



## Smart4Europe2

### Catalysing Digitisation throughout Europe

# Deliverable 3.2

## Report on Ecosystem Events

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<sup>1</sup> R=Report, DEC= Websites, patents filling, Ethics, ORDP: Open Research Data Pilot, etc., O=Other

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SmartAnythingEverywhere

**Acronyms Listed in Document**

<b>CSA</b>	Coordination and Support Action
<b>COVID</b>	Corona Virus Disease
<b>DIH</b>	Digital Innovation Hub
<b>DoA</b>	Description of Action
<b>EC</b>	European Commission
<b>EDIH</b>	European Digital Innovation Hub
<b>ESB Event</b>	Ecosystem Building Event
<b>ETP</b>	European Technology Platform
<b>FWE</b>	Flexible, Wearable Electronics
<b>H2020</b>	Horizon 2020
<b>HE</b>	Horizon Europe
<b>KPI</b>	Key performance Indicator
<b>OLAE</b>	Organic and large area electronics
<b>RTO</b>	Research and technology organisation
<b>SME</b>	Small and medium-sized enterprise
<b>SAE</b>	Smart Anything Everywhere
<b>WP</b>	Work Package

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## 0 Executive Summary

This document presents the concept, planning, conduction and outcomes of the three Smart Anything Everywhere (SAE) **Ecosystem Building Events** held in the frame of Smart4Europe2. These events had the aim to showcase Digital Innovation Hub (DIH) ecosystems of different European regions and demonstrate the benefits of their connections to the pan-European network. The new European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIH) strategy of the European Commission (EC) led to the evolution of some regional DIHs to become EDIH candidates in the respective ecosystems presented. The Smart4Europe2 partners represent four ‘frontrunner’ regions (Lombardy, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, Central Hungary and Baden-Württemberg), whereof three were chosen for the Ecosystem Building (ESB) Events and the fourth for the Project Final Event. The Ecosystem Building Events were held along the project lifetime, in M11, M18 and M22.

- 1<sup>st</sup> ESB Event, Cernobbio, Italy back to back with World Manufacturing Forum, November 2020
- 2<sup>nd</sup> ESB Event Budapest, Hungary, July 2021
- 3<sup>rd</sup> ESB Event, Lyon, France, October 2021

Next to showcasing the activities of the regions, the Ecosystem Building Events also aimed to expand the existing community. They brought regional and European players together to share and learn from experiences, to exchange perspectives on approaches and (E)DIH services as well as to foster collaboration between them. Moreover, they promoted the SAE opportunities (open calls to support SMEs in their digital transformation) and services.

Overall the three events gathered 450 participants from industry, SME, academia and policy making to Regional initiatives, actors and DIH.

Key outcomes of these events were:

- Promoting the European DIH/EDIH strategy
- Informing the wider community on SAE opportunities and services
- Sharing experiences and learning from European, national and regional approaches
- Showcasing regional roadmaps to help SMEs in their digitisation
- Discussing challenges of cross-border collaboration and the pandemic situation
- Elaborating recommendations for sustainable digitisation approaches
- Connecting stakeholders across Europe

## 1 Introduction and Background

Three dedicated **Ecosystem Building Events** were organised to bring the relevant stakeholders together to build and bond the community for catalysing digital transformation across Europe.

In order to expand the SAE ecosystem, to link up with the national and regional initiatives as well as to provide an opportunity for all SAE stakeholders to meet and collaborate, three **Ecosystem Building Events** were held (M11, Cernobbio, Italy (World Manufacturing Forum); M18, Budapest, Hungary; M22, Lyon, France). Each event targeted 70-100 participants from SMEs & mid-caps, DIHs/SAE community, policy-making and national & regional representatives. The events were organised together with regional ministries and digitisation clusters to deepen the links and benefit from synergies and complementary perspectives. The agendas included keynote speeches from EC and regional representatives, presentations on the SAE initiative and its results and opportunities, as well as exchanges on best practices and lessons learnt (at EC and regional level). This Report on Ecosystem Events (D3.2) compiles the main outcomes.

The table below shows the Smart4Europe2-organised Ecosystem Building Events, including aim and target audience:

Date	Organiser Place	Name Aim	Speakers / Audience Number of participants
M11 November 2020	<b>FPM</b> (Cernobbio, Italy, hybrid)	<b>SAE Ecosystem Building Event</b> Pan-European ecosystem building and extension, linked to national /regional initiatives with focus on Lombardy / Italy	Companies (SMEs and mid-caps), SAE / DIH community, national /regional initiatives, clusters, EC <b>(300)</b>
M18 June 2021	<b>BME</b> (Budapest, Hungary, online)	<b>SAE Ecosystem Building Event</b> Pan-European ecosystem building and extension, linked to national /regional initiatives with focus on central Hungary	SAE / DIH community, national/regional initiatives, clusters, start-ups, SMEs and mid-caps, EC <b>(80)</b>
M22 October 2021	<b>CEA</b> (Lyon, France, hybrid)	<b>SAE Ecosystem Building Event</b> Pan-European ecosystem building and extension, linked to national /regional initiatives with focus on AURA region, France	SAE / DIH community, national/regional initiatives, clusters, SMEs and mid-caps, EC <b>(90)</b>

**Table 1. Ecosystem Building Events by Smart4Europe2**

The Covid-19 pandemic situation is heavily impacting the communication, dissemination and outreach activities, primarily face-to-face interactions. The Smart4Europe2 consortium elaborated a specific risk and contingency plan for the project, as presented in the Project Communication, Dissemination and Outreach Plan in M04. This plan is regularly reviewed at monthly management meetings. The Ecosystem Building Events, had to either be moved online or held as hybrid events. The original timeline (M6, M12, M18) was delayed; however, hybrid events became possible after some adaption to the pandemic situation and there was no negative influence on the project Deliverables.

## 2 Ecosystem Building Event 1 – Italy, Lombardy (FPM)

The first SAE ecosystem building event titled "Digitalisation of Manufacturing: Building the ecosystem for a smart and sustainable future" took place on the 12th of November 2020 within the framework of the World Manufacturing Week 2020<sup>3</sup>.

The event was organised by Smart4Europe2 (Fondazione Politecnico di Milano) in partnership with Politecnico di Milano, MADE Competence Center, DIH Lombardia, to connect the Smart Anything Everywhere Initiative with relevant stakeholders at the European, national and regional level.

The recordings and the presentations of the event can be accessed via the SAE innovation Portal<sup>4</sup> and the website of the World Manufacturing Foundation<sup>5</sup>.

### 2.1 Promotion of the event

The first SAE Ecosystem Building Event was promoted via multiple channels, and communication towards different target groups was performed at different geographical levels (European, national, regional). The main promotional actions that were undertaken are briefly described in the following paragraphs.

#### ▪ European level

At the European level Smart4Europe2 promoted the event primarily via the Innovation Portal, SAE social media, and the SAE newsletter (Figure 1). Besides, other EU Coordination and Support Actions – such as I4MS and ConnectedFactories 2 – advertised the event in their respective communities.



Figure 1: First SAE Ecosystem Building Event promoted on SAE social media

<sup>3</sup> <https://worldmanufacturing.org/activities/week-2020/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://smartanythingeverywhere.eu/events/world-manufacturing-forum/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://worldmanufacturing.org/activities/week-2020/digitalization-of-manufacturing-building-the-ecosystem/>



Moreover, a dedicated web page was published on the World Manufacturing Week 2020 website. The SAE event was included in all communication activities performed by the World Manufacturing Foundation (e.g., WMF newsletter, LinkedIn, Instagram, Twitter, etc.) (Figure 2).

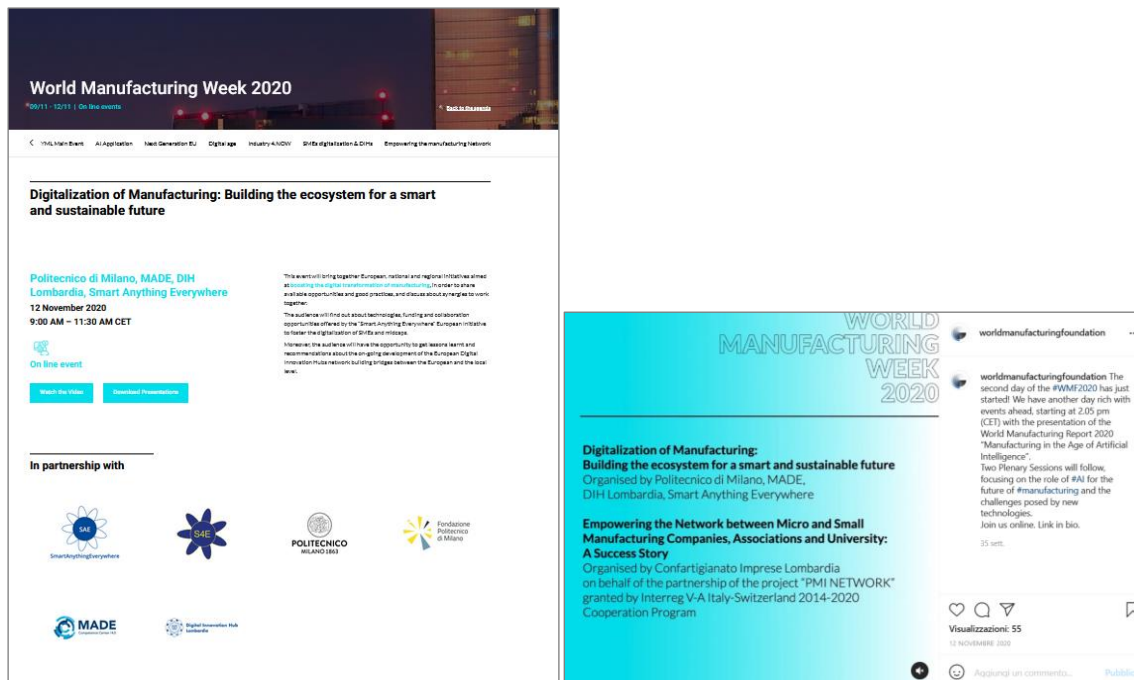


Figure 2: Examples of promotion activities performed by the World Manufacturing Foundation

#### ▪ National level

At the national level, the event was promoted via the different channels of Fondazione Politecnico di Milano (Figure 3), MADE Competence Center and the Italian DIH Network by Confindustria (Figure 4).

