

# ICT CLUSTER

## ANNUAL WORK PLAN 2025

### CLUSTER DESCRIPTION AND KEY PRIORITIES

The main objective of the **ICT Working Group** is to act as a platform to discuss and share information on ICT-related initiatives and funding opportunities in relation to the European Commission's policy priority '**A Europe fit for the digital age**'. Especially highlighting the regional dimension of the ICT-field, the Working Group aims to create opportunities for interregional cooperation in the field of ICT by linking with other areas and sectors such as smart cities, energy, transport, health or culture.

Additionally, the ERRIN projects [Go Li.EU](#) and [RESIST](#) support the members in their digital policies for digital transformation and climate adaptation. Both projects will provide opportunities for ERRIN members to get involved and learn from the projects results and activities. More details about the Working Group and the projects can be found at the end of this file.

### CLUSTER CALENDAR

Date	Topic	Responsible
March	Understanding the European Digital Infrastructure Consortium (EDIC) and opportunities for local and regional authorities	ICT
March / April	Meeting with the wider membership on regional authorities' position in <a href="#">Living-in.EU</a>	ICT
June	AI in the public sector	ICT
September	Digital transformation of health care to meet evolving needs in an ageing society	Health / ICT
November	Networking of European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs) and information on Phase 2 calls	ICT

### ACTIVITIES

#### Regular meetings with EU Institutions on key digital-related topics for shaping the future of digital policies

**Date and timeslot:** Throughout 2025

#### ICT WG

**Responsible co-leaders:** All co-leaders – depending on the institutional contact

#### In-person meeting for the WG Leaders

In 2025, the ICT Working Group will organise dedicated discussions with key institutional contacts in the field of digital policies. Those meetings will be organised for the Working Group leaders, but each ERRIN member is welcome to provide information, questions or inputs to feed the discussion and put forward some key challenges or opportunities they face in the digital sector. Other Working Groups leaders may be invited to join, depending on topics.



## **Information session ‘Understanding the European Digital Infrastructure Consortium (EDIC) and opportunities for local and regional authorities’**

**7 March**

**ICT WG**

**Responsible co-leaders:** Wim De Kinderen & ERRIN Secretariat

**Hybrid meeting**

The European Digital Infrastructure Consortium (EDIC) is an innovative funding mechanism recently set up by the European Commission. Unlike other funding instruments, EDICs involve various sources of funding, EU, national and private, across multiple countries in Europe. Its objective is to facilitate investments in various areas, such as European Digital Twins, European Data spaces, deployment of 5G corridors, as well as High-Performance computing.

The EDICs should include at least three Member States, whose national authorities can be directly represented in the consortium. Other public authorities, such as cities and regional authorities, can also participate in the consortium.

This information session will be organised with representatives of the European Commission and DG Connect, with representatives of the newly created EDIC ‘Networked Local Digital Twins towards the CitiVERSE’ and ERRIN members already involved in these developments. It will help ERRIN members to understand this new instrument and explore opportunities to get involved.

## **Meeting with the wider membership on regional authorities’ position in Living-in.EU**

**March/April**

**ICT WG**

**Responsible co-leaders:** Romain Wascot & ERRIN Secretariat

**In-person meeting**

This meeting, open to all ERRIN members signatory of Living-in.EU, as well as members interested in digital transformation, will be organised as a brainstorming session to better position regional interest in the current policy context surrounding digital transformation.

With ERRIN’s involvement in the Living-in.EU movement, this meeting will be an opportunity to launch an open discussion on the future of Living-in.EU initiatives and the role of the ERRIN network in supporting regional authorities in their digital transformation journey.

