



European
Commission

EDIH | European
Digital Innovation
Hubs Network

EDIH Annual Summit

31 May–1 June 2023

List of Speakers



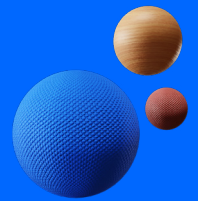
Thierry Breton has been the European Commissioner for the Internal Market since 2019. He is responsible for industry, digital, defence and space, as well as tourism, services and audiovisual. From 2009 to 2019, Mr Breton was CEO of a major European digital technology company, chairing in parallel the French National Research and Technology Association. From 2008 to 2009, he taught governance in Boston, USA, at Harvard Business School. In 2005, he was appointed Minister for Economic Affairs, Finance and Industry of France, a post which he held until 2007. Prior to this, he ran a number of large companies in the IT and telco sector. An engineer in computer science, Thierry Breton began his career as a tech entrepreneur. ([Main Agenda](#))



Dr Jaakko Aarnio has been working as a policy officer at EC DG Connect, Digital Transformation of Industrial Ecosystems Unit since 2019. Earlier, he worked as a liaison officer in programme governance related to the centrally developed dissemination and exploitation strategy and policy feedback framework for the framework programmes. From 2003 to 2018, he worked as a programme officer – EU policies in the eHealth, Well-being and Aging Unit, in the final years in charge of the introduction of the innovation procurement funding scheme, respective support actions for health service providers and SME support via business acceleration. He completed his thesis on solid state physics at Helsinki University of Technology in 1992 (currently Aalto Univ.). Prior to joining the Commission, he worked as a principal scientist at Nokia Research Center, Communication systems, Helsinki, Finland and at Alcatel SEL, Research Center, Stuttgart, Germany. ([WG 1: Digital Health Session](#))



Salome Argvliani currently holds the position of senior SME digitalisation advisor and deputy project director in the GIZ project “Digital Transformation of small and medium-sized enterprises in Eastern Partnership countries” commissioned by the German Government. With a professional experience of more than 13 years in the private sector and with an educational background in SME promotion and development, she is actively engaged in the development of private sector via supporting organisations to develop strategic goals and implement effective tools and methodologies. ([WG 3: Expanding outside the EU – status, current topics](#))



David Barrett is deputy director of Enterprise Innovation Policy in the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment in Ireland. Working with Enterprise Ireland, Ireland's indigenous enterprise agency, he is responsible for the establishment of the EDIH programme in Ireland. He is also responsible for Ireland's Smart Specialisation Strategy and the development of enterprise innovation policy in Ireland more broadly. ([Panel Discussion with Member States Authorities](#))



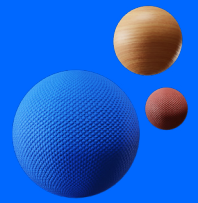
Marta Lima Basto is currently deputy director-general for Economic Activities at the Ministry of Economy, Portugal. Previously, she held positions as Head of Division for EU Single Market at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Adviser to the Minister of State and Foreign Affairs, Adviser to the Secretary of State of European Affairs, and Head of Division for External Economic Relations at the Ministry of Economy and Innovation. ([Main Agenda](#))



Ion Bodrug serves as president of the Association for the Development of Electronic Communications and Innovative Technologies (ACETI). His university studies include law, European integration, and neighbourhood policy. Currently, he is part of various private commercial projects, especially those related to the implementation of IT solutions in the internal processes of companies. Mr. Bodrug is involved in the activity of the Digital Innovation Hub of Moldova by ensuring the organisational management of this hub. ([WG 3: Expanding outside the EU – status, current topics](#))



Heidi Cigan is an economist and policy developer with almost 20 years of experience in the European Commission. Before joining the European Commission in 2004, Heidi studied for and obtained a PhD in economics from the University of Hamburg and worked as a research associate at the Hamburg Institute of International Economics (HWWA). During her time at the Commission, she has worked in different DGs including DG RTD, DG ECFIN and DG CONNECT. In DG ECFIN she held the post of inflation expert, carrying out analysis and forecasting and providing policy advice on Euro Area inflation. In DG CONNECT, she has worked as an economist and policy developer on the impact of digitisation on the economy and society and on developing policy in the areas of digital skills and digitalisation of businesses. She currently works in the unit responsible for the digital transformation of industrial ecosystems on digitalisation of businesses analysis and policy. ([WG 2: Supporting the low digitalised SMEs \(smart remoting study\)](#))



