EIT DIGITAL PARTNERSHIP MODELS

This document summarises important information related to the EIT Digital Partnership. This information refers to 2023. For 2024, some changes may occur based on the evolution to cascading funding model under Horizon Europe and on decisions made by the EIT Digital General Assembly in the course of 2023.

EIT DIGITAL PARTNER CATEGORIES

1. **Members**
2. **Affiliated Entities** (ex-"Linked Third Parties")
   a. **Affiliated entities**, e.g. local subsidiaries or branches of member organisations.
   b. **Entities with a legal link** with a member organisation for purposes unrelated to EIT Digital, e.g. national or regional ecosystem organisations.
3. **External Partners** (membership with limited duration, yearly).

RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

Partnership status opens access to the Entrepreneurship Academy and Innovation Factory, and the entire ecosystem for you to collaborate with. You are invited and expected to play an active role in creating a strong digital Europe.
- Partners have to pay **yearly partnership fees** (see below).
- Members have **voting rights** in the EIT Digital General Assembly; Members and Affiliated Entities **participate in their local Regional Strategy Committee meetings**.

EIT DIGITAL PARTNERSHIP FEES

The below are the Partnership fees applicable in 2023 as defined by the EIT Digital General Assembly in its meeting of September 7, 2021.

Members or **Affiliated Entities with a legal link** (**2.b** above)
- €30,000 for large enterprises, research institutes and universities
- €12,000 for mid-size SMEs
- €6,000 for other SMEs

Affiliated Entities (**2.a** above)
- € 1,200 for Affiliated Entities affiliated to a member

External Partners (membership with limited duration, yearly)
- €15,000 for large enterprises, research institutes and universities
- €6,000 for mid-size SMEs
- €3,000 for other SMEs

SMEs are defined according to the below criteria (in line with the European Commission definition):
- Medium-sized SME: < 250 staff headcount and turnover < €50m or balance sheet < €43m
- Small SME: < 50 staff headcount and turnover < €10m or balance sheet < €10m
- Micro SME: < 10 staff headcount and turnover < €2m or balance sheet < €2m
- In case of a KIC Partner with affiliated entities, the sum of the staff headcount, turnover and balance sheet defines the status.

APPLYING FOR PARTNERSHIP

In order to start the partnership process and request further information:
- Organisations should fill in the [questionnaire](#) for new organisations
- Once the questionnaire is filled in, organisations will be contacted by the relevant **Regional office** to complete the process. Please see the Country to Region office mapping below for reference.

Country (by alphabetical order)	Regional office
Albania	Budapest
Austria	London
Belgium	London
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Budapest
Bulgaria	Budapest
Croatia	Budapest
Cyprus	Madrid
Czech Rep	Budapest
Denmark	Helsinki
Estonia	Helsinki
Faroe Islands	Helsinki
Finland	Helsinki
France	London
Germany	London
Greece	Madrid
Hungary	Budapest
Iceland	Helsinki
Ireland	London
Italy	Madrid
Kosovo	Budapest
Latvia	Helsinki
Lithuania	Helsinki
Luxemburg	London
Malta	Madrid
Montenegro	Budapest
Netherlands	London
Norway	Helsinki
North Macedonia	Budapest
Poland	Budapest
Portugal	Madrid
Romania	Budapest
Serbia	Budapest
Slovakia	Budapest
Slovenia	Budapest
Spain	Madrid
Sweden	Helsinki
Switzerland	London
Turkey	Madrid
UK*	London
All other Horizon Europe Associated Countries: Armenia, Georgia, Israel, Moldova, Tunisia, Ukraine	Brussels Office

OVERALL PARTNERSHIP PROCESS

- The **prospect Partner fills in the [questionnaire](#)** for new organisations.
  - o once the questionnaire is filled in, the prospect Partner will be contacted by the relevant Regional office to complete the process.

- The **Regional Director provides** the prospect Partner with:
  - o information on the EIT, EIT Digital, Business Plan and the proposal submission process.
  - o information on the types of partnership and associated costs.
  - o the Application Package Template documents; including templates for the Letter of Intent (LoI), Membership Criteria document, Accession Letter

- The prospect Partner **receives the Partner Identification number**.

- The prospect **Partner provides the filled in templates** to the Regional Director with:
  - o the signed LoI which explains the Partner's capabilities and contribution to EIT Digital.
  - o the Membership Criteria Document demonstrating compliance with the Membership criteria from Partner.
  - o In the case of an Affiliated Entity, also a letter from the Member to which it is affiliated to endorse the entry (Affiliated Entity Support Letter).

- The **Regional Director reviews** and suggests improvements to these documents, if needed.
  This step is important as the Partnership application will be accepted or rejected by the Regional Strategy Committee (RSC) and EIT Digital Supervisory Board (SB) also based on the content of the documents and completeness of the information.

- The **RSC gives its support or not** to the Partnership application:
  - o The **Application Package is sent out** to the RSC Members.
  - o The **Regional Director shortly presents the Prospect Partner** and its motivations for requesting Membership at the next RSC meeting.
  - o RSC Members discuss the application based on criteria which includes the quality of the application, alignment with EIT Digital's ecosystem and membership criteria as well as financial robustness of the prospect Partner.
  - o RSC Members vote and either **recommend the application for submission to the EIT Digital Supervisory Board (SB)** / or reject the application.
  - o The Regional Director informs prospect Partner of the RSC decision.

- If the outcome of the Regional Strategy Committee is positive, the Partner Application is sent for approval to the EIT Digital Supervisory Board:
  - o the **Regional Director writes the Support Letter on behalf of the RSC** to the EIT Digital SB.
  - o The Regional Director forwards the **extended Application Package to the EIT Digital Grant Manager** for inclusion in the Supervisory Board approval procedure. The extended Package includes: the Letter of Intent (LoI), Membership Criteria, (Affiliated Entity Support Letter) and RSC Support Letter.
  - o The EIT Digital Grant Manager prepares a Supervisory Board **Written Procedure** to accept or reject the Prospective Partner's application.
  - o The **SB votes** on the prospective Partners.

- If the outcome of the EIT Digital SB is positive, the EIT Digital **Grant Manager collects the Accession Letter (if applicable) and the EIT registration documents** from the Partner. The partner is informed of its partnership start date.