## **AI in the public sector**

**June**

**ICT WG**

**Responsible co-leaders:** Alexandra Schafhauser, with the potential support of Annelie Zapfe and Leila Kylliäinen

**Hybrid meeting**

With AI's growing importance and related challenges, the ERRIN ICT Working Group organised a meeting on regional digital strategies related to AI on Wednesday 12 June 2024. The event explored how regional actors can benefit from generative AI while protecting privacy for example, through

regional AI strategies. One year after this meeting, after the creation of the AI office and before the implementation of the AI Act, the ICT Working Group will continue monitoring this important legislation and related impact on local and regional authorities.

## **Digital transformation of health care to meet evolving needs in an ageing society**

**September/October**

**Health WG & ICT WG**

**Responsible co-leaders:** Annelie Zapfe and Leila Kylliäinen

**Hybrid meeting**

ERRIN members have consistently brought up the digital transformation of health and care services in the 2024 membership survey. Areas of interest include Artificial Intelligence (AI) in health care, the implementation of the European Health Data Space (EHDS), and the expansion of digital health initiatives such as telehealth services. Additionally, there is a broader shift towards a more digital healthcare system which promotes innovation aimed at enhancing service delivery.

Another key topic of interest among members is the demographic change in Europe, characterised by an ageing population and a rising number of individuals living with chronic conditions. Prevention is often regarded as a crucial strategy for effectively managing this demographic shift. If implemented smartly and inclusively, the digital transformation of health and care offers opportunities to maintain the health of older citizens and patients in a cost-effective manner.

Given the intertwined nature of health and ICT, this session is designed to foster the exchange of best practices between the Health and ICT Working Group members. The session will aim to 1) showcase innovative practices from regions and cities that can serve as inspiration for others, 2) explore the policy landscape surrounding digital health, healthy ageing and prevention, and 3) provide insights into digital funding opportunities for cities and regions within this context.

In this context, the ICT Cluster and Working Group would support in:

- Integrating this specific meeting into the wider digital policy context at European, regional and local levels
- Supporting the Health Cluster and Working Group in the identification of relevant regional use-cases, projects and challenges
- Supporting any digital-related follow-ups that may be identified in the meeting for the benefit of the members

## **Networking of European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs) and information on Phase 2 calls**

**Q3/Q4**, linking with dedicated Digital Europe calls

**ICT WG**

**Responsible co-leaders:** Romain Wascot

**In-person/online meeting**

The EU support to European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs) is about to reach a new step as the 2025-2027 Digital Europe WP is about to be published. Indeed, two dedicated calls for proposals are foreseen with the aim of consolidating the overall network of EDIHs as well as to focus its operations

on AI technologies. This Working Group meeting will take stock of the achievements realised under the 2021–2023 period and look ahead towards these new opportunities.

## OTHER ISSUES/TOPICS TO BE MONITORED:

- **Chips Alliance:** The topic of semi-conductors and chips has been put forward as relevant by several ERRIN members, active in different regional initiatives at EU level. In 2025, the ICT Working Group will explore opportunity to collaborate with dedicated network active in the field (notably ESRA, the “European Semiconductor Regions Alliance”) to better understand how ERRIN members could be informed and supported for future development. This topic is strongly linked to the workstream on competitiveness put forward in ERRIN Strategic Cluster.
- **Skills and question of retaining talents in ICT-related topics**

## OPPORTUNITIES AND OUTPUTS FROM ERRIN PROJECTS

### [Go Li.EU](#)

Related to the ICT Working Group, ERRIN has been involved in the [Go Li.EU](#) project. It supports the governance of the Living-in.EU movement in order to foster digital transformation in cities, regions and communities. In this project, ERRIN is responsible for measuring the impact of the project and the Living-in.eu initiative at local, regional and European levels. ERRIN is also supporting the work of the ‘Monitoring and Measuring Working group’, aiming at developing a solid and unique framework for measuring and monitoring sustainable digital transformation processes.

