EDIH Summit 2026:

Strengthening the AI innovation ecosystem

9-10 June 2026

Square Convention Centre, Brussels

EDIH European Digital Innovation Hubs Network

Workshop #12: Are We Really Ready? Mapping AI Ethics and Readiness Risks in EDIH-Led Technology Transfer

14:00 – 15:30

Workshop #12: Are We Really Ready?

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Are We Really Ready?

Mapping AI Ethics and Readiness Risks in EDIH-Led Technology Transfer

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THE EDIH MANDATE: DRIVING DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Core Pillars for SME & Public Sector Innovation Support

PILLAR 1: INNOVATION ACCELERATION

* **Technology Transfer Support**
  Facilitating the transition of research and advanced tech into commercial workflows.
* **Scouting & Matchmaking**
  Connecting local ecosystems with wider EU-wide networks and opportunities.
* **Innovation Advising**
  Guiding structural digital readiness and ecosystem maturation.

PILLAR 2: AI EXPERIENCE CENTER

* **Testing AI Solutions**
  Low-threshold experimentation and "Test Before Invest" capabilities.
* **Capacity Building & Training**
  Uplifting digital competencies and addressing AI literacy variations.
* **Trusted AI Guidance**
  Mitigating ethics and readiness risks (Shadow AI, data-use rules).

EDIH Summit 2026 • Session: Mapping AI Ethics and Readiness Risks in EDIH-Led Technology Transfer

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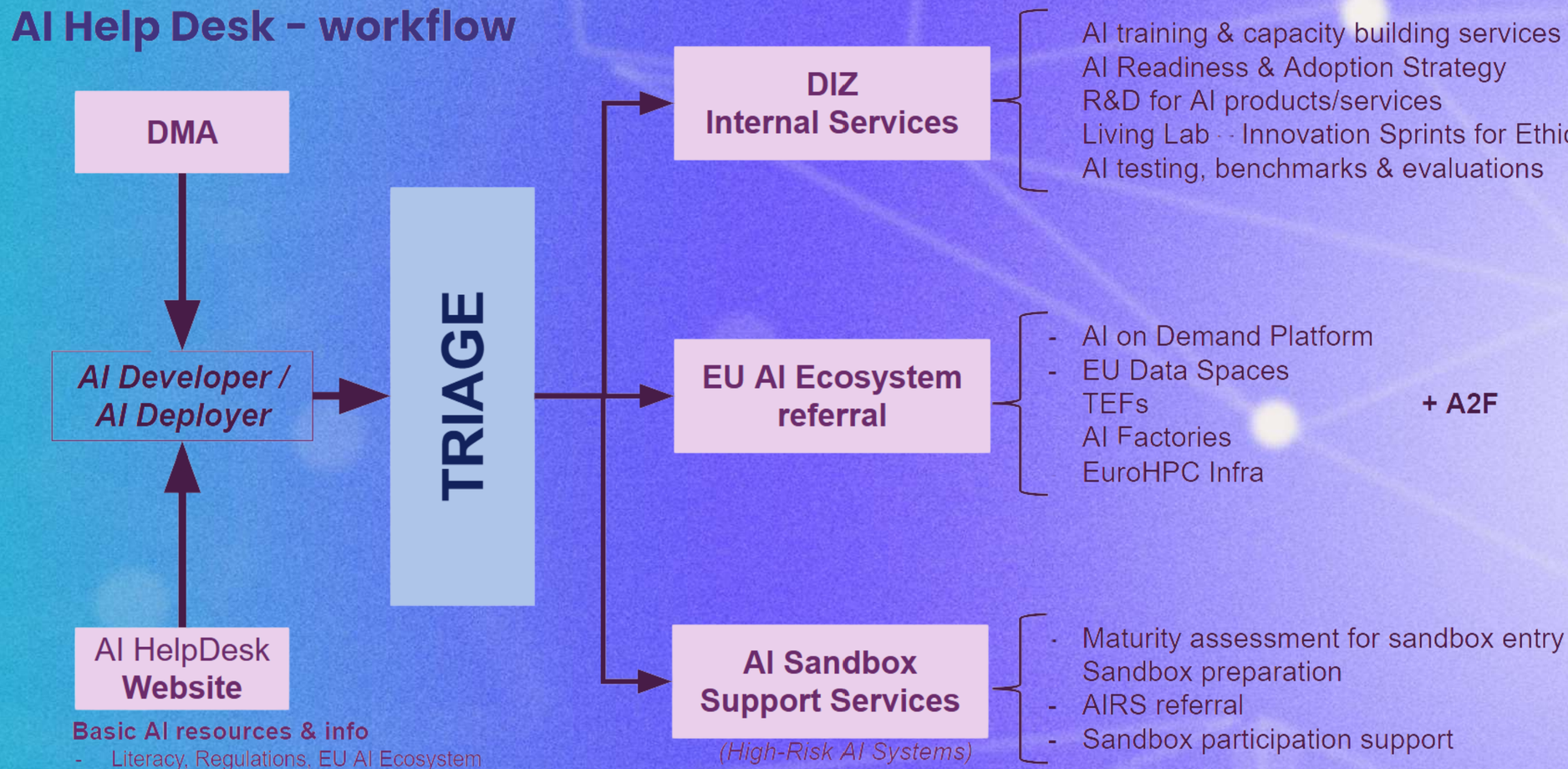
What does the AI Act mean for EDIHs?
Digital Innovation Zone model of AI HelpDesk

