



# Digital Innovation Hubs & Smart Specialisation

EIT House (Brussels)  
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**Guidance material  
to prepare for  
Workshop**

- **REGIONAL SMART SPECIALIZATION STRATEGY**

- Under development in the framework of the pilot action: “RIS3 for lagging regions”
- Framework Document for RIS3 is already in place and potential smart specialization areas, as well as draft strategy identified
- Support actions for its implementation already started

- **DIGITAL INNOVATION HUB**

- Development of a DiH is strongly connected to the strategy, especially to the Pillar III – *Towards a digital transformation*
- Following the recent call for DiHs in 13 MS an application was developed in a consortium reuniting all relevant stakeholders, as well as:
  - Incipient DiH involved in the present action, i.e. Cluj IT Cluster
  - Planned DiH proposed under FUTURIUM project by Aries Transilvania

- **Region / Digital Innovation Hub**
  - **Link to NW development region: [www.nord-vest.ro](http://www.nord-vest.ro)**
  - **Link to Cluj IT Cluster as incipient DiH:  
<http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/digital-innovation-hubs-tool>  
[www.clujit.ro](http://www.clujit.ro)**
- **Digital Innovation Hub proposed:**
  - **Name - Transilvania iHUB 4.0**
  - **Coordinating organization (for the application)- North-West Regional Development Agency**
  - **Contact – Petra Szavics, [petra.szavics@nord-vest.ro](mailto:petra.szavics@nord-vest.ro)**

# REGION IN KEY FIGURES



**3.485** employees in R&D



**8** public universities  
**9** private universities

**2.280** researchers



**90.418** students in all levels of education



**341** patents between 2007-2015



**4** regional centres of the State Office for Inventions and Trademarks

**68** research organizations



**6** accredited technology transfer entities

- **Who is responsible for the strategy and how is it developed and implemented?**
  - North West Regional Development Agency is responsible for the elaboration and implementation of the Strategy
  - Key stakeholders have an important role
  - Support for elaboration and implementation is offered by the Joint Research Center under the “RIS3 for lagging regions project” – financed from a Preparatory Action of the EP
- **Further information about the socio-economic fabric of the region:**
  - English language on-line brochure available at:  
<http://www.nord-vest.ro/regiunea/northern-transylvania/>
- **Further information about RIS3:**
  - Bilingual (RO + EN) on-line brochure available at:  
<http://www.nord-vest.ro/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Brosura-SC3Coperta.pdf>

## How is it organised?

- Current stage – formalized concept, not yet delivering to customers

## Host organisation and partners?

- Partners: Babes-Bolyai University, Technical University of Cluj-Napoca, Universitatea Oradea, Spherik Accelerator, Chamber of Commerce and Industry Bistrița-Năsăud, Cluj IT Cluster, ARIES Transilvania, Oradea Hub Association, Cluj HUB, INIT Association (Cluj Startups), Romanian IT Global Community Association, North-West Regional Development Agency

## Services (planned to be) provided

- Awareness, Creation around Digital Technologies, Innovation Scouting, Digital Maturity Assessment, Visioning and Strategy Development for Businesses, Brokering/matchmaking, Access to Specialised Expertise and Infrastructure, Mentoring, Training, Access to Funding and Investor Readiness Services, Collaborative Research on Issues of Common Interest

- **Has it participated in S3 development? How? Is it providing feedback to the S3 in a continuous way?**
  - More than 90% of partners engaged in the consortium were actively involved in RIS3 elaboration
  - Examples: active participation at EDPs, elaboration of project ideas, promotion of projects in line with S3 objectives, participation at complementary actions, etc.
- **Is it implementing the S3 or part of it?**
  - It contributes to the implementation of S3 where:
    - ITC is both a vertical and a horizontal priority
    - Aim:
      - Digitalization of economy and society
      - Transformation of ITC sector: shift from outsourcing to innovation

- **What are the main challenges and good practices:**  
**Challenges - in the interaction DIH – RIS3?**
  - Shifting the IT sector from outsourcing towards IP based products and/or services
  - Raising awareness of industry in general about the need to digitalize
  - Servitisation of products

**the organisation of the DIH, so that it connects to regional needs and strategy?**

- Digitalisation of the regional/national economy
- Integration of digital technologies in non-IT businesses

**in providing DIH services that connect to RIS3**

- Level of business digitalization (from other sectors)
- Digitalization trends
- Breaking traditional industry borders



## How is the DIH financed?

- Currently there is no funding, except resources allocated by the Partners
- Future funding sources: Regional OP, PA1; Competitiveness OP, PA 2; Horizon 2020; VC, investments; “in kind” contributions

## How does it connect to the services provided?

- Public funding will allow for development of services (training, identification of needs, procurement of infrastructure, marketing etc.)
- Private funding will be directed towards the implementation of the business plan

## How are synergies achieved?

## Which other regions and Hubs do you collaborate with?

- Plan to cooperate both with DiHs and Digital KICs, planning to rely on:
  - Partner's networks- Copernicus Network, Digital Skills & Jobs Alliance, Balkan & Black Sea ICT Clusters Network, 4Motors 4Industry of the Future that is on the Industrial Modernization Platform, European Digital SMEs Alliance,
  - 100+ members of the Romanian IT Association living as expats in EU can help establish direct connections

## On what would you like to collaborate with other regions?

- Development of services
- Best practice transfer
- Establishing partnerships
- Development of joint projects



Thank you!