Sandro D'Elia is a programme officer in DG Connect, unit A.4. He currently works on policies for the digital transformation of European industry, with a focus on digital technologies for manufacturing. At the European Commission since 2006, he has worked in the IT sector as developer and project manager since the times of Arpanet – the first implementation of what we call today “the internet”. ([Main Agenda](#))



Gaspard Demur is deputy head of Unit A.4 “Digital Transformation of Industrial Ecosystems” at the European Commission’s Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CONNECT). He is notably involved in the deployment of the European digital innovation hubs under the digital Europe programme and in the development of the European Semiconductor Board in the framework of the European Chips Act. Previously, Mr Demur was team leader for National Renovation Strategies and Recovery at the Directorate for Energy (DG ENER). ([WG 4: Networking the networks](#))



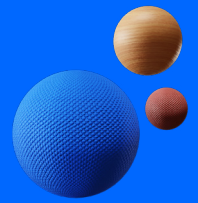
Markus Ermert works as project manager at the project management agency of the German Aerospace Center (DLR). Since 2008, he has managed funding programmes supporting mainly SMEs in the area of digitisation for the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action. Currently, he is also national representative for the EDIH in Germany and manages parts of the “Mittelstand-Digital” funding programme. ([Main Agenda](#), [Panel Discussion with Member States Authorities](#))



Rūta Gabalina is a senior researcher at PPMI, where she works on topics related to the digital economy. Her areas of interest include industry digitalisation, digital skills, and eHealth. Her previous experience includes being the digital skills stream leader for the EU4Digital Facility, which aimed to bring the digital single market to Eastern Partnership countries. ([WG 2: Supporting the low digitalised SMEs \(smart remoting study\)](#))



Irakli Gabriadze has extensive experience of working in the public as well as the private sector. Since 2020, he has served as a deputy director at Enterprise Georgia (EG). At EG, his portfolio includes different SME supporting mechanisms, including interest rate co-financing, credit guaranty scheme and micro grants programme. Irakli holds a PhD in development economics from Tbilisi State University. ([WG 3: Expanding outside the EU – status, current topics](#))



Dr Natalia Harashchenko currently serves as GR Manager of the Virtual Center for Digital Innovation NOSC-UA DIH and is a research fellow of the open innovation laboratory at Kyiv Academic University. Since 1998, Dr Harashchenko has been providing advisory, training, and consultancy services for business and public organisations. ([WG 3: Expanding outside the EU – status, current topics](#))



Gregoire de Hemptine co-founded the startup Shayp to help real estate owners reduce their buildings' water consumption and, most importantly, save water for future generations. As an entrepreneur, Gregoire has felt the urge to put his technical and business skills at the service of a sustainable transition towards a resilient world. Strongly connected with the European entrepreneurial ecosystem, he defines business success as the creation of new virtuous systems benefiting many stakeholders and fostering network effects. A lean startup coach, early-stage investor, agile expert and experienced entrepreneur, Gregoire provides mentoring on the best approach to quickly develop solutions and to optimise their return on investment. ([Main Agenda](#))



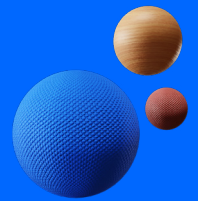
Barbora Kudzmanaite is a research manager at PPMI, a European research and policy analysis centre. Her research informs policy making on industry digitalisation, the online platform economy and digital government. She is currently implementing a study on smart industrial remoting: remote working in non-digitalised industries. Through close collaboration with SMEs, the study aims to put forward practical advice on how small and less digitally mature companies can reap the benefits of digitalisation. ([WG 2: Supporting the low digitalised SMEs \(smart remoting study\)](#))



Dr Anna Kukharuk currently serves as manager for communications at DIH 4.0 at the National Technical University of Ukraine "Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute". She holds a Ph.D. in economics and is an associate professor and vice dean for research at the Faculty of Management and Marketing. Dr Kukharuks' research fields include sustainability and resilience of SMEs; the economic dimension of innovative development; and international competitiveness in Industry 4.0. ([WG 3: Expanding outside the EU – status, current topics](#))



