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Interreg Europe



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

The Digital Innovation Hub (DIH) and Competence Centre (CC) in Tuscany

A network for deploying Innovation 4.0 in the Region

Paolo Guarnieri - Municipality of Prato

SMARTY 2nd Interregional Thematic Seminar - Online
Digital Innovation Hubs initiatives for supporting digital transformation in SMEs
8 – 9 September 2020 |

Location of the Good Practice

Location of the practice:
Tuscany, Italy

Practice Owner:

- Regional Industrial Association (DIH)
- Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna in Pisa (with University & R&D Centers) (CC)



NUTS 2: ITI1 (Tuscany Region)

General description

Two complementary structures:

- A highly qualified Competence Center (CC) involving universities of excellence, research centers and major private players, whose goal is to enable companies to test and experiment new technologies and accelerate innovative and technological development projects;
- A Digital Innovation Hub (DIH), whose aim is to raise the awareness of companies about Digitalisation and Industry 4.0, and bringing them closer to innovation providers, such as the Competence Centers.

The Digital Innovation Hub

- run by an association founded at the end of 2017 by the regional Industrial Association with contacts points at each of its 5 local branches in the region
- part of the national DIH network that aims to increase the level of knowledge and awareness of companies to trigger their digital transformation
- supports digitalization of SMEs in line with the National I4.0 Plan,
- participates in the National Network 4.0 of the Ministry for Economic Development (MISE) and in the catalog of European hubs of the EU Commission
- has recently become partner of the Competence Center ARTES 4.0



- brings together University Partners, Research Bodies, Highly Qualified Training Institutes, Foundations, Third Sector Bodies, Companies and Non-Profit Bodies but also Associations and Innovative Companies
- aims to provide partners and industry (particularly SMEs) technologies and services responding to their needs through guidance, training, innovation projects, industrial research and experimental development.
- involves 114 private shareholders with a total turnover of over 43 billion euros (ca. 3% of Italian GDP) through the participation of 17 large companies plus a number of SMEs, incubators, accelerators, etc.



The core objective

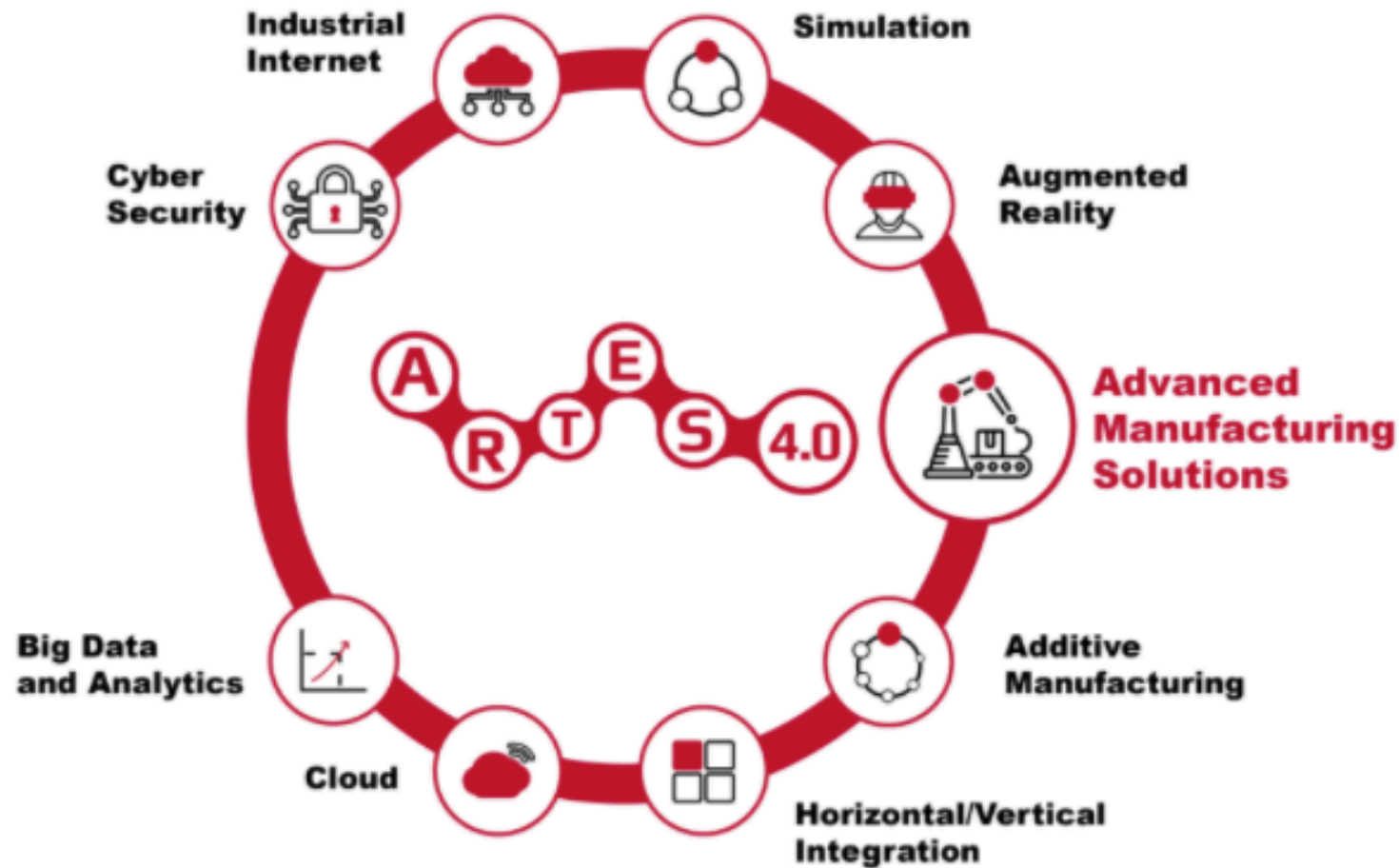
Support the National Industry 4.0 Plan in enabling companies seize the opportunities offered by the 4th industrial revolution

