins, autonomous robotics, intelligent control systems, and industrial AI—aligning with RIS3 priorities. We see great value in the programme's offerings, including Test Before Invest, training, financial capacity building, and networking opportunities, all of which support innovation and collaboration.

Our experience with EDIH-DIGIMAT has been highly positive, enhancing our digitalization and productivity. Given the transformative impact of these services, we are eager to continue leveraging them in EDIH 2.0. Adopting modern technologies is crucial for sustaining our growth and competitiveness, and we recognize EDIH as a vital partner in strengthening our technological capabilities.

We are particularly interested in industrial AI, digitalization, and automation to optimize productivity and system flexibility. Engaging with EDIH 2.0 will allow us to test innovations, enhance internal competencies, and connect with key stakeholders.

We look forward to continuing this collaboration and contributing to the success of EDIH 2.0 in strengthening Czech industry's global position.

Envelope ID DigiSign.org: 0195d809-c167-7340-93eb-a63151545dcd
Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

intemac

Ondřej Venclík



ID: 01961946-87b0-70a4-8b71-cf02c404d19e
DigiSign.org 9.4.2025 08:39:34

.....

Ondřej Venclík
Jednatel
Plastic guys s.r.o.
Durďákova 338/31, Černá Pole, 613 00
Brno

Envelope ID DigiSign.org: 0195dc0c-f30c-7159-8521-bb5112dd1d6f
Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

intemac

Intemac Solutions s.r.o.
Blanenská 1288/27
664 34 Kuřim
Czech Republic

In Kuřim, on 28th March 2025

Expression of Continued Interest in Collaborating with the EDIH-DIGIMAT Consortium under the Digital Europe Programme

We reaffirm our commitment to collaborating with the EDIH-DIGIMAT consortium under the Digital Europe Programme, supporting the continuation of EDIH 2.0. This initiative plays a key role in advancing sustainability, digitalization, and artificial intelligence in manufacturing to improve efficiency and automation.

Led by INTEMAC, alongside CEITEC, JIC, and Effectivity, the consortium has been instrumental in driving innovation in the South Moravian region and neighbouring areas. Its high-quality services have significantly benefited SMEs, helping them adopt cutting-edge technologies and remain competitive globally. Continuing this work is essential for further technological advancement in Czech industry.

EDIH-DIGIMAT

EDIH 2.0 targets critical technologies such as smart connectivity, digital twins, autonomous robotics, intelligent control systems, and industrial AI—aligning with RIS3 priorities. We see great value in the programme's offerings, including Test Before Invest, training, financial capacity building, and networking opportunities, all of which support innovation and collaboration.

Our experience with EDIH-DIGIMAT has been highly positive, enhancing our digitalization and productivity. Given the transformative impact of these services, we are eager to continue leveraging them in EDIH 2.0. Adopting modern technologies is crucial for sustaining our growth and competitiveness, and we recognize EDIH as a vital partner in strengthening our technological capabilities.

We are particularly interested in industrial AI, digitalization, and automation to optimize productivity and system flexibility. Engaging with EDIH 2.0 will allow us to test innovations, enhance internal competencies, and connect with key stakeholders.

Envelope ID DigiSign.org: 0195dc0c-f30c-7159-8521-bb5112dd1d6f
Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

intemac

We look forward to continuing this collaboration and contributing to the success of EDIH 2.0 in strengthening Czech industry's global position.

Milan Matula



.....

Milan Matula
Jednatel
Smart View s.r.o.
Nivy 313, Kvítkovice, 765 02 Otrokovice

Envelope ID DigiSign.org: 0195dc19-4243-7013-8cf9-201d9b20b10b
Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

intemac

Intemac Solutions s.r.o.
Blanenská 1288/27
664 34 Kuřim
Czech Republic

In Kuřim, on 28th March 2025

Expression of Continued Interest in Collaborating with the EDIH-DIGIMAT Consortium under the Digital Europe Programme

We reaffirm our commitment to collaborating with the EDIH-DIGIMAT consortium under the Digital Europe Programme, supporting the continuation of EDIH 2.0. This initiative plays a key role in advancing sustainability, digitalization, and artificial intelligence in manufacturing to improve efficiency and automation.

Led by INTEMAC, alongside CEITEC, JIC, and Effectivity, the consortium has been instrumental in driving innovation in the South Moravian region and neighbouring areas. Its high-quality services have significantly benefited SMEs, helping them adopt cutting-edge technologies and remain competitive globally. Continuing this work is essential for further technological advancement in Czech industry.

EDIH-DIGIMAT

EDIH 2.0 targets critical technologies such as smart connectivity, digital twins, autonomous robotics, intelligent control systems, and industrial AI—aligning with RIS3 priorities. We see great value in the programme's offerings, including Test Before Invest, training, financial capacity building, and networking opportunities, all of which support innovation and collaboration.

Our experience with EDIH-DIGIMAT has been highly positive, enhancing our digitalization and productivity. Given the transformative impact of these services, we are eager to continue leveraging them in EDIH 2.0. Adopting modern technologies is crucial for sustaining our growth and competitiveness, and we recognize EDIH as a vital partner in strengthening our technological capabilities.

We are particularly interested in industrial AI, digitalization, and automation to optimize productivity and system flexibility. Engaging with EDIH 2.0 will allow us to test innovations, enhance internal competencies, and connect with key stakeholders.

Envelope ID DigiSign.org: 0195dc19-4243-7013-8cf9-201d9b20b10b
Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

intemac

We look forward to continuing this collaboration and contributing to the success of EDIH 2.0 in strengthening Czech industry's global position.

Radek Jánský

ID: 0195f134-ad3a-7289-9cae-4febc06cf575
DigiSign.org 1.4.2025 13:55:16

.....

Ing. Radek Jánský
Prokurista
ZEBR s.r.o.
č.p. 178, 691 88 Milovice

Docusign Envelope ID: E4D0B93A-EA09-4739-BD07-E60688DD30FB

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

EDIH-DO
European Digital Innovation Hub Dortmund

EDIH-DIGIMAT

2nd May 2025

Subject

Letter of Intent for the establishment of a collaboration framework between "EDIH-DO – European Digital Innovation Hub Dortmund" and "EDIH-DIGIMAT"

This Letter of Intent lays the foundation for the development of a joint collaboration between the two regional Digital Innovation Hubs.

EDIH-DO aim is to increase the dissemination, acceptance and adoption of digital technologies and their successful application for the development of product, process and business model innovations by SMEs. EDIHDO focuses on the application area of logistics, manufacturing and production. In the area of digitalisation, the technological focal points include artificial intelligence, high-performance computing, the Internet of Things, blockchain, sovereign data exchange and cyber-physical systems, based on the needs of companies in the region, the potential in the application area and the competences of the consortium partners. Since the successful use of digital technologies in innovative products, processes and business models requires above all the digital competences of the employees, EDIHDO also places a special focus on offers in the area of digital further qualification.

EDIH-DIGIMAT is a European Digital Innovation Hub dedicated to helping small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) successfully navigate their digital transformation journey. The hub focuses on the integration of advanced digital technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), high-performance computing (HPC), digital twins, flexible manufacturing systems, simulation and modeling, additive manufacturing (3D printing), advanced data analytics and more. Through services like test-before-invest, technical mentoring, skills training, and access to finance, EDIH-DIGIMAT empowers businesses to adopt Industry 4.0 solutions with confidence and strategic insight. By bridging the gap between research excellence and industrial needs, EDIH-DIGIMAT acts as a catalyst for innovation, strengthening regional competitiveness and driving smart, data-driven transformation.

Both DIHS incorporate and implement the concept of **European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIH)** through the provision of testing and experimentation services that facilitates the investment decision-making process, supports the identification of financing sources and provide services for the development of digital skills and training programmes among other services.

The **areas of collaboration** are related to Test before invest, Skills and training, Support to find investments and innovation ecosystem and networking.

The following **specific activities and services** are of mutual interest between the two DIHs:

Docusign Envelope ID: E4D0B93A-EA09-4739-BD07-E60688DD30FB

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

- Foster collaboration in already running and new inter-regional projects
- Exchange of use cases
- Joint webinars and/or digital roundtables to exchange experiences
- Matchmaking events and activities to foster the adoption of digitalisation,
- Conferences or workshops and specific working groups.

This letter of intent can be developed into more specific joint collaboration agreements between the two DIHs if necessary.

Signiert von:
M. Beck
88733604341A44C...

Representative of EDIH-DO
Maria Beck
Managing Director
Digital Hub Management GmbH

Mgr. et Mgr. Jindřich Weiss
Digitálně podepsal Mgr. et Mgr. Jindřich Weiss
Datum: 2025.05.02 21:43:58 +02'00'

Representative of EDIH-DIGIMAT
Jindřich Weiss
Managing Director
INTEMAC

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

DIGIS3 and **EDIH-DIGIMAT**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) sets forth the terms and conditions for collaboration between *Smart, Sustainable and coheSive Digitalization conceived as a Digital Innovation Hub,* hereinafter referred to as "**DIGIS3**," duly represented by **Ricardo Serafín Alonso Rincon** with ID 45685315R; and **EDIH-DIGIMAT: Flexible manufacturing systems using AI**, hereinafter referred to as "**EDIH-DIGIMAT**," represented by **Jindřich Weiss** with ID **101083672**, with the aim of promoting digitalization and technological innovation in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), startups, and other key actors in the business ecosystem.

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this agreement is to formalize a strategic cooperation between both EDIHs, focused on the digitalization of companies through the use of advanced technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Big Data, IoT, Computer Vision, among others. Through this collaboration, the goal is to facilitate access for SMEs and other target groups to technological solutions while fostering innovation networks and cooperation.

3. JOINT ACTIVITIES

The collaboration activities will focus on creating synergies between the ecosystems of both EDIHs. The main activities will include:

- **Exchange of best practices and success stories**: Facilitating knowledge transfer by sharing experiences on the successful implementation of digital technologies and promoting mutual learning.
- **Organization of events**: Jointly organizing awareness and promotion events for innovative digital solutions, including conferences, seminars, and technology fairs.
- **Development of joint projects**: Collaboration in the submission of transnational projects to access European funds, such as those available in Horizon Europe or the Digital Europe Program.

4. FINANCING

This MoU does not imply direct financial commitments. Possible joint financing activities will be formalized through specific agreements that will define the responsibilities and necessary resources.

Co-funded by the European Union
Funded by the European Union NextGenerationEU
Plan de Recuperación, Transformación y Resiliencia
Escuela de organización industrial
CZECH RECOVERY PLAN

Financed by the European Union. However, the opinions and views expressed are solely those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

5. DURATION AND TERMINATION

This Memorandum will come into effect upon its signing and will remain in force until either party decides to modify or terminate it by written notification at least three months in advance.

6. CONFIDENTIALITY

The parties agree to maintain the confidentiality of sensitive information shared during the execution of this agreement. Any exchange of confidential information will be subject to additional confidentiality agreements when necessary.

7. PERSONAL DATA PROCESSING

Each EDIH will manage the personal data of their respective clients independently, and no transfer of personal data between entities will take place. Both EDIHs commit to complying with all applicable privacy and data protection regulations (Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR) and Organic Law 3/2018) and ensuring that clients' personal data are treated with due confidentiality and security.

If necessary, a data processing agreement will be signed to govern the processing of personal data, detailing the conditions and responsibilities related to data processing, including the rights of the data subjects and the security measures to be implemented.

Co-funded by the European Union
Funded by the European Union NextGenerationEU
Plan de Recuperación, Transformación y Resiliencia
Escuela de organización industrial
CZECH RECOVERY PLAN

Financed by the European Union. However, the opinions and views expressed are solely those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

8. CONTACT

For any matters related to this MoU, the contacts will be as follows:

DIGIS3

Ricardo Serafín Alonso Rincón

Avenida Santiago Madrigal S/N, Salamanca (37003)

info@digis3.eu

EDIH-DIGIMAT

Jindřich Weiss

Blanenská 1288/27, 664 34 Kuřim

projekt@edih-digimat.cz

As a form of agreement between the parties, they sign on **14** of **April** of 2025

AIR INSTITUTE

Firmado digitalmente por 45685315R RICARDO SEFARIN ALONSO (R: G37571627)
Fecha: 2025.04.22 12:11:18 +02'00'

For DIGIS3 EDIH

Mr. *Ricardo Serafín Alonso Rincón*

Mgr. et Mgr. Jindřich Weiss

Digitálně podepsal Mgr. et Mgr. Jindřich Weiss
Datum: 2025.04.15 08:51:39 +02'00'

For EDIH-DIGIMAT

Mr. Jindřich Weiss

Financed by the European Union. However, the opinions and views expressed are solely those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

Memorandum on Central European EDIH Cooperation

The following Cooperating Parties enter into this Memorandum on Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as the "Memorandum").

Preamble

1.1. **Cybersecurity Innovation Hub** (further referred as "CIH" or also "Initiator of the Memorandum") is the only Czech EDIH focused on cybersecurity. As a coordinated group of 9 partners with complementary expertise and non-for-profit objective funded under DIGITAL and the Czech NRP, it offers a standard four-pillars EDIH set of services to corporate clients - in particular Czech small and medium enterprises and small mid-caps - and Czech public organisations to support their digital transformation.