Ivan Kulchytskyy has 30+ years of experience managing national and regional projects in ICT, innovation, research, and technology transfer. He serves as the president of the Agency of European Innovations (AEI) as well as ICT H2020 NCP in Ukraine at Lviv Polytechnical National University. In addition, he is the founder of the Ukrainian Coalition Industry 4.0 and the contact point for Ukraine in the I4MS Network. He is a member of the working groups ERA-UA and Innovation Strategy under the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine. ([WG 3: Expanding outside the EU – status, current topics](#))



Felix Kullmann currently serves as a technical advisor on private sector development and digital transformation at the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) in charge of planning technical assistance projects in the named fields of expertise. In addition, he currently serves as technical advisor for the GIZ regional project “DT4SME”. ([WG 3: Expanding outside the EU – status, current topics](#))



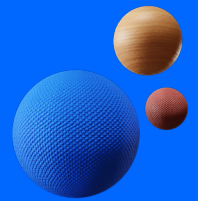
Dr Frida Lindberg is the operations manager of EDIH Health Data Sweden, working at the KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, Sweden. With a background in medical technology, Frida has spent the last 10 years working with project management in the boundaries between technology and health, research and application, focusing on creating venues and activities that stimulate innovation and growth. ([WG 1: Digital Health Session](#))



Mariella Masselink is head of unit for the “Industrial Forum, Alliances, Clusters” unit within the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, bringing together a number of networks, events and financial programmes to support companies at all stages of their growth and to help them partner most effectively within and beyond EU borders. Mariella has a vast experience in the Commission services, dealing *inter alia* with economic and financial affairs as well as the EU budget. Before joining the Commission, she worked in the Austrian Federal Chancellery on European policy coordination. ([WG 4: Networking the networks](#))



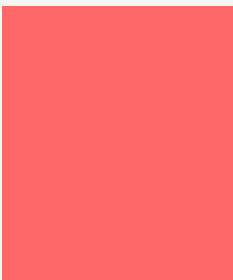
Sebastiaan Meijer is full professor of health care logistics at KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden, and head of the Department of Biomedical Engineering and Health Systems. He serves as vice-dean for the School of Engineering Sciences in Chemistry, Biotechnology and Health at KTH. He leads a multi-disciplinary group simulation, gaming, and modelling in complex systems like health care, transport, and urban development. Sebastiaan Meijer received his PhD from Wageningen University in 2009. He led series of projects running in the Netherlands, Sweden, Europe, and India, always involving the public and private sector stakeholders directly in the projects. As of 2022, he is the director of KTHs Center for Data Driven Health, and coordinator of the European Digital Innovation Hub (EDIH) Health Data Sweden. ([WG 1: Digital Health Session](#))



Daniel Nepalski works at the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission, a melting pot of policy making and academia, where he provides science-based support to policy-making process in the field of technology-based innovation and digitalisation. His main interests include the uptake of digital technologies, the working of the European innovation ecosystem and the position of Europe in the global context of technology-based value generation. Before joining the JRC, he worked at the German Institute for Economic Research in Berlin (DIW Berlin). He holds a Ph.D. in economics from the Humboldt University Berlin. ([Main Agenda](#))



Gosia Nikowska is head of unit for Digital Transformation of Industrial Ecosystems in DG CONNECT of the European Commission as of 1 September 2022. She graduated from the Warsaw School of Economics and the Polish National School of Public Administration. She started working for the European Commission in 2004 and has occupied various functions since then. ([Main Agenda](#), [WG 4: Networking the networks](#), [Panel Discussion with Member States Authorities](#))



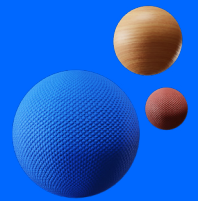
Eoghan O'Neill is a senior policy officer in the Platforms Policy and Enforcement Directorate of the European Commission. For several years, he has been active in development of EU startup policy initiatives such as the EU Startup Nations Standard, Startup Europe and Innovation Radar. ([WG 4: Networking the networks](#))