- raising awareness and training about I4.0 technologies
- assessing digital maturity and defining roadmaps for digital transformation
- involving SMEs' in projects with the innovation ecosystem


Ministero dello Sviluppo Economico
**PIANO NAZIONALE
INDUSTRIA 4.0**



The sectors



The services

- Awareness raising and informative sessions
- Mentoring and training
- Tailored consulting
- Matchmaking with innovation actors



Funding

Both the Tuscan DIH and ARTES 4.0 CC originate from the National Industry 4.0 Plan of the Italian Ministry for Economic Development (MISE).

However, while the CC has been funded by the Ministry with around 11 M€, the Tuscan DIH is managed by the Industrial Association with no funds from the Ministry.

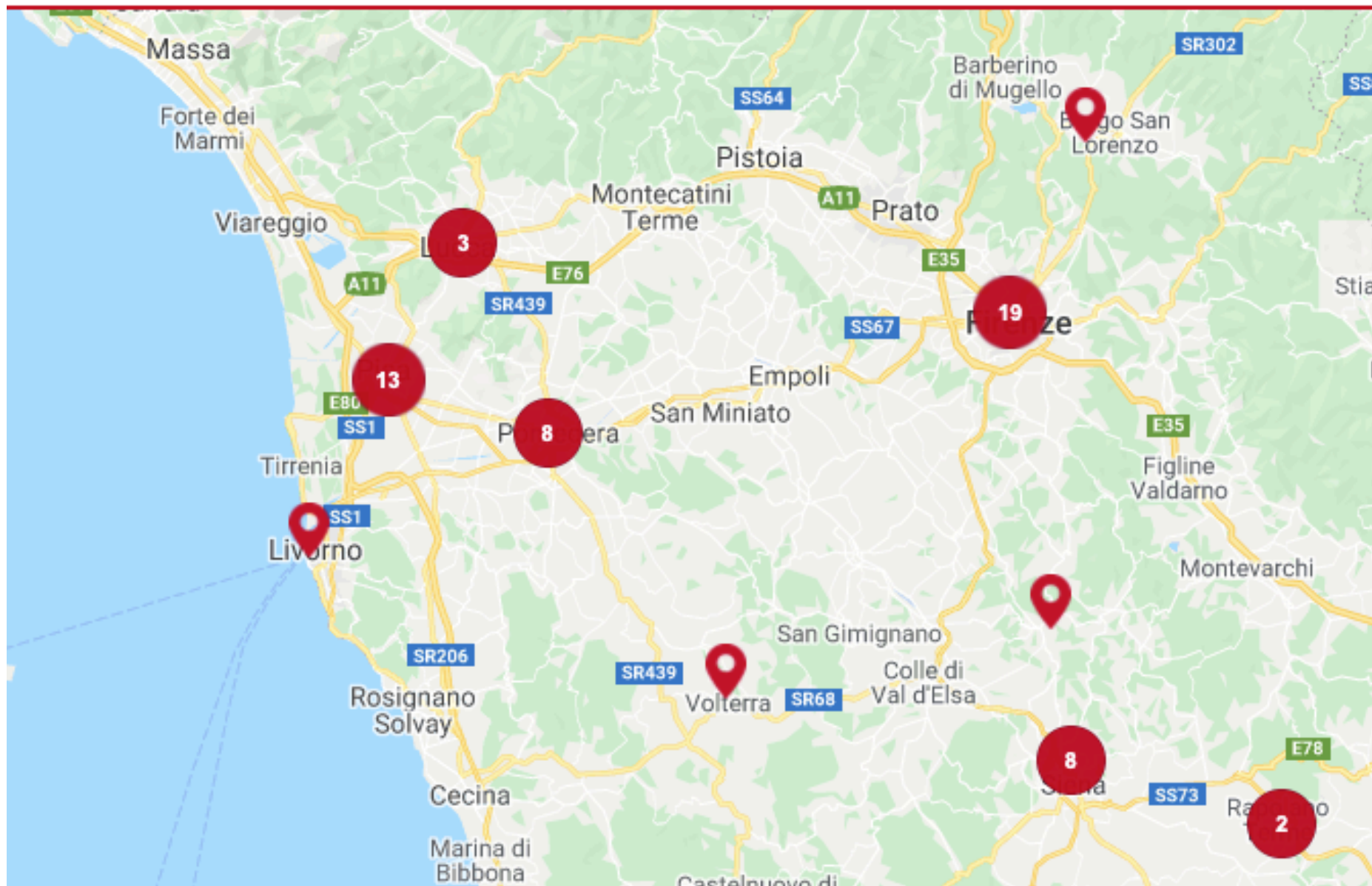
The difference in resources (and consequently in scope) makes the ARTES 4.0 CC a much stronger infrastructure to act as an EDIH (that's why the two have shaken hands to jointly apply for the Italian EDIH pre-screening procedure).

How the DIH and CC work

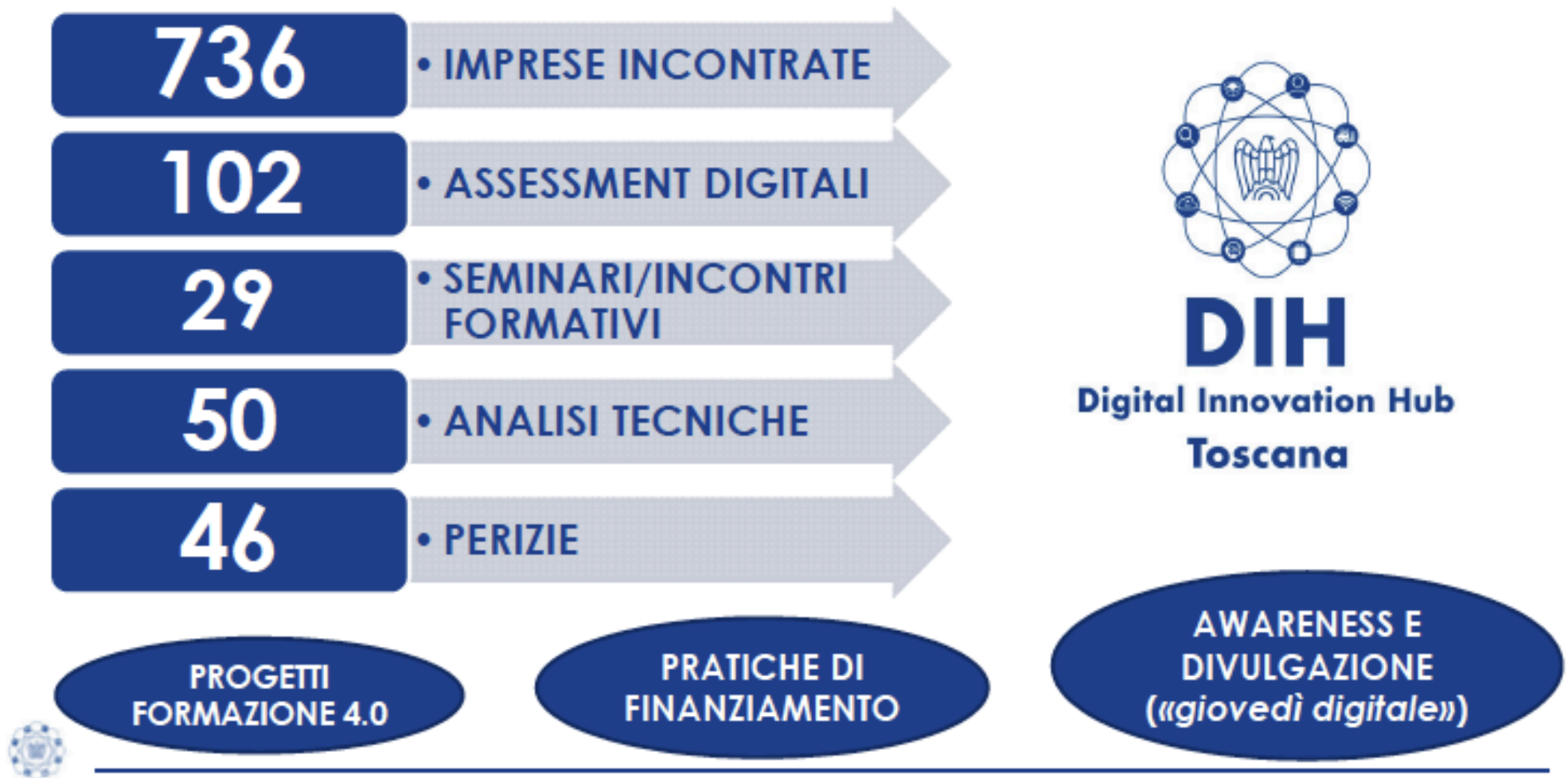
The DIH and CC help SMEs embrace the fourth industrial revolution by:

