

OUTPUT FACT SHEET

Pilot actions (including investments, if applicable)

Version 3

Project index number and acronym	CE1393 - ECOS4IN
Output number and title	O.T.3.1 Contact point / information hub for regional ecosystem model for Industry 4.0 implementation
Investment number and title (if applicable)	n.a.
Responsible partner (PP name and number)	Usti Region (ULK), LP01
Project website	www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/ECOS4IN.html
Delivery date	03 / 2022

Summary description of the pilot action (including investments, if applicable) explaining its experimental nature and demonstrative character

During ECOS4IN projects, we have extended information hub functions to the standard Digital Innovation Hub defined in the European papers Digital Innovation Hubs - Smart Specialisation Platform (europa.eu) hosted by the Innovation Centre of the Usti Region (ICUK). The objective of DIH is to connect all the involved ecosystem partners and the initiated project which bridges gaps in the digital ecosystem.

The DIH service model is based on the typical activities “Business support organizations” (for more details, see the sustainability plan). The model is based especially on lessons learned from other Interreg Central Projects and the experience of ECOS4IN partners (see the section Lessons learned). Apart from technical experts, experts in management, finance, project management and organizational changes are also available.

The main focus in the experiments with service portfolio was placed on the following:

- A) To define the future shared infrastructure investment (funded from the Just Transition mechanism under the framework strategy project) in the Usti Regional Authority (Transformation Centre) and the Usti University (RUR, GET projects) or the AI solution in the testbed for Nano bubbles (RaD, the Institute for Balneology).
- B) To expand the local and international knowledge base (see the section The expected impact)
- C) To increase awareness - together with our universities and through connection to the national Industry 4.0 promotion body, NCP4.0 (ncp40.cz)
- D) To develop internal consulting services - the digital maturity model and dynamic return of the investment evaluation model including software solutions (Business Sim).
- E) To develop the financial schemes for digitization in SME but partly also in the public sphere (Smart public services). The system includes regional digital vouchers and national public grants as well as connections to partners from the financial sector, the National Development Bank, venture capital funds supported by the European Investment Bank (national One, INI Prague).
- F) International activities, network with partners engaged in the European Enterprise Network (e.g., the International Office, Kent County (UK) Landesbank Niedersachsen Hannover (D), Chamber of Commerce Nouvelle Aquitaine (F), etc.), and shared events with partners in Saxony (ICM Chemnitz, Silicon Saxony)

G) To leverage additional funds, especially the eDIH application to the Digital Europe Programme but also two new projects in Interreg Central.

The fundamental verification of the pilot action results was that 6 preselected Czech eDIH projects from our DIH were chosen by the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

NUTS region(s) concerned by the pilot action (relevant NUTS level)

Czech Republic, NUTS II Northwest, NUTS III Usti Region.

Investment costs (EUR), if applicable

None

Expected impact and benefits of the pilot action for the concerned territory and target groups and leverage of additional funds (if applicable)

Knowledge base network: currently, we have 26 partners in DIH and 7 partners in eDIH. We would like to increase the wider knowledge network to 60 subjects (including international subjects and also cross-border partners from Saxony).

Due to delays in funding, we have no final data concerning the number of clients or service users per year, but we estimate 50 DIH services per year (consulting, events, digital vouchers implementation) from 2023.

Leveraging additional funds : Two projects in Interreg Central, one project in Horizon 2020, two projects in Interreg Europe (in preparation), one application of the Digital Europe programme, DIH and digital vouchers are included in our Regional Transformation Plan funded by the Just Transition mechanism.

Sustainability of the pilot action results and transferability to other territories and stakeholders.

InfoHub is part of DIH hosted by the Innovation Centre of the Usti Region. For more details, see the website of the Digital Innovation Hub ICUK - Inovační centrum Ústeckého kraje. The detailed sustainability plan is described in document D 3.3.4., the main part of the plan is:

Personal sustainability and expert database: The DIH network has 26 partners, including The Usti University, Czech Technical University, Faculty of Transport Decin (Usti Region) and private companies involved in Industry 4.0 utilization.

Financial sustainability components:

- Institutional funding, DIH is supported by the Usti Regional Authority which covers operational costs and part of salaries, and the Smart Accelerator of the Usti Region (funded by the Ministry of Education and partly by the Region) which covers part of salaries, marketing costs and events for stakeholders and SME.
- Project funding - new product development, events, training, two applications to Interreg Central
- Client - services for clients, Digital vouchers - funded by the Just Transition Funds and National programmes - Technology Agency of the Czech Republic (DIH stakeholder)

The know-how is fully transferable, DIH is a member of the consortium for the European Digital Innovation Hub (eDIH), European Digital Innovation Hub - EDIH CTU with the main focus on Artificial Intelligence (AI), and is used for new Interreg Central projects as well as in other international activities of the Usti Region and ICUK (for example, the Horizon project Digit Me).

Lessons learned and added value of transnational cooperation of the pilot action implementation (including investments, if applicable)

The DIH project was prepared in close cooperation with regional stakeholders, companies and universities in the DIH network. The Czech Technical University in Prague, the leader of the consortium for eDIH, played an important role in the process. They also helped us with the digital maturity model. Some DIH ideas were obtained from the cooperation with ECOS4IN partners, especially the DIH model of the Veneto Region, Fab Lab in Torino and activities of the mechanical cluster in Upper Austria and the biz up service model. Some ideas concerning eDIH internationalization have been taken from the Interreg Europe project SIE (i.e., LandesBank Hannover) and the Horizon project Digit Me (Robotics centre Turku (Finland) and RDA Toruń (PL))

Contribution to/ compliance with:

- relevant regulatory requirements
- sustainable development - environmental effects. In case of risk of negative effects, mitigation measures introduced
- horizontal principles such as equal opportunities and non-discrimination

Regulatory requirements - no actions

Sustainable development - we assume that digitization has a positive impact on the environment, i.e. increased use of resources, decreasing energy consumption. The whole digital action plan could support transformation (decarbonization) of the regional economy with an impact on resolving the social and economic problems of our “coal mining” region

Horizontal principles - DIH (action plan) to prepare cooperation with NGO Czechitas, focused on stronger involvement of women in the ICT sector.

References to relevant deliverables (e.g. pilot action report, studies), investment factsheet and web-links

If applicable, additional documentation, pictures or images to be provided in an annex

Outputs refer to deliverables:

T 1.1.3. Report on the existing infrastructure

T 1.2.2, Report on the existing tools, best practice

T 2.1.2 Development of the ECOS4IN model

T 3.1 Contact point sustainability plan

[Digital Innovation Hub ICUK - Inovační centrum Ústeckého kraje](#)