General Information	
Preliminary title of the European Partnerships	EIT Digital
Short description of the partnership	EIT Digital's mission is to drive digital innovation and develop entrepreneurial talent in order to enhance both economic growth and quality of life across Europe.
Services directly involved	DG EAC, European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)
Context and problem definition	EIT Digital aims at global impact through European innovation fuelled by entrepreneurial talent and digital technology. EIT Digital strengthens Europe's position in the digital world by delivering breakthrough digital innovations to the market and breeding entrepreneurial talent for economic growth and improved quality of life. EIT Digital helps business and entrepreneurs to be at the frontier of digital innovation by providing them with technology, talent, and growth support. EIT Digital invests in strategic areas to accelerate the market uptake and scaling of research-based digital technologies (deep tech) focusing on Europe's strategic, societal challenges: Digital Tech, Digital Cities, Digital Industry, Digital Wellbeing, and Digital Finance. EIT Digital breeds T-shaped entrepreneurial digital talent focused on innovation through a blended Education Strategy that includes a Master School, an Industrial Doctoral School and a Professional School Both at the European and national levels, we see increased investment to support entrepreneurs in building and growing their ventures as well as an increased investment in digital technology and deep tech (see Figure 3). Notably areas like Artificial Intelligence (AI), cybersecurity and robotization are high on the agenda as well as more infrastructure-oriented investments in high performance computing and next generation networks (5G, IoT). Longerterm investments in quantum computing, photonics and optical computing are also on their way. In Europe these investments in core digital technologies find their way into several application areas where the digital transformation is having high impact such as industry (3D printing, robotics, Industry 4.0, logistics), urban mobility (self-driving cars, multimodal transportation), and finance (digital currencies, blockchain).
Objectives and expected impacts	In order to build a strong digital Europe, EIT Digital believes that the following challenges need to be addressed: • Bring European values to the digital world. To achieve this, regulation is one way, but a more compelling way is to build global European digital businesses. Europe needs to focus on scaling up disruptive digital ventures that have the ambition to conquer the world. • Further address fragmentation to support digital enterprises and entrepreneurs. Europe needs to accelerate on the Digital Single Market and work towards making the whole of Europe the "de facto" domestic market for European entrepreneurs. • Raise R&D investments in digital technologies, with an emphasis on software. Currently, American and Asian companies are massively investing, while European companies are more conservative. • Strongly increase deep tech innovation investments, so as to take mature research results out of the labs and into the market, especially by means of entrepreneurship.

	• Adapt the European education system to the digital reality, to equip people with the right digital skills and to deploy digital technology to support education. To address these, EIT Digital connects national innovation ecosystems, thus building a pan-European digital ecosystem and strategically concentrates its "deep tech" investments in selected focus areas with significant European relevance and leadership potential: 1) Digital Tech: inventing the digital future with core technologies providing secure, robust, responsive and intelligent communications and computation. 2) Digital Industry: the digital transformation of the industry, from production to logistics to retail. 3) Digital Cities: serving the cities with digital technologies addressing urban mobility, citizen inclusiveness and engagement, and city safety. 4) Digital Wellbeing: safeguarding health for the youth, the working professional and the elderly by analysing sensor data. 5) Digital Finance: the disruption of digital transactions and institutions with technologies that allow transparency, efficiency, security and trust.
Necessity test: rationale for a European Partnership	The most efficient intervention modality needs to: - contribute to strengthening local innovation ecosystems, through the involvement of and interaction between local innovation actors; - create the conditions to incentivise the commitment of innovation actors for a long time, in order to ensure the continuation of the activities once the EU financial support is phased-out. - combine, in an integrated way, the education and training activities, the support to innovation and business creation, the strengthening of innovation ecosystems, with the less administrative efforts (no funding to be allocated to research activities), to tackle a global challenge. - Establish synergies and complementarities with other EU initiatives, in order to make the critical mass of efforts more consistent. Traditional call for proposals are not suitable to achieve the objectives stated above.
Relevant for the following parts of Horizon Europe	Pillar II 'Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness' ☐ Cluster Health ☐ Cluster Culture, creativity and inclusive society ☒ Cluster Civil Security for Society ☒ Cluster Digital, Industry and Space ☒ Cluster Climate, Energy and Mobility ☐ Cluster Food, Bioeconomy Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment ☒ Cross-cluster ☒ Pillar III 'Innovative Europe'
Currently identified links with other partnership candidates / Union programmes	Examples of collaboration opportunities with other EU initiatives: - High Performance Computing Partnership, Key Digital Technologies Partnership, Smart Networks and Services Partnership, AI, data and robotics Partnership, Photonics Europe Partnerships, Large-scale innovation and transformation of health systems in a