- organizing training seminars, workshops and study visits;
- supporting the use of digital maturity assessment tools and defining roadmaps for the digital transformation of business processes;
- launching calls for I4.0 projects by SMEs and R&D partners (e.g. research labs and centers, smart and flagship factories, universities, technology parks and clusters, technology transfer centers, incubators and fablabs, etc)
- providing advanced I4.0 services

Map of the CC Labs in Tuscany



Results of the DIH



- 736 SMEs involved
- 102 Digital Assessments
- 29 Seminars & Training Sessions

- 50 Technical Analysis
- 46 in-depth consultations

Results of the ARTES 4.0 CC

120 Innovative Projects / Case Studies

Enabling Technology	Number of Projects / Case Studies
Big Data & Analytics	23
Cloud computing	3
Connectivity & Communication	4
Industrial Cyber-Security	4
Vertical and horizontal integration	4
Internet Of Things	22
Additive and advanced manufacturing	7
Augmented and virtual reality	6
Robotics and artificial intelligence	28
Accessory Services	12
Simulation	9

Sample call (exp 30 sept 2020)

The call aims to achieve social, economic, and environmental improvements by increasing the technical and scientific contents of products, processes and services by territorial SMEs.

The call provides grants of up to a maximum of 50% of eligible (documented) costs, up to a maximum of 200,000 euros for each project.

Sample call (exp 30 sept 2020)

Industrial research and experimental development projects are financed with the following objectives:

- technological and digital development in the industrial sector, particularly SMEs;
- transfer of technological solutions and innovations in production processes/products/business models through the development/adoption/diffusion of I4.0 technologies;
- collaboration between SMEs and ARTES 4.0 through innovative projects;
- exchange of knowledge and skills between companies, and between companies and research organizations;

Sample call (exp 30 sept 2020)

Sectors:

- a. Agri-food 4.0
- b. 4.0 craftsmanship and technologies for SMEs to support product development
- c. Automotive 4.0
- d. Art, Cultural Heritage, Publishing and Tourism 4.0
- is. Climate Change 4.0
- f. Tanning 4.0
- g. Paper 4.0
- h. Circular Economy 4.0
- i. Construction and Infrastructure 4.0

