

DIH ecosystem

- Is it a new layer?
- IT cluster or a hub?
- Are already existing structures already hubs?
- Collaboration of hubs, between regions?
- Coordination and national initiatives?

Experiences from participants

Romania:

- Central and Eastern Europe, hubs less developed: call for training and consulting offered.
- The call was not suitable for single organisation but a partnership was established (even competitors) but how do we manage the partnership?
- DIH's do not exist in Romania so no financial support is not existing.

Catalan:

- Focus on ICT, 21 hubs identified – are they all DIH's?
- Should the government make them organised differently?
- How to combine top-down and bottom-up approaches

Experiences from participants

Netherlands

- SME's have a need to adopt digital technologies and thus many stand alone initiatives pop up
- National support exists but not for all initiatives (for example, no support so much for very regional initiatives)
- Need for collaboration (works when hub target groups are different)
- S3 strategy is broad and works as a check list
- Economic board exist that have built up collaboration; they also discuss hub (funding) together with national authorities
- Example: maritime cluster is strong but still they hesitate with new technologies like 3-D printing – testing & risk sharing needed

Finland

- DIH's that integrate existing actors; serve the whole country
- Many activities exist to digitalise industries; how to combine these in a clever way

General comments

- need to provide services to SME's is the key, also those companies that are not yet in the networks
- start from the needs of the industry
- DIH concept helps in the communication between national and regional strategies; and between regional initiatives
- National authorities need to help in the strategy (collaboartion of hubs, hub structure)
- Could one organise common happenings and show-rooms for the hubs
- Choices need to be made