1.2. The **EDIH at the Czech Technical University in Prague** (EDIH CTU) represents a major EDIH in the Czech Republic in the field of AI/ML. The EDIH CTU provides services to the SMEs, small mid-caps, and PSOs. The consortium representing academia, the business sector, and key associations of enterprises in the Czech Republic provides know-how, expertise, and state-of-the-art experimental facilities. The major focus is on digital transformation and AI deployment, providing high-quality services, education and knowledge sharing, pursuing ecosystem development, and establishing strong inter-EDIH collaboration.

1.3. The **European Digital Innovation Hub Ostrava** (EDIH Ostrava) is a key Czech hub focused on supporting SMEs and small mid-caps in their digital transformation, with a specialization in High-Performance Computing (HPC) and Artificial Intelligence (AI). Combining expertise from academia, industry, and regional innovation ecosystems, it provides cutting-edge infrastructure and tailored services. An important aspect of its strategy is its collaboration with the LUMI AI Factory, a pioneering European initiative that offers access to advanced supercomputing systems, datasets, and expert support. This partnership enables EDIH Ostrava to drive innovation by facilitating HPC/AI resources, training programs, and expert guidance while accelerating AI adoption across industries.

1.4. The **European Digital Innovation Hub Northern and Eastern Bohemia** (further referred as "EDIH NEB") supports Start-ups, SMEs, small mid-caps and Public Service Organisations on their way to digital transformation and adoption of AI solutions through the provision of four standard EDIH services covering broad range of digital technologies such as IoT, digital modelling, 3-D scanning/printing, robotics and implementation of AI. While the consortium consisting of 7 partners has primarily regional focus (potentially on Euroregion Nisa), it can support the clients from the whole Czech Republic or with limitation even from abroad.

1.5. **EDIH-DIGIMAT** is a European Digital Innovation Hub dedicated to helping small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) successfully navigate their digital transformation journey.The hub focuses on the integration of advanced digital technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), high-performance computing (HPC), digital twins, simulation and modeling, additive manufacturing (3D printing), and advanced data analytics. Through services like test-before-invest, technical mentoring, skills training, and access to finance, EDIH-DIGIMAT empowers businesses to adopt Industry 4.0 solutions with confidence and strategic insight. By bridging the gap between research excellence and industrial needs, EDIH-DIGIMAT acts as a catalyst for innovation, strengthening regional competitiveness and driving smart, data-driven digital transformation.

1.6. **EDIH Brain4Industry (EDIH B4I)** is the consortium of research institutes, top scientific institutions and technology companies that helps small and medium-sized manufacturing companies to use innovative digital solutions, additive manufacturing systems, artificial intelligence and accompanying educational and consulting services to strengthen their competitiveness and transform production towards higher value products. Companies can benefit from deep expertise, shared experiences and comprehensive support in the form of training and consultancy.

1.7. **EXPANDI 4.0** is a European Digital Innovation Hub committed to empowering small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the manufacturing and agriculture sectors. Its mission is to guide these businesses through their digital transformation journeys by focusing on cutting-edge solutions such as automation, robotics, and AI-powered tools. The hub also emphasizes cybersecurity, Industry 4.0 education, and provides comprehensive support to SMEs in securing the necessary funding to achieve successful digitalization.

1.8. The **EDIH Cassovium Consortium (EDCASS)** as a part of European Digital Innovation Hubs Network is composed of the Technical University of Košice (TUKE), Pavol Jozef Šafárik University (UPJŠ) in Košice and the Košice IT Valley z.p.o. cluster. The key goal of EDCASS is to provide one-stop-shop support for four categories of EDIH services with an adequate, knowledge-based, and technically high-quality range of information technologies guaranteed by the ecosystem of the consortium partners. The consortium covers a wide range of multi-sectors and multi-dimensional ICT areas, which fall within research and educational competencies of all Partners. EDCASS platform is based on three basic pillars: 1) Artificial Intelligence and Robotics; 2) Industry 4.0/5.0 concepts, application and implementation; 3) Cyber security solutions for commercial and public subjects.

1.9. **Slovak Center for Digital Innovations (SCDI)** is the largest European Digital Innovation Hub in the Slovak Republic and a recipient of the Seal of Excellence awarded by the European Commission. SCDI drives digital transformation in Slovakia by supporting the development of the digital technology sector and promoting successful digitization projects. It brings together stakeholders from academia and industry, coordinates research and innovation initiatives, and helps the workforce adapt to technological changes. The center offers expertise in Industry 4.0, cybersecurity, automation, robotization, and digitalization—especially tailored for Slovak

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

small and medium-sized enterprises.and has already brought to its customers a variety of AI solutions. In addition, SCDI supports startups and businesses developing smart products and devices.

1.10. The **Slovak AI Digital Innovation Hub - SKAI-eDIH o**perating under the brand **Hopero** - is a nation-wide ecosystem coordinated by the Kempelen Institute of Intelligent Technologies in close collaboration with the Centre of Operations of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Slovak Alliance for Innovation Economy and CIVITTA Slovakia. The hub has a clear focus on artificial intelligence fully aligned with Slovakia's national strategy in this regard, 2030 Digital Transformation Strategy for Slovakia. SKAI-eDIH is dedicated to 3 main goals:

- promotion of digital technologies related to artificial intelligence in all its aspects,
- supporting the SMEs in access to private and EU funding necessary for adoption of all digital technologies, focusing specifically on SMEs in the regions, and
- development of digital innovation ecosystem.

1.11. Center for innovative healthcare (CIH) is a Slovak non-governmental organization based in Bratislava, operating as a European Digital Innovation Hub (EDIH) focused on accelerating the digital transformation of Slovakia's healthcare sector. Established in 2021, it serves as a one-stop platform connecting healthcare providers, startups, public institutions, and technology experts to foster innovation and improve healthcare quality and efficiency. CIH offers services such as digital maturity assessments, AI and telemedicine training, access to advanced testing facilities, and support in securing public or private funding. It also facilitates networking and policy-making initiatives to create a collaborative environment for healthcare innovation. With a growing network of over 500 clients, CIH aims to build a comprehensive ecosystem that enhances healthcare delivery through digital solutions.

1.12. EDIH APPLIED CPS is a one stop shop for digitalization using cyber-physical systems (CPS). The EDIH aims to support the competitiveness and facilitate the Digital Transformation of the EU private (SMEs) and public sectors. APPLIED CPS gives access to technical expertise in the fields of mobility, printed electronics and manufacturing as well as the construction industry. Furthermore, APPLIED CPS offers innovation services such as financing advice, training and skill development in the field of cyber-physical systems. The EDIH APPLIED CPS is conducted by a consortium consisting of eight partners led and coordinated by Virtual Vehicle Research GmbH.

1.13. DIH AI5production, which will be merged with EDIH Innovate is a European Digital Innovation Hub based in Vienna Austria, dedicated to supporting manufacturing SMEs and MidCaps in their digital transformation in manufacturing. With a strong focus on the whole range of manufacturing sectors, the hub promotes a variety of services around manufacturing including sustainable and human-centric innovation across vital regional industries, AI and security. Combining the expertise of top research institutions, industry leaders, and public stakeholders, EDIH AI5production offers access to advanced test environments, expert consulting, and tailored training programs.

1.14. Crowd in Motion is an Austrian EDIH aiming to accelerate the use of crowd technology and AI for motion data analytics through Internet of Things (IoT), FabLabs and access to finance for the green and digital transformation of the alpine tourism and sports industry. It effectively meets the needs of digital transformation in these sectors, e.g. lack of SME capacity, technology-strategic and operational issues and difficulties of digitalisation (cf. EC study on digitalisation in tourism 2018).

1.15. EDIH Technopark Kielce DIH is a Polish European Digital Innovation Hub based in Kielce, primarily dedicated to supporting SMEs from the Świętokrzyskie region in their digital transformation. With a strong regional network of academic, business, and public sector partners, TKDIH provides access to cutting-edge technologies and expert support in areas such as artificial intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT), cloud computing, 3D printing, and cybersecurity. The aim of the Hub is to build an effective and recognizable ecosystem in the Świętokrzyskie region that supports digitalization processes in micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises. By offering a one-stop shop with a comprehensive package of advisory and training services, the hub enables organizations to undergo an efficient digital transformation—both in terms of internal operations and the digitalization of their product offerings.

1.16. EDIH hub4industry is a leading Polish European Digital Innovation Hub (EDIH) based in Kraków, dedicated to supporting manufacturing SMEs in their digital transformation, with a strong specialization in smart manufacturing, industrial IoT, connectivity, and artificial intelligence (AI). Drawing on the combined expertise of academic, corporate, and public partners, h4i offers access to advanced demonstrators, expert consulting, and hands-on training. The hub's Factory of the Future Showrooms provide an immersive environment to test and validate Industry 4.0 technologies, while dedicated services in AI, cybersecurity, and business innovation help SMEs enhance efficiency, competitiveness, and growth.

1.17. WAMA EDIH is a Polish European Digital Innovation Hub based in Warsaw. The project aims to enhance the competitiveness of local SMEs and improve the quality of their services through advanced digital transformation. Special focus is placed on activities aligned with the principles of sustainable development and energy efficiency. As a one-stop shop, we offer a broad range of services supporting companies at different stages of their digital journey. These services include integration into a digital innovation ecosystem, development of digital skills and competencies, and testing and implementation of cutting-edge technologies. We also provide access to funding sources dedicated to the implementation and further development of innovations. Our main target groups are small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), but we also support public sector organizations (PSOs). WAMA EDIH operates at regional and national levels, with ambitions for cross-border cooperation. The project is implemented by a consortium coordinated by the Coalition for Polish Innovations Foundation. Our mission is to build a strong, integrated digital environment that fosters the technological growth of Polish enterprises.

1.18. WRO4digITal EDIH Wrocław is a European Digital Innovation Hub based in Wrocław, Poland, supporting the digital transformation of SMEs. Its activities focus on the development and adoption of AI, cyber security, and Industry 4.0 solutions.

Offer access to cutting-edge infrastructure, expert knowledge, and hands-on training. WRO4digITal brings together leading regional partners from academia, business, and government. Actively engage in cross-border cooperation and knowledge exchange. Their mission is to strengthen digital competences and foster innovation across industries. As part of the EDIH network, they are committed to building a strong and connected European digital ecosystem.

1.19. EDIH re_d: rethink digital – Central Poland Digitalisation HUB is a Polish European Digital Innovation Hub based in Łódź. It focuses on IoT, AI, automation and robotics, VR/AR, cybersecurity, blockchain, and open innovation channels, aiming to prepare SMEs to understand and implement digital technologies. Re_d is a consortium of large enterprises, scientific & research institutions, and deep tech companies. The aim of the Hub is to build a recognizable ecosystem that supports digitalization processes for SMEs and startups by offering skill trainings, testing, demonstration and access to finansing.

1.20. EDIH-SILESIA is European Digital Innovation Hub coordinated by Katowicka Specjalna Strefa Ekonomiczna S.A., based in Gliwice, Poland, supports industrial enterprises (SMEs). EDIH-SILESIA is a consortium of companies, scientific units and business environment institutions, which offers training, consulting and demonstration services in three specialized pillars: 1) Automation and Robotics (including artificial intelligence and machine learning), 2) Cyber Security, 3) Incremental technologies and new materials for 3D printing. EDIH-SILESIA is a one-stop-shop implemented on a one-stop-shop basis, supporting businesses in responding to digital challenges by: providing access to technical expertise and testing, as well as "test before invest", so-called "test before invest" opportunities; providing innovation services, such as consulting, training and skills development, which are critical to successful digital transformation; assisting businesses in solving environmental problems, particularly in using digital technologies for sustainable development and closed-loop.

1.21. EDIH Thuringia is the EDIH for the sectors of mobility and infrastructure in Central Germany. Coordinated by Bauhaus-Universität Weimar and operated by a consortium of 7 partners, including universities, SMEs, and non-profit organisations, it delivers the full spectrum of EDIH services. A dedicated focus is given on services that foster synergies between the public and private sector, for example on mobility data, mobility management, infrastructure assessments or smart city strategies. The digital "Marketplace" (https://edih.digital) is the central platform for all services offered and open for collaborations. The EDIH Thuringia is the appointed spokesperson for the EDIH Working Group Germany and thus coordinates on the national level.

1.22. The EDIH **"pro_digital"** is a European Digital Innovation Hub located in Brandenburg with further operations in the capital region of Berlin. pro_digital supports SMEs and public institutions in their digital transformation. The hub focuses on applied Artificial Intelligence (AI), offering test-before-invest services, training, and expert guidance to help organizations implement AI solutions and digitalization effectively. Alongside AI, pro_digital also works in areas like manufacturing automation, ambient assisted living and cobots, and digital skills (like cybersecurity).

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

By connecting businesses with technology providers and research institutions, pro_digital accelerates the responsible and practical adoption of digital technologies in Brandenburg and foresees the cooperation beyond boarders.

1.23. The EU-project **"Digital Innovation and Artificial Intelligence" (DInA)** builds upon the successful foundation established by the predecessor EU-project **"Digitale Innovation Ostbayern" (DInO)** and Seal of Excellence EDIH Digital Innovations for Bavarian Industry (DIBI). The project continues and expands the approaches, structures, and partnerships developed under DInO and DIBI, integrating key learnings and proven strategies to address new challenges in digital transformation and artificial intelligence. By leveraging the experience gained, DInA aims to further strengthen regional innovation ecosystems and accelerate the adoption of cutting-edge digital technologies for Bavaria.

