Case 4 - ROBOCOAST (Finland) – piloting & product development service

ROBOCOAST (Finland) is a candidate EDIH managed by regional non-profit development company Prizztech Ltd. and it aims at accelerating digital transformation especially in exporting manufacturing and exporting technology industry. The hub's core competencies are in robotics, cyber security, data analytics, artificial intelligence and IoT while its consortium is coordinated by Prizztech Oy's Robocoast coordination unit which includes a wide variety of organizations and research units and around 100 SMEs in the Satakunta Region of West Finland specialising in the fields of automation, robotics and artificial intelligence.

ROBOCOAST EDIH offers SMEs a wide variety of services ranging from innovation ecosystem- and network-related services to access to laboratory facilities, in order for SMEs to test digitalisation technologies before making investment decisions, tailor-made advise on investment opportunities and access to funding as well as dedicated training and skills development courses. In specific, with respect to test-before-invest services, the hub provides SMEs with the opportunity to get access to 11 laboratories, across its network, where R&D demonstration workshops and feasibility studies for finding the methods generating the best business value takes place in combination to piloting of new digital technology solutions and proof of concepts. Indicatively, RoboAI laboratory provides companies product development services connected to automation, robotics and artificial intelligence whereas Technobothnia provides access to its own facilities of 25 laboratories all with their own specific area of expertise such as automation and IoT, construction engineering, energy technology and smart grid, environmental, electrical, information technologies, mechanical engineering as well as virtual and augmented reality laboratories.

Example of service provided to SME

One of the hub's success stories is the services they offered to the regional hospital of Satakunta who needed a robot prototype that can repeat sign language for children with autism. ROBOCOAST DIH had to test the prototype functionality of the sign language robot during sign language lessons. The hub chose the best possible experts to make the sign language robot prototype during the Robocoast R&D Demopaja workshop. Finally, a two-day test period was conducted, where the new robot prototype taught sign language to 12 children with autism. The results of the test were encouraging and development work for the sign language robot (MOMO Robot) is undertaken by Futurice Ltd.