In 2025, two main activities of the project can be of interest for members of the ICT Working Group, but also for ERRIN members in general:

- Living-in.EU is functioning around five thematic Working groups: legal, financial, capacity building, technical and monitoring and measuring. On 16 January, an open meeting was organised to shape the 2025 Work plan with the community. ERRIN members are welcome to participate to shape the agenda for 2025 and ensure they can benefit from the activities.
- Display of opportunities for funding and technical support on ICT-related topics curated by the Living-in.EU movement, such as support for the development of local digital twins with this [Expression of Interest for EU Smart Communities](#) or for the deployment of data spaces with the [DS4SSCC Open call](#). The third and last round will open in January 2025 and close in March 2025.
- In the frame of Living-in.EU and the Monitoring and Measuring Working Group, ERRIN is contributing to the [LORDIMAS tool](#), a self-assessment of digital maturity assessment. After the launch of a call for experts early 2025, an open collaborative meeting will be organised in March/April to help shape the future of the tool with the expertise of local and regional authorities. The meeting will be an opportunity for ERRIN members to contribute.

- The organisation of the project annual event, the **Living-in.EU Digital Assembly**, a high-level political event aiming at engaging a dialogue between and regional authorities and the European Commission on ICT-related topics. The event should be organised **during the European Week of Regions and Cities, in October**.

## RESIST

The [RESIST](#) project supports twelve EU regions in building resilience to climate change by testing tailored adaptation solutions based on local needs, including innovative digital tools. Moreover, each of the twelve regions involved in the RESIST project is developing a Graphical Digital Twin. Within the RESIT project, Graphical Digital Twins will be used to simulate climate scenarios to develop targeted, effective, and financially sound climate adaptation strategies, optimise the solutions, raise awareness and foster engagement.

### **RESIST Community of Interest meeting on Digital Technologies for Adaptation to Climate Change**

**Date:** 14 March 2025 | **Time:** 10:00–12:00 CET

The RESIST Community of Interest meeting will officially kick-off with a meeting focusing on innovative digital technologies for Adaptation to Climate Change. The event will showcase a technical repository by KU Leuven, Graphical Digital Twins by AugmentCity, and the Shepherd platform by SINTEF. Regional contributions will include an emergency preparedness system from UPC in Catalonia and XR/VR simulations by Blekinge region, demonstrating practical applications of cutting-edge technologies for resilience.

## **MORE INFORMATION: LEADERS AND PROJECTS**

### **LEADERS**

- **Annelie Zapfe**, Representation of the Free State of Thuringia to the EU, [annelie.zapfe@tsk.thueringen.de](mailto:annelie.zapfe@tsk.thueringen.de)
- **Romain Wascot**, Région Hauts-de-France, [romain.wascot@hautsdefrance.fr](mailto:romain.wascot@hautsdefrance.fr)
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- **Alexandra Schafhauser**, Region Västra Götaland, [alexandra.schafhauser@vgregion.se](mailto:alexandra.schafhauser@vgregion.se)

## PROJECTS

### [Go Li.EU](#)

Living-in.EU aims at promoting sustainable digital transformation in cities, regions and communities in the EU. Stakeholders from all levels of government commit to the goals and principles of the movement by signing the Declaration on joining forces to boost sustainable digital transformation in cities, regions and communities. To help realise the political commitment of its signatories, the Go Li.EU project is providing this community with a governance structure. For Go Li.EU to support cities and communities to unlock their full potential and to play an enabling role in digital transformation, the consortium needs to tackle the following challenges:

- Increasing the uptake of cross-domain interoperable digital solutions (Local Digital Twins, Data spaces, Data Platforms, etc.)
- Sharing expertise and experience through a dedicated capacity-building programme and mutual learning
- Supporting the growth of the community of signatories, supporters and partnerships
- Monitoring the progress of European cities and communities on green and digital challenges

### [RESIST](#)

The RESIST project is a five-year EU-funded project which aims to support twelve regions across the EU in their efforts to build resilience against the impacts of climate change. Three ERRIN members, Southwest Finland, Central Denmark, and Catalonia, along with the fourth region of Central Portugal, will serve as the frontrunner regions known as Large-Scale Demonstrators (LSDs). These regions will test adaptation solutions to key climate-related challenges in their areas. They will lead the way paired with two other regions facing similar issues. The project will enhance the resilience, speed up the transformation, and boost the adaptive capacity of climate-vulnerable regions. RESIST will also facilitate the transfer of know-how and innovative solutions, incorporating a market-oriented approach for their wider and sustainable exploitation.