1.24. All these EDIHs are acknowledged as European Digital Innovation Hubs in the European Commission's EDIH catalogue at: https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/activities/edihs and are representing Central European countries, namely: Czechia, Austria, Germany, Poland and Slovakia.

1.25. On the basis of these facts, the Cooperating Parties have agreed to cooperate closely with the aim of developing mutual activities and building a mutual partnership built on common themes and activities.

2. Cooperation

2.1. The Cooperating Parties shall endeavour to build close mutual cooperation aimed not only at connecting and developing joint activities, linking selected activities in the areas of resilient digital society, including related areas, not only between the Cooperating Parties, but also with the possibility of involving a wider range of relevant entities, especially the partners of their EDIH consortiums.

2.2. In particular, the Cooperating Parties are declaring that they are willing to coordinate their activities and cooperate on the following matters:

-Joint events focused on promoting the EDIH services towards potential clients

- Cross-border networking events initiating and strengthening collaboration with other relevant networks and stakeholders

- Mutual study visits, excursions and other means of gaining practical insight into the activities of the represented EDIHs and their partnering organisations

- Multilateral exchange of knowledge and experiences related providing EDIH services in the represented EU countries – which means Austria, Czechia, Germany, Poland and Slovakia

- Furthermore, the Cooperating Parties shall jointly undertake to seek joint resources and projects to support joint activities within the development of the identified areas.

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

2.3. For the purpose of coordinating cooperation under this Memorandum, the Cooperating Parties shall designate competent contact persons and undertake to keep the other Cooperating Party informed of any changes in the designation of contact persons.

3. Final provisions

3.1. The Cooperating Parties of this Memorandum, while respecting the joint activities of both parties, have agreed on a method of cooperation to contribute to the successful development of activities leading to the achievement of the objective formulated in Article 2 of this Memorandum.

3.2. The Cooperating Parties agree to provide each other with all necessary information required to achieve the mutual objectives of the cooperation for the duration of the cooperation.

3.3. In witness that the entire contents of this Memorandum are the expression of their true and free will, the representatives of the Cooperating Parties affix the logos of their EDIHs and the names of their representatives.

3.4. This Memorandum is concluded for an indefinite period of time and enters into force on the date specified below.

3.5. The Cooperating Parties may terminate this Memorandum without giving any reason by written notice to the Initiator of the Memorandum. The period of notice shall be three (3) months and shall commence on the first day of the calendar month following delivery of the notice to the Initiator.

3.6. This Memorandum may be amended or supplemented only with the consent of all the Cooperating Parties in writing in the form of chronologically numbered amendments. Other agreements of the Cooperating Parties amending this Memorandum shall not be taken into account.

Done in Brno, Prague, Ostrava, Liberec, Kuřim, Dolní Břežany, Wien, Salzburg, Graz, Deggendorf, Weimar, Wildau, Katowice, Krakow, Lodź, Kielce, Warszawa, Wroclaw, Bratislava and Košice on 1 May 2025

On behalf of the Cooperating Parties:

Tereza Šamanová
EDIH CIH (CZ) Coordinator

Barbora Zochová
EDIH CTU Coordinator

Martin Duda
EDIH OVA Coordinator

Andrej Chrzanowski
EDIH Brain4Industry Coordinator

Petr Dobrovský
EDIH NEB Director

Veronika Večeřová
EDIH-DIGIMAT Coordinator

Franz Suemecz
EDIH AI5Production Coordinator
on behalf of AI5Production EDIH and
innovATE EDIH

Martin Benedikt
EDIH Applied CPS Coordinator

Veronika Hornung-Prähauser
EDIH Crowd in Motion Coordinator

Maximilian Wunsch
EDIH Thuringia Coordinator

Markus Vossel
EDIH pro_digital Representative

Dominik Rother
EDIH DInA Representative
on behalf of DInO EDIH and DIBI EDIH

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

Aleksandra Zajusz-Woyda
EDIH-SILESIA Coordinator

Aleksandra Błaszczak
EDIH h4i Coordinator

Justyna Lichosik
EDIH TKDIH Coordinator

Agnieszka Michałowska-Dudkiewicz
re_d: rethink digital
- Central Poland Digitailisation HUB Representative

Marcin Czyża
EDIH WAMA Coordinator

Emilia Magajczyk
WRO4digitAI EDIH Wrocław Coordinator

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

Samuel Arbe
EDIH CIH (SK) Representative

Artur Bobovnický
EDIH EXPANDI 4.0 Coordinator

Michal Kompan
EDIH SK-AI (Hopero) Representative

Miroslav Michalko
EDIH CASSOVIUM Coordinator

Emil Fitoš
SCDI Proposal EDIH Coordinator

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

City of Brno
Brno City Municipality
Strategic Development and Cooperation Department

Intemac Solutions, s.r.o.

REF. NUMBER: MMB/0229150/2025

To whom it may concern at Intemac Solutions, s.r.o.

The competence for expressing the support on behalf of the City of Brno is delegated to the City Council, but as a Head of Strategic Development and Cooperation Department I would like to provide you hereby with my expert statement. The City of Brno is continuously committed to fostering innovation, sustainable economic growth, and regional resilience by advancing digital transformation and the adoption of smart technologies, which is in accordance with the main strategic document called #Brno 2050. I fully recognise the essential role of initiatives such as the European Digital Innovation Hub (EDIH) in empowering small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to integrate advanced technologies and strengthen their competitiveness in a rapidly evolving global landscape.

Hereby I express my strong and continued support for the EDIH-DIGIMAT consortium under the Digital Europe Programme, particularly for the continuation of the EDIH 2.0 work programme. This initiative directly aligns with strategic priorities designed in #Brno 2050 and plays a vital role in fostering sustainable industrial development, innovation capacity, and technological excellence both in the City of Brno and in the South Moravian region.

The EDIH 2.0 programme targets key technological domains that are essential for the growth of SMEs in the Czech Republic, with a focus on the South Moravian Region and surrounding areas. These sectors form the foundation of the regional economy and are prioritised within the Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation (RIS3), that was approved by Brno City Assembly. Therefore I emphasise the importance of continuing the EDIH-DIGIMAT programme, which supports the productivity and competitiveness of manufacturing SMEs through the application of technologies such as smart connectivity, digital twins, autonomous robotics, intelligent control systems, and industrial artificial intelligence, all tailored to the specific needs of SMEs.

I personally recognise the significant contributions of the INTEMAC Research and Innovation Centre, together with its partners—the Central European Institute of Technology (CEITEC), the South Moravian Innovation Centre (JIC), Effectivity, and Tomas Bata University in Zlín (TBU)—in leading this initiative. These institutions have long been at the forefront of regional innovation and continue to deliver impactful services that help SMEs adopt cutting-edge technologies and prepare for the future of manufacturing.

As a Head of Strategic Development and Cooperation Department I am committed to provide my support and facilitate collaboration within the local innovation ecosystem to ensure the successful continuation and expansion of this initiative. Undoubtably I regard the EDIH-DIGIMAT programme as a key enabler of our regional innovation strategy and a driver of long-term industrial competitiveness. I do believe that the continuation of the EDIH-DIGIMAT programme will significantly contribute to the long-term development of a resilient, innovative, and globally competitive industrial sector in the Czech Republic.

František Kubeš
Head of Strategic Development and Cooperation Department

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

intemac

Intemac Solutions s.r.o.
Blanenská 1288/27
664 34 Kuřim
Czech Republic

In Kuřim, on 20th April 2025

Expression of Continued Support for the EDIH-DIGIMAT Consortium under the Digital Europe Programme

The City of Zlín is committed to fostering innovation, sustainable economic growth, and regional resilience by advancing digital transformation and the adoption of smart technologies. As regional policy makers, we recognise the essential role of initiatives such as the European Digital Innovation Hub (EDIH) in empowering small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to integrate advanced technologies and strengthen their competitiveness in a rapidly evolving global landscape.

We express our strong and continued support for the EDIH-DIGIMAT consortium under the Digital Europe Programme, particularly for the continuation of the EDIH 2.0 work programme. This initiative directly aligns with our strategic priorities and plays a vital role in fostering sustainable industrial development, innovation capacity, and technological excellence in the region.



The EDIH 2.0 programme targets key technological domains that are essential for the growth of SMEs in the Czech Republic, with a focus on the South Moravian Region and surrounding areas. These sectors form the foundation of the regional economy and are prioritised within the Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation (RIS3). We emphasise the importance of continuing the EDIH-DIGIMAT programme, which supports the productivity and competitiveness of manufacturing SMEs through the application of technologies such as smart connectivity, digital twins, autonomous robotics, intelligent control systems, and industrial artificial intelligence, all tailored to the specific needs of SMEs.

We recognise the significant contributions of the INTEMAC Research and Innovation Centre, together with its partners—the Central European Institute of Technology (CEITEC), the South

Moravian Innovation Centre (JIC), Effectivity, and Tomas Bata University in Zlín (TBU)—in leading this initiative. These institutions have long been at the forefront of regional innovation and continue to deliver impactful services that help SMEs adopt cutting-edge technologies and prepare for the future of manufacturing.

As a Regional Managing Authority, City of Zlín is committed to providing institutional support, promoting policy alignment, and facilitating collaboration within the local innovation ecosystem to ensure the successful continuation and expansion of this initiative. We regard the EDIH-DIGIMAT programme as a key enabler of our regional innovation strategy and a driver of long-term industrial competitiveness

We believe that the continuation of the EDIH-DIGIMAT programme will significantly contribute to the long-term development of a resilient, innovative, and globally competitive industrial sector in the Czech Republic.

We look forward to ongoing cooperation with the EDIH-DIGIMAT consortium and affirm our commitment to supporting the implementation and success of the EDIH 2.0 programme in strengthening the Czech Republic's innovation and industrial capacity on a global scale.

Mgr. et Mgr. Jindřich Weiss

Digitálně podepsal Mgr. et Mgr. Jindřich Weiss
Datum: 2025.05.12 15:34:10 +02'00'

…

Jindřich Weiss
CEO
Intemac Solutions, s.r.o.
Blanenská 1288/27, 664 34 Kuřim

Ing. et Ing. Jiří Korec

Digitální podpis:
07.05.2025 17:21

…

Jiří Korec
Mayor
Statutory City of Zlin
náměstí Míru 12, 760 01 Zlín, Czech Rep.

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

intemac

Intemac Solutions s.r.o.
Blanenská 1288/27
664 34 Kuřim
Czech Republic

In Kuřim, on 20th April 2025

Expression of Continued Support for the EDIH-DIGIMAT Consortium under the Digital Europe Programme

The South Moravian Region is committed to fostering innovation, sustainable economic growth, and regional resilience by advancing digital transformation and the adoption of smart technologies. As regional policy makers, we recognise the essential role of initiatives such as the European Digital Innovation Hub (EDIH) in empowering small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to integrate advanced technologies and strengthen their competitiveness in a rapidly evolving global landscape.

We express our strong and continued support for the EDIH-DIGIMAT consortium under the Digital Europe Programme, particularly for the continuation of the EDIH 2.0 work programme. This initiative directly aligns with our strategic priorities and plays a vital role in fostering sustainable industrial development, innovation capacity, and technological excellence in the region.

EDIH-DIGIMAT

The EDIH 2.0 programme targets key technological domains that are essential for the growth of SMEs in the Czech Republic, with a focus on the South Moravian Region and surrounding areas. These sectors form the foundation of the regional economy and are prioritised within the Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation (RIS3). We emphasise the importance of continuing the EDIH-DIGIMAT programme, which supports the productivity and competitiveness of manufacturing SMEs through the application of technologies such as smart connectivity, digital twins, autonomous robotics, intelligent control systems, and industrial artificial intelligence, all tailored to the specific needs of SMEs.

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

intemac

We recognise the significant contributions of the INTEMAC Research and Innovation Centre, together with its partners—the Central European Institute of Technology (CEITEC), the South Moravian Innovation Centre (JIC), Effectivity, and Tomas Bata University in Zlín (TBU)—in leading this initiative. These institutions have long been at the forefront of regional innovation and continue to deliver impactful services that help SMEs adopt cutting-edge technologies and prepare for the future of manufacturing.

As a Regional Managing Authority, the South Moravian Region is committed to providing institutional support, promoting policy alignment, and facilitating collaboration within the local innovation ecosystem to ensure the successful continuation and expansion of this initiative. We regard the EDIH-DIGIMAT programme as a key enabler of our regional innovation strategy and a driver of long-term industrial competitiveness

We believe that the continuation of the EDIH-DIGIMAT programme will significantly contribute to the long-term development of a resilient, innovative, and globally competitive industrial sector in the Czech Republic.

We look forward to ongoing cooperation with the EDIH-DIGIMAT consortium and affirm our commitment to supporting the implementation and success of the EDIH 2.0 programme in strengthening the Czech Republic's innovation and industrial capacity on a global scale.

.....

Jindřich Weiss
CEO
Intemac Solutions, s.r.o.
Blanenská 1288/27, 664 34 Kuřim

.....