EDIHs act as **trusted intermediaries**, not regulators.

Key roles: mapping AI use cases, risk classification, advisory on compliance, test-before-invest with AI governance in mind.

Opportunity: build AI Act advisory into DMA, PoCs and training offers.



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Typical risk clusters from EDIH and Tech Transfer practice

1. Data protection & confidentiality	**A**I tools used with personal or confidential data (proposals, contracts, R&D).
2. Shadow AI & uncontrolled tool use	**S**taff using unapproved AI tools (often on personal accounts) for EDIH tasks.
3. Biased, opaque or unreliable decision support .	**AI** rankings or text that look objective but hide bias, errors or lack explanations.
4. Unclear accountability across the chain	**N**o shared view on who is responsible for AI-related issues before, during and after pilots or transfer.
5. Long-term lock-in & structural dependence	**W**orkflows, templates and services built around a few AI platforms, hard to change later.
6. Capability & readiness gaps for non-technical staff	**E**xpectations on staff to handle AI ethics, risk and regulation without enough support.

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Test a concise tool to map AI ethics and readiness risks in TT/innovation support, and see what patterns emerge across EDIHs.

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Let us see how ready are we.

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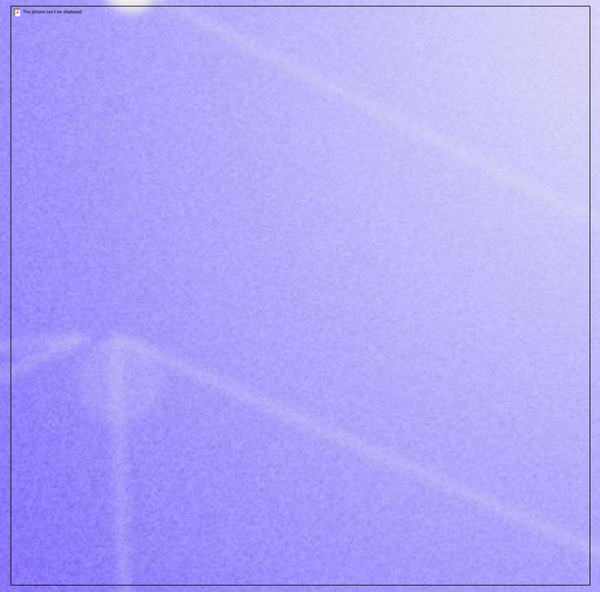

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Prompt 1: Where are We Today?

“Looking at your answers, which two risks or gaps feel most acute in your EDIH? (e.g., shadow AI, unclear data rules, over-reliance, lack of skills).”

“Which types of sensitive data and use cases do you most often see in your TT/innovation support work?”

Prompt 2: What Internal Capabilities are We Missing?

“What do you need internally to manage these risks better?

Prompt 3: What would an EDIH AI Helpdesk Do?

“If you had at EDIH level an AI helpdesk or other AI support function, what 3 concrete AI related services should it offer?”