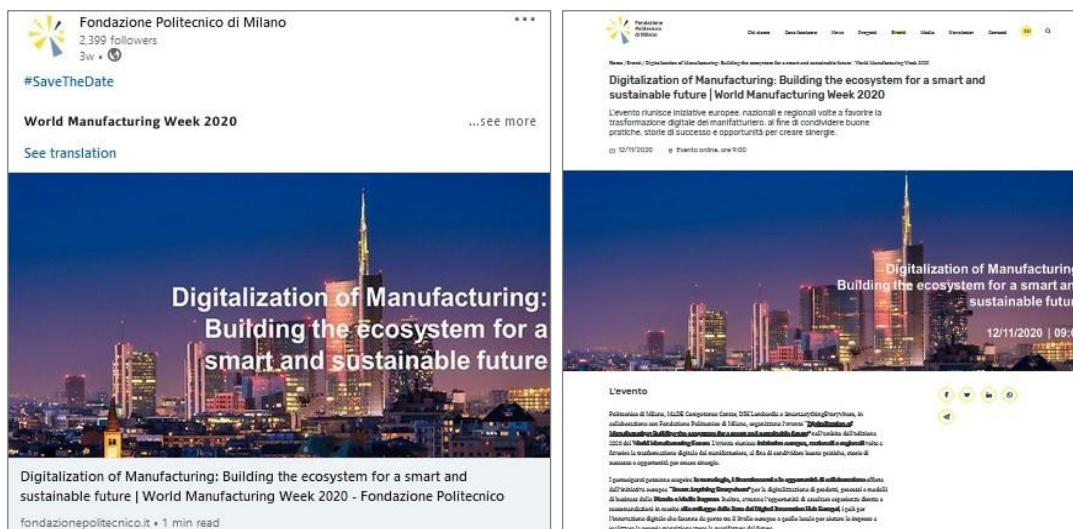
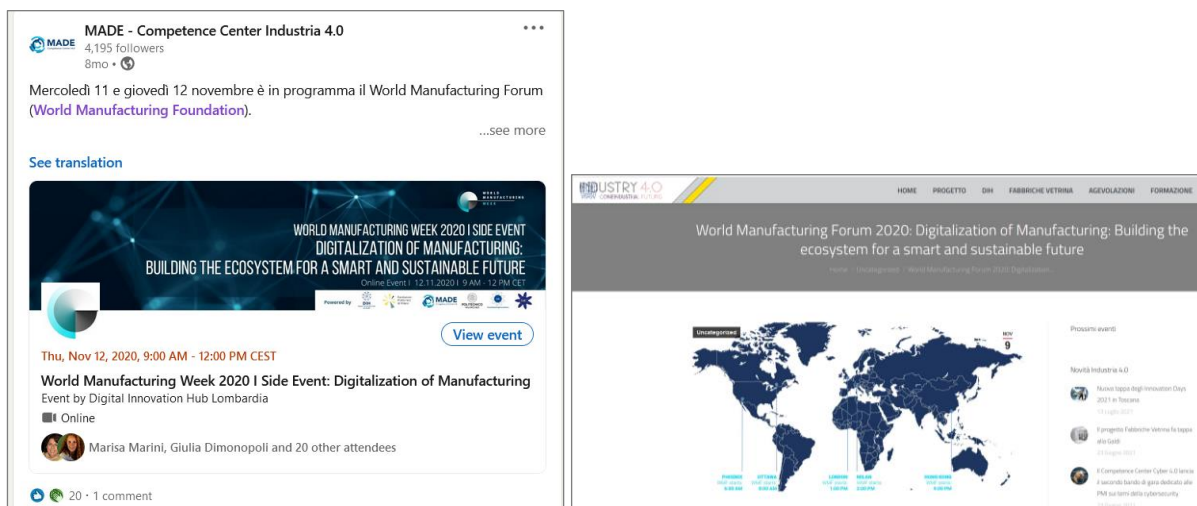


Figure 3: Examples of promotion activities performed by Fondazione Politecnico di Milano



**Figure 4: SAE Ecosystem Building Event promoted by MADE Competence Center and the Italian DIH Network**

#### ▪ Regional level

Finally, at the regional level, the event was also promoted by AFIL - the Lombardy Cluster on Intelligent Factory – and the DIH Lombardia (Figure 5), which together with MADE Competence Center and other leading actors of the Italian Industry 4.0 ecosystem, represents one of the Italian candidates for the role of European DIH.



**Figure 5: Promotion of the SAE ecosystem building event at the regional level**

## 2.2 Agenda / sessions / panels

Within the framework of the 2020 edition of the World Manufacturing Week, the SAE event aimed to bring together European, national and regional initiatives to boost the digital transformation of manufacturing, sharing available opportunities and good practices and discussing synergies to work together. To this end, the programme of the event (Figure 6) was shaped around two main sessions, each of which included a keynote speech and a panel. After the opening keynote by the EC that set the scene and the policy framework, the audience found out about technologies, funding and collaboration opportunities offered by the "Smart Anything Everywhere" Initiative to foster the digitalisation of SMEs and Midcaps. Then, in the second session, the audience had the opportunity to get lessons learnt and recommendations about the ongoing development of the European Digital Innovation Hubs Network building bridges between the European and the local level.



Figure 6: Programme of the first SAE Ecosystem Building Event

## 2.3 Speakers and audience

To link SAE with national and regional initiatives, eleven speakers were invited to the event. To represent different expertise and perspectives on the digitalisation of European industry, the speakers were both from the EC, the SAE Innovation Actions, the Italian Government and European DIHs from key manufacturing regions in Europe. It is also important to highlight that six out of the eleven speakers were women.

The welcome speech was delivered by **Marco Taisch**, Politecnico di Milano and MADE Competence Center. Marco Taisch is a full professor at the Department of Economics, Management and Industrial Engineering of the Politecnico di Milano. He is also President of MADE, one of the eight Italian competence centres on Industry 4.0, and Scientific Chairman of the World Manufacturing Foundation.

The keynote speech "Digitising European Industry Initiative and Digital Europe Programme" was delivered by **Yves Paindaveine**, European Commission DG CONNECT. Mr. Paindaveine is Head of Sector, Digitising European Industry, Unit A2 Artificial Intelligence and Digital Industry. He has been working in the policy fields to foster the uptake of digital technologies since the Digital Agenda for Europe and is now driving the Digitising European Industry initiative.

The second keynote speech, "The Smart Anything Everywhere (SAE) European initiative in a nutshell", was delivered by **Meike Reimann**, Steinbeis 2i. Ms. Reimann is a Senior Project Manager for ICT, Intelligent Produktion and Factories of the Future at Steinbeis 2i. She is the Coordinator of Smart4Europe2, the Coordination and Support Action of the Smart Anything Everywhere Initiative.

Four speakers were involved in the first panel, "How SMEs can benefit from SAE Innovation Actions?". In addition to Ms. Reimann, the coordinators of three SAE Innovation Actions were involved:

- **Isabelle Chartier**, CEA-LETI. Ms. Chartier is Project Coordinator of DigiFed, the SAE Innovation Action that aims to create a pan-European accelerator for deploying embedded and Cyber Physical Systems (CPS) to encourage the adoption of advanced digital technologies by EU SMEs with a focus on non-digital businesses.
- **Ricardo Gonçalves**, UNINOVA. Mr. Gonçalves is Project Coordinator of DIH4CPS, the SAE Innovation Action that aims at creating an embracing, interdisciplinary network of DIHs and solution providers, focussed on cyber-physical and embedded systems interweaving knowledge and technologies from different domains, and connecting regional clusters with the pan-European expert pool of DIHs.
- **Nikolaos Voros**, University of Peloponnese. Mr. Nikolaos Voros is Project Coordinator of Smart4All, the SAE Innovation Action focused on Customized Low Energy Computing Powering CPS & the IoT that aims to develop and maintain an active network of DIHs across SEE supporting academics, startups, SMEs, and mid-caps entering the digitisation era.

The third keynote presentation, "The Italian Network of Digital Innovation Hubs and Competence Centres", was delivered by **Giuseppe Linati**. Mr. Linati is the General Director of DIH Lombardia by Confindustria Lombardia. IT professional with 20 years of experience gained within large international



companies, Mr. Linati is now managing the DIH of Confindustria in the Lombardy region<sup>6</sup>.

Another four panellists were involved in the second panel, "Preparing the Network of European DIHs: lessons learned and recommendations":

- **Anne-Marie Sassen**, European Commission DG CONNECT. Ms. Sassen is Deputy Head of Unit DG CNECT A2. She coordinates the work of the European Commission, the Member States and Regions in setting up a network of Digital Innovation Hubs in Europe to enable all companies and public sector organisations to benefit from digital technologies to improve their production, business processes and products.
- **Maria Benedetta Francesconi**, Italian Ministry of Economic Development. Ms. Francesconi is Head of the International Industrial Cooperation, CSR, Innovative Startups and SMEs Unit of the Italian Ministry of Economic Development. She has been involved in implementing the Italian National Plan for Industry 4.0 to support the innovation demand of Italian companies through the Competence Cents and European Digital Innovation Hubs.
- **Frauke Goll**, FZI Forschungszentrum Informatik. Ms. Goll currently heads the Strategy, Innovation and Transfer department at the FZI Research Center for Information Technology in Karlsruhe and the DIZ Digital Innovation Center. Ms. Goll is also working with other partners on preparing the application for establishing an EDIH on Artificial Intelligence and CyberSecurity in Baden-Württemberg (Germany).
- **Natalie Cernecka**, TeraLab. Ms. Cernecka oversees TeraLab's business development. TeraLab is the artificial intelligence and big data platform within IMT in France. It is also part of a candidate EDIH focused on the Ile-De-France / Hauts-De-France region. Ms. Cernecka has an initial background in higher education and research (Cambridge, Keio, CNRS) and subsequently in business development both in France and abroad, before entering the technology sector, where she focuses on data and AI.

Regarding the audience of the first SAE Ecosystem Building Event, the event attracted 328 people in total. The number of participants, stakeholder types and their geographic origin are reported in Table 2 and Table 3<sup>7</sup>. A good reach of different stakeholder categories was achieved. Most of the participants came from the industrial world, followed by representatives of RTOs and academia (25%) and DIH, clusters and associations (16%). In terms of geographic origin, there was a very high participation from Italy (73%) and a good number of participants from all over Europe and beyond (27%). In addition, stakeholders from the Balkans and Eastern Europe (e.g., Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia) and extra-EU countries (e.g., Australia, Brazil, Canada, Mexico and the U.S.) were also engaged.

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<sup>wt</sup>

<sup>7</sup> It is to be noticed that participants' data were directly collected by the World Manufacturing Foundation. Therefore, only data of those participants who gave their consent to share their personal information with Smart4Europe2 were used to calculate the statistics reported in the following tables.

Type of stakeholder	Number	Percentage
Company	172	52%
DIH/Cluster/Association	53	16%
Research	81	25%
Policy Maker	8	2%
N/A	14	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 2. Participants – Ecosystem Building Event Italy – Type of Stakeholder**

Geographic origin of participants	Number	Percentage
Italy	238	73%
Other EU27	76 <i>Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden</i>	23%
Non-EU	14 <i>Albania, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Ecuador, Lebanon, Mexico, Norway, Qatar, South Africa, Switzerland, United Kingdom, USA</i>	4%

**Table 3. Participants – Ecosystem Building Event Italy – Country representation**

## 2.4 Summary and outcomes

A short summary of each presentation and key takeaways from the panel discussions are reported in the following paragraphs. The recordings and the presentations of the event can be accessed via the SAE innovation Portal<sup>8</sup> and the website of the World Manufacturing Foundation<sup>9</sup>.

### Keynote: "Digitizing European Industry Initiative and Digital Europe Programme"

The first keynote introduced the background of the "Digitising European Industry" strategy and set the scene for the following programmes by the EC to boost the digital and green twin transition as well as recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic and resilience in the post-pandemic future.

In this respect, it was highlighted the key role of European DIHs was to help companies – notably SMEs, startups and mid-caps – to become more competitive through the adoption of the latest digital technologies. Accordingly, the EC plans to continue fostering the European network of DIHs as the main pillar of its strategy and promote the systematic deployment of EDIHs thanks to the next Digital Europe programme.

<sup>8</sup> <https://smartanythingeverywhere.eu/events/world-manufacturing-forum/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://worldmanufacturing.org/activities/week-2020/digitalization-of-manufacturing-building-the-ecosystem/>



Figure 7: Keynote "Digitising European Industry Initiative and Digital Europe Programme"

#### Keynote: The Smart Anything Everywhere (SAE) European initiative in a nutshell

The second keynote introduced the Smart Anything Everywhere Initiative (SAE) and how it supports enhancing the digital transformation of the European industry through Digital Innovation Hubs. The focus was put on the evolution of the SAE Initiative, the SAE ecosystem and addressed Technology Areas, the open calls and all services provided to support digitalisation of SMEs.