Volodymyr Nochvai currently serves as head of the Virtual Center for Digital Innovation NOSC-UA DIH. Further he is the head of the open innovation laboratory at Kyiv Academic University and a senior researcher of the Institute of Mathematical Machines and Systems Problems, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. In addition, Mr Nochvai works as an ICT-innovation expert for “EU4Digital Facility Phase 2” and participates in a variety of panels. He is a council member of the movement “Industry 4.0 in Ukraine” and co-head of the national working group on digitalisation of science: “National Open Science Cloud”. ([WG 3: Expanding outside the EU – status, current topics](#))



Antonio Novo combines his training as a technologist and psychologist to develop his professional life around collaborative innovation through clusters. Antonio works as managing director of the Cluster IDiA, which brings together 81 aragonese companies and institutions that collaborate in the development of ICT projects. He holds the presidency of the European Cluster Alliance and Clusters.es, the Spanish Federation of Clusters. He is also member of the EU Industrial Forum, the expert group on interregional innovation investments, and the one on interregional innovation investments. ([WG 4: Networking the networks](#))



Mircea Petic serves as executive director of the Association for the Development of Electronic Communications and Innovative Technologies (ACETI). His university and postgraduate studies are in the field of IT. Currently a member, he is part of various educational IT projects, academic exchange, scientific research, but also collaboration with IT companies. Mr Petic is involved in the activity of the Digital Innovation Hub of Moldova in the direction of identifying possible solutions for the digitisation of internal processes. ([WG 3: Expanding outside the EU – status, current topics](#))



Maria Pournari is the COO of the Greek EDIH Health Hub. She has extensive experience in the healthcare sector, having worked for 5+ years with the country's largest healthcare provider, interacting closely with both medical and administrative personnel, patients, and carers, working simultaneously in the development of Greek medical tourism. This multi-year experience has provided her with immeasurable expertise and in-depth knowledge of the system's needs. During the last 6 years, Maria has been acting as networking and health-specific European-funded projects manager for the Institute of Entrepreneurship Development and JOIST Innovation Park. ([WG 1: Digital Health Session](#))



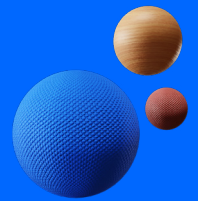
Tomasz Pytko resides in Warsaw, Poland, where he serves at the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology, coordinating the Polish European Digital Innovation Hubs Network. His professional responsibilities encompass strategic planning, project management, and the digital transformation of Poland's industry, with a particular focus on small and medium-sized enterprises (SME). Prior to his current position, he managed the pilot program for Digital Innovation Hubs from 2019 to 2021. Additionally, he was instrumental in developing the national pre-selection process for the EDIH Network. ([Panel Discussion with Member States Authorities](#))



Helena Rodrigues obtained her master's degree in business administration in 1999 from the University Institute of Lisbon (ISCTE). In 2005, she finished a post graduate degree in communication management. Helena started her professional career in the private sector in Portugal, having worked at Vodafone Portugal for nine years as a financial controller for IT projects. Already in Belgium, she worked as a consultant responsible for the financial implementation of an IT project at Euroclear. Helena joined the European Commission in April 2011 as a financial officer for research and innovation projects. Currently, she is working as a programme officer in the Digital Transformation of Industrial Ecosystems Unit in DG CNECT, dealing with European digital innovation hubs in the digital Europe programme. ([Main Agenda](#))



Ingolf Römer is managing director of InfAI Infinity GmbH and project manager at the Institute for Applied Informatics. He is an expert in digitalisation and coordinates EDIH Saxony. He collaborates with research groups at the University of Leipzig in projects on the digitalisation of agriculture and the use of artificial intelligence. He holds a Master of Science in Business Information Systems. His research focuses on the application of intelligent methods for the analysis of process-oriented data and the development of integrated service platforms. Data protection is an accompanying topic of his work. ([Main Agenda](#), [Panel: Forging European collaboration](#))



