

## ICT WORKING GROUP

### ANNUAL PLAN 2022

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#### OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the ICT Work Group is to provide a platform for members that helps to inform about important European Initiatives, strategies and funding programs related to ICT topics and their regional dimension. This platform is equally meant to create opportunities for interregional cooperation in the ICT area crosscutting with other areas.

#### CONTEXT

The key EU level priorities, strategies, and events that the Working Group aims to follow up in 2022 are:

- [Data Act](#)
- [AI Act](#)
- [European Chips Act](#)
- Revision of the NIS Directive
- [Europe's Digital Decade](#)

Funding programmes important for the Working Group:

- Digital Europe Programme
- Horizon Europe Programme
- Connecting Europe Facility (digital part)
- [EIT's HEI Initiative](#)

How does the group support partnership building and collaborate with other European organisations or networks?

- Exploring opportunities with the DT4REGIONS project.

What topics and tailored activities could be proposed for less active regions, for example tackling topics directed to widening countries?

- Encouraging participation of less active regions in the planned Digital Transformation in Regions event series, especially highlighting the similarities and differences in the development and implementation of digital strategies on a regional level.

## ACTIVITIES

### Information session on Data Act

**Q1/Q2 2022 | Online**

The information session will focus on Data Act whose adoption is expected on 23 February 2022, and its implications for regional public authorities and their stakeholders, including citizens and businesses. A speaker from one of the EU institutions will be invited to present the document from a regional perspective and engage in a Q&A discussion.

The session can be potentially organised jointly with the Smart Cities WG.

### Towards a data regulation for health

**Q2 2022 | Onlin**

The joint Health and ICT WG meeting will focus on the legislative proposal on creating the European Health Data Space whose adoption is expected on 5 April 2022 and consider the upcoming Health Data Regulation. The meeting will aim to create awareness of the issues at stake, increase the understanding of the opportunities and challenges ahead and help identify project opportunities. The target audience will be regional stakeholders interested in EHDS and the forthcoming regulation, as well as Brussels audience preparing to support stakeholders back home. The meeting will feature a presentation from a European Commission representative, a Q&A session and showcasing of regional examples.

### Information session on data spaces

**Q2/Q3 2022 | Online**

The information session will present the current picture and future developments in the context of data spaces. The aim is to paint the bigger picture of creating different data spaces and how EU funding accelerates their development. The session will also provide an opportunity to reflect on experiences from the first call for proposals to prepare for future calls. The target audience will be regional offices,



regional stakeholders and policy experts. One or more speakers from the European Commission or the European Parliament will participate in the session.

### **Information session on AI Act**

**Q3/Q4**

The information session will focus on the AI Act whose publication is expected in the second half of 2022. A representative from the EU institutions will present the document and explore the implications for regions.

### **Bioeconomy and data**

**Q4**

The joint Bioeconomy and ICT WG meeting will aim to present examples of how data is used within the bioeconomy across European regions, for example in the agri-food sector, the forestry sector, and within waste management. Selected Digital Innovation Hubs working on bioeconomy-related topics could also be invited to present their activities. The meeting will be directed both towards the Brussels-based audience and regional stakeholders.

### **Toward a true community of European Digital Innovation Hubs – DTA in action**

**Q4 2022 / Q1 2023**

The Digital Transformation Accelerator is expected to be launched in Q4 2022 (see topic 1.3 in the [Digital Europe - EDIH Work Programme 2021-2023](#)) to support the effectiveness and efficiency of the EDIH network, by animating the interaction between EDIHs, support the community building and contribute to the skills development of EDIH managers. This meeting will explore how regions and their stakeholders can benefit from the DTA and how they can contribute to the operations of DTA itself, all in view of better outputs for the EDIHs themselves and their core audience: the SMEs in need of digital transformation. Target audience will include regional stakeholders involved in EDIH consortia and activities within their region.

### **Digital Transformation in Regions event series**

**Q1-Q4 2022**

In order to support ERRIN member regions in their quest for digital transition and transformation, the ICT WG will offer a series of events linking to the theme of regional digital strategies. In the first half of the year two or more regions will showcase their approaches to digital transformation, which could be used as benchmarks or provide inspiration for ERRIN regions. The meetings may be expanded with informative parts on the EU's Digital Compass and digital transformation policy.

In the second half of the year, the ICT WG will host a networking event for the regions on their digital strategies. The aim of the networking meeting will be to connect regions interested in the development of regional digital strategies and facilitate an exchange of ideas on the subject.

The target audience for this series will be regional policy makers and stakeholders – both those who already have digital strategies and those which are in the process of writing them.

#### **Q1 – Online webinar: Digital Compass for Tampere Region (TBC)**

The webinar will present the starting point, state of play and aims of the exercise of drawing a Digital Compass for Tampere Region which is currently carried out by the Council of Tampere Region together with a wide group of regional stakeholders and due to be finalised by summer 2022. ERRIN members will be encouraged to provide their input.

#### **Q2/Q3 – Online webinar: Emilia-Romagna Data Valley (TBC)**

The webinar will explore the European high-performance computing and Digital Spatial Observation in the Emilia-Romagna Data Valley. Opportunities and access to relevant infrastructures for ERRIN members and stakeholders will be discussed.

#### **Q3/Q4 – Networking meeting**

The aim of the networking meeting will be to connect regions interested in the development of regional digital strategies and facilitate an exchange of ideas on the subject. If possible, the meeting will take place in person in Brussels.

#### **Topics to be monitored further:**

- [Drone strategy 2.0](#) – connection to mobility
- [Multi-country projects](#) as part of the Path to the Digital Decade
- Regional and local perspective on CEF Digital
- Digital skills
- Upcoming Digital Europe Programme calls in Q3 & Q4 2022
- Experiences of successful participants in the first Digital Europe Programme calls
- Horizon Europe Partnerships and specific use cases