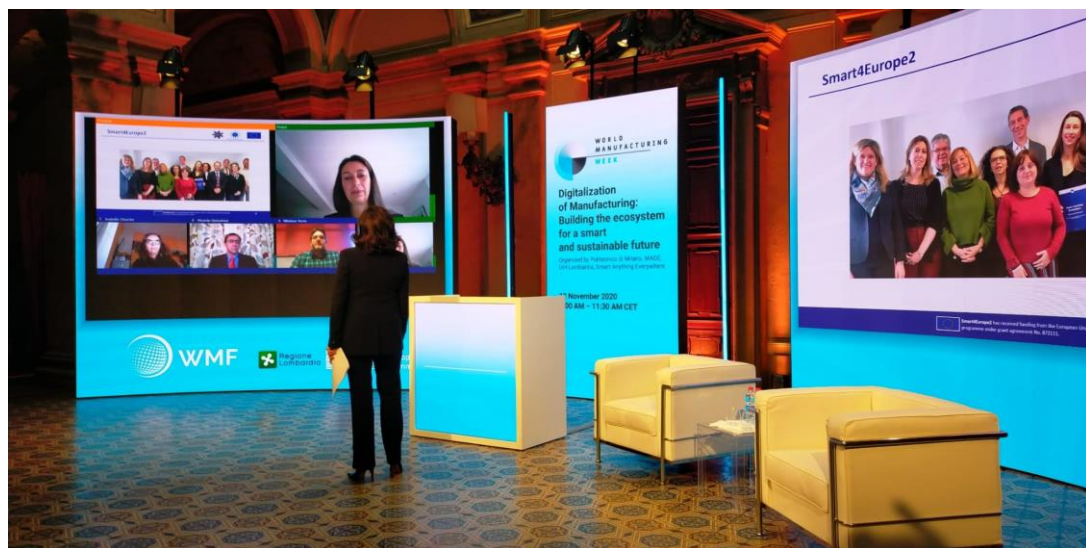


Figure 8: Keynote "The Smart Anything Everywhere (SAE) European initiative in a nutshell"



## Panel 1: How SMEs can benefit from SAE Innovation Actions

The first panel started with a brief introduction and overall view of the vision, mission and key characteristics of each of the three SAE Innovation Actions (i.e., DigiFed, DIH4CPS, Smart4All) and Smart4Europe2. Then, the panellists provided concrete examples of application experiments and success stories of SMEs involved in their projects, highlighted the services their DIHs can offer to help companies digitalise, and the benefits that SMEs, startups and mid-caps can get from EU projects.

From the panel discussion, it emerged that:

- Apart from cascade funding, SAE DIHs are offering complete packages of services that are important to boost digital innovation and uptake of digital technologies, such as testing and experimentation facilities, business and technical coaching to sustain not only the experimentation phase but also "go-to-market" strategies and sustainability, networking and matchmaking to foster collaboration and internationalisation.
- Networking and cross-country collaboration are crucial to access and exploit expertise in multiple areas that are not available at the local level. SAE DIHs are also working hard to expand the DIH network and reach companies in countries and sectors that are not very digitalized, so that no one is left behind.
- Other than SMEs, startups and mid-caps, a plethora of other stakeholders can benefit from SAE results, e.g., investors can benefit from knowing innovative solutions, researchers can exploit the technology radar to identify trends, new technologies and applications.



Figure 9: Panel "How SMEs can benefit from SAE Innovation Actions" (1)





Figure 10: Panel "How SMEs can benefit from SAE Innovation Actions" (2)

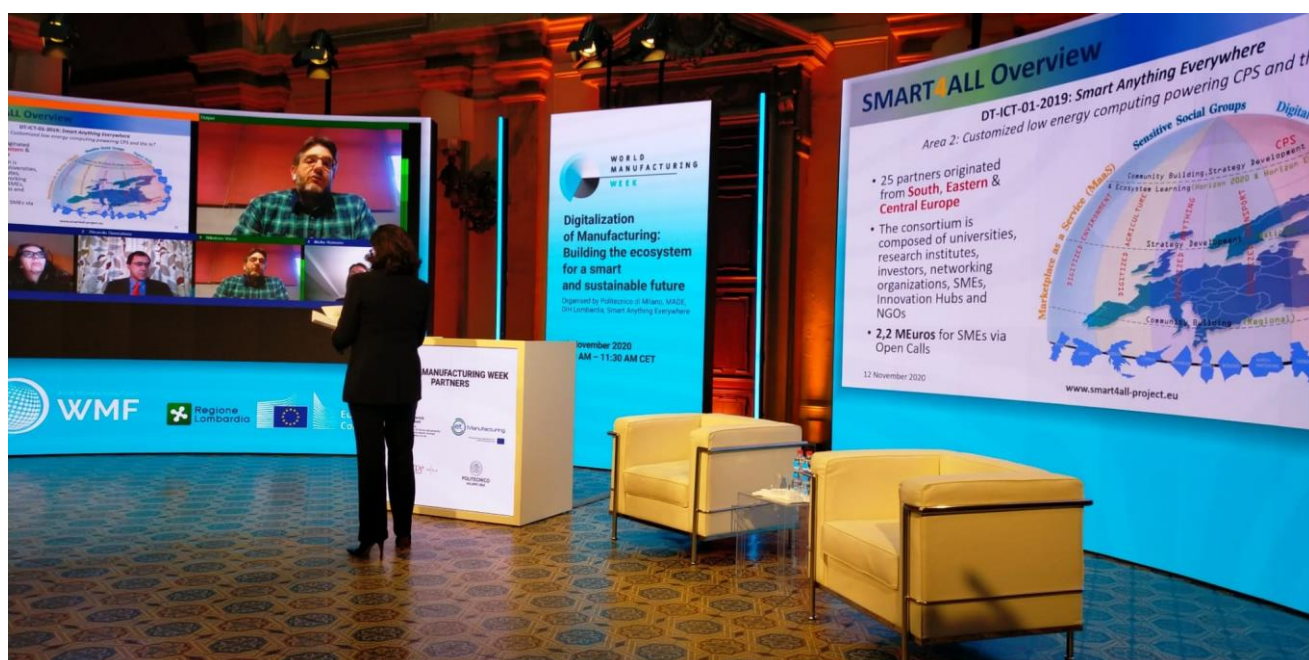


Figure 11: Panel "How SMEs can benefit from SAE Innovation Actions" (3)

## Keynote: The Italian Network of Digital Innovation Hubs and Competence Centres

The third keynote focused on the Italian Network of Digital Innovation Hubs and Competence Centres established by the Italian Government's National Plan on Industry 4.0. The presentation outlined the approach, the model and the main actors working in Italy to connect the EU level and the local level and foster the digital transformation of Italian companies.

Confindustria worked on the creation of a National Network of Digital Innovation hubs. The DIHs of Confindustria mainly have a regional dimension, and they represent a "gateway" to the world of Industry 4.0. Each DIH is like a "general practitioner" who makes the diagnosis and then refers the SME to the specialist who will structure the therapy. Accordingly, the path begins with a digital maturity assessment aimed at understanding the starting position of the individual company and suggesting a tailor-made roadmap for digital transformation. With the roadmap, DIH Lombardia can subsequently accompany companies to the Competence Centers to activate specific digitalisation project activities. Competence Centers are national and specialised in Industry4.0 technology areas. Currently, there are eight national Competence Centres in Italy. They involve universities, centres of excellence, and significant private players to offer companies the possibility of building competencies, testing technologies before investing, and accelerating technology development and transfer. A deep dive on the example of MADE Competence Centre was also provided.

Finally, the next steps towards European Digital Innovation Hubs were introduced. Italian Digital Innovation Hubs and Competence Centres are now working together to set up the future European Digital Innovation Hubs in Italy and interconnect them with the network of EDIHs in other countries.

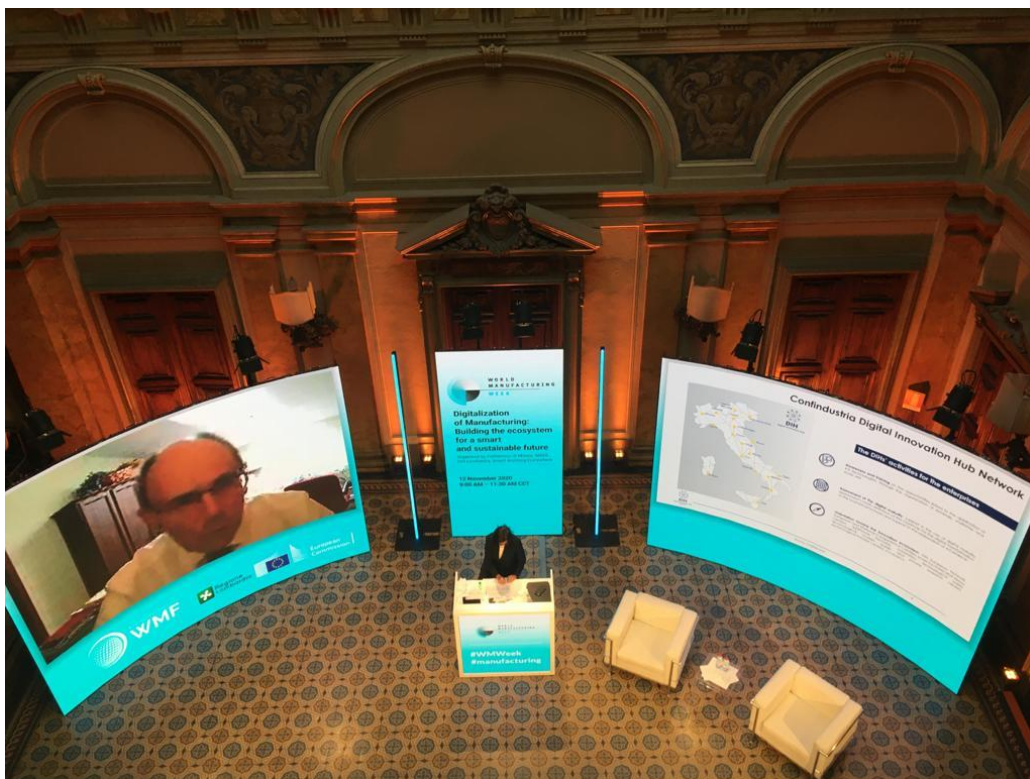


Figure 12: Keynote "The Italian Network of Digital Innovation Hubs and Competence Centres"



## Panel 2: Preparing the Network of European DIHs: lessons learned and recommendations

The second panel was devoted to presenting and discussing the ongoing development of the European Digital Innovation Hubs Network, building bridges between the European and the local level.

The session began with a presentation from each speaker, covering the EU perspective, the national level and the role of Member States, and the regional level. Specifically, the experience of candidate EDIHs from Lombardy (Italy), Baden-Württemberg (Germany) and Ile-De-France / Hauts-De-France (France) was shared with the audience. A Q&A session focused on lessons learned, and recommendations for the future of EDIHs in Europe followed the presentations.

Key takeaways from the panel discussion can be summarised in the following points:

- The Digital Europe programme allows to continue and scales up ongoing national/regional initiatives around DIHs and digital transition.
- Key factors for success are: 1. To choose the specialisation and priorities to focus on (main industries, kind of services, ...), 2. To create a partnership with complementary skills, 3. To establish governance that allows flexibility but with well-defined key procedures.
- Trust is key to foster "borderless" collaboration between hubs in the EDIH Network. It will take time to develop, but the Digital Transformation Accelerator will facilitate the process.
- A clear orientation towards SMEs is needed. In addition, the definition of appropriate customer journeys and business models is also crucial to generate added value for SMEs and EDIHs alike.
- The Covid-19 pandemic has accelerated the digital transformation. EDIHs can play an important role by helping companies during the recovery phase and supporting them become more resilient thanks to the uptake of digital technologies. They can also play a role in other national and regional initiatives, as 20% of the Next Generation EU funds are devoted to the digital transition.
- The Covid-19 pandemic has also widened the digital divide. To address this challenge, DIHs can play a role in building new capabilities, supporting the re-/up-skilling of workers towards new jobs and increasing digital skills in the population at large.