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Debrief time

Top gaps

Internal capabilities we need

AI helpdesk services

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Debrief time: Let us make a common plan

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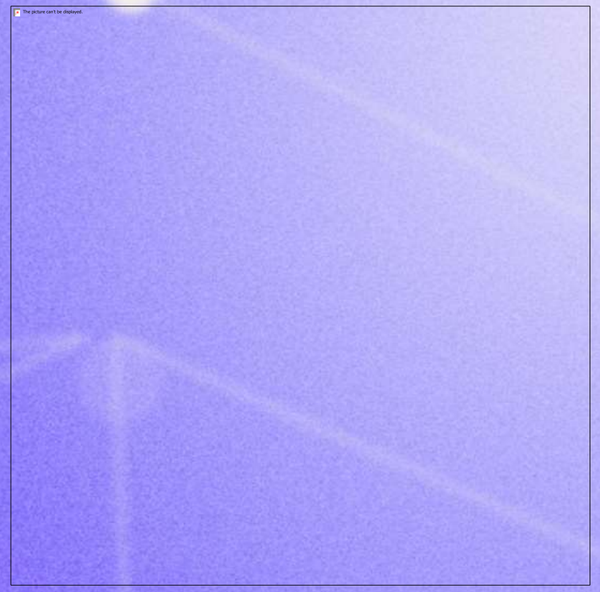

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EDIH Internal AI Ethics & Readiness Snapshot tool

Short questionnaire: 10 quick checks. *Tick or circle the option that best reflects your own experience in this EDIH.*

Q1.How often do you personally use AI tools (incl. LLMs) for work tasks?

- Never
- <1×/month
- Few×/month
- Few×/week
- Daily

Q2. In the last 12 months, in which AI-related activities were you involved? (tick all)

- Advising SME PSOs on AI
- Supporting AI pilots / Living Labs
- Scouting / evaluating AI projects
- Drafting/reviewing AI-related docs/contracts
- Internal tasks using AI (reports, training prep, comms)
- None

Q3. How often do you handle sensitive data in AI-related activities? (personal data, minors, health, special categories, trade secrets)

- Never
- Rarely
- Sometimes
- Often
- Very often
- Not sure

Q4. How clear are internal rules on what data may be entered into AI tools?

- Not clear
- rathe clear
- Rather unclear
- Very clear
- Neutral
- No rules known

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EDIH Internal AI Ethics & Readiness Snapshot tool

Short questionnaire: 7 quick checks. *Tick or circle the option that best reflects your own experience in this EDIH.*

Q5. How often do you think “shadow AI” is used (unapproved AI tools for work)?

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Often
- ☐ I do not know

Q6. How prepared do you feel to raise AI-related concerns (ethical, legal, technical)?

- ☐ Not prepared
- ☐ Slightly
- ☐ Very well
- ☐ Moderately
- ☐ Well

Q7. Our organisation has a clear vision and strategy for how AI is used and governed.

- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Strongly agree

Q8. Which support will help you most?

- ☐ Practical guidelines / checklists
- ☐ Case studies/examples
- ☐ Training on AI basics
- ☐ Training on AI ethics & regulation
- ☐ Internal AI Helpdesk / expert contact
- ☐ Tools/assistants for AI risk & documentation

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What today’s answers tell us about our AI readiness

- AI is already part of everyday work.
- Sensitive data shows up more often than we think.
- Rules on using AI with data are blurry.
- Shadow AI is real and largely invisible.
- People are willing to use AI, but not always prepared to challenge it.
- Our AI strategy and support structures are still emerging.

”What is the one signal here that worries you most for your EDIH, and what is one thing we could do about it in the next 6–12 months?”

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Local action points & 12-Month Roadmap

Goal: Move from “we know there are AI risks” to 3–5 concrete improvements in AI ethics & readiness inside our EDIH in the next year.

Step 1 - First 3 months

Make AI use and rules visible

- Publish a 1-page “Using AI Tools Safely” note
- Nominate an AI Focal Point
- Run the mini-survey internally (once)

Step 2 - Next quarter

Build basic capabilities

- Organise one short internal training (90 min)
- Integrate 3 simple AI-risk questions in project intake forms

Step 3 - Rest of the year

Pilot an “AI Helpdesk” function

- Define a light AI Helpdesk service (pilot)
- Create a simple log for AI-related questions & cases
- Repeat the mini-survey (once after 9–12 months)

Which one action from Step 1 will we commit to start in the next month, and who will own it?”

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Keep in contact with us and share your experiences.

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Feedback survey on the EDIH 2026 Summit

Fill it out here:

Thank you for participating in the 2026 EDIH Summit!

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