

EDIH

European Digital Innovation Hubs Network

Driving the EU's digital transformation



Belgium

6

Members

6/6 *EDIHs



22

Sectors

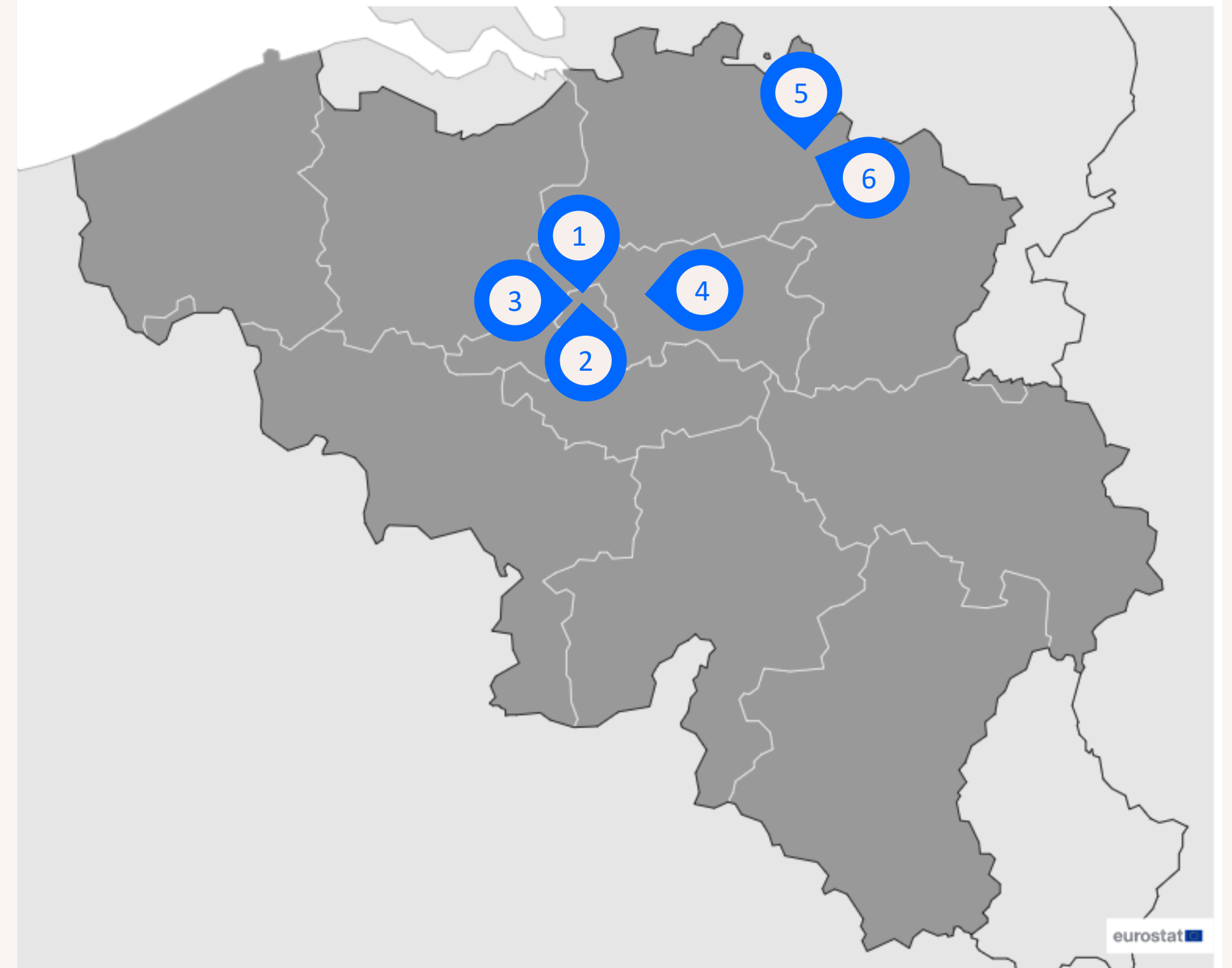
EDIHs in Belgium

Drive innovation in manufacturing, using digital technologies to enhance efficiency and technological advancements.

Collaborate with stakeholders in the energy sector to implement cutting-edge technologies, fostering innovation and sustainability.

Support growth in the construction and assembly sector, promoting advanced technologies for sustainable infrastructure projects nationwide.

📍 EDIH



■ *European Digital Innovation Hubs

*Funded under Digital Europe Programme

Network overview: 6 members – 6 EDIHs



DIGITALIS



EDIH-CONNECT



EDIH-EBE



FLANDERS AI EDIH

Flanders AI EDIH



GROW YOUR DIGITAL & SUSTAINABLE AMBITION

AGORIA sirris UNIVERSITY OF BRUSSELS UNIVERSITY OF LIÈGE UNIVERSITY OF GENT UNIVERSITY OF ANTWERP BE CENTRAL

sustAIn.brussels



WALHUB
BOOST YOUR DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

WalHub

24 Technologies

Leverage artificial intelligence and decision support, big data, and digital twins to conduct innovative data analytics and simulation techniques across various industries.

Emphasis placed on high-performance computing, IoT, and robotics, driving intelligent solutions in manufacturing, logistics, and human-computer interaction.

Prioritise cybersecurity, virtual reality, and additive manufacturing, ensuring the security of digital ecosystems while pioneering immersive experiences and innovative production processes.