Figure 13: Panel "Preparing the Network of European DIHs: lessons learned and recommendations" (1)



Figure 14: Panel "Preparing the Network of European DIHs: lessons learned and recommendations" (2)

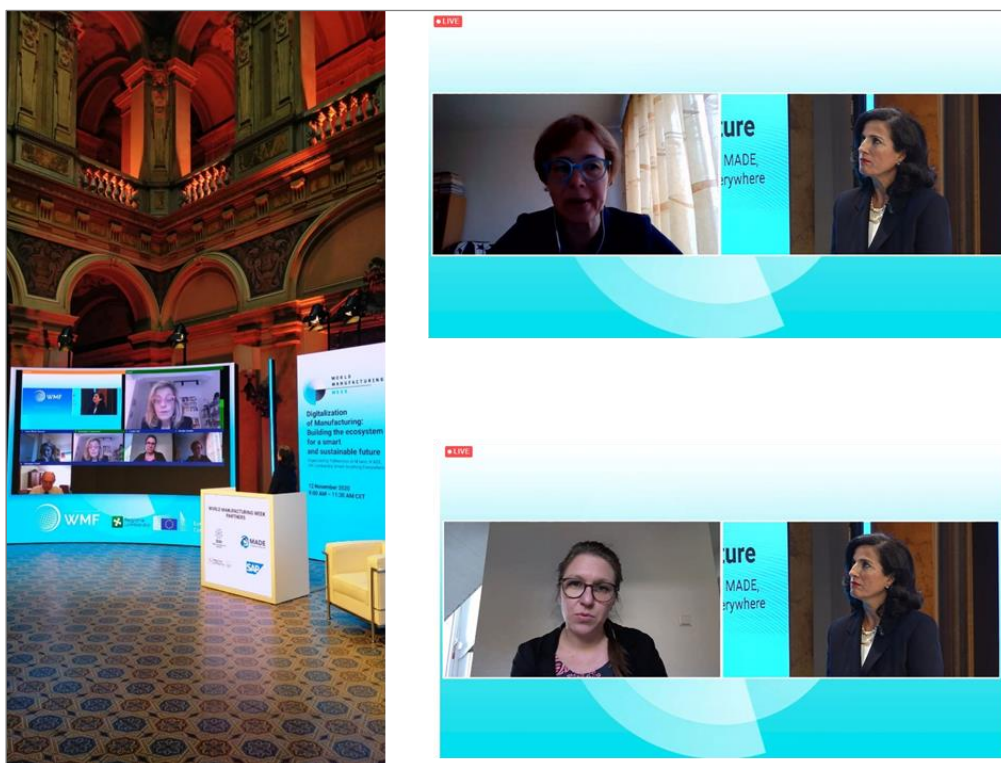


Figure 15: Panel "Preparing the Network of European DIHs: lessons learned and recommendations" (3)

## 2.5 Event follow-up and feedback from the audience

As follow up activity, attendees were asked to complete a [short survey](#) to provide their opinion and comments about the SAE Ecosystem Building Event.

According to the answers provided by respondents, it can be said that the event was appreciated. Respondents found the session interesting and of added value, and they reported to have learned important information about SAE. Some respondents missed the possibility of networking and hoped for future physical events organized by SAE.

In addition, some attendees sent their positive comments by e-mail. For instance, one attendee wrote:

*“Thanks a lot for your very appreciated Invitation and very interesting prestigious event and for the presentation I will download now. I also thank you very much for your invitation to incoming events you are going to set up: I will certainly try to join them.”-*

Other participants shared their positive impressions by posting on LinkedIn about the most interesting ideas and insights they grasped from the event. An example can be found in **Fehler! Verweisquelle konnte nicht gefunden werden..**

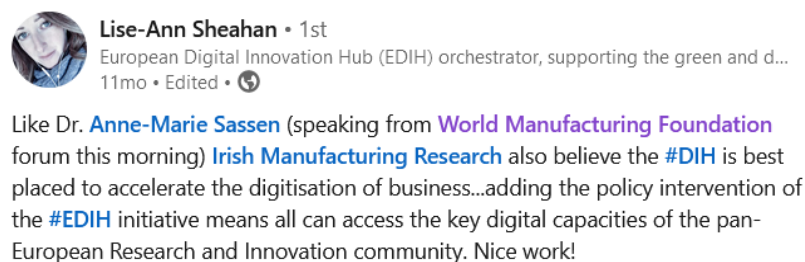


Figure 16: LinkedIn post about the SAE Ecosystem Building Event from a participant

Finally, positive feedback and appreciation were also shared by the EDIH representatives participating in the panels, as reported in **Fehler! Verweisquelle konnte nicht gefunden werden..**

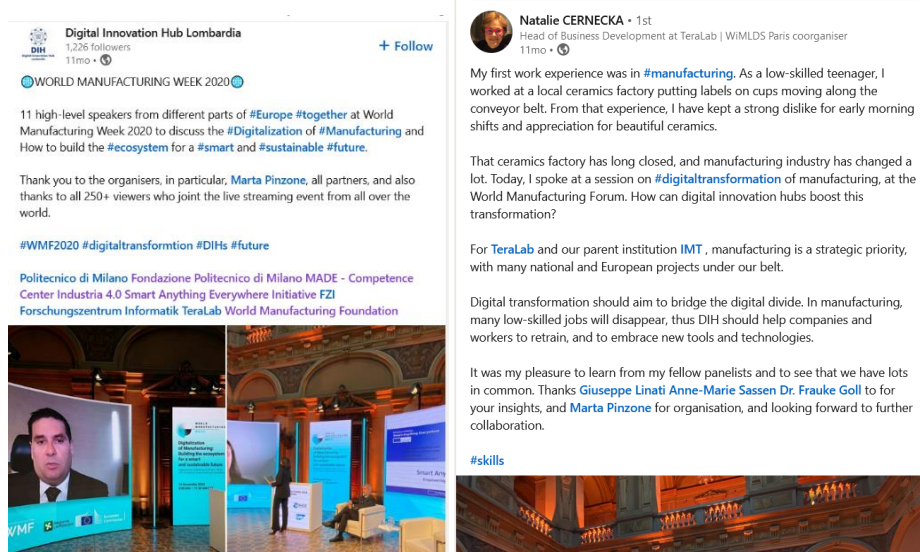


Figure 17: Feedback posts shared by EDIH representatives after the event

### 3 Ecosystem Building Event 2 – Hungary (BME)

#### 3.1 Promotion of the event

The Hungarian SAE Ecosystem Building Event was promoted via multiple channels and communication towards different target groups and different regions: European, national and regional. The main promotional actions that were undertaken are briefly described in the following paragraphs.

- **SAE website and SAE channels**

Smart4Europe2 played a key role at the European level by promoting the event via the Innovation Portal, SAE social media, and the SAE newsletter (Figure 18). Besides, other EU coordination and support actions – such as I4MS and ConnectedFactories 2 – advertised the event in their respective communities.



Figure 18: SAE Ecosystem Building Event promoted in SAE website and social media

The webpage hosted by SAE contained the programme and a registration link for the online event.

<https://smartanythingeverywhere.eu/dih-ecosystem-building-event/>

- **Newsletters**

A dedicated newsletter promoting the event was created and circulated through networks on different levels (regional and EU).





**Figure 19: DIH Ecosystem Building Event Newsletter template**

An example of such newsletters is shown in Figure 19. In total, five newsletters were sent out as follows

- Save the date email – one month before the event
- Preliminary programme – two weeks before the event
- Detailed programme for registered participants – 10 days before the event
- Final detailed programme for registered participants – 1 week before the event
- Only two days left – final programme and link for join online – 2 days before the event

The newsletter templates were regularly distributed to the participating DIHs, SAE and Smart4Europe2 representatives who circulated the event using their own networks.

The registration procedure was done through an online form hosted by BME's SharePoint server through the following bit.ly link: <http://bit.ly/DIHEventBudapest>

- **Regional level**

At the regional level, the event was promoted by Innomine DIH and BME-EET DIH; both were using their own networks.

- **Regional level – Budapest University of Technology and Economics (BME)**

The event was promoted on BME's webpage in the newsfeed in the Hungarian language (Figure 20).



BUDAPESTI MŰSZAKI ÉS GAZDASÁGTUDOMÁNYI EGYETEM  
Villamosmérnöki és Informatikai Kar

NYITÓOLDAL | OKTATÁS | OKTATÁSSZERVEZÉS | K+F+I | EGYÜTTMŰKÖDÉS | SAJTÓSZOBA | ELÉRHETŐSÉGEINK

**BEMUTAKOZÁS**  
FELVÉTELIZŐKNEK  
HALLGATÓKNAK  
SPECIALIZÁCIÓVÁLASZTÁS  
DOKTORANDUSZOKNAK  
DOKTORJELÖLTEKNEK  
MUNKATÁRSNAK  
ALUMNI

**HOGYAN SEGÍTIK A DIGITÁLIS INNOVÁCIÓS HUBOK (DIH) A DIGITÁLIS INNOVÁCIÓT?**

2021. június 17.

Hogyan segítik a digitális innovációs hubok (DIH) a digitális innovációt?  
Online konferencia a VIK szervezésében a régiós DIH-ek részvételével

Link:  
<https://www.eet.bme.hu/2021/06/15/digital-innovation-hub-ecosystem-building-event-online-conference/>

**Programme**  
09:30 Opening the event  
Hassan Charaf, Dean, Budapest University of Technology and Economics

eduID Belépés

Figure 20: Promotion of the event on BME website

A similar promotion was done on the webpage of the Department of Electron Devices (Figure 21).



MŰEGYETEM 1782

FŐOLDAL | RÓLUNK | HÍREK | OKTATÁS | K+F+I | MUNKATÁRSÁK

**DIGITAL INNOVATION HUB ECOSYSTEM BUILDING EVENT – ONLINE CONFERENCE**

How can DIH help you to access funding and support for your digital innovations?  
Join this online event to learn about Digital Innovation Hubs (DIHs) in the Central-Eastern European Region.

**DIH Ecosystem Building Event**  
30 June 2021

by a menu **CONFERENCE PROGRAMME GUIDE**

Figure 21: Promotion on the BME DED webpage

The weekly newsletter and newsfeed of BME Faculty of Electronics Engineering and Informatics also listed the event as depicted in Figure 22.





Figure 22: Promotion of the event in BME VIK Weekly newsletter

### 3.2 Agenda / sessions / panels

The programme was divided into three-panel sections. Further details of the sections are provided in the summary chapter.