Thibaud van Rooden heads International Affairs at Pôle MecaTech, a cluster in mechanical engineering based in Wallonia, Belgium. MecaTech is one of the partners of WALHUB, an EDIH supporting manufacturing companies in their digital transformation. Within WALHUB, Thibaud leads the access to funding activities, and international collaborations. Thibaud has a track record in several European projects on the topic of smart manufacturing (Factory 4.0, industrial IoT, additive manufacturing), and developed expertise in European funding and third-party funding. Before joining MecaTech, he held different positions in economic development, innovation and cluster management, and business development. Thibaud van Rooden holds a master's degree in economics and industrial strategy from IEP Grenoble, and an Innovation Management Certificate from UCL Louvain. ([Main Agenda](#), [Panel: Forging European collaboration](#))



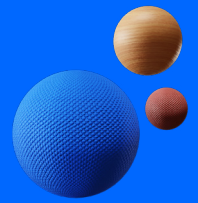
Khalil Rouhana is, since April 2022, a consultant in innovation and business development in the digital sector. He served as deputy director-general in DG CONNECT (Communications Networks, Content & Technology) of the European Commission from 1/12/2016 until end of March 2021. His responsibilities included the policies for digital economy and society and notably for programmes supporting research, innovation and industrial strategies for technologies spanning from microelectronics to AI, data, cloud and HPC. He was also responsible for the policies and programmes related to cybersecurity and for digital solutions for societal challenges including health, mobility, environment, and digital transformation of governments. He started his career as research and development engineer for the aeronautics industry, worked for the French University in Beirut and created his own engineering company. He has a master's degree in electrical and electronic engineering from Ecole Supérieure d'Electricité (Supelec, France). ([Main Agenda](#))



Dr Niclas Rüffer currently serves as project director in the GIZ project "Digital Transformation of small and medium-sized enterprises in Eastern Partnership countries", commissioned by the German Government. Dr Rüffer has a track record of international cooperation working *inter alia* in Australia, Japan, Poland, Ukraine, and China and earned his doctoral degree from Mannheim University, serving as a guest professor in Kobe, Ancona, Lyon, Poznan, Opole, and Krasnoyarsk. His thematic background lies in SME promotion, R&D and innovation promotion, regional economic development, and technology transfer. ([Main Agenda](#))



Tereza Samanova was among the founders of the CzechInno Association in 2011 and currently serves as a member of the board and executive director. From 2017, she has also been coordinator of the Central European Platform for Digital Innovations, CEEInno. In 2018, within the CEEInno Platform crystallised consortium of Cybersecurity Innovation Hub, where CzechInno Association is one of the project partners and Tereza serves as the Member of the EDIH Steering Committee responsible for external relationships. Tereza is also engaged as coordinator in the regional Hub for Digital Innovations (H4DI) DIH in Prague. She has coordinated the Czech DIH Community within the DIHNET Project and served as DIHNET Project and I4MS Initiative Ambassador. Currently, she is the Czech EDIH WG contact person for the DTA and the European Commission and a member of the EC high level working group on the collaboration of networks of EDIHs, EEN,



Startup Europe, and clusters. She was one of the members of the authors' team of the Czech national initiative Industry 4.0, of several governmental and European Commission advisory bodies for research, innovation, and digital agenda, of a research team charged with elaboration of expert studies for the Czech Government in the field of Society 4.0 and a legal expert in data protection in the digital age and regulatory aspects of digital economy. She is an active lecturer and author of expert publications in this field. She is fluent in English, French, Czech, and Slovak. ([WG 4: Networking the networks](#))



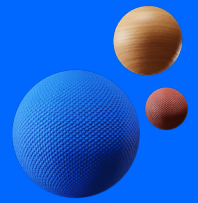
Anca Sandu is the managing partner at UNIH2B, a Bucharest-based architecture and engineering company. It specialises in managing construction projects and designing the construction, interior, and urban spaces for both public and private clients. Anca has over 10 years of experience working as a building architect. At UNITH2B, she contributes to realising architectural concepts, developing public or private projects, drafting urban planning and interior projects, and 3D and 2D modelling of architectural concepts. Anca has also been leading the implementation of building information management (BIM) technology within UNITH2B. ([WG 2: Supporting the low digitalised SMEs \(smart remoting study\)](#))