	digital and ageing society Partnership, Innovative Health Initiative partnership - Digital Europe Programme: opportunity to collaborate with the European Digital Innovation Hubs to support the digital transformation of the industry and public sector organisations. - Startup Europe program: collaboration in the provision of services to start-ups. - EIF: MoU was signed but no concrete action taken yet
Does the proposed partnership build on currently active ones?	EIT Digital is the continuation of the EIT-KIC partnership of the same name currently implemented through the EIT. It was established in 2010, following a call for proposal in 2009.
Expected type and composition of partners	- EIT Digital is a leading European digital innovation and entrepreneurial education organisation driving Europe's digital transformation. Its way of working embodies the future of innovation through a pan European ecosystem of European corporations, SMEs (in total 55), universities and research institutes, where students, researchers, engineers, business developers and entrepreneurs collaborate in an open innovation setting. In total EIT Digital counts 229 Organisations based in 18 countries, of which 16 in the EU, 1 in a H2020 associated country and 1 in the USA. The EIT Digital has: - 9 CLC aligned to the 9 Node locations: Berlin Node; Budapest Node; Eindhoven Node; Helsinki Node; Madrid Node; London Node; Paris Node; Stockholm Node; Trento Node - 5 Satellites (Munich, Sophia-Antipolis, Rennes, Milano, Amsterdam) +2 Edinburgh (from April 2019) and Braga (Portugal from June 2019) - 1 Silicon Valley Hub The co-location centres bring together, at a local or regional level, the education, research and industry partners of the KIC, thereby allowing a face-to-face contact, geographical proximity and practical integration of the knowledge triangle. - Partners come from across the EU. The EIT Digital has rules and criteria for bringing in new partners who are usually first associated to KIC activities before eventually become full-fledged KIC partner. Therefore, inclusion of new partners follows the business model and strategic direction of the EIT Digital.
Contributions and commitments expected from partners	In addition to the EIT grant, the KIC budget includes additional revenue from various sources, e.g. membership fees, ROI from shares in companies, fee on the business support services and fee on success rate, etc. Partners also provide in-kind contributions to co-fund the activities.
Currently envisaged implementation mode(s).	☐ Co-programmed European Partnership ☐ Co-funded European Partnership ☐ Institutionalised European Partnership ☐ Article 185 ☐ Article 187 ☒ EIT-KIC
Justification of the implementation mode	• Through on an open and competitive call process, each KIC partnership is selected among a number of proposals based on criteria, including: proposed strategy, implementation aspects and expected impact. • Based on a multiannual strategy and Business Plans, the KIC will run an integrated portfolio of activities in the field of education, support to innovation and to entrepreneurship in order to contribute tackling global challenges.

	• Each business plan covers a period of one year; it is assessed by external experts, scrutinised and approved by the EIT GB. It is a mean to flexibly address the key issues a KIC tackles. • Place-based approach: i.e. integration of a KIC (through its CLCs) in local innovation ecosystems to strengthen the ties between innovation actors. • A KIC is meant to be financially sustainable and keep operating after the end of the support of the EIT. • Target group: a KIC is meant to involve the actors of the Knowledge Triangle (academia, research and industry). However, a KIC can involve also other actors that can contribute to its objectives (i.e. financial actors, local government, civil society). In particular, entities managing and/or funding research and innovation programmes can also be involved in order to ensure synergies with initiative at national/local level. • Each KIC benefits from the EIT support and guidance on strategic and operational matters, including synergies with other EU initiatives. • Each KIC benefits from the interactions and synergies with the other KICs.
Proposed starting year	The partnership was established in 2010. It is proposed to continue funding this KIC in the course of Horizon Europe.