#### Programme

##### Opening Session

Moderator: Meike Reimann, Steinbeis 2i

09:30	<b>Opening the event</b> <i>Hassan Charaf, Dean, Budapest University of Technology and Economics</i>
09:40	<b>Innovation support for SMEs and Midcaps</b> <i>Meike Reimann, Steinbeis 2i</i>
09:50	<b>The implementation of the DIH concept in Hungary</b> <i>Krisztina Szentkirályi-Szász, Digital Success Programme, Hungary</i>
10:00	<b>State of play on European Digital Innovation Hubs</b> <i>Anne-Marie Sassen, European Commission</i>
10:15	<b>Horizon Europe opportunities for SMEs</b> <i>Ágnes Divinyi, National Research, Development and Innovation Office, Hungary</i>
	<b>Q&amp;A session</b>

##### Panel: Innovation support for SMEs and Midcaps

Panel moderator: Gábor Vicze, Innomine, Hungary

10:50	<b>Boosting Digital Innovation in Europe</b> <i>Sander van der Molen, BOWI</i>
11:00	<b>Digitalise the European Manufacturing Industry</b> <i>Begoña Sanchez Gonzalez, I4MS</i>
11:05	<b>Z10 – The university startup hub at BME</b>



SmartAnythingEverywhere



	<i>Zsolt Gémesi, BME Z10</i>
<b>11:10</b>	<b>Support for SMEs in digitalisation, international expansion and access to funds – innomine DIH</b> <i>Gábor Vicze, Innomine, Budapest, Hungary</i>
<b>11:20</b>	<b>OptimAPS – a success story in manufacturing optimisation</b> <i>Richard Milanovits, DSS Consulting Kft, Hungary</i>
<b>11:30</b>	<b>FermiCloud – a success story in industrial biotechnology</b> <i>Mateusz Lipinski, Spinsplit LLC, Hungary</i>
<b>11:40</b>	<b>Know-how and infrastructure for innovative SMEs – BME EET DIH</b> <i>Ferenc Ender, BME, Hungary</i>
<b>11:50</b>	<b>SmartSSL – a success story in smart cities</b> <i>János Hegedűs, BME, Hungary</i>
	<b>Q&amp;A session</b>

### Panel: DIHs in the Central-Eastern European Region

Panel moderator: Ferenc Ender, BME, Hungary

<b>12:20</b>	<b>Get to know DIH Transilvania</b> <i>Bianca Muntean, DIH Transilvania, Romania</i>
<b>12:30</b>	<b>Get to know 4P DIH</b> <i>Jure Tirar, 4P DIH, Slovenia</i>
<b>12:40</b>	<b>Get to know DIH TERA</b> <i>Ivan Štefanić, DIH TERA, Croatia</i>
<b>12:50</b>	<b>Get to know DIH PISMO</b> <i>Tomislav Plesec, DIH PISMO, Croatia</i>
<b>13:00</b>	<b>Get to know DIGIPARC</b> <i>Gordana Nikolić, DIGIPARC, Croatia</i>
	<b>Q&amp;A session</b>

## 3.3 Speakers and audience

### Keynote speakers

- **Hassan Charaf**, dean of Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Informatics, BME Budapest. Mr. Charaf opened the event and roughly summarised BME's main involvements in digitalisation and Industry 4.0.
- **Krisztina Szentkirályi-Szász**, Senior project manager, Digital Success Programme, Hungary. She introduced the fundamental approach of Hungary towards transforming local DIHs to EDIHs.  
The Digital Success Programme (DJP) is the main governmental organisation dealing with the implementation of the eDIH concept in Hungary.
- **Ágnes Divinyi**, senior expert, National Research, Development and Innovation Office, Hungary. Mrs. Divinyi presented the main funding opportunities foreseen in the new Horizon Europe programme for SMEs and Midcaps.
- **Meike Reimann**, Steinbeis 2i. Ms. Reimann is a Senior Project Manager for ICT and Industry4.0 at Steinbeis 2i. She is the Coordinator of Smart4Europe2, the Coordination and Support Action of the Smart Anything Everywhere Initiative.



- **Anne-Marie Sassen**, European Commission DG CONNECT. Ms. Sassen is Deputy Head of Unit DG CNECT A2. She coordinates the work of the European Commission, the Member States and Regions in setting up a network of Digital Innovation Hubs in Europe to enable all companies and public sector organisations to benefit from digital technologies to improve their production, business processes and products.
- **Gábor Vicze**, CEO of Innomine, Budapest, Hungary. Innomine is one of the most successful DIHs in Hungary, specialised in Industry 4.0 and digitalisation support for SMEs.
- **Ferenc Ender**, deputy head of Department of Electron Devices, BME, Budapest, Hungary. Dr. Ender is the leader of BME's digital innovation hub EET-DIH. The DIH offers the core know-how, research infrastructure and network of the Department for SMEs, Midcaps and large companies.

Type of stakeholder	Number	Percentage
DIH	38	29%
Start-ups, SMEs	28	22%
Mid-caps	1	0,7%
Large industry	0	0%
National/regional initiatives	42	32%
EC representatives	11	8,3%
Other	10	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 4. Participants – Ecosystem Building Event Hungary – Type of Stakeholder**

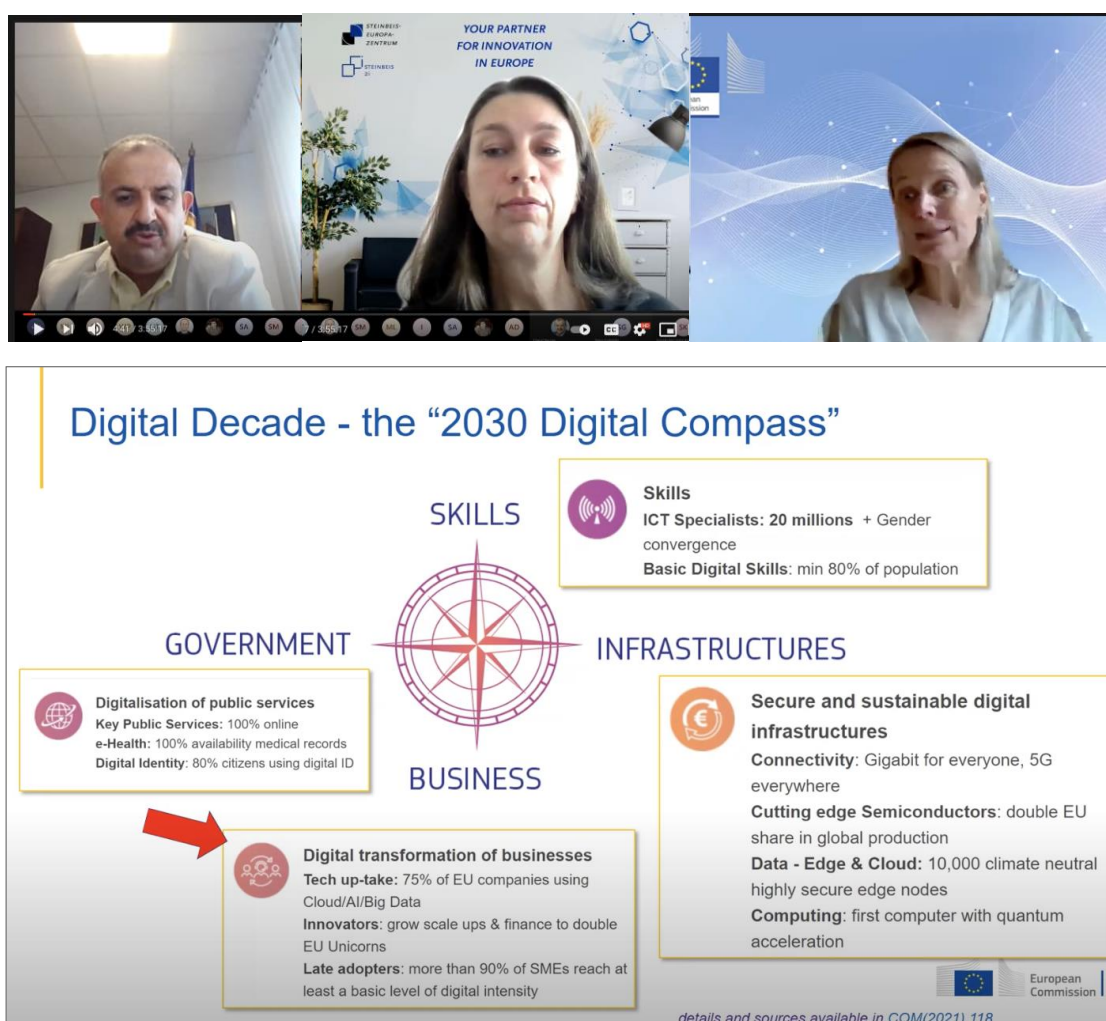
Geographic origin of participants	Number	Percentage
Hungary	25	19%
Other EU27	99 <i>Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Slovakia, Sweden, UK</i>	76%
Non-EU	6 <i>India, Kosovo, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina</i>	5%

**Table 5. Participants – Ecosystem Building Event Hungary – Country representation**

### 3.4 Summary and outcomes

#### Opening Session

The first session moderated by Meike Reimann was dedicated to EU and national level policymakers to introduce the DIH and EDIH concepts. The event was opened by the dean of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Informatics of BME Hassan Charaf. Further talks were focusing on either the accessing points for SMEs and Midcaps to innovation services such as DIHs (Innovation support for SMEs and Midcaps by Meike Reimann, Horizon Europe opportunities for SMEs) or rather on the future of Digital Innovation Hubs (State of play on European Digital Innovation Hubs by Anne-Marie Sassen, The implementation of the DIH concept in Hungary), see Figure 23.



**Figure 23: (From left to right) Hassan Charaf, Dean of BME opens the event, Meike Reimann, Steinbeis 2i, Anne-Marie Sassen, European Commission. Below: an indicative slide from the panel (State of play on European Digital Innovation Hubs by Anne-Marie Sassen)**

In conclusion, Hungary and as well as the region follow the Commission's directive towards creating EDIHs. The first, nationally organised call for establishing EDIHs was organised by the Digital Success

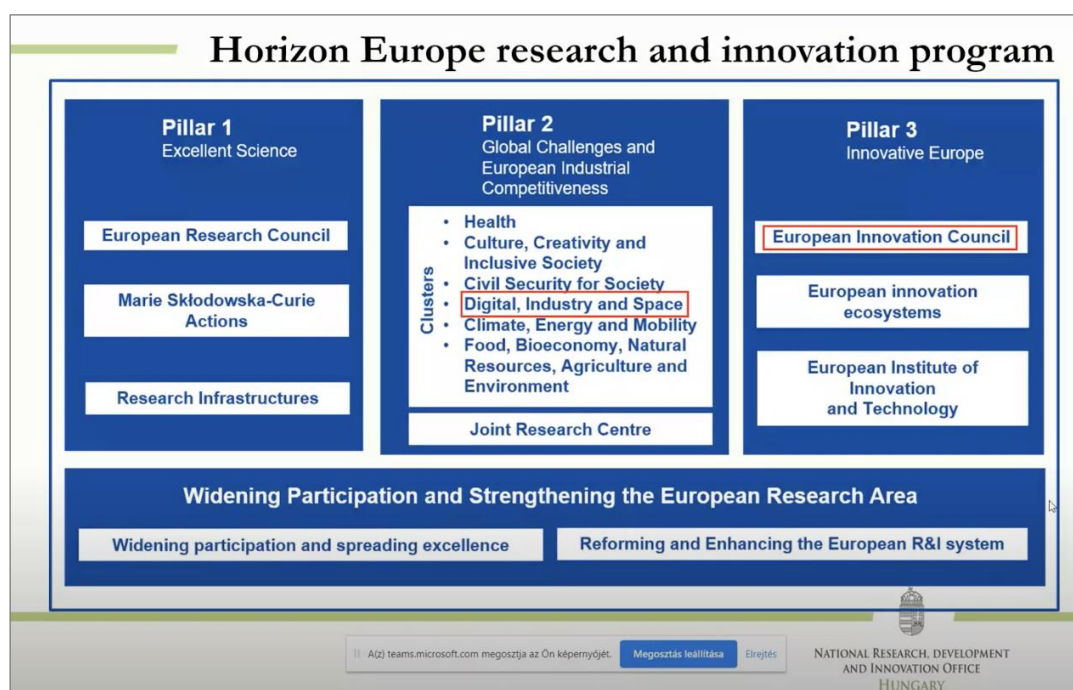
Programme in Hungary, a governmental organisation represented in the event by senior project manager Krisztina Szentkirályi-Szász. As a result of the first call, five independent EDIHs are planned with the following key areas: AI-mobility-robotics, HPC, Data, Cybersecurity and Smart agriculture (Figure 24).