Anne-Marie Sassen is head of unit of the Programme Managers Office of the European Innovation Council and SME Executive Agency established by the European Commission. She leads the EIC programme managers in their task to identify areas where Europe has a strong position to create disruptive innovations and to support companies in those areas to bring their deep tech innovations to the market. Before that, she was acting head of unit of the Digital Transformation of Industrial Ecosystems Unit in DG CONNECT, European Commission, which was setting up a network of European digital innovation hubs to enable all companies and public sector organisations to benefit from digital technologies. Anne-Marie also worked as project manager for Atos in Spain and researcher for TNO in the Netherlands. She studied computer science at the University of Leiden, the Netherlands, and received her PhD from the Technical University in Delft in the field of artificial intelligence and human-machine interaction. ([WG 4: Networking the networks](#))



Kristina Šermukšnytė-Alešiūnienė is the director of AgriFood, Lithuania – a cluster and a digital innovation hub, which also became an EIT food hub in March 2021. The organisation brings together major research, business, and public stakeholders in Lithuania to transform agriculture, food, and associated sectors with digital-based innovations. Kristina Šermukšnytė-Alešiūnienė has vast experience in product development and innovation management, working with research and development and implementation, information technologies and services, and ICT products on a cross-sectoral basis. She has more than 12 years of experience as an international digitalisation expert in national and international working groups. In July 2022, she was appointed vice-chair of the Food and Agriculture Committee at Business at OECD (BIAC). In 2022, she won the title of European Cluster Manager of the Year. ([WG 2: Supporting the low digitalised SMEs \(smart remoting study\)](#))



Dr Pietro Siciliano is currently a director of research at the Institute for Microelectronics and Microsystems (IMM-CNR) at CNR in Lecce, where he has been working for many years, in charge of the Sensors, Micro Nano Systems and Smart Systems Integration group, in the field of sensors, MEMS, and micro systems, with applications in health, aging society, environment, etc. He is the author of about 500 scientific papers. He has been responsible for several national and international projects at IMM-CNR. He has been chairman and member of the organising committee of international conferences and schools in the sensors and micro nano systems area. He has been involved in the European Innovation Partnership on Active & Healthy Aging (EIPAHA) and in the joint programme 'Active & Assisted Living' (AAL). At the moment, he is president of INNOVAAL scarl, the Technological District on Active and Assisted Living, president of the Italian Cluster on Smart Living Technologies (SMILE) and coordinator of DANTE, the European Digital Innovation Hub for Digital Solutions for an Active, Healthy and Smart Life. ([WG 1: Digital Health Session](#))



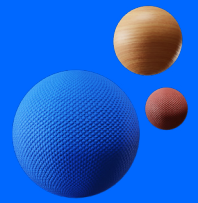
Amrita Singh is EEN senior project manager, and senior international affairs advisor, EU Services & Cooperations in the Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce. She specialises in the field of partnering services to clients and has intense experience in organising matchmaking and brokerage events and is passionate about helping companies in their partnership process and their internationalisation client journey. She is the chair of the Enterprise Europe Network Thematic Group for Digitalisation. Amrita also has a keen interest in startups and understanding their internationalisation challenges and devising a strategy to help them in exploring global markets. She also has a flair for digital transformation and has been instrumental in developing a digital strategy for the services of the International Affairs and its Enterprise Europe Network during the pandemic. ([WG 4: Networking the networks](#))



Lucilla Sioli is director of "Artificial Intelligence and Digital Industry" within DG CONNECT of the European Commission. She is responsible for the coordination of the European strategy for the digitisation of industry and for policy development in the area of artificial intelligence (AI) and semiconductors, including regulatory approaches such as the AI Act and the Chips Act. The Directorate also supports Research & Innovation & Development (R&D&I) in key digital industrial technologies including microelectronics, photonics, robotics and AI. Lucilla holds a PhD in economics from the University of Southampton (UK) and one from the Catholic University of Milan (Italy). She has been a civil servant in the European Commission since 1997. ([Main Agenda](#))



Raffaele Spallone is currently head of the unit "Digitization of companies and analysis of the productive sectors" of the Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy. Prior to his collaboration with the Cabinet of the Ministry in 2020, he worked as researcher on the economics of innovation at the National Research Council of Italy (CNR). He holds a PhD in economics. ([Panel Discussion with Member States Authorities](#))