Jan Zámečník
Deputy Governor
South Moravian Region
Žerotínovo náměstí 449/3, 601 82 Brno

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

intemac

Intemac Solutions s.r.o.
Blanenská 1288/27
664 34 Kuřim
Czech Republic

In Kuřim, on 20th April 2025

Expression of Continued Support for the EDIH-DIGIMAT Consortium under the Digital Europe Programme

The Zlínský kraj aims to foster innovation, sustainable economic growth, and regional resilience by supporting digital transformation and the adoption of smart technologies. As regional policymakers, we recognise the essential role of initiatives such as the European Digital Innovation Hub (EDIH) in enabling small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to integrate advanced technologies and enhance their competitiveness in a rapidly evolving global landscape.

We express our strong and continued support for the EDIH-DIGIMAT consortium under the Digital Europe Programme, particularly for the continuation of the EDIH 2.0 work programme. This initiative directly aligns with our strategic priorities and plays a vital role in fostering sustainable industrial development, innovation capacity, and technological excellence in the region.

EDIH-DIGIMAT

The EDIH 2.0 programme targets key technological domains that are essential for the growth of SMEs in the Czech Republic, with a focus on the South Moravian Region and surrounding areas. These sectors form the foundation of the regional economy and are prioritised within the Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation (RIS3). We emphasise the importance of continuing the EDIH-DIGIMAT programme, which supports the productivity and competitiveness of manufacturing SMEs through the application of technologies such as smart connectivity, digital twins, autonomous robotics, intelligent control systems, and industrial artificial intelligence, all tailored to the specific needs of SMEs.

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

intemac

We recognise the significant contributions of the INTEMAC Research and Innovation Centre, together with its partners—the Central European Institute of Technology (CEITEC), the South Moravian Innovation Centre (JIC), Effectivity, and Tomas Bata University in Zlín (TBU)—in leading this initiative. These institutions have long been at the forefront of regional innovation and continue to deliver impactful services that help SMEs adopt cutting-edge technologies and prepare for the future of manufacturing.

As a Regional Managing Authority, Zlínský kraj is prepared to provide institutional support, promote policy alignment, and facilitate collaboration within the local innovation ecosystem to help ensure the successful continuation and expansion of this initiative. We regard the EDIH-DIGIMAT programme as a key enabler of our regional innovation strategy and a driver of long-term industrial competitiveness.

We believe that the continuation of the EDIH-DIGIMAT programme will significantly contribute to the long-term development of a resilient, innovative, and globally competitive industrial sector in the Czech Republic.

We look forward to ongoing cooperation with the EDIH-DIGIMAT consortium and affirm our commitment to supporting the implementation and success of the EDIH 2.0 programme in strengthening the Czech Republic's innovation and industrial capacity on a global scale.

.....

Jindřich Weiss
CEO
Intemac Solutions, s.r.o.
Blanenská 1288/27, 664 34 Kuřim

.....

David Vychytil
Deputy Governor
Zlínský kraj
třída Tomáše Bati 21, 761 90 Zlín

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

CZECHINVEST
Drive for success

Jan Michal
CEO

Prague, according to the
electronic signature

Ref. No.: 004253/25/CI

Letter of support to the "EDIH-DIGIMAT" project proposal

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

With this letter, I would like to express my support to the project proposal "EDIH-DIGIMAT" under the leadership of intemac that is being prepared for the submission under the "European Digital Innovation Hubs – Associated countries (EDIHs with reinforced AI focus)" call published as a part of the Digital Europe Programme under reference number DIGITAL-2025-EDIH-AC-08-CONSOLIDATION-STEP.

The Business and Investment Development Agency CzechInvest is committed to fostering innovation, sustainable economic growth, and regional resilience by advancing digital transformation and the adoption of smart technologies. As the National Contact Point for the Digital Europe Programme in the Czech Republic and as national policy makers, we recognise the essential role of initiatives such as the European Digital Innovation Hub (EDIH) in empowering small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to integrate advanced technologies and strengthen their competitiveness in a rapidly evolving global landscape.

The EDIH 2.0 programme targets key technological domains that are essential for the growth of SMEs in the Czech Republic, with a focus on the South Moravian Region and surrounding areas. These sectors form the foundation of the regional economy and are prioritised within the Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation (RIS3). We emphasise the importance of continuing the EDIH-DIGIMAT programme, which supports the productivity and competitiveness of manufacturing SMEs through the application of technologies such as smart connectivity, digital twins, autonomous robotics, intelligent control systems, and industrial artificial intelligence, all tailored to the specific needs of SMEs.

Hence, I strongly believe that the proposed EDIH-DIGIMAT project has the potential to take the opportunity and continue in providing services of a European Digital Innovation Hub with reinforced AI focus not only through providing a standard set of EDIH services but also enhancing strong national and cross-border cooperation with relevant stakeholders including CzechInvest.

Yours faithfully,

Michal Urban| Director of the Business Environment Division
michal.urban@czechinvest.gov.cz
+420 733 125 975

+420 727 850 331
sekretariat@czechinvest.gov.cz
www.czechinvest.gov.cz

Business and Investment Development Agency CzechInvest
Stepanska 15, 120 00 Prague 2, Czech Republic

Podepsal(a): Jan Michal
Datum podpisu: 13.05.2025

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

EDIH-DIGIMAT: Flexible Manufacturing Systems Using Artificial Intelligence (EDIH DIGIMAT)
INTEMAC SOLUTIONS, SRO
Attention : Petr Minar

Blanenska 1288/27
664 34 Kurim
Czechia

Palaiseau, 13 mai 2025

Subject : Expression of Interest in Collaborating with the EDIH-DIGIMAT Consortium under the Digital Europe Programme

references : DRT/VALO/SAPRI/BAPI-List// P51131

Dear Sir,

As Commissariat à l'énergie atomique et aux énergies alternatives (CEA), France, partner and coordinator of AI-MATTERS (AI MAnufacturing Testing and experimenTation network For EuRopean industrieS) project, we are pleased to express our strong interest in establishing a strategic cooperation with the EDIH-DIGIMAT: Flexible Manufacturing Systems Using Artificial Intelligence (EDIH DIGIMAT).

This Letter of Intent (LoI) serves as a non-binding expression of our mutual interest to collaborate in support of the uptake of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and related digital technologies across the European manufacturing ecosystem, with a particular focus on supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and public sector organisations (PSOs).

The EDIH 2.0 programme targets critical technology areas that are essential for the growth of SMEs in the Czech Republic, particularly in the South Moravian region and surrounding areas. These sectors form the backbone of the local economy and are strategic priorities under the Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation (RIS3). In this context, we emphasize the importance of continuing the EDIH-DIGIMAT project, which is designed to increase the productivity and competitiveness of manufacturing SMEs through the deployment of advanced technologies - such as smart connectivity, digital twins, autonomous robotics, intelligent control systems, and industrial artificial intelligence - tailored to the specific needs of each client.

As EDIH-DIGIMAT intends to establish an AI helpdesk to support innovative SMEs and midcaps in adopting AI technologies, we see strong potential for cooperation between EDIH-DIGIMAT and the TEF AI-MATTERS testbed network in sharing expertise and infrastructure for experiments involving industrial applications of AI. AI-MATTERS will consider providing services to clients referred by EDIH-DIGIMAT.

We acknowledge the valuable role EDIH DIGIMAT plays within the EDIH network, and we believe that this collaboration aligns with the strategic goals of the Digital Europe Programme, the Testing and Experimentation Facilities (TEFs) initiative, and the broader European Digital Innovation Hubs network.

Commissariat à l'énergie atomique et aux énergies alternatives
Institut CEA-List - Direction de la Recherche Technologique
T. +33 1 69 08 41 36 | M. +33 6 79 65 01 60

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

This Letter of Intent does not constitute a legally binding agreement but rather a formal recognition of our intention to work closely together, building towards future cooperative activities and potentially a formalised partnership.

We look forward to discussing the next steps and confirming a shared roadmap for our collaboration.

Sincerely,

BOUNOUH, Alexandre
Signé numériquement
Le 14/05/2025

Alexandre BOUNOUH

Directeur du CEA LIST

Commissariat à l'énergie atomique et aux énergies alternatives

Institut CEA-List - Direction de la Recherche Technologique

T. +33 1 69 08 41 36 | M. +33 6 79 65 01 60

Envelope ID DigiSign.org:019667e8-589b-7054-8377-c29dd21af537
Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

intemac

Intemac Solutions s.r.o.
Blanenská 1288/27
664 34 Kuřim
Czech Republic

In Kuřim, on 12th May 2025

Expression of Continued Interest in Collaborating with the EDIH-DIGIMAT Consortium under the Digital Europe Programme

INTEMAC is a research and innovation centre whose main objective is to facilitate the advancement of research in the domains of industrial automation, machine vision, digital twins, and modern technologies associated with the Industry 4.0 concept. In alignment with the South Moravian Region's innovation strategy (RIS JMK), INTEMAC guides industrial enterprises towards global excellence, bolsters their resolve, and broadens their understanding of new technologies, thereby enhancing their efficiency and competitiveness.



As a coordinator of a European Digital Innovation Hub (EDIH) for the digital transformation of manufacturing, INTEMAC offers a comprehensive range of services, including expert consultations, professional training, and extensive R&D services, particularly in the field of applied artificial intelligence in industrial manufacturing.

ABB s.r.o.

We express our continued interest in supporting the EDIH-DIGIMAT consortium under the Digital Europe Programme, specifically in the continuation of the EDIH 2.0 work programme. This initiative is focused on promoting sustainability, digitisation, and quality, while advancing the application of artificial intelligence in the industrial sector to enhance the efficiency of autonomous systems.

The EDIH 2.0 programme targets critical technology areas that are essential for the growth of SMEs in the Czech Republic, particularly in the South Moravian region and surrounding areas. These sectors form the backbone of the local economy and are strategic priorities under the Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation (RIS3). In this context, we emphasize the importance of continuing the EDIH-DIGIMAT programme, which is designed to increase the productivity and competitiveness of

Envelope ID DigiSign.org: 019667e8-589b-7054-8377-c29dd21af537
Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

manufacturing SMEs through the deployment of advanced technologies - such as smart connectivity, digital twins, autonomous robotics, intelligent control systems, and industrial artificial intelligence - tailored to the specific needs of each client.

As a technology partner, we are committed to supporting the consortium led by the INTEMAC Research and Innovation Centre, together with its partners - the Central European Institute of Technology (CEITEC), the South Moravian Innovation Centre (JIC), Effectivity, and Tomas Bata University in Zlín (TBU). These organisations have played an important role in promoting innovation in the South Moravian region and have made a significant impact in supporting SMEs through the current programme. The continuation of this initiative will further enable Czech SMEs to adopt advanced technologies and strengthen their position in the global market.

In this context, we express our interest in contributing to the development of demonstration workplaces focused on flexible manufacturing systems using artificial intelligence to support SMEs. We are prepared to support the initiative in areas such as:

- Providing expert consultations
- Making necessary equipment available through rental or loan
- Assisting with the installation and enhancement of technological solutions in these demonstration workplaces
- Supporting educational, promotional, and demonstration activities showcasing cutting-edge technological solutions

Furthermore, we are committed to leveraging our expertise to jointly address relevant research and development topics and contribute to the broader impact and long-term success of the initiative.

We believe that a strategic collaboration with your consortium will create valuable opportunities to accelerate technological integration, build industry-relevant competencies, and enhance overall manufacturing efficiency.

We look forward to the opportunity to continue our collaboration with the consortium and to contribute to the success of the EDIH 2.0 programme, which we believe will significantly enhance the competitiveness of Czech industry in the global market.

Mgr. et Mgr. Jindřich Weiss
12.5.2025 13:47:41
ID: 0196c452-77ef-7371-832d-b8b1ed1ccdae
DigiSign.org

.....

Jindřich Weiss
CEO
Intemac Solutions, s.r.o.
Blanenská 1288/27, 664 34 Kuřim

Miloš Stibal



ID: 0196c427-0701-7378-abf8-25694a3b2885
DigiSign.org 12.5.2025 13:00:14

.....

Miloš Stibal
Marketing and Communication Manager
ABB s.r.o.
Vyskočilova 1561/4a, 140 00 Praha 4

Envelope ID DigiSign.org:01966214-2072-7209-9116-cf2b845e14d2
Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

intemac

Intemac Solutions s.r.o.
Blanenská 1288/27
664 34 Kuřim
Czech Republic

In Kuřim, on 23rd April 2025

Expression of Continued Interest in Collaborating with the EDIH-DIGIMAT Consortium under the Digital Europe Programme

INTEMAC is a research and innovation centre whose main objective is to facilitate the advancement of research in the domains of industrial automation, machine vision, digital twins, and modern technologies associated with the Industry 4.0 concept. In alignment with the South Moravian Region's innovation strategy (RIS JMK), INTEMAC guides industrial enterprises towards global excellence, bolsters their resolve, and broadens their understanding of new technologies, thereby enhancing their efficiency and competitiveness.

EDIH-DIGIMAT

As a coordinator of a European Digital Innovation Hub (EDIH) for the digital transformation of manufacturing, INTEMAC offers a comprehensive range of services, including expert consultations, professional training, and extensive R&D services, particularly in the field of applied artificial intelligence in industrial manufacturing.

Act-in CZ, s.r.o.