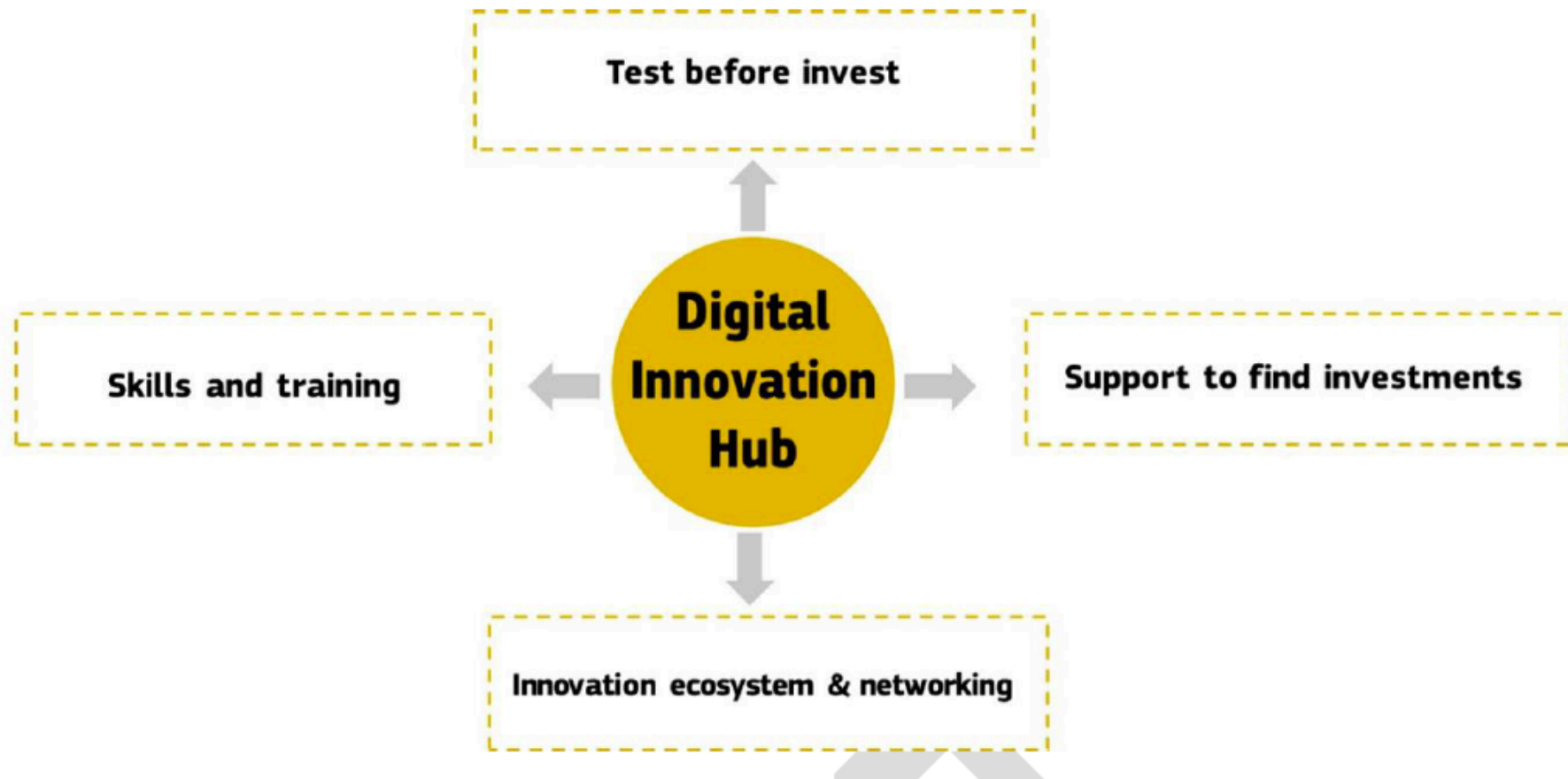
Sample call (exp 30 sept 2020)

Sectors:

- j. Energy 4.0. Innovative solutions with very high energy efficiency for a definitive change in the way energy is produced through circular approaches.
- k. Green Economy
- L. Plant engineering 4.0
- m. Logistics and transport 4.0 and technologies for the handling and storage of goods.
- n. Manufacturing 4.0
- or. Health and healthcare 4.0
- p. Occupational health and safety 4.0
- q. Life Sciences 4.0
- r. Other thematic areas

Final considerations

The Digital Europe Programme will require European DIHs to deliver high quality services to boost the digitalization of SMEs:



These services are likely to be best delivered by a coordinated group of organisations with complementary expertise.



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THANKS!

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