■ THE REALITY
2021. 06. 30.

- The EU budget for Hungary: 3-6 EDIH, 22,251 M EUR/7 years = 3 big or max 6 minimum budget EDIH
- Hungary's first decision was 3 big, national-level EDIHs, but the EC suggests more EDIHs. The negotiations are still underway.
- Now in Hungary 5 EDIHs are planned with the following key focuses:
  - Artificial Intelligence, mobility, robotics
  - HPC
  - Data analysis, telemedicine
  - Cybersecurity and competence
  - AI and data in Agriculture

**Figure 24: A summary of the current state of EDIH establishment in Hungary**

Further opportunities for SMEs and Midcaps other than DIH services were introduced by Ágnes Divinyi *National Research, Development and Innovation Office, Hungary*.



**Figure 25: Horizon Europe opportunities for SMEs - Ágnes Divinyi, NKFIH, Budapest**

Between the panels, the SAE promotion videos were broadcasted.

[smartanythingeverywhere » About](#)

[Smart Anything Everywhere: Let's shape Europe's digital future together - YouTube](#)



### Panel: Innovation support for SMEs and Midcaps

The second panel focused on the innovation support opportunities for SMEs and Midcaps. This panel was moderated by Gábor Vicze, CEO of Innomine DIH, Budapest, Hungary. In this panel, amongst national DIHs, the startup incubator Z10 (Figure 26) was also introduced, and three success stories were presented by SMEs who were previously supported within the DIH ecosystem.

The presentations were organised following a top-down approach. Boosting Digital Innovation in Europe (BOWI) network was introduced by Sander van der Molen, ICT Innovation for Manufacturing SMEs (I4MS) initiative was presented by Begona Sanchez Gonzales.



Figure 26: Introducing Z10 incubator for startups in Budapest

Accordingly, two local DIHs, Innomine and EET-DIH were introduced, both from the Budapest region. A highlight of this panel was the revealing of three success stories from actual SMEs, presenting application experiments carried out in the framework of open calls of the above DIHs (Figure 27).

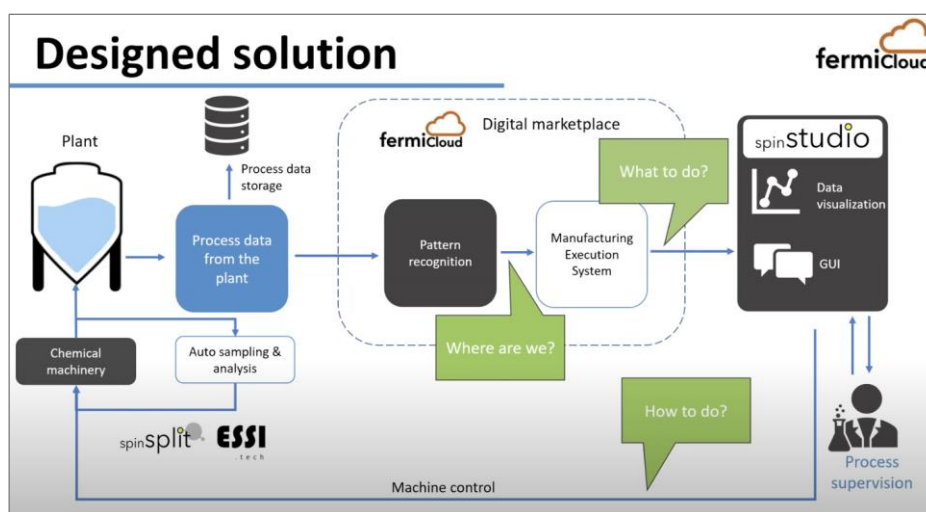


Figure 27: SME Spinsplit, Budapest, Hungary presents its success story "Fermicloud" carried out in the framework of I4MS project CloudiFacturing

### Panel: DIHs in the Central-Eastern European Region

In the last panel, regional DIHs took the opportunity to introduce themselves. The panel was moderated by Ferenc Ender, leader of BME-EET-DIH. In total, regional 5 DIHs were showcased, not counting the two Hungarian DIHs from the previous panel. Out of the five, one DIH is from Romania, one from Slovenia, and three from Croatia (Figure 28).



**Figure 28: A representative map of the DIHs from the CEE region introduced themselves (Innomine Hungary, EET-DIH Hungary, DIH Transilvania Romania, 4P DIH Slovenia, DIH Tera Croatia, DIH Pismo Croatia, Digiparc Croatia)**

The recorded session of the event is available here: <https://smartanythingeverywhere.eu/media/>

### 3.5 Event follow-up and feedback from the audience

After the event a follow-up email was sent to all participants, thanking them for their participation and informing them on the link to the recording and slides presented.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H9sWbRVfRAk>

The email also included a link to an online survey:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1KtC6xmfwkxZPiYbCQAskzyBHWpzEvRHfQHcoPQCyFro/edit#responses>

Feedback to the event was very positive, as participants found the event very useful and inspiring and saw the event as a very good starting point for collaboration or deepening collaboration across central-eastern Europe as well as with DIHs connected to the SAE Initiative.

## 4 Ecosystem Building Event 3 – France, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes (CEA)

The third SAE ecosystem building event titled "EDIH Ecosystem event, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes" took place on the 27th of October 2021.

The event was organised by Smart4Europe2 (CEA) in partnership with Minalogic (Global Innovation Cluster for Digital technologies in Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes), MinaSmart (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpe DIH / EDIH candidate) and the Campus du Numérique Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, to connect the Smart Anything Everywhere Initiative with relevant stakeholders at the European, national and regional level.

The recordings and the presentations of the event can be accessed via the SAE innovation Portal (<https://smartanythingeverywhere.eu/media/>).

### 4.1 Promotion of the event

The third SAE Ecosystem Building Event was promoted via multiple channels, and communication towards different target groups was performed at different geographical levels (European, national, regional). The main promotional actions that were undertaken are briefly described in the following paragraphs.

- **European level**

Smart4Europe2 played a key role at the European level by promoting the event via the Innovation Portal, SAE social media, and the SAE newsletter. Besides, other EU Coordination and Support Actions – such as I4MS and ConnectedFactories 2 – advertised the event in their respective communities.

A dedicated newsletter promoting the two October events was mailed to the SAE community (<https://us19.campaign-archive.com/?u=c555c6e15f284a68c1beacc56&id=7b741a6f5a>), see Figure 29.

Announcement of the event was shared in the social media, see Figure 30.

The event was promoted on SAE portal in the News with the detailed agenda and direct link to the registration: <https://smartanythingeverywhere.eu/events/sae-ecosystem-building-event-auvergne-rhone-alpes/>, see Figure 31.

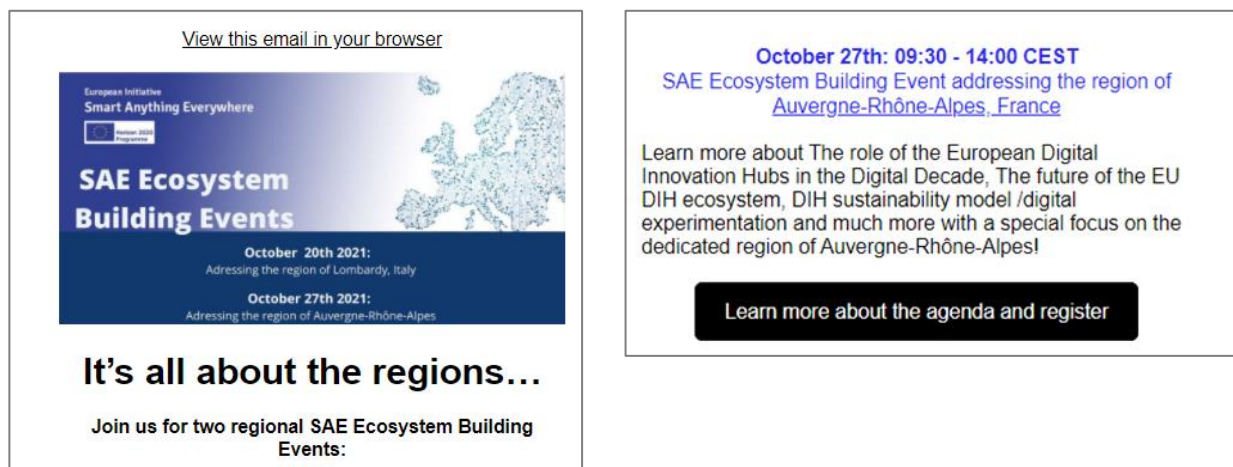


Figure 29: Ecosystem event promotion via SAE newsletter





Figure 30: Ecosystem venet promotion on SAE social media

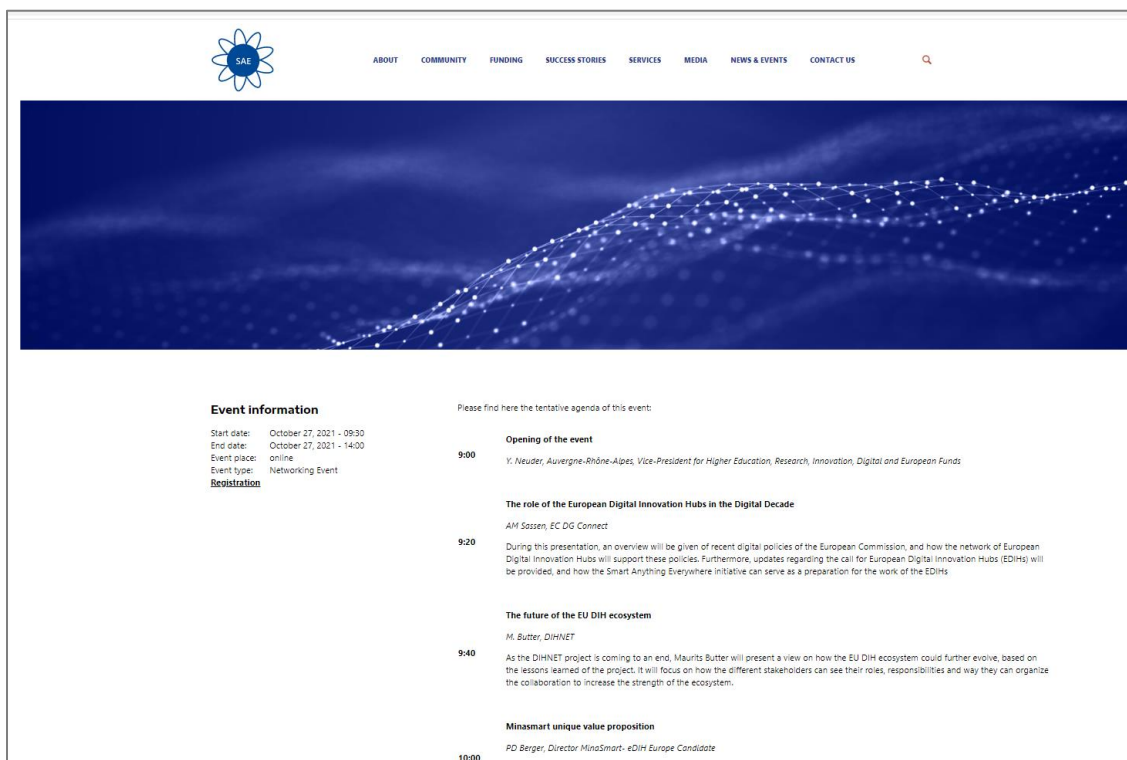


Figure 31: Ecosystem event promoted on SAE portal

The event was also promoted through DigiFed website and social media and redistratation link was available on line: <https://digifed.org/event/sae-dih-ecosystem-event/>.