We express our continued interest in supporting the EDIH-DIGIMAT consortium under the Digital Europe Programme, specifically in the continuation of the EDIH 2.0 work programme. This initiative is focused on promoting sustainability, digitisation, and quality, while advancing the application of artificial intelligence in the industrial sector to enhance the efficiency of autonomous systems.

The EDIH 2.0 programme targets critical technology areas that are essential for the growth of SMEs in the Czech Republic, particularly in the South Moravian region and surrounding areas. These sectors form the backbone of the local economy and are strategic priorities under the Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation (RIS3). In this context, we emphasize the importance of continuing the EDIH-DIGIMAT programme, which is designed to increase the productivity and competitiveness of manufacturing SMEs through the deployment of advanced technologies - such as smart connectivity,

Envelope ID DigiSign.org: 01966214-2072-7209-9116-cf2b845e14d2
Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

digital twins, autonomous robotics, intelligent control systems, and industrial artificial intelligence - tailored to the specific needs of each client.

As a technology partner, we are committed to supporting the consortium led by the INTEMAC Research and Innovation Centre, together with its partners - the Central European Institute of Technology (CEITEC), the South Moravian Innovation Centre (JIC), Effectivity, and Tomas Bata University in Zlín (TBU). These organisations have played an important role in promoting innovation in the South Moravian region and have made a significant impact in supporting SMEs through the current programme. The continuation of this initiative will further enable Czech SMEs to adopt advanced technologies and strengthen their position in the global market.

In this context, we express our interest in contributing to the development of demonstration workplaces focused on flexible manufacturing systems using artificial intelligence to support SMEs. We are prepared to support the initiative in areas such as:

- Providing expert consultations
- Making necessary equipment available through rental or loan
- Assisting with the installation and enhancement of technological solutions in these demonstration workplaces
- Supporting educational, promotional, and demonstration activities showcasing cutting-edge technological solutions

Furthermore, we are committed to leveraging our expertise to jointly address relevant research and development topics and contribute to the broader impact and long-term success of the initiative.

We believe that a strategic collaboration with your consortium will create valuable opportunities to accelerate technological integration, build industry-relevant competencies, and enhance overall manufacturing efficiency.

We look forward to the opportunity to continue our collaboration with the consortium and to contribute to the success of the EDIH 2.0 programme, which we believe will significantly enhance the competitiveness of Czech industry in the global market.

Mgr. et Mgr. Jindřich Weiss
23.4.2025 14:40:59
ID: 019662aa-72f8-722d-ad06-3d32f44da839
DigiSign.org

.....
Mgr. et Mgr. Jindřich Weiss
CEO
Intemac Solutions, s.r.o.
Blanenská 1288/27, 664 34 Kuřim

Lubomír Sláma
ID: 01966370-aa21-707f-b452-24ee1c585b5c
DigiSign.org 23.4.2025 18:17:30

.....
Dr. Ing. Lubomír Sláma, MBA
CEO
Act-in CZ, s.r.o.
Hviezdoslavova 1188/5, 627 00 Brno

Envelope ID DigiSign.org: 0196624b-6c41-72b6-95e6-f24887030c1b
Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

intemac

Intemac Solutions s.r.o.
Blanenská 1288/27
664 34 Kuřim
Czech Republic

In Kuřim, on 23rd April 2025

Expression of Continued Interest in Collaborating with the EDIH-DIGIMAT Consortium under the Digital Europe Programme

INTEMAC is a research and innovation centre whose main objective is to facilitate the advancement of research in the domains of industrial automation, machine vision, digital twins, and modern technologies associated with the Industry 4.0 concept. In alignment with the South Moravian Region's innovation strategy (RIS JMK), INTEMAC guides industrial enterprises towards global excellence, bolsters their resolve, and broadens their understanding of new technologies, thereby enhancing their efficiency and competitiveness.

EDIH-DIGIMAT

As a coordinator of a European Digital Innovation Hub (EDIH) for the digital transformation of manufacturing, INTEMAC offers a comprehensive range of services, including expert consultations, professional training, and extensive R&D services, particularly in the field of applied artificial intelligence in industrial manufacturing.

Kinalisoft, s.r.o.

We express our continued interest in supporting the EDIH-DIGIMAT consortium under the Digital Europe Programme, specifically in the continuation of the EDIH 2.0 work programme. This initiative is focused on promoting sustainability, digitisation, and quality, while advancing the application of artificial intelligence in the industrial sector to enhance the efficiency of autonomous systems.

The EDIH 2.0 programme targets critical technology areas that are essential for the growth of SMEs in the Czech Republic, particularly in the South Moravian region and surrounding areas. These sectors form the backbone of the local economy and are strategic priorities under the Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation (RIS3). In this context, we emphasize the importance of continuing the EDIH-DIGIMAT programme, which is designed to increase the productivity and competitiveness of manufacturing SMEs through the deployment of advanced technologies - such as smart connectivity,

Envelope ID DigiSign.org: 0196624b-6c41-72b6-95e6-f24887030c1b
Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

digital twins, autonomous robotics, intelligent control systems, and industrial artificial intelligence - tailored to the specific needs of each client.

As a technology partner, we are committed to supporting the consortium led by the INTEMAC Research and Innovation Centre, together with its partners - the Central European Institute of Technology (CEITEC), the South Moravian Innovation Centre (JIC), Effectivity, and Tomas Bata University in Zlín (TBU). These organisations have played an important role in promoting innovation in the South Moravian region and have made a significant impact in supporting SMEs through the current programme. The continuation of this initiative will further enable Czech SMEs to adopt advanced technologies and strengthen their position in the global market.

In this context, we express our interest in contributing to the development of demonstration workplaces focused on flexible manufacturing systems using artificial intelligence to support SMEs. We are prepared to support the initiative in areas such as:

- Providing expert consultations
- Making necessary equipment available through rental or loan
- Assisting with the installation and enhancement of technological solutions in these demonstration workplaces
- Supporting educational, promotional, and demonstration activities showcasing cutting-edge technological solutions

Furthermore, we are committed to leveraging our expertise to jointly address relevant research and development topics and contribute to the broader impact and long-term success of the initiative.

We believe that a strategic collaboration with your consortium will create valuable opportunities to accelerate technological integration, build industry-relevant competencies, and enhance overall manufacturing efficiency.

We look forward to the opportunity to continue our collaboration with the consortium and to contribute to the success of the EDIH 2.0 programme, which we believe will significantly enhance the competitiveness of Czech industry in the global market.

Mgr. et Mgr. Jindřich Weiss
23.4.2025 14:37:13
ID: 019662a6-fd6a-7304-9e50-19cdc199c089
DigiSign.org

.....
Mgr. et Mgr. Jindřich Weiss
CEO
Intemac Solutions, s.r.o.
Blanenská 1288/27, 664 34 Kuřim

RADEK ŠTOURAČ
ID: 01966254-fd50-7324-af61-34abeeb742e5
DigiSign.org 23.4.2025 13:07:39

.....
Radek Štourač
CEO
Kinalisoft, s.r.o.
Cejl 62, č.p. 37, 602 00 Brno

Envelope ID DigiSign.org: 019667a4-2137-7194-942f-dc87ffcaef13
Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

intemac

Intemac Solutions s.r.o.
Blanenská 1288/27
664 34 Kuřim
Czech Republic

In Kuřim, on 24th April 2025

Expression of Continued Interest in Collaborating with the EDIH-DIGIMAT Consortium under the Digital Europe Programme

INTEMAC is a research and innovation centre whose main objective is to facilitate the advancement of research in the domains of industrial automation, machine vision, digital twins, and modern technologies associated with the Industry 4.0 concept. In alignment with the South Moravian Region's innovation strategy (RIS JMK), INTEMAC guides industrial enterprises towards global excellence, bolsters their resolve, and broadens their understanding of new technologies, thereby enhancing their efficiency and competitiveness.

EDIH-DIGIMAT

As a coordinator of a European Digital Innovation Hub (EDIH) for the digital transformation of manufacturing, INTEMAC offers a comprehensive range of services, including expert consultations, professional training, and extensive R&D services, particularly in the field of applied artificial intelligence in industrial manufacturing.

Pekat odštěpný závod

We express our continued interest in supporting the EDIH-DIGIMAT consortium under the Digital Europe Programme, specifically in the continuation of the EDIH 2.0 work programme. This initiative is focused on promoting sustainability, digitisation, and quality, while advancing the application of artificial intelligence in the industrial sector to enhance the efficiency of autonomous systems.

The EDIH 2.0 programme targets critical technology areas that are essential for the growth of SMEs in the Czech Republic, particularly in the South Moravian region and surrounding areas. These sectors form the backbone of the local economy and are strategic priorities under the Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation (RIS3). In this context, we emphasize the importance of continuing the EDIH-DIGIMAT programme, which is designed to increase the productivity and competitiveness of manufacturing SMEs through the deployment of advanced technologies - such as smart connectivity, digital twins, autonomous

Envelope ID DigiSign.org: 019667a4-2137-7194-942f-dc87fcaef13
Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

robotics, intelligent control systems, and industrial artificial intelligence - tailored to the specific needs of each client.

As a technology partner, we are committed to supporting the consortium led by the INTEMAC Research and Innovation Centre, together with its partners - the Central European Institute of Technology (CEITEC), the South Moravian Innovation Centre (JIC), Effectivity, and Tomas Bata University in Zlín (TBU). These organisations have played an important role in promoting innovation in the South Moravian region and have made a significant impact in supporting SMEs through the current programme. The continuation of this initiative will further enable Czech SMEs to adopt advanced technologies and strengthen their position in the global market.

In this context, we express our interest in contributing to the development of demonstration workplaces focused on flexible manufacturing systems using artificial intelligence to support SMEs. We are prepared to support the initiative in areas such as:

- Providing expert consultations
- Making necessary equipment available through rental or loan
- Assisting with the installation and enhancement of technological solutions in these demonstration workplaces
- Supporting educational, promotional, and demonstration activities showcasing cutting-edge technological solutions

Furthermore, we are committed to leveraging our expertise to jointly address relevant research and development topics and contribute to the broader impact and long-term success of the initiative.

We believe that a strategic collaboration with your consortium will create valuable opportunities to accelerate technological integration, build industry-relevant competencies, and enhance overall manufacturing efficiency.

We look forward to the opportunity to continue our collaboration with the consortium and to contribute to the success of the EDIH 2.0 programme, which we believe will significantly enhance the competitiveness of Czech industry in the global market.

Mgr. et Mgr. Jindřich Weiss
29.4.2025 12:30:08
ID: 01968118-cc7b-73e0-8a3f-9aea052ae27a
DigiSign.org

.....

Jindřich Weiss
CEO
Intemac Solutions, s.r.o.
Blanenská 1288/27, 664 34 Kuřim

Tomáš Gřeš
ID: 019680b1-902c-72a3-b10a-07111fd3a2c7
DigiSign.org 29.4.2025 10:37:22

.....

Tomáš Gřeš
Business Manager
Pekat odštěpný závod
Botanická 554/68a, 602 00 Brno

Envelope ID DigiSign.org: 01966620-97e8-71dc-9629-9875665d0990
Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

intemac

Intemac Solutions s.r.o.
Blanenská 1288/27
664 34 Kuřim
Czech Republic

In Kuřim, on 24th April 2025

Expression of Continued Interest in Collaborating with the EDIH-DIGIMAT Consortium under the Digital Europe Programme

INTEMAC is a research and innovation centre whose main objective is to facilitate the advancement of research in the domains of industrial automation, machine vision, digital twins, and modern technologies associated with the Industry 4.0 concept. In alignment with the South Moravian Region's innovation strategy (RIS JMK), INTEMAC guides industrial enterprises towards global excellence, bolsters their resolve, and broadens their understanding of new technologies, thereby enhancing their efficiency and competitiveness.

EDIH-DIGIMAT

As a coordinator of a European Digital Innovation Hub (EDIH) for the digital transformation of manufacturing, INTEMAC offers a comprehensive range of services, including expert consultations, professional training, and extensive R&D services, particularly in the field of applied artificial intelligence in industrial manufacturing.

Sewio Networks s.r.o.

We express our continued interest in supporting the EDIH-DIGIMAT consortium under the Digital Europe Programme, specifically in the continuation of the EDIH 2.0 work programme. This initiative is focused on promoting sustainability, digitisation, and quality, while advancing the application of artificial intelligence in the industrial sector to enhance the efficiency of autonomous systems.

The EDIH 2.0 programme targets critical technology areas that are essential for the growth of SMEs in the Czech Republic, particularly in the South Moravian region and surrounding areas. These sectors form the backbone of the local economy and are strategic priorities under the Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation (RIS3). In this context, we emphasize the importance of continuing the EDIH-DIGIMAT programme, which is designed to increase the productivity and competitiveness of manufacturing SMEs through the deployment of advanced technologies - such as smart connectivity, digital twins, autonomous

Envelope ID DigiSign.org: 01966620-97e8-71dc-9629-9875665d0990
Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

intemac

robotics, intelligent control systems, and industrial artificial intelligence - tailored to the specific needs of each client.

As a technology partner, we are committed to supporting the consortium led by the INTEMAC Research and Innovation Centre, together with its partners - the Central European Institute of Technology (CEITEC), the South Moravian Innovation Centre (JIC), Effectivity, and Tomas Bata University in Zlín (TBU). These organisations have played an important role in promoting innovation in the South Moravian region and have made a significant impact in supporting SMEs through the current programme. The continuation of this initiative will further enable Czech SMEs to adopt advanced technologies and strengthen their position in the global market.

