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Trádála agus Fostaíochta
Department of Enterprise,
Trade and Employment

European Digital Innovation Hubs in Ireland

31 May 2023

Overview – EDIH Programme Ireland



- The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE) leads on the EDIH programme for the Irish government, with Enterprise Ireland (EI) as the administering authority.
- The EDIH programme is recognised as a potentially transformative intervention for SME digitalisation and collaboration, with commitments to the programme articulated in several national strategies:
 - *Harnessing Digital – The Digital Ireland Framework*
 - *Enterprise Policy White Paper*
 - *National Development Plan*
 - *AI – Here for Good: National Artificial Intelligence Strategy for Ireland*



Process for Selecting EDIHs in Ireland



- In Ireland, an Expression of Interest for EDIH designation was launched by DETE and Enterprise Ireland in December 2020. Nine submissions were received.
- These applications were scored against five criteria:
 1. *Proposed structure,*
 2. *Relevance of their objectives for both EU and national priorities,*
 3. *Proposed plan for implementation,*
 4. *Impact (skills, experience and track record, along with how this will differ from existing offerings)*
 5. *Governance structure.*

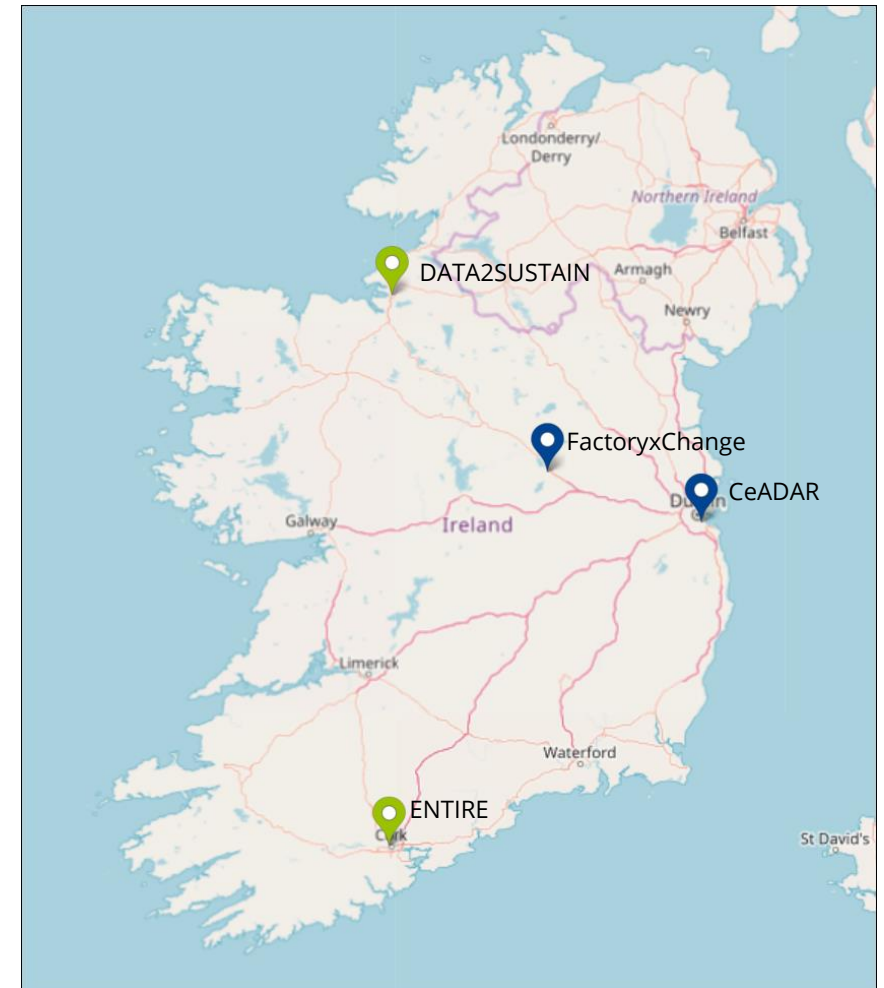
Four hubs were designated in Ireland – the maximum that Ireland could bring before the Commission and all four passed the European Commission threshold to become eligible to be part of the network.

EDIHs in Ireland



Ireland's network of EDIHs covers a variety of technology areas, with one EDIH in each NUTS2 region in Ireland plus a dedicated national EDIH for AI. Ireland's EDIHs are:

- **FactoryxChange** (FxC) led by the Irish Manufacturing Research in Mullingar to accelerate factories to become 'Factories of the Future' embracing the ecological, digital, and societal challenges
- **CeADAR** led by the Applied Data Analytics/Machine Intelligence Technology Centre in UCD, Dublin which will focus on supporting Artificial Intelligence transformation in SMEs and public-service organisations
- **ENTIRE** led by Tyndall National Institute in Cork to help SMEs and start-ups to become more competitive in their business/production processes using digital technologies such as IoT and sensors
- **DATA2SUSTAIN** led by Atlantic Technological University in Sligo, to increase the transformation capacity of SMEs in the Northern and Western Region with a focus on circular economy, operations and sustainability areas.



EDIH funding commitments



Ireland is making use of the Recovery and Resilience Facility to fund all four designated hubs.

The EDIHs will be funded by the RRF as part of our National Recovery and Resilience Plan as follows:

- **EDIHs 1 and 2** are funded on a **pro-rata basis** with 50% of the total costs paid under DIGITAL and 50% of the total costs paid under the RRF (subject to milestones and targets). This ensures there is no double funding.
- **EDIHs 3 and 4** are **100% financed** by RRF, making use of the **'Seal of Excellence'** provision in DIGITAL.

	EDIH 1	EDIH 2	EDIH 3	EDIH 4
DIGITAL	50%	50%	0%	0%
RRF	50%	50%	100%	100%

State Aid Approach in Ireland



- Our vision for the EDIHs sees them as delivering services to many individual firms.
 - *This makes any state aid basis with an administrative overhead difficult for lower cost, volume services*
 - *Issue of different state aid count - for SMEs if availing of Service from 50/50 DIGITAL/RRF EDIH vs 100% RRF Seal of Excellence EDIH*
- Furthermore, the 100% pass-through requirements for the EDIHs has been particularly challenging for third level partners.
 - *This is due to the need to make financial commitments prior to payment that is linked to meeting targets*
- Ireland is using De Minimis as a basis for delivering aid to EDIH clients