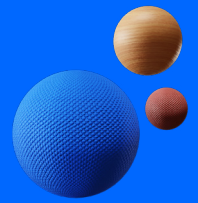
Maja Susec is a senior expert in the field of technology transfer at the University of Maribor. As an operational coordinator of the DIH UM and EDIH DIGI-SI ecosystems, she manages and directs a wide range of national and international projects related to digital transformation of SMEs and public administration. Due to her experience and professional knowledge, she provides support in international partner search, advises on EU and national funding opportunities, and assists in content preparation of international projects. In addition, she organises networking events, trainings and workshops on topics related to digitalisation. ([WG 4: Networking the networks](#), [Panel: Forging European collaboration](#))



Dr Muhamed Turkanović received his PhD in the field of computer science and informatics in 2016. He has more than 10 years of industry experience on an international level as a developer, technical development manager, technical director, and owner of IT companies, etc. In 2017, he started to work full time at the University of Maribor as an assistant professor (currently associate professor), where he teaches subjects related to data technology and data protection. In addition to this, he was also an external lecturer at the University of Zagreb. In 2017 he established the Blockchain Lab:UM within the Institute of Informatics, where he is also the head of R&D. Since 2019, he has been the head of operations at the Digital Innovation Hub at the University of Maribor and, since 2020, the head of one of two Slovene European Digital Innovation Hubs (DIGI-SI). He is also the deputy head of the Institute of Informatics, as well as the coordinator of the university study programme “Informatics and Data”. Furthermore, he is the president of the Blockchain Technical Committee at the Slovenian Institute for Standardisation, member of the Strategic Digitisation Council for the Government of Slovenia between 2021 and 2022, the University of Maribor’s coordinator for several H2020, HORIZON or DIGITAL projects like DE4A, Data4Food2030, DIH-World, Adma Trans, EuroCC2, VECTOR, etc. ([Main Agenda](#), [Panel: Forging European collaboration](#))



David Vidal is project director the Digital Transformation Accelerator (DTA). David is a senior consultant at CARSA with 20+ years of professional experience. Industrial engineer and MBA with extensive experience in innovation, digital transformation, and innovative business models across industries. He has carried out and supervised a wide variety of contract services related to research and innovation, in topics such as new advanced technologies and digitalisation, at national, regional, and European level. He also has extensive experience in the evaluation of public policies, initiatives and programmes, the identification of best practices and production of policy recommendations, having coordinated several evaluations of public policies for European institutions. He has managed and participated in several European projects on Digital Innovation Hubs (DIH-World, AI Regio, EUHubs4Data, AI DIH Network, DIHELP). ([Main Agenda](#))



Sebastian Wenz is policy advisor at the Saxon State Ministry for Regional Development. He is an expert in the fields of innovation, smart region, and digitalisation. As team member of the simul*InnovationHub he coordinates the activities of the Ministry for Regional Development within the EDIH Saxony. Here, the focus is on the creation of a web portal regarding the topic of smart regions in Saxon and on the organisation of networking events for SMEs, startups and public administration. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in international relations and a Master of Science in economics. ([Main Agenda, Panel: Forging European collaboration](#))



Anna Werner is the CEO of Medical Valley and has a strong focus on strategic and operational development of initiatives fast-tracking innovation adoption in healthcare. The Medical Valley European Metropolitan Region Nuremberg (EMN) Association is an internationally leading innovation ecosystem in healthcare management and a partner of EIT Health. Highly specialised research institutions, internationally leading and at the same time many growing companies are active in the Medical Valley. They cooperate closely with world-renowned health research institutions to jointly find solutions for the challenges of healthcare today and tomorrow. Prior to her position as CEO, Anna worked as a project manager for Medical Valley managing startup support programmes for EIT Health such as Bridgehead and Catapult. Her technical expertise relies on software development in medical imaging and robotics in the field of care and further logistics. Anna also worked for different start-ups specialised in sensor technology and software development. ([WG 1: Digital Health Session](#))



Dr Oksana Yurchyshyn is the current director of the Department of Innovation and Technology Transfer at the National Technical University of Ukraine “Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute” (KPI). Her area of expertise lies in the fields of intellectual property and patenting, commercialisation of research results, and building relationships with potential consumers of innovative developments including the Digital Innovation Hub. She is also heavily involved in the development of a KPI innovation ecosystem. ([WG 3: Expanding outside the EU – status, current topics](#))