In this context, we express our interest in contributing to the development of demonstration workplaces focused on flexible manufacturing systems using artificial intelligence to support SMEs. We are prepared to support the initiative in areas such as:

- Providing expert consultations
- Making necessary equipment available through rental or loan
- Assisting with the installation and enhancement of technological solutions in these demonstration workplaces
- Supporting educational, promotional, and demonstration activities showcasing cutting-edge technological solutions

Furthermore, we are committed to leveraging our expertise to jointly address relevant research and development topics and contribute to the broader impact and long-term success of the initiative.

We believe that a strategic collaboration with your consortium will create valuable opportunities to accelerate technological integration, build industry-relevant competencies, and enhance overall manufacturing efficiency.

We look forward to the opportunity to continue our collaboration with the consortium and to contribute to the success of the EDIH 2.0 programme, which we believe will significantly enhance the competitiveness of Czech industry in the global market.

Mgr. et Mgr. Jindřich Weiss
29.4.2025 12:24:25
ID: 01968113-90d4-7075-b332-b4cb1aa3bacf
DigiSign.org

.....

Mgr. et Mgr. Jindřich Weiss
CEO
Intemac Solutions, s.r.o.
Blanenská 1288/27, 664 34 Kuřim

Michal Smetana



ID: 019680c1-3074-7187-85a5-f2fdea715fd4
DigiSign.org 29.4.2025 10:54:26

.....

Michal Smetana
CEO
Sewio Networks s.r.o.
Purkyňova 71/99, 612 00 Brno

Envelope ID DigiSign.org: 01966193-cd6e-71ed-bcf5-f18f5d711abd
Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

intemac

Intemac Solutions s.r.o.
Blanenská 1288/27
664 34 Kuřim
Czech Republic

In Kuřim, on 23rd April 2025

Expression of Continued Interest in Collaborating with the EDIH-DIGIMAT Consortium under the Digital Europe Programme

INTEMAC is a research and innovation centre whose main objective is to facilitate the advancement of research in the domains of industrial automation, machine vision, digital twins, and modern technologies associated with the Industry 4.0 concept. In alignment with the South Moravian Region's innovation strategy (RIS JMK), INTEMAC guides industrial enterprises towards global excellence, bolsters their resolve, and broadens their understanding of new technologies, thereby enhancing their efficiency and competitiveness.

EDIH-DIGIMAT

As a coordinator of a European Digital Innovation Hub (EDIH) for the digital transformation of manufacturing, INTEMAC offers a comprehensive range of services, including expert consultations, professional training, and extensive R&D services, particularly in the field of applied artificial intelligence in industrial manufacturing.

SMC Industrial Automation CZ s.r.o.

We express our continued interest in supporting the EDIH-DIGIMAT consortium under the Digital Europe Programme, specifically in the continuation of the EDIH 2.0 work programme. This initiative is focused on promoting sustainability, digitisation, and quality, while advancing the application of artificial intelligence in the industrial sector to enhance the efficiency of autonomous systems.

The EDIH 2.0 programme targets critical technology areas that are essential for the growth of SMEs in the Czech Republic, particularly in the South Moravian region and surrounding areas. These sectors form the backbone of the local economy and are strategic priorities under the Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation (RIS3). In this context, we emphasize the importance of continuing the EDIH-DIGIMAT programme, which is designed to increase the productivity and competitiveness of manufacturing SMEs through the deployment of advanced technologies - such as smart connectivity, digital twins, autonomous

Envelope ID DigiSign.org: 01966193-cd6e-71ed-bcf5-f18f5d711abd
Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

intemac

robotics, intelligent control systems, and industrial artificial intelligence - tailored to the specific needs of each client.

As a technology partner, we are committed to supporting the consortium led by the INTEMAC Research and Innovation Centre, together with its partners - the Central European Institute of Technology (CEITEC), the South Moravian Innovation Centre (JIC), Effectivity, and Tomas Bata University in Zlín (TBU). These organisations have played an important role in promoting innovation in the South Moravian region and have made a significant impact in supporting SMEs through the current programme. The continuation of this initiative will further enable Czech SMEs to adopt advanced technologies and strengthen their position in the global market.

In this context, we express our interest in contributing to the development of demonstration workplaces focused on flexible manufacturing systems using artificial intelligence to support SMEs. We are prepared to support the initiative in areas such as:

- Providing expert consultations
- Making necessary equipment available through rental or loan
- Assisting with the installation and enhancement of technological solutions in these demonstration workplaces
- Supporting educational, promotional, and demonstration activities showcasing cutting-edge technological solutions

Furthermore, we are committed to leveraging our expertise to jointly address relevant research and development topics and contribute to the broader impact and long-term success of the initiative.

We believe that a strategic collaboration with your consortium will create valuable opportunities to accelerate technological integration, build industry-relevant competencies, and enhance overall manufacturing efficiency.

We look forward to the opportunity to continue our collaboration with the consortium and to contribute to the success of the EDIH 2.0 programme, which we believe will significantly enhance the competitiveness of Czech industry in the global market.

Mgr. et Mgr. Jindřich Weiss
23.4.2025 14:42:37
ID: 019662ab-efdf-702c-8915-d5cb759cd2a3
DigiSign.org

.....

Mgr. et Mgr. Jindřich Weiss
CEO
Intemac Solutions, s.r.o.
Blanenská 1288/27, 664 34 Kuřim

Jiří Zavřel

ID: 0196623a-aa46-71a1-9836-02250f5ea3dd
DigiSign.org 23.4.2025 12:38:54

.....

Jiří Zavřel
Head of Sales for EU
SMC Industrial Automation CZ s.r.o. Hudcova 2934/78a, 612 00 Brno

Envelope ID DigiSign.org: 01966112-85ed-7032-acc9-f7079b497aee
Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

intemac

Intemac Solutions s.r.o.
Blanenská 1288/27
664 34 Kuřim
Czech Republic

In Kuřim, on 23rd April 2025

Expression of Continued Interest in Collaborating with the EDIH-DIGIMAT Consortium under the Digital Europe Programme

INTEMAC is a research and innovation centre whose main objective is to facilitate the advancement of research in the domains of industrial automation, machine vision, digital twins, and modern technologies associated with the Industry 4.0 concept. In alignment with the South Moravian Region's innovation strategy (RIS JMK), INTEMAC guides industrial enterprises towards global excellence, bolsters their resolve, and broadens their understanding of new technologies, thereby enhancing their efficiency and competitiveness.



As a coordinator of a European Digital Innovation Hub (EDIH) for the digital transformation of manufacturing, INTEMAC offers a comprehensive range of services, including expert consultations, professional training, and extensive R&D services, particularly in the field of applied artificial intelligence in industrial manufacturing.

Turck, s.r.o.

We express our continued interest in supporting the EDIH-DIGIMAT consortium under the Digital Europe Programme, specifically in the continuation of the EDIH 2.0 work programme. This initiative is focused on promoting sustainability, digitisation, and quality, while advancing the application of artificial intelligence in the industrial sector to enhance the efficiency of autonomous systems.

The EDIH 2.0 programme targets critical technology areas that are essential for the growth of SMEs in the Czech Republic, particularly in the South Moravian region and surrounding areas. These sectors form the backbone of the local economy and are strategic priorities under the Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation (RIS3). In this context, we emphasize the importance of continuing the EDIH-DIGIMAT programme, which is designed to increase the productivity and competitiveness of manufacturing SMEs through the deployment of advanced technologies - such as smart connectivity,

Envelope ID DigiSign.org: 019661f2-85ed-7032-acc9-f7079b497aee
Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

digital twins, autonomous robotics, intelligent control systems, and industrial artificial intelligence - tailored to the specific needs of each client.

As a technology partner, we are committed to supporting the consortium led by the INTEMAC Research and Innovation Centre, together with its partners - the Central European Institute of Technology (CEITEC), the South Moravian Innovation Centre (JIC), Effectivity, and Tomas Bata University in Zlín (TBU). These organisations have played an important role in promoting innovation in the South Moravian region and have made a significant impact in supporting SMEs through the current programme. The continuation of this initiative will further enable Czech SMEs to adopt advanced technologies and strengthen their position in the global market.

In this context, we express our interest in contributing to the development of demonstration workplaces focused on flexible manufacturing systems using artificial intelligence to support SMEs. We are prepared to support the initiative in areas such as:

- Providing expert consultations
- Making necessary equipment available through rental or loan
- Assisting with the installation and enhancement of technological solutions in these demonstration workplaces
- Supporting educational, promotional, and demonstration activities showcasing cutting-edge technological solutions

Furthermore, we are committed to leveraging our expertise to jointly address relevant research and development topics and contribute to the broader impact and long-term success of the initiative.

We believe that a strategic collaboration with your consortium will create valuable opportunities to accelerate technological integration, build industry-relevant competencies, and enhance overall manufacturing efficiency.

We look forward to the opportunity to continue our collaboration with the consortium and to contribute to the success of the EDIH 2.0 programme, which we believe will significantly enhance the competitiveness of Czech industry in the global market.

Mgr. et Mgr. Jindřich Weiss
23.4.2025 14:42:15
ID: 019662ab-990a-731a-8b61-225bff685c98
DigiSign.org

.....

Mgr. et Mgr. Jindřich Weiss
CEO
Intemac Solutions, s.r.o.
Blanenská 1288/27, 664 34 Kuřim

MARTIN FIŠER
ID: 019661fb-c5a1-72d0-bd4c-35cf4a630924
DigiSign.org 23.4.2025 11:30:12

.....

Martin Fišer
Managing director
Turck, s.r.o.
Na Brně 2065, 500 06 Hradec Králové

Envelope ID DigiSign.org: 0196c9cc-ed05-7262-90e9-9b9a95bb2519
Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

intemac

Intemac Solutions s.r.o.
Blanenská 1288/27
664 34 Kuřim
Czech Republic

In Kuřim, on 13th May 2025

Expression of Continued Interest in Collaborating with the EDIH-DIGIMAT Initiative under the Digital Europe Programme

INTEMAC is a research and innovation centre whose main objective is to facilitate the advancement of research in the domains of industrial automation, machine vision, digital twins, and modern technologies associated with the Industry 4.0 concept. In alignment with the South Moravian Region's innovation strategy (RIS JMK), INTEMAC guides industrial enterprises towards global excellence, bolsters their resolve, and broadens their understanding of new technologies, thereby enhancing their efficiency and competitiveness.

EDIH-DIGIMAT

As a coordinator of a European Digital Innovation Hub (EDIH) for the digital transformation of manufacturing, INTEMAC offers a comprehensive range of services, including expert consultations, professional training, and extensive R&D services, particularly in the field of applied artificial intelligence in industrial manufacturing.

B + R automatizace, spol. s r.o.

We express our continued interest in supporting the EDIH-DIGIMAT initiative under the Digital Europe Programme, specifically in the continuation of the EDIH 2.0 work programme. This initiative is focused on promoting sustainability, digitisation, and quality, while advancing the application of artificial intelligence in the industrial sector to enhance the efficiency of autonomous systems.

The EDIH 2.0 programme targets critical technology areas that are essential for the growth of SMEs in the Czech Republic, particularly in the South Moravian region and surrounding areas. These sectors form the backbone of the local economy and are strategic priorities under the Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation (RIS3). In this context, we emphasize the importance of continuing the EDIH-DIGIMAT programme, which is designed to increase the productivity and competitiveness of manufacturing SMEs through the deployment of advanced technologies - such as smart connectivity,

Envelope ID DigiSign.org: 0196c9cc-ed05-7262-90e9-9b9a95bb2519
Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

digital twins, autonomous robotics, intelligent control systems, and industrial artificial intelligence - tailored to the specific needs of each client.

As a technology partner, we are committed to supporting the project led by the INTEMAC Research and Innovation Centre, together with its partners - the Central European Institute of Technology (CEITEC), the South Moravian Innovation Centre (JIC), Effectivity, and Tomas Bata University in Zlín (TBU). These organisations have played an important role in promoting innovation in the South Moravian region and have made a significant impact in supporting SMEs through the current programme. The continuation of this initiative will further enable Czech SMEs to adopt advanced technologies and strengthen their position in the global market.

In this context, we express our interest in contributing to the development of demonstration workplaces focused on flexible manufacturing systems using artificial intelligence to support SMEs. We are prepared to support the initiative in areas such as:

- Providing expert consultations
- Making necessary equipment available through rental or loan
- Assisting with the installation and enhancement of technological solutions in these demonstration workplaces
- Supporting educational, promotional, and demonstration activities showcasing cutting-edge technological solutions

Furthermore, we are committed to leveraging our expertise to jointly address relevant research and development topics and contribute to the broader impact and long-term success of the initiative.

We believe that a strategic collaboration with your project will create valuable opportunities to accelerate technological integration, build industry-relevant competencies, and enhance overall manufacturing efficiency.

We look forward to the opportunity to continue our collaboration with the EDIH-DIGIMAT initiative and to contribute to the success of the EDIH 2.0 programme, which we believe will significantly enhance the competitiveness of Czech industry in the global market.

