

European Digital Innovation Hubs – detail your expertise and needs

Facilitating and reinforcing targeted collaboration between our regions,
and between the Pilot Projects they participate in.

The Vanguard Initiative's overall goal is to advance industrial innovation and to stimulate collaboration between our association's regions on the basis of identified complementarities.

One of the upcoming tools to facilitate and strengthen such targeted collaboration are the **European Digital Innovation Hubs (eDIH)**, the one-stop-shops in (hopefully) each of our regions **assisting SMEs in their steps towards more digital maturity**. Since a certain eDIH may perhaps not be able to offer a specific service or expertise a specific SME is looking for, the **networking between the eDIHs** (240 are planned in total) **is understood to be crucial in order to source the needed support outside of the region**.

At the end of 2020, VI already invited all member regions to contribute to a short inventory exercise requesting to indicate which of the three core technologies of the Digital Europe Programme (AI, HPC, Cybersecurity) would be tackled in the own eDIH. This overview would allow to **identify possible partners for collaboration and to strengthen links**, via so called „corridors“ between regions, **on the basis of own expertise and remaining needs**.

In the meantime the thinking on this interregional collaboration is getting more finetuned, also within the EC's DG Connect (who is funding the eDIHs via the Digital Europe Programme).

On behalf of the EC, the [BOWI project](#) is developing a so called „heat map“ which **invites eDIHs to indicate up to 4 specialisations by which they distinguish themselves internationally** (and would *by definition* be open to collaboration), as well as to indicate areas where the eDIH is open for collaboration even if the area is not distinctive to the region and its eDIH. Such „heat map“ will most probably be part of the DEP Application Form template.

eDIHs will be working on more technologies than just AI, HPC and Cybersecurity. The other technologies also include the ones who are at the core of some of our VI Pilot Projects (such as nanotechnology, additive manufacturing, etc.). The BOWI heat map allows to identify more in detail the collaboration possibilities between eDIHs, to facilitate such collaboration and make it more intense and structural over time.

Vanguard Initiative – and its regions in particular – which has exactly the same objective, is **invited by BOWI to complete the „heat map“ for each of the candidate eDIHs which will submit an application to the EC later this year**.

The benefits of completing the BOWI 'heat map' for eDIHs :

- ➔ to be able to identify in detail the collaboration possibilities and opportunities in several technology domains, including those of most of our VI Pilot Projects, between our regions (in the context of VI goal 'to make maximum use of existing funding and support opportunities')
- ➔ to have the opportunity to co-develop and influence part of the upcoming application form for European Digital Innovation Hubs
- ➔ to be better prepared to apply to become an eDIH : the template has to be completed anyway and we have the possibility to start that work already now

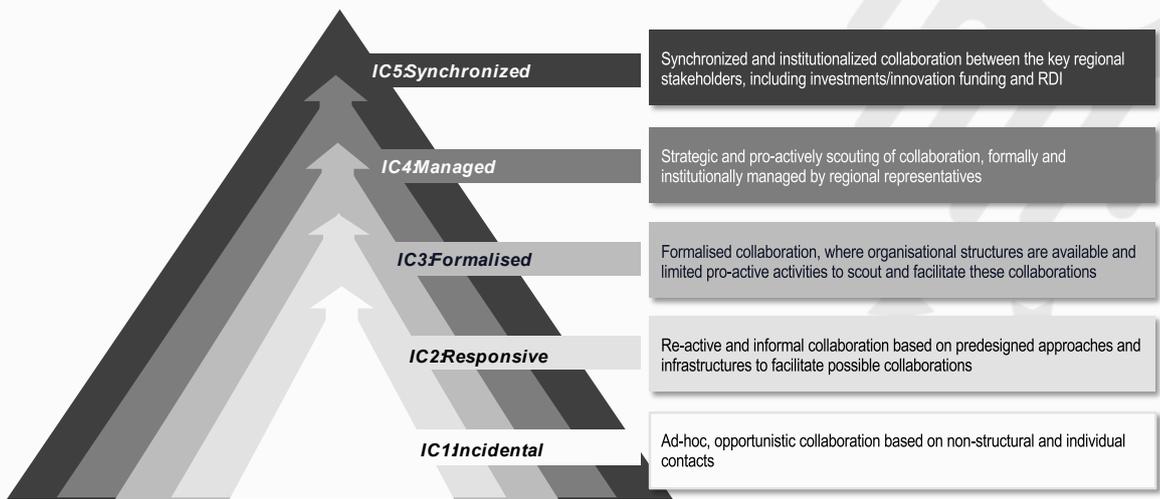
BOWI *Start: Interregional collaboration will:*

- Lead to easy access to **leading edge technologies and skills/expertise** at European level
- Support and initiate **new business opportunities** to broaden and reinforce innovative **markets** in other regions
- Exchange experience on **good practices** to support digital transformation between regional stakeholders
- Facilitate crossborder **synergies, co-creating and complementarities** in technology and knowledge development
- Help to create **pan-EU value chains** to increase the competitiveness and dependency of the EU industry
- Increased **impact of public funding**, avoiding unnecessary duplication infrastructures/investments and accessing EU funds

 The BOWI project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 873195

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BOWI *Possible types of interregional collaboration*

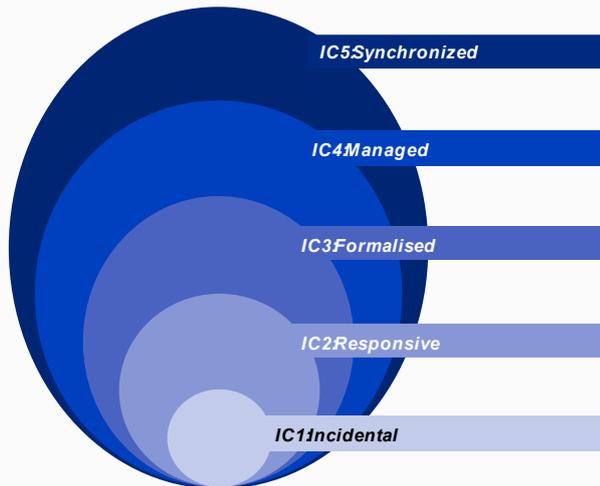


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Types of corridors: Actions!



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joined HR platform, info on PhD students, etc • Joined strategy meetings between stakeholders • Joined infrastructure investments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joined publically accessible capability database • Joined regional collaboration funding programmes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared community website, with information repository • Pooling of shared demonstrators and expertise • An interregional technology roadmap 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joined business fairs, peer review meetings • Dissemination of each-others services and news
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joined webinars for awareness creation • Joined industry/research projects • Interregional industry and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • research/study visits • Structural guest professorships • Organised student exchange
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offering of tech infrastructure on 'preferential' prices • Good practice exchange of innovative projects/products 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joined participation in EU-projects • Map shared/aligned infrastructures • Soft-landing support of new companies their region
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joined events, webinars, workshops • Innovation projects • A shared expert contact list 	



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Each VI region is asked (or better : ask its candidate eDIH consortium) to complete the excel-template attached, and return it asap, together with the contact details of the main contact person of your eDIH, to farha.brahmi@s3vanguardinitiative.eu and w.dekinderen@brainportdevelopment.nl .

- ➔ follow the instructions explained on line 33 and below
- ➔ this is a template in development. If you feel a certain technology area (the columns) or application field (the rows) is not included (or not well described) while it should be, in order to be able to well profile your eDIH, please include that feedback in your email as well (including the proposed modifications and/or additions)

Many thanks for your contribution, which will benefit us all.