As part of the EU Mission Adaptation to Climate Change, RESIST will engage European regions with different socioeconomic profiles that will test adaptation solutions to five key climate challenges: floods, droughts, heatwaves, wildfires, and soil erosion. Know-how and adaptation pathways tested in the leading regions will be shared with eight twinned regions through mutual-learning activities and immersive digital twins. The project follows the quintuple helix model, which involves civil society organisations, the private sector, policy makers and the scientific community through a cross-sectoral and bottom-up approach.

## ERRIN CONTACT

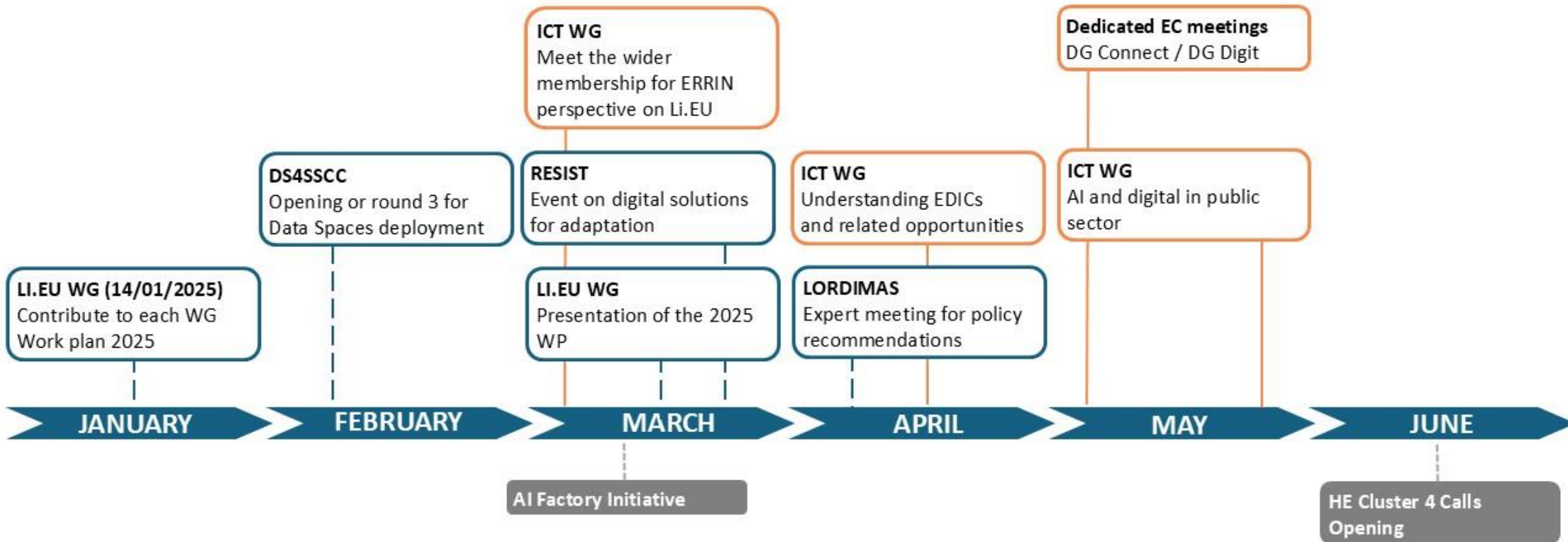


**ICT Cluster lead**

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# ICT CLUSTER 2025 TIMELINE



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