

Questionnaire for expressions of interest in Finland's European Digital Innovation Hubs call

This questionnaire is for those entities which are interested in becoming European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIH) under the forthcoming Digital Europe programme in 2021-27. EDIHs can be either organizations or consortia.

EDIHs are service centres that support the digital transformation of the public and private sectors, especially SMEs and midcaps. Their main functions are Test before invest; Skills and training; Support to find investments; and Innovation ecosystem and networking.

EDIHs will constitute an instrumental element of the digital agenda of Finland, with the objectives to increase productivity, employment, investments in the digital, stronger ecosystems and sustainability in the economy. The Finnish EDIH network will be launched within the upcoming AI 4.0 programme, and the EDIHs will be closely aligned to other strategic policy measures to accelerate the digitalization of businesses.

In the national part of the selection process EU Member States propose candidate entities after an open and competitive process. After that the Commission issues a restricted call for the nationally selected candidate entities. The Commission evaluates the proposals with the help of external experts, and makes the decision on the EDIHs. The Commission must take utmost account of the opinion of each Member State before the selection of an EDIH in its territory.

This questionnaire for expressions of interest has the following objectives:

- To prepare interested parties for the national EDIH call by asking questions that are relevant for setting up and running an EDIH, and which are similar to the questions in the national call
- To give information to the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment on the capabilities, plans and intentions of the potential EDIHs

A national call to choose Finland's EDIH candidates will follow in the autumn 2020. Information provided in this questionnaire by respondents is non-binding and preliminary. Submitting the questionnaire does not oblige respondents to take part in the national EDIH call. At the same time, not submitting answers to this questionnaire does not prevent respondents from taking part in the national EDIH call, nor does it place the respondents in a disadvantaged position in comparison with other respondents or contestants.

This questionnaire is open until Mon 10 August. The respondents can give answers to all or only some questions. The use of English is encouraged, while Finnish and Swedish can also be used. Changes can be made to the questionnaire until Fri 26 June, based on feedback.

The Ministry may confidentially share the questionnaire answers within the Government and within the administration under the Ministry. The answers can be shared with third parties under a non-disclosure agreement.

The Ministry shall not share the answers with applicants for an EDIH status or members of such consortia. The Ministry shall not publish questionnaire results where the respondents can be identified, unless consent is given by the respondent. The Ministry may publish results where the respondents are not identifiable.

Information, on which this questionnaire is based and to which it refers, is preliminary. Information on the EU plans in preparation is based on the draft EDIH document by the European Commission (https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/dae/document.cfm?doc_id=62936), and the common understanding by the Council and the European Parliament on the Digital Europe regulation (<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/38469/st07058-en19.pdf>).

In this questionnaire the respondents are referred to as EDIHs. The questions are in the present tense, covering both the present and the future.

This questionnaire was first published by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland on 23 June, 2020. Further questions: Senior Specialist Lasse Laitinen, +358 50 359 9258, lasse.laitinen@tem.fi

Basic information

1. Name of the hub

2. Address and other contact information

3. Responsible organization or other actor

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4. Possible other consortium members

5. Main location (municipality/city)

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6. Possible other location(s)

7. Possible geographical area for provision of services

EDIH and its members

8. What are the roles of different organizations in your EDIH?

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9. How is the private sector, especially SMEs, involved in the preparations and operations of your EDIH?

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Demand, customer needs and specialization

10. What is the focus and/or specialization of your EDIH? This may include technologies, application areas or industry sectors.

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11. Who are your customers? What are their key challenges which you drive to help solve?

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12. How big is your potential customer base?

- ☐ 10-249
- ☐ 250-999
- ☐ 1000-2499
- ☐ 2500-

13. Any comments on your answer above?

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14. How many customers (e.g. firms) do you plan to serve in a year in full operation?

- ☐ 1-49
- ☐ 50-199
- ☐ 200-499
- ☐ 500-

15. Any comments on your answer above?

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Services and competence base

16. What is the current service portfolio available for your EDIH? What needs does it serve?

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17. What needs to be developed or created for the EDIH service portfolio in the future?

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18. What high-level competencies in AI, HPC and/or cyber security are available for your EDIH? How do plan to integrate them into your services?

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19. Do you provide services, service models or infrastructures that could be utilized nationally or elsewhere in Europe?

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20. What plans do you have for performance indicators and impact monitoring?

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21. Do you have plans how your EDIH would promote environmentally sustainable digitalization and low carbon economy?

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Cooperation and network

22. What is the added value of your EDIH in the local, regional or national service or innovation system, compared to the situation today?

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23. Are there any regional, national or international innovation activities which will feed into the EDIH?

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Finances and resources

24. Revenue: What financing plans and commitments do you have? How much, what and when is planned to be invested or earned? How is the private sector involved and what is their expected contribution to the overall revenue (%)?

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25. Expenditure: How much do you plan to spend on personnel, facilities, equipment,

travel, procurement and other costs?

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26. Have you considered how to form a price list of the services provided by the EDIH? If yes, what are your plans?

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27. Available infrastructure for EDIH services?

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Feedback

28. What was good about this questionnaire?

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29. How would you improve this questionnaire?

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30. The Finnish candidates for the Commission’s restricted EDIH call will be selected through a national open call. What advice and wishes do you have for organizing the national call and setting its criteria?

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31. Other feedback?

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