Dedicated emails were sent to the running Innovation Actions in the SAE community, as well as former ones close to DigiFed.

- **Regional level**

At regional level, the event was promoted on the Campus du Numérique portal (<https://campusnumerique.auvergnerhonealpes.fr/evenement/dih-ecosystem-building-event-auvergne-rhone-alpes-smart-anything-everywhere-sae/>) where the physical part of the hybrid event is hosted.

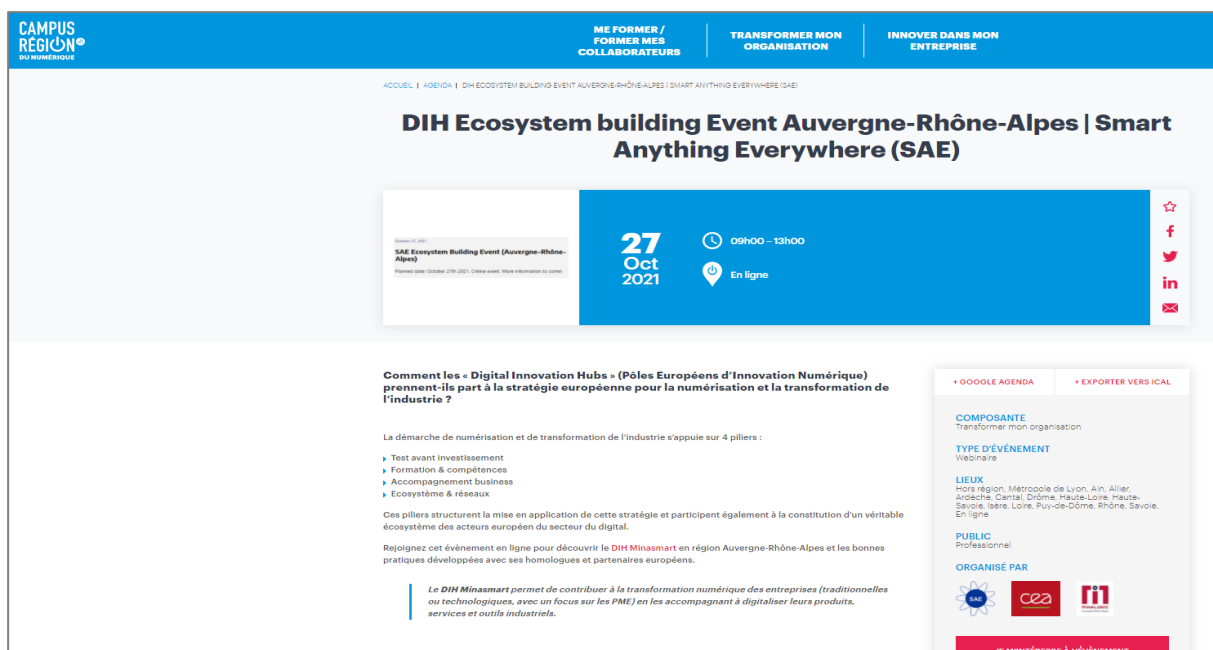


Figure 32: Event promoted on the Campus du Numérique portal

## 4.2 Agenda / sessions / panels

The event was organized as an hybrid event, hosted on Campus du Numérique at Charbonnières-les-Bains (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes campus), near Lyon (France). The agenda is detailed in the following table, speakers present at the Campus du numérique are identified with the icon .



The event was set-up in two parts, starting with 3 keynote sessions to discuss the Digital-Innovation-Hubs vision from different perspectives: European vision, the future of the European DIH system and the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes DIH (minaSmart) value proposition.

The second part was organized as panel-sessions / round-tables to present and discuss service and newly experimented innovation pathways with the testimony of the engaged actors (RTOs, Region, DIH, SMEs, clusters and networks). The event Moderator was Pierre-Damien Berger, Director MinaSmart – EDIH Europe candidate. The event was concluded by Meike Reimann, Smart4Europe2 coordinator.



Figure 33: Pierre-Damien Berger, organization team, Meike Reimann

The visit of the “Usine du Future” of the Campus du numérique was then proposed to the persons attending the event physically (<https://campusnumerique.auvergnerhonealpes.fr/innover/innover-industrie/>).

DIHs' SERVICES, PANEL DISCUSSIONS	9:00	<b>Opening of the event</b> <i>Y. Neuder, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, Vice-President for Higher Education, Research, Innovation, Digital and European Funds</i>
	9:20	<b>The role of the European Digital Innovation Hubs in the Digital Decade</b> <i>AM Sassen, EC DG Connect</i>
	9:40	<b>The future of the EU DIH ecosystem</b> <i>M. Butter, DIHNET</i>
	10:00	<b>Minasmart unique value proposition</b> 👤 <i>PD Berger, Director MinaSmart- eDIH Europe Candidate</i>
	10:15	<b>Coffee Break</b>
	10:20	<b>A new European trans-regional open innovation pathway, the Generic experimentation</b> 👤 <i>Isabelle Chartier (CEA, IRT Nano Elec)</i> , 👤 <i>Bastien Hualpa (Minalogic)</i> , <i>Florian Chenier (CHARVET)</i> , <i>Marcello Coppola (ST Microelectronics)</i>
	10:45	<b>The Digital challenge innovation pathway highlighting attractive markets.</b> <i>Ana Gheorghe (Digital Catapult)</i> , 👤 <i>Vincent Bouillet (GE HYDRO)</i> , <i>Charles Garnier (CATIE)</i> , <i>Ana Maria Jimenez Banzo &amp; Cosmin Koch (ACCIONA)</i>
	11:10	<b>Innovation and Networks</b> <i>Silicon Europe Alliance:</i> 👤 <i>Pierre-Damien Berger (Minalogic)</i> , <i>Dieter Therseen (DSP Valley)</i> , <i>Ola Svedin (Mobile Heights, Sweden)</i>
	11:35	<b>DIH sustainability model and digital experimentation</b> <i>Dieter Therseen (DSP Valley)</i> , 👤 <i>Jérôme Gavillet (CEA)</i> , <i>Patrick Chan (e-Whiz)</i> , <i>Marie Sapone (Lim group)</i> , <i>Yohann Bohard (BLUMORPHO)</i>
	12:00	<b>Market place</b> <i>Rudolf Frycek, AMIRES</i>
	12:15	<b>Digital transformation for traditional SMEs</b> 👤 <i>Pierre-Damien Berger (Minalogic)</i> , 👤 <i>François Régis Nepote (Techtera cluster)</i>
	12:40	<b>Conclusion</b> <i>M. Reimann, Steinbeis Zi</i>

Figure 34: DIH ecosystem building event agenda

### 4.3 Speakers and audience

As highlighted in the invitation, the event aimed at illustrating how the DIH can support the Digitizing European Industry initiative through the 4 pillars 1) Test before invest, 2) Skills and training, 3) Support to find investment, 4) Ecosystem and Networking. , with a specific focus on the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region ecosystem and DIH, MinaSmart.

#### Keynote speakers

- **Anne-Marie Sassen**, European Commission DG CONNECT. AM. Sassen is Deputy Head of Unit DG CNECT A2. She coordinates the work of the European Commission, the Member States and Regions in setting up a network of Digital Innovation Hubs in Europe to enable all companies and public sector organisations to benefit from digital technologies to improve their production, business processes and products.
- **Maurits Butter**, TNO. M Butter is the scientific manager of the DIHNET project (<https://dihnet.eu/>) that has supported the collaboration among Digital Innovation Hub Networks across Europe, creating a sustainable pan-European network of networks, with a focus on regional DIHs. DIHNET aim was then to identify, develop and promote the diversity of new business models that foster knowledge sharing and technologies transfer between European DIHs while enabling the sustainable development of new business opportunities for them all.
- **Pierre-Damien Berger**, Minalogic. PD berger is MinaSmart director eDIH candidate, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes DIH.

#### Panel sessions

Panel session were organized to highlight and share feedbacks about services currently proposed by MinaSmart and experimental services that are currently tested through running SAE innovation actions coordinated by the CEA. Each session was set-up gathering key partners, acting with a different role, in order to illustrate through panel participant's testimony the point of view and feedbacks from stakeholders with different profile (DIH, RTOs, SMEs, regional clusters and networks, etc.). The profile of the participants are presented in the event summary and outcomes paragraph (§2.4)

The third SAE Ecosystem Building Event attracted 90 registered participants. The number of participants, stakeholder types and their geographic origin are reported in Table 6 and Table 7. A good reach of different stakeholder categories was achieved. Most of the participants came from the DIH/EDIH candidates, mixing pure DIH/EDIH candidates, Academics / RTOs / university and clusters. In terms of geographic origin, there was an equal and high participation from France (18%), Poland and Romania (both 12%) and with a good participation of Germany (10%) and Italy (8%). In addition, stakeholders from the Balkans and Eastern Europe (e.g., Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovenia) were also highly engaged (32%).

Type of stakeholder	Number	Percentage
DIH / EDIH	49	55%
Start-ups, SMEs	7	8%
Mid-caps	1	1%
Large industry	4	4.5%
National/regional initiatives	4	4.5%
Cluster / Association	10	11%
University / Academia / RTO	11	12%
EC representatives	1	1%
Other	3	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	

**Table 6. Participants – Ecosystem Building Event Hungary – Type of Stakeholder**

Geographic origin of participants	Number	Percentage
France	16	18%
Other EU27 ( <i>Austria, Belgium, Croatia, , Czech Republik, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Ntherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden</i> ))	73	81%
Non-EU ( <i>UK</i> )	1	1%

**Table 7. Participants – Ecosystem Building Event France – Country representation**

#### 4.4 Summary and outcomes

The event opened on the European vision with the first two keynote speakers and was completed with the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes regional DIH presentation.



**Figure 35: The 3 keynote speakers, PD berger, AM Sassen, M Butter**



## Keynote session

- **The role of the European Digital Innovation Hubs in the Digital Decade**

Anne-Marie Sassen, DG Connect – European Commission.

During her presentation, Anne-Marie gave an overview of recent digital policies of the European Commission, and how the network of European Digital Innovation Hubs will support these policies. Furthermore, updates regarding the call for European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs) was provided, and how the Smart Anything Everywhere initiative can serve as a preparation for the work of the EDIHs.

- **The future of the EU DIH ecosystem**

Maurits Butter, DIHNET

As the DIHNET project came to an end (Final event was on October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021), Maurits presented a view on how the EU DIH ecosystem could further evolve, based on the lessons learned of the project. It focused on how the different stakeholders can see their roles, responsibilities and way they can organize the collaboration to increase the strength of the ecosystem.

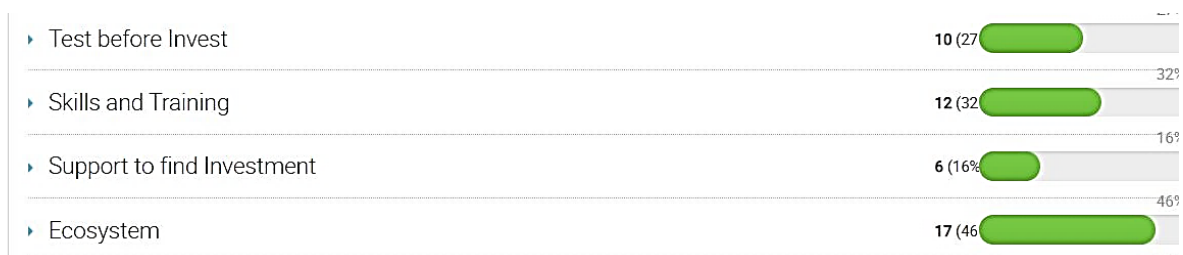
- **Minasmart unique value proposition**

Pierre-Damien Berger, director MinaSmart eDIH Europe candidate

Pierre-Damien, director of MinaSmart, has presented MinaSmart, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes DIH and eDIH candidate, highlighting MinaSmart value proposition “Bringing together key technologies & application domains”: the key technologies, the targeted application domains and the one transverse sector, the stakeholders, the proposed services.

