ICT WG

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

Regional digital strategies
24 March 2022

In this meeting, the ICT Working Group invites all ERRIN members and interested regional stakeholders to discuss and exchange good practices and challenges of regional digital strategies. European Commission experts will outline European digital policy priorities from a regional perspective, which will be followed by presentations of inspiring regional examples from ERRIN's members. We hope to create a platform of networking and benchmarking for all regions preparing for the digital decade.

Data legislation: Impact on cities and regions
28 March 2022

This joint ICT and Smart Cities WGs meeting will provide a bird's eye view of the current EU legislation in the field of data, with a focus on the recent Data Act proposal. Two European Commission speakers will systematise existing initiatives, also in the wider context of the EU digital strategy, and showcase their impact and possible ways forward for local and regional administrations. Concrete examples of use cases with particular relevance for regions and cities will also be presented.

European Health Data Space: how to unlock its potential?
15 June 2022

Following the legislative proposal for the European Health Data Space and in anticipation of the Health Data Regulation, the Health and ICT Working Groups will come together to explore outstanding questions ranging from the financial and legislative, to the conceptual and practical. Speaker from DG SANTE is invited to address these questions before a number of ERRIN members can take the floor to shortly pitch examples and ask targeted questions, in conversation with the colleague from the European Commission.

Towards digital transformation of public services – networking session
13 October 2022 (TBC)

This in-person meeting organised by the ICT Working Group will offer all interested ERRIN members a chance to find out more about available ways to engage to bring digital transformation of public services in their respective regions and cities forward. Current opportunities within the ERRIN's DT4REGIONS project and the Living-in.EU initiative will also be discussed. A networking session will follow, as an occasion to exchange specific experiences and identify areas for potential collaboration between regional and local representatives.

Bioeconomy and data
Q4 2022

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.

Information session on AI Act (TBC)
Q4 2022

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.

Toward a true community of European Digital Innovation Hubs – DTA in action (TBC)
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.

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