Services

Excel in technological innovation, offering advanced solutions for diverse industries.

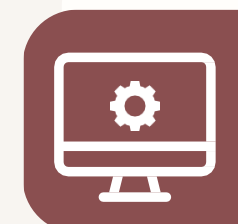
Play a key role in innovation through prototyping and technology transfer, translating research into practical applications.

Prioritise ecosystem building, SME support, and financial services, fostering innovation ecosystems, aiding small enterprises, and providing financial support for projects.

Success stories

Smart packaging: evaluating the feasibility of tomorrow's solutions

EDIH



Service type

Test before invest



Challenges

Conforma faced challenges with **manual packaging processes for small-batch, varied products, which hindered efficiency and growth**. Traditional automated packaging machines were unsuitable due to the diversity and small scale of production, prompting the need for a flexible and scalable solution to handle product variety while maintaining efficiency.



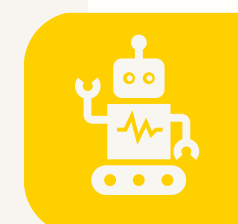
Solutions

- **Automation feasibility study:** an in-depth analysis of automating the packaging process to address the challenges of small-batch production;
- **Tailored robotic solution:** a robotic arm with advanced flexibility was proposed to manage the variety of products and packaging types;
- **Pilot Implementation:** a pilot project was initiated to test the automated system, ensuring it met the company's needs for scalability and efficiency.

CUSTOMER

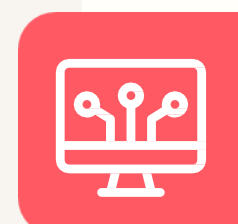
- Conforma
- [Website](#)
- Medium-sized enterprise with 50-249 employees.

 **CONFORMA**[®]



Technologies

Robotics



Sectors

Manufacturing and processing

Success stories

Smart packaging: evaluating the feasibility of tomorrow's solutions



Thanks to EDIH DIGITALIS the SME achieved:

- **improved efficiency:** the automation of packaging led to a substantial reduction in manual labour, streamlining the process and enabling Conforma to handle higher volumes with increased speed. This efficiency boost resulted in fewer errors and smoother operations;
- **scalability:** the tailored robotic system was designed to be flexible, allowing Conforma to expand its production capacity without sacrificing quality, regardless of product variations;
- **growth potential:** by integrating digital solutions, Conforma improved its ability to meet market demand, positioning itself for broader market reach and future business expansion.



Results and benefits

Increased productivity

Conforma experienced a significant increase in production speed by automating the packaging process, cutting down on manual labour and allowing for faster output.

Enhanced flexibility

The newly implemented robotic solution was adaptable to various product types and sizes, making it easier for Conforma to meet diverse client demands.

Cost efficiency

Automation reduced operational costs by minimising human error, optimising material use, and reducing the need for additional labour, ultimately improving profitability.



Lessons learnt

- ✓ **Tailored solutions are crucial:** a one-size-fits-all approach in automation does not work for specialised products.
- ✓ **Collaboration with digital experts:** partnering with EDIH Digitalis was essential in achieving technical innovation and growth.

Good practices

Experience Centre Training on optics and freeform optics



Challenges

Digital technologies rely heavily on photonic elements and systems, with lenses and mirrors being crucial components in both imaging and non-imaging applications across various industries, including sensing. To enhance system performance, it is vital to optimise the optical design for the mass production of high-quality optical-grade glasses and plastics. However, many companies involved in these technologies **lack the necessary expertise to design and produce the required optical components for digital systems.**



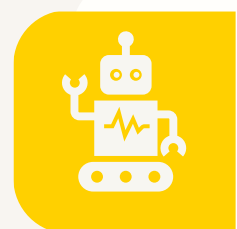
Solutions

- B-PHOT, part of Vrije Universiteit Brussel, is hosting a **three-day training programme** on optics and freeform optics at their VUB Photonics Campus in Gooik, Belgium.
- The programme encourages companies to collaborate with B-PHOT researchers to gain **technical skills in optics and freeform optics, covering design, prototyping, metrology, and manufacturing.**
- Participants will have the opportunity to **test photonics solutions, receive training, and network with other companies**, thereby acquiring valuable knowledge and hands-on experience to overcome challenges in developing optical elements for digital systems.



Services

Test before invest, training and skills development, networking and access to innovation ecosystems



Technologies

Photonics



Sectors

Manufacturing, automotive, consumer products, environment, security, smart city, space, telecommunications

Good practices

Experience Centre Training on optics and freeform optics



Results and benefits

Networking and experience

Participants gain inspiration from training examples, connect with B-PHOT's technology experts and peers, and engage in discussions about photonics and freeform optics applications, helping to identify potential digitalisation challenges.

Test-before-invest projects

A key success measure for the Experience Centre is the return of participants to DIGITALIS for tailored test-before-invest projects.

Improvement of skills applied in the daily work

The participants implement critical design elements from the course into their own system designs and manufacturing processes.

- 10% reduction of design-lead time through implementing new designs for manufacturing.
- 5% increase of productivity was reported by companies that participated in the training.



Lessons learnt

- ✓ Organising a three-day hands-on course is time-consuming, especially when developing the initial program. However, future editions can benefit from reusable materials and participant feedback for improvements.
- ✓ To attract enough attendees for the first edition of the course, a video testimonial was created to promote future sessions. Satisfied participants often help spread the word, increasing attendance for subsequent editions.



Images from the three-day experience training