MinaSmart presentation was followed by an online survey asking the participants 2 questions.

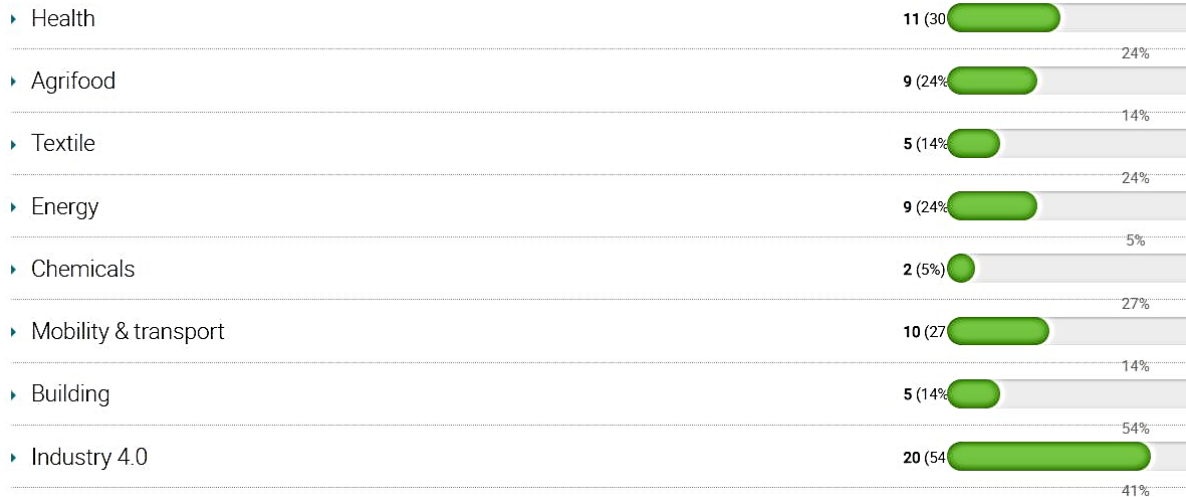
**Question 1:** *To select the 2 pillars of interest for collaboration with MinaSmart (either importing or exporting services). Among the registered answers, ecosystem is the first centre of interest.*



**Question 2:** *Which are the application areas you are targeting ? Without any surprise, being a transversal one; Industry 4.0 is the application area most targeted, followed by Health, Agrifood and Mobility & transport.*



SmartAnythingEverywhere



These 3 keynotes introduced the second part of the event organized around panel sessions to discuss DIH's services: running services, new innovation tools currently tested through DigiFed (<https://digifed.org/>), and services as for today under development in SmartEEs. DigiFed and SmartEEs are both H2020 SAE IAs coordinated by the CEA (Leti and Liten respectively).

#### Panel session

Each panel session was dedicated to one service and gathered key partners, acting with a different role, in order to illustrate point of view and feedbacks from stakeholders with different profile.

- A new European trans-regional open innovation pathway, the Generic Experiment (GE)



The panel session gathered: Isabelle Chartier (DigiFed coordinator, IRT Nano-Elec consortium member), Bastien Hualpa (Minalogic, Easytech programme), Marcello Coppola (STMicroelectronics), Florian Chenier (Charvet)

CEA/Leti & IRT-Nano Elec proposes its Secure Platform 4IoT to develop a dedicated program in order to build a community around Cyber-Attack monitoring. The GE program gathers SMEs' needs and develops a generic prototype, with the technical support from STMicroelectronics, cofinanced by Europe (DigiFed) and the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region (EasyPoc program). Charvet is one of the SME members of the community.

An on-line survey was then performed asking the participants to choose what draw their interest (3 choices max) in the generic Experiment service just discussed: Pan-European networking and regional & European co-funding seem to draw most interest.



Community building	4 (12%)
Generic prototype	1 (3%)
Pan-European networking	5 (15%)
Direct access to technical expert from RTO/research centre	2 (6%)
Direct access to SME's need for RTO/research centre	4 (12%)
Regional and European co-funding	5 (15%)

- The Digital Challenge (DC) innovation pathway, highlighting attractive markets



The panel session gathered: Ana Gheorghe (Digital Catapult, DigiFed consortium member and Digital Challenge task leader), Vincent Bouillet (GE HYDRO), Ana Maria Jimenez and Cosmin Koch (Acciona) and Charles Garnier (Catie).

The Digital Challenge is an open innovation tool introduced by DigiFed (Digital catapult) where DigiFed, European enterprises (GE Hydro and

Acciona) and innovators (Catie) come together to solve digital challenges for which new solutions are required.

The panel session was closed asking the participants to describe the Digital Challenge best features in key words (online survey):



- Innovation & Networks



The panel session gathered Pierre-Damien berger (Silicon Europe Alliance), Dieter Therseen (DSP Valley) and Ola Svedin (Mobile Heights, Sweden).

The session was designed to showcase major cluster partnership to the benefit of SMEs through international initiatives at the European level. One of the most appealing cases concerns the Silicon Europe Alliance (<https://www.silicon-europe.eu/home/>), the European cluster alliance for innovative electronics & software technology. It was founded in 2015 and gathers 11 clusters representing 2,000 members and more than 400,000 jobs.



DSP Valley –Belgium—(<https://breedingdigitalbusiness.com/>) nurtures digital business development and is a network for companies creating, applying, and adapting to electronic solutions and digital technologies, gathering more than 100 organizations in the Benelux. DSP Valley is a long-term member of the Silicon Europe alliance whereas Mobile Heights –Sweden- (<https://mobileheights.org/>) was founded in 2009. Mobile Heights is a non-profit ICT cluster organisation and networking community promoting innovation and growth in the digital world by connecting business, academia and society and has 150 members in Southern Sweden. It recently joined the Silicon Europe Alliance.

- **DIH sustainability model and digital experimentation**

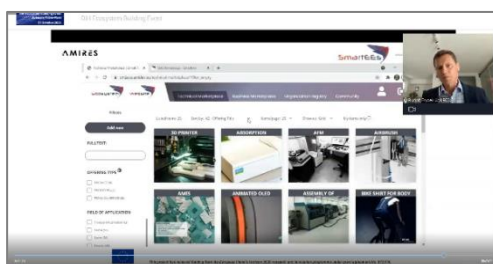


The panel session gathered Dieter Therseen (DSP Valley), Jérôme Gavillet (CEA, SmartEEs & SmartEEs2 coordinator), Yohann Bohard (BLUMORPHO), Patrick Chan (e-Whiz), Marie Sapone (Lim group).

The panel addresses two topics:

- 1) The sustainability of cross-border pan-European collaboration on technology and innovation beyond the scope of European Projects with the creation of a legal entity registered as a non profit association as was done in the scope of the SmartEEs/SmartEEs2 project in 2021. The governance board includes CEA / Chair, AMIRES / vice-chair and DSP Valley / managing director and 13 starting members.
- 2) Experimentation as a strong means to support innovative companies and bring their vision, their proposition to reality. This is illustrated through the testimonies of two SmartEEs granted companies, e-Whiz and Lim-group, tech- provider and user-respectively, and Blumorpho, the innovation partner.

- **Market place**



AMIRES, as member the consortium, developed SmartEEs/SmartEEs2 market place and Rudolf Frycek (AMIRES), shared his experience on developing a tool for Creation and Management of European Value chains, more specifically for the SmartEEs/SmartEEs2 project (<https://ecosystem.smartees2.eu/>).

- Digital transformation for traditional SMEs



The testimony of François Régis Nepote from the Techtera cluster, sectorial partner within the textile domain (<https://www.techtera.org/en/>), illustrates how DIH can reach non-digital companies and cross-pollination to enable new products, services or production line.

#### 4.5 Event follow-up and feedback from the audience

During the event, attendees were asked to respond to online survey to gather their feedbacks for four sessions: MinaSmart unique value proposition, A new European trans-regional open innovation pathway - the Generic Experiment and The Digital Challenge innovation pathway - highlighting attractive markets. The results are presented in the paragraph §2.4.

As follow up activity, attendees were asked to complete a short survey to provide their opinion and comments about the SAE Ecosystem Building Event:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdSxA3WUHv5J6mBxhCpveo1RbjnYsBcGRtv09vDc8T3RBn8QQ/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdSxA3WUHv5J6mBxhCpveo1RbjnYsBcGRtv09vDc8T3RBn8QQ/viewform?usp=sf_link).

The event recorded video and the presented slides are available on SAE portal at <https://smartanythingeverywhere.eu/media/> under „Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes\_Ecosystem Building Event“ [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hFTxr\\_MBN7s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hFTxr_MBN7s).

The feedback during and after the event was very positive. Participants and partners liked the hybrid format, the stimulating content and the welth of information received during this well organized event. The participants could interact via questionnaires during the event and give their opinions directly.

## 5 Conclusion

The three SAE Ecosystem Building Events held in the frame of Smart4Europe2 were conceptualised to raise awareness on and demonstrate existing, well functioning regional DIH ecosystems and their connections to the pan European network. The events provided opportunities to share perspectives and learn from regional models and approaches including their service offer and focus on smart specialisation. The outcomes of the events of the different regions compiled in this document offer the possibility to compare success factors and challenges and find similarities throughout the approaches. Key elements supporting a well functioning ecosystem were identified to be:

- DIHs of the regions focus on areas of their smart specialisation
- There is a strong focus, willingness, mechanisms and programs to support SMEs of the region
- Close links between DIHs, clusters, (EEN) and policy making are exist within the three regions
- Universities/RTOs are partners in various European Projects including DIH projects (SAE/I4MS/Robotics) and SMEs of the region were actively engaged in the Application Experiments of the cascade funding scheme
- The regions promote the European DIH/EDIH strategy
- A coordinated approach towards EDIH proposals has been taken (especially in the region of central Hungary)
- The regions already foster partnership with other European DIH ecosystems
- Regional programs to support SMEs' at different phases: product conception through digital technologies, access to testbeds & competences from the major research centres, demonstrator/proof-of-concept
- Access to investment and skills is facilitated

All three events have shown that gathering relevant stakeholders is an inspiring added value to build and bond the community for catalysing digital transformation across Europe. As a result, collaboration has increased and paves the way for closer interactions in the future, which will positively impact digital transformation across Europe. Moreover, the Ecosystem Building Events expand linking up with the national and regional initiatives and provide an opportunity for all SAE stakeholders to meet and collaborate. Overall, the three Ecosystem Building Events held were a very successful step to build and strengthen a community to catalyse and advance the digital transformation in Europe.

### Key conclusions

- The events have gathered 450 participants (larger than planned due to them being held online) with a good spread regarding of stakeholder groups as well as local-EU participants.
- Such events are a very good means to showcase 'frontrunner' ecosystems and share experiences on successful support mechanisms, tools and services as well as challenges.
- The events were very important to expand the SAE ecosystem and connect more intensively to the regional/local level.
- Complementarities and synergies could be detected and discussed in terms of future collaborations (between (E)DIHs).
- Some EDIH candidates have already committed to continue such events in future.