Mgr. et Mgr. Jindřich Weiss
14.5.2025 12:31:48
ID: 0196ce59-b9b3-71d6-92bf-d635dcadda8f
DigiSign.org

.....
Mgr. et Mgr. Jindřich Weiss
CEO
Intemac Solutions, s.r.o.
Blanenská 1288/27, 664 34 Kuřim

KAREL BÍLEK
ID: 0196ce53-214c-7092-bdf3-f571bea86f86
DigiSign.org 14.5.2025 12:24:36

.....
Ing. Karel Bílek
CEO
B+R automatizace s.r.o.
Stránského 3140/39, 616 00 Brno

ANNEX 2

ESTIMATED BUDGET FOR THE ACTION

	Estimated eligible[1] costs (per budget category)										Estimated EU contribution[2]			
	Direct costs								Indirect costs	Total costs	EU contribution to eligible costs			Maximum grant amount[6]
	A. Personnel costs			B. Subcontracting costs	C. Purchase costs			D. Other cost categories			Funding rate %[4]	Maximum EU contribution[5]	Requested EU contribution	
	A.1 Employees (or equivalent) A.2 Natural persons under direct contract A.3 Seconded persons		A.4 SME owners and natural person beneficiaries	B. Subcontracting	C.1 Travel and subsistence	C.2 Equipment	C.3 Other goods, works and services	D.1 Financial support to third parties	D.2 Internally invoiced goods and services	E. Indirect costs				
Forms of funding	Actual costs	Unit costs (usual accounting practices)	Unit costs[7]	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Unit costs (usual accounting practices)	Flat-rate costs[8]				
	a1	a2	a3	b	c1	c2	c3	d1	d2	e = flat-rate * (a1 + a2 + a3 + b + c1 + c2 + c3 + d1 + d2)	f = a + b + c + d + e	U	g = f * U%	h	m
1 - JIC	173 600.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	144 344.00	0.00	0.00	22 256.08	340 200.08	50	170 100.04	170 100.00	170 100.00
2 - BUT	346 500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14 600.00	0.00	81 000.00	0.00	0.00	30 947.00	473 047.00	50	236 523.50	236 523.50	236 523.50
3 - INTEMAC	547 840.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14 500.00	0.00	237 300.00	0.00	0.00	55 974.80	855 614.80	50	427 807.40	427 807.40	427 807.40
4 - Effectivity	449 097.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	35 000.00	0.00	44 000.00	0.00	0.00	36 966.79	565 063.79	50	282 531.90	282 531.90	282 531.90
5 - TBU	217 800.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9 800.00	0.00	6 000.00	0.00	0.00	16 352.00	249 952.00	50	124 976.00	124 976.00	124 976.00
Σ consortium	1 734 837.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	73 900.00	0.00	512 644.00	0.00	0.00	162 496.67	2 483 877.67		1 241 938.84	1 241 938.80	1 241 938.80

[1] See Article 6 for the eligibility conditions. All amounts must be expressed in EUR (see Article 21 for the conversion rules).
[2] The consortium remains free to decide on a different internal distribution of the EU funding (via the consortium agreement; see Article 7).
[3] Indirect costs already covered by an operating grant (received under any EU funding programme) are ineligible (see Article 6.3). Therefore, a beneficiary/affiliated entity that receives an operating grant during the action duration cannot declare indirect costs for the year(s)/reporting period(s) covered by the operating grant, unless they can demonstrate that the operating grant does not cover any costs of the action. This requires specific accounting tools. Please immediately contact us via the EU Funding & Tenders Portal for details.
[4] See Data Sheet for the funding rate(s).
[5] This is the theoretical amount of the EU contribution to costs, if the reimbursement rate is applied to all the budgeted costs. This theoretical amount is then capped by the 'maximum grant amount'.
[6] The 'maximum grant amount' is the maximum grant amount decided by the EU. It normally corresponds to the requested grant, but may be lower.
[7] See Annex 2a 'Additional information on the estimated budget' for the details (units, cost per unit).
[8] See Data Sheet for the flat-rate.

ANNEX 2a

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON UNIT COSTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

SME owners/natural person beneficiaries without salary

See Additional information on unit costs and contributions (Annex 2a and 2b)

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

VYSOKE UCENI TECHNICKE V BRNE (BUT), PIC 999873091, established in ANTONINSKA 548/1, BRNO STRED 602 00, Czechia,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101256752 — EDIH-DIGIMAT 2.0 ('the Agreement')

between JIC, ZAJMOVE SDRUZENI PRAVNICKCH OSOB (JIC) **and** the **European Union** ('EU'), represented by the European Commission ('European Commission' or 'granting authority'),

and mandates

the coordinator to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

INTEMAC SOLUTIONS, SRO (INTEMAC), PIC 934182460, established in BLANENSKA 1288/27, KURIM 664 34, Czechia,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101256752 — EDIH-DIGIMAT 2.0 ('the Agreement')

between JIC, ZAJMOVE SDRUZENI PRAVNICKCH OSOB (JIC) **and** the **European Union** ('EU'), represented by the European Commission ('European Commission' or 'granting authority'),

and mandates

the coordinator to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

EFFECTIVITY S.R.O (Effectivity), PIC 887659611, established in HLUBOCANY 160, VYSKOV 68201, Czechia,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101256752 — EDIH-DIGIMAT 2.0 ('the Agreement')

between JIC, ZAJMOVE SDRUZENI PRAVNICKCH OSOB (JIC) **and** the **European Union** ('EU'), represented by the European Commission ('European Commission' or 'granting authority'),

and mandates

the coordinator to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

UNIVERZITA TOMASE BATI VE ZLINE (TBU), PIC 999880172, established in Nam. T.G. Masaryka 5555, ZLIN 760 01, Czechia,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101256752 — EDIH-DIGIMAT 2.0 ('the Agreement')

between JIC, ZAJMOVE SDRUZENI PRAVNICKCH OSOB (JIC) **and** the **European Union** ('EU'), represented by the European Commission ('European Commission' or 'granting authority'),

and mandates

the coordinator to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2025)11343937 - 18/12/2025

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR [PARTICIPANT NAME] FOR REPORTING PERIOD [NUMBER]

	Eligible[1] costs (per budget category)											EU contribution[2]				Revenues
	Direct costs									Indirect costs	Total costs	EU contribution to eligible costs			Total requested EU contribution	Income generated by the action
	A. Personnel costs			B. Subcontracting costs	C. Purchase costs		D. Other cost categories			E. Indirect costs[2]		Funding rate %[3]	Maximum EU contribution[4]	Requested EU contribution		
	A.1 Employees (or equivalent) A.2 Natural persons under direct contract A.3 Seconded persons		A.4 SME owners and natural person beneficiaries	B. Subcontracting	C.1 Travel and subsistence	C.2 Equipment	C.3 Other goods, works and services	D.X Financial support to third parties	D.2 Internally invoiced goods and services	*[OPTION for PAC Grants for Procurement:* D.3 PAC procurement costs*]*	E. Indirect costs					
Forms of funding	Actual costs	Unit costs (usual accounting practices)	Unit costs[5]	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Unit costs (usual accounting practices)	*[* Actual costs*]*	Flat-rate costs[6]					
	a1	a2	a3	b	c1	c2	c3	d1a	d2	*[* d3*]*	e = flat-rate * (a1 + a2 + a3 + b + c1 + c2 + c3 + d1a + d2 *[* + d3*]*)	f = a+b+c+d+e	U	g = f*U%	h	m	n
XX – [short name beneficiary/affiliated entity]																

The beneficiary/affiliated entity hereby confirms that:

The information provided is complete, reliable and true.

The costs and contributions declared are eligible (see Article 6).

The costs and contributions can be substantiated by adequate records and supporting documentation that will be produced upon request or in the context of checks, reviews, audits and investigations (see Articles 19, 20 and 25).

For the last reporting period: that all the revenues have been declared (see Article 22).

ⓘ Please declare all eligible costs and contributions, even if they exceed the amounts indicated in the estimated budget (see Annex 2). Only amounts that were declared in your individual financial statements can be taken into account lateron, in order to replace costs/contributions that are found to be ineligible.

[1] See Article 6 for the eligibility conditions. All amounts must be expressed in EUR (see Article 21 for the conversion rules).

[2] If you have also received an EU operating grant during this reporting period, you cannot claim indirect costs - unless you can demonstrate that the operating grant does not cover any costs of the action. This requires specific accounting tools. Please contact us immediately via the Funding & Tenders Portal for details.

[3] See Data Sheet for the reimbursement rate(s).

[4] This is the *theoretical* amount of EU contribution to costs that the system calculates automatically (by multiplying the reimbursement rates by the costs declared). The amount you request (in the column 'requested EU contribution') may be less.

[5] See Annex 2a 'Additional information on the estimated budget' for the details (units, cost per unit).

[6] See Data Sheet for the flat-rate.

ANNEX 5

SPECIFIC RULES

CONFIDENTIALITY AND SECURITY (— ARTICLE 13)

Sensitive information with security recommendation

Sensitive information with a security recommendation must comply with the additional requirements imposed by the granting authority.

Before starting the action tasks concerned, the beneficiaries must have obtained all approvals or other mandatory documents needed for implementing the task. The documents must be kept on file and be submitted upon request by the coordinator to the granting authority. If they are not in English, they must be submitted together with an English summary.

For requirements restricting disclosure or dissemination, the information must be handled in accordance with the recommendation and may be disclosed or disseminated only after written approval from the granting authority.

EU classified information

If EU classified information is used or generated by the action, it must be treated in accordance with the security classification guide (SCG) and security aspect letter (SAL) set out in Annex 1 and Decision 2015/444[1] and its implementing rules — until it is declassified.

Deliverables which contain EU classified information must be submitted according to special procedures agreed with the granting authority.

Action tasks involving EU classified information may be subcontracted only with prior explicit written approval from the granting authority and only to entities established in an EU Member State or in a non-EU country with a security of information agreement with the EU (or an administrative arrangement with the Commission).

EU classified information may not be disclosed to any third party (including participants involved in the action implementation) without prior explicit written approval from the granting authority.

ETHICS (— ARTICLE 14)

Ethics

Actions involving activities raising ethics issues must be carried out in compliance with:

- ethical principles

[1] Commission Decision 2015/444/EC, Euratom of 13 March 2015 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 53).

and

- applicable EU, international and national law, including the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and its Supplementary Protocols.

The beneficiaries must pay particular attention to the principle of proportionality, the right to privacy, the right to the protection of personal data, the right to the physical and mental integrity of persons, the right to non-discrimination, the need to ensure protection of the environment and high levels of human health protection.

Before the beginning of an action task raising an ethical issue, the beneficiaries must have obtained all approvals or other mandatory documents needed for implementing the task, notably from any (national or local) ethics committee or other bodies such as data protection authorities.

The documents must be kept on file and be submitted upon request by the coordinator to the granting authority. If they are not in English, they must be submitted together with an English summary, which shows that the documents cover the action tasks in question and includes the conclusions of the committee or authority concerned (if any).

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR) — BACKGROUND AND RESULTS — ACCESS RIGHTS AND RIGHTS OF USE (— ARTICLE 16)

Definitions

Access rights — Rights to use results or background.

Dissemination — The public disclosure of the results by appropriate means, other than resulting from protecting or exploiting the results, including by scientific or professional publications in any medium.

Exploit(ation) — The use of results in further innovation and deployment activities other than those covered by the action concerned, including among other things, commercial exploitation such as developing, creating, manufacturing and marketing a product or process, creating and providing a service, or in standardisation activities.

Fair and reasonable conditions — Appropriate conditions, including possible financial terms or royalty-free conditions, taking into account the specific circumstances of the request for access, for example the actual or potential value of the results or background to which access is requested and/or the scope, duration or other characteristics of the exploitation envisaged.

List of background — Background free from restrictions

The beneficiaries must, where industrial and intellectual property rights (including rights of third parties) exist prior to the Agreement, establish a list of these pre-existing industrial and intellectual property rights, specifying the rights owners.

The coordinator must — before starting the action — submit this list to the granting authority.

Where the call conditions restrict participation or control due to security or EU strategic autonomy reasons, background that is subject to control or other restrictions by a country (or entity from a country) which is not one of the eligible countries or target countries set out in the call conditions and that impact the results (i.e. would make the results subject to control or restrictions) must not be used and must be explicitly excluded in the list of background — unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority.

Results free from restrictions

Where the call conditions restrict participation or control due to security or EU strategic autonomy reasons, the beneficiaries must ensure that the results of the action are not subject to control or other restrictions by a country (or entity from a country) which is not one of the eligible countries or target countries set out in the call conditions — unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority.

Ownership of results

Results are owned by the beneficiaries that generate them (unless the consortium agreement specifies another ownership regime).

Protection of results

The beneficiaries must adequately protect their results — for an appropriate period and with appropriate territorial coverage — if protection is possible and justified, taking into account all relevant considerations, including the prospects for commercial exploitation, legitimate interests of the other beneficiaries and any other legitimate interests.

Exploitation of results

Beneficiaries must — up to four years after the end of the action (see Data Sheet, Point 1) — use their best efforts to exploit their results directly or to have them exploited indirectly by another entity, in particular through transfer or licensing.

Where the call conditions restrict participation or control due to security or EU strategic autonomy reasons (and unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority), the beneficiaries must produce a significant amount of products, services or processes that incorporate results of the action or that are produced through the use of results of the action in the eligible countries or target countries set out in the call conditions.

Where the call conditions impose moreover a first exploitation obligation, the first exploitation must also take place in the eligible countries or target countries set out in the call conditions.

The beneficiaries must ensure that these obligations also apply to their affiliated entities, associated partners, subcontractors and recipients of financial support to third parties.

Transfers and licensing of results

Where the call conditions restrict participation or control due to security or EU strategic autonomy reasons, the beneficiaries may not transfer ownership of their results or grant licences to third parties which are established in countries which are not eligible countries or target countries set out in the call conditions (or are controlled by such countries or entities

from such countries) — unless they have requested and received prior approval by the granting authority.

The request must:

- identify the specific results concerned
- describe in detail the new owner or licensee and the planned or potential exploitation of the results and
- include a reasoned assessment of the likely impact of the transfer or license on the security interests or EU strategic autonomy.

The granting authority may request additional information.

The beneficiaries must ensure that their obligations under the Agreement are passed on to the new owner or licensee and that this new owner or licensee has the obligation to pass them on in any subsequent transfer.

Access rights — Additional rights of use

Rights of use of the granting authority on results for information, communication, publicity and dissemination purposes

The granting authority also has the right to exploit non-sensitive results of the action for information, communication, dissemination and publicity purposes, using any of the following modes:

- **use for its own purposes** (in particular, making them available to persons working for the granting authority or any other EU service (including institutions, bodies, offices, agencies, etc.) or EU Member State institution or body; copying or reproducing them in whole or in part, in unlimited numbers; and communication through press information services)
- **distribution to the public** in hard copies, in electronic or digital format, on the internet including social networks, as a downloadable or non-downloadable file
- **editing** or **redrafting** (including shortening, summarising, changing, correcting, cutting, inserting elements (e.g. meta-data, legends or other graphic, visual, audio or text elements), extracting parts (e.g. audio or video files), dividing into parts or use in a compilation)
- **translation**(including inserting subtitles/dubbing)in all official languages of EU
- **storage** in paper, electronic or other form
- **archiving** in line with applicable document-management rules
- the right to authorise **third parties** to act on its behalf or sub-license to third parties, including if there is licensed background, any of the rights or modes of exploitation set out in this provision
- **processing**, analysing, aggregating the results and **producing derivative works**

- **disseminating** the results in widely accessible databases or indexes (such as through 'open access' or 'open data' portals or similar repositories, whether free of charge or not).

The beneficiaries must ensure these rights of use for the whole duration they are protected by industrial or intellectual property rights.

If results are subject to moral rights or third party rights (including intellectual property rights or rights of natural persons on their image and voice), the beneficiaries must ensure that they comply with their obligations under this Agreement (in particular, by obtaining the necessary licences and authorisations from the rights holders concerned).

Access rights for the granting authority and EU institutions, bodies, offices or agencies to results for policy purposes

The beneficiaries must grant access to their results — on a royalty-free basis — to the granting authority, other EU institutions, bodies, offices or agencies, for developing, implementing and monitoring EU policies or programmes.

Such access rights are limited to non-commercial and non-competitive use.

Access rights for the granting authority to results in case of a public emergency

If requested by the granting authority in case of a public emergency, the beneficiaries must grant non-exclusive, world-wide licences to third parties — under fair and reasonable conditions — to use the results to address the public emergency.

Access rights for third parties to ensure continuity and interoperability

Where the call conditions impose continuity or interoperability obligations, the beneficiaries must make the results produced in the framework of the action available to the public (freely accessible on the Internet under open source licences).

COMMUNICATION, DISSEMINATION AND VISIBILITY (— ARTICLE 17)

Communication and dissemination plan

The beneficiaries must provide a detailed communication and dissemination plan, setting out the objectives, key messaging, target audiences, communication channels, social media plan, planned budget and relevant indicators for monitoring and evaluation.

Dissemination of results

The beneficiaries must disseminate their results as soon as feasible, in a publicly available format, subject to any restrictions due to the protection of intellectual property, security rules or legitimate interests.

They must upload the public **project results** to the Digital Europe Project Results platform, available through the Funding & Tenders Portal.

In addition, where the call conditions impose additional dissemination obligations, they must also comply with those.

Additional communication activities

The beneficiaries must engage in the following additional communication activities:

- **present the project** (including project summary, coordinator contact details, list of participants, European flag and funding statement and special logo and project results) on the beneficiaries' **websites** or **social media accounts**

SPECIFIC RULES FOR CARRYING OUT THE ACTION (— ARTICLE 18)

Implementation in case of restrictions due to security or EU strategic autonomy

Where the call conditions restrict participation or control due to security or EU strategic autonomy reasons, the beneficiaries must ensure that none of the entities that participate as affiliated entities, associated partners, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties are established in countries which are not eligible countries or target countries set out in the call conditions (or are controlled by such countries or entities from such countries) — unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority.

The beneficiaries must moreover ensure that any cooperation with entities established in countries which are not eligible countries or target countries set out in the call conditions (or are controlled by such countries or entities from such countries) does not affect the security interests or EU strategic autonomy and avoids potential negative effects over security of supply of inputs critical to the action.

Specific rules for PAC Grants for Procurement

When implementing innovative procurements in PAC Grants for Procurement, the beneficiaries must respect the following conditions:

- avoid any conflict of interest and comply with the principles of transparency, non-discrimination, equal treatment, sound financial management, proportionality and competition rules

- assign the ownership of the intellectual property rights under the contracts to the contractors (unless there are exceptional overriding public interests which are duly justified in Annex 1), with the right of the buyers to access results — on a royalty-free basis — for their own use and to grant (or to require the contractors to grant) non-exclusive licences to third parties to exploit the results for them — under fair and reasonable conditions — without any right to sub-license

- allow for all communications to be made in English (and any additional languages chosen by the beneficiaries)

- ensure that prior information notices, contract notices and contract award notices contain information on the EU funding and a disclaimer that the EU is not participating as contracting authority in the procurement

- allow for the award of multiple procurement contracts within the same procedure (multiple sourcing)

- for procurements involving classified information: apply the security rules set out in Annex 5 mutatis mutandis to the contractors and the background and results of the contracts

- where the call conditions restrict participation or control due to security or EU strategic autonomy reasons: apply the restrictions set out in Annex 5 mutatis mutandis to the contractors and the results under the contracts

- where the call conditions impose a place of performance obligation: ensure that the part of the activities that is subject to the place of performance obligation is performed in the eligible countries or target countries set out in the call conditions

- to ensure reciprocal level of market access: where the WTO Government Procurement Agreement (GPA) does not apply, ensure that the participation in tendering procedures is open on equal terms to bidders from EU Member States and all countries with which the EU has an agreement in the field of public procurement under the conditions laid down in that agreement, including all Horizon Europe associated countries. Where the WTO GPA applies, ensure that tendering procedures are also open to bidders from states that have ratified this agreement, under the conditions laid down therein.

Specific rules for Grants for Financial Support

When implementing financial support to third parties in Grants for Financial Support, the beneficiaries must respect the following conditions:

- avoid any conflict of interest and comply with the principles of transparency, non-discrimination and sound financial management

- for the selection procedure and criteria:

    - publish open calls widely (including on the Funding & Tenders Portal and the beneficiaries' websites)

    - keep open calls open for at least two months

    - inform recipients of call updates (if any) and the outcome of the call (list of selected projects, amounts and names of selected recipients)

Specific rules for JU actions

JU actions must contribute to the long-term implementation of the JU partnership, including the JU Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda, the JU objectives and the exploitation of research and innovation results.

Moreover, when implementing JU actions, the members and contributing partners of the Joint Undertaking must fulfil their obligations regarding contributions to the Joint Undertaking:

- the description of the action in Annex 1 must include, for beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners or other participants or third parties which are members or contributing partners, the estimated contributions to the action, i.e.:

    - in-kind contributions to operational activities ('IKOP'; if applicable)

    - in-kind contributions to additional activities linked to the action ('IKAA'; if applicable)

    - financial contributions ('FC'; if applicable)

- the contributions must be reported during the implementation of the action in the Portal Continuous Reporting tool

- at the end of the action, the members and contributing partners that have not received funding under the grant must ensure that financial and in-kind contributions of EUR 430 000 or more (see Article 21) are supported by statements of contributions (CS) and certificates on the statements of contributions (CCS) which fulfil the following conditions:

    - be provided by a qualified approved external auditor which is independent and complies with Directive 2006/43/EC (or for public bodies: by a competent independent public officer)

    - the verification must be carried out according to the highest professional standards to ensure that the statements of contributions comply with the provisions under the Agreement and the applicable JU Regulation, that the contributions cover activities that are part of the action and that they have not been reimbursed by the grant

- contributions must comply with the following conditions:

    - costs covered by financial contributions cannot be claimed for reimbursement under the JU grant.

The beneficiaries must comply with the additional IPR, dissemination and exploitation obligations set out in the call conditions (Article 16 and Annex 5), in particular:

- for all JU grants: the granting authority right to object to transfers or licensing also applies to results generated by beneficiaries not having received funding under the grant.

In addition to the obligations set out in Article 17, communication and dissemination activities as well as infrastructure, equipment or major results funded under JU actions must moreover display the Joint Undertaking's special logo:

and the following text:

> "The project is supported by the [insert JU name] and its members *[OPTION for actions with national contribution top-ups:* (including top-up funding by [name of the national funding authority])*]*."

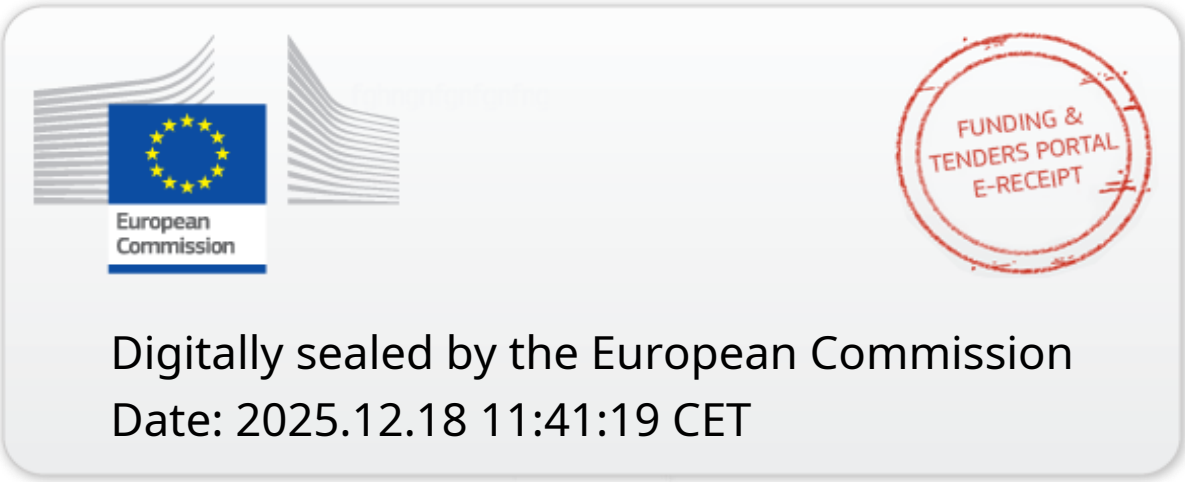
For EuroHPC and Chips JU grants, the beneficiaries must respect the following conditions when implementing actions with national contribution top-ups from Participating States:

- the beneficiaries must ensure visibility of the national contributions (see below)
- the payment deadlines for prefinancing, interim or final payments are automatically suspended if a national funding authority is late with its payments to the Joint Undertaking for the national contribution top-up
- the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO), European Court of Auditors (ECA), the National Court of Auditors and other national authorities can exercise their control rights on the project implementation and costs declared, including for the national contribution top-up.

Specific rules for blending operations

When implementing blending operations, the beneficiaries acknowledge and accept that:

- the grant depends on the approved financing from the Implementing Partner and/or public or private investors for the project
- they must inform the granting authority both about the approval for financing and the financial close — within 15 days
- the payment deadline for the first prefinancing is automatically suspended until the granting authority is informed about the approval for financing
- both actions will be managed and monitored in parallel and in close coordination with the Implementing Partner, in particular:
    - all information, data and documents (including the due diligence by the Implementing Partner and the signed agreement) may be exchanged and may be relied on for the management of the other action (if needed)
    - issues in one action may impact the other (e.g. suspension or termination in one action may lead to suspension also of the other action; termination of the grant will normally suspend and exit from further financing and vice versa, etc.)
- the granting authority may disclose confidential information also to the Implementing Partner.



This electronic receipt is a digitally signed version of the document submitted by your organisation. Both the content of the document and a set of metadata have been digitally sealed.

This digital signature mechanism, using a public-private key pair mechanism, uniquely binds this eReceipt to the modules of the Funding & Tenders Portal of the European Commission, to the transaction for which it was generated and ensures its full integrity. Therefore a complete digitally signed trail of the transaction is available both for your organisation and for the issuer of the eReceipt.

Any attempt to modify the content will lead to a break of the integrity of the electronic signature, which can be verified at any time by clicking on the eReceipt validation symbol.

More info about eReceipts can be found in the FAQ page of the Funding & Tenders Portal.

(https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/faq)