



D 3.4. Common Approach for Maturity Assessment

Grant Agreement Number	825640
Project Acronym	DIHNET.EU
Deliverable Date	June 2019
Authors	Begoña Sanchez (TECNALIA)
Number of Pages	11
Number of Annexes	0
Version	V 1.0
Reviewed by	The consortium
Approved by	The consortium
Dissemination level	Public

The overall aim of DIHNET.EU is to create a sustainable European network of Digital Innovation Hubs (DIHs), by developing a set of tools and boosting the collaboration of the different DIH networks, DIHs and other key DIH stakeholders in Europe. The project will act as a coordinator to enhance the collaboration, aligning and synchronizing their activities. This is considered crucial for a better support of SMEs and MidCap companies in offering and using digitisation services.

The project is carried out by TNO, TECNALIA, Fundingbox, euRobotics, BluMorpho and FEDIL, have strong experience in DIHs and well connected to the EU DIH community.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under grant agreement No 825640.
www.dihnet.eu



Executive Summary

DIHNET.EU aims to create a sustainable European network of Digital Innovation Hubs (DIHs), by developing a set of tools and boosting the collaboration of the different DIH networks, DIHs and other key DIH stakeholders in Europe.

Deliverable 3.4: Common Approach for Maturity Assessment is framed under WP3. Upgrade of the Catalogue and in Task 3.3. **Common approach for Maturity Assessment**. This task is fully connected to task 2.4 (WP2) where the **Digital Maturity Scan Tool/Questionnaire** has been defined under Deliverable 2.3. Both Deliverables are fully linked and have been developed in parallel. Deliverable 3.4 provides a **common approach** to quality check the maturity at DIH level. On this basis, **Good Practices** will be identified serving as showcases for other DIHs.

Chapter1 introduces and frames the deliverable. **Chapter2** presents the common approach for the Maturity assessment and the **Chapter 3** explains the Champions Challenge 2019, that will give visibility to both Deliverables 3.4 and 2.3.

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1 Introduction

1.1 About DIHNET.EU

The **overall aim of DIHNET.EU** is to create a sustainable European network of Digital Innovation Hubs (DIHs), by developing a set of tools and by boosting the collaboration of the different DIH networks, DIHs and other key DIH stakeholders in Europe. The project will act as a coordinator to enhance the collaboration, aligning and synchronizing their activities. This is considered crucial for a better support of SMEs and MidCap companies in offering and using digitisation services.

This **Deliverable 3.4** will provide a **Common Approach for Maturity Assessment** in connection with Deliverable D2.3 from WP2 where the **Digital Maturity Scan Tool** has been defined. Both Deliverables will allow:

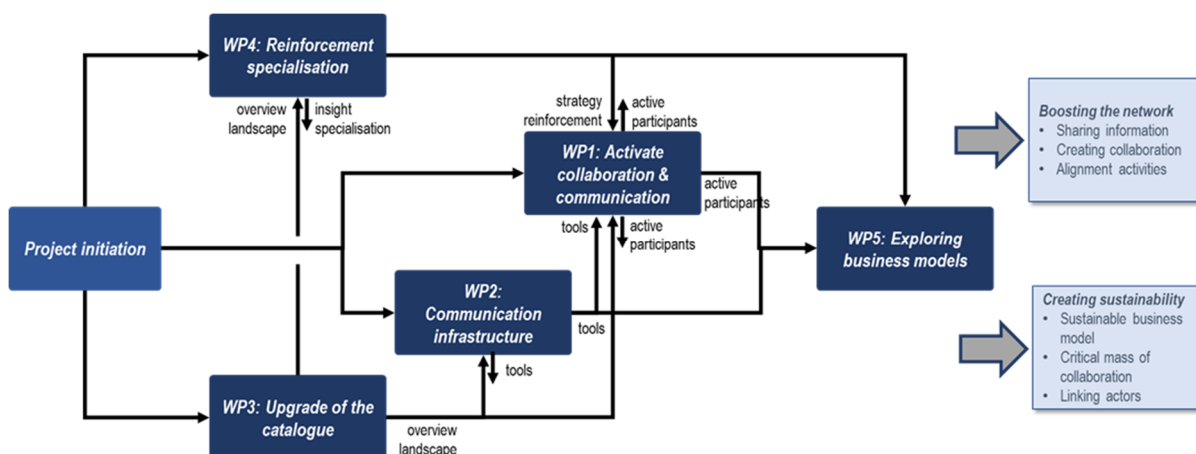
- individual DIHs to better understand their Maturity;
- DIHNET.EU project the identification and selection of Good Practices of Mature DIHs that will serve as an inspiration for other DIHs from the DIHNET.EU Community.

The project is coordinated by TNO and implemented together with Tecnalia, Fundingbox, euRobotics, BluMorpho and FEDIL, partners with strong experience on the field.

1.2 Context of Deliverable 3.4

Deliverable 3.4: Common Approach for Maturity Assessment is framed under **WP3**. Upgrade of the Catalogue. WP3 aims at upgrading the DIH Catalogue by identifying, supporting and reinforcing the collaboration activities and capacities of the DIHs. The common approach for DIH Maturity Assessment will lead to improved learning and exchange of experiences. This will be a good basis for the Upgrade of the Catalogue. Deliverable 3.4 results from **Task 3.3**. Common approach for Maturity Assessment, that aims at suggesting the common approach. It has been developed jointly with task 2.4 and Deliverable D2.3 (WP2). Both Deliverables have been framed by DIHNET.EU project under the **Champions Challenge**, which first edition is in 2019. The Champions Challenge gives visibility to both Deliverables 3.4 and 2.3.

The following chart shows how this deliverable is framed within the DIHNET.EU project:



1.3 Objectives of Deliverable 3.4

Main aim objective of Deliverable 3.4 is to suggest a **Common Approach to Maturity assessment**. This approach is linked to the developments under Deliverable 2.3 DIH Maturity Tool, materialised in a Questionnaire. These Developments have been integrated and presented under the **Champions Challenge**, that consists on the selection of Mature DIHs and on the award of a Prize to the winners. These DIHs will receive a Prize on the stakeholder Forum 2019 in Madrid. The Champions Challenge will give visibility to both Deliverables 3.4 and 2.3.

1.4 Measurable Impact of Deliverable 3.4

Although this Deliverable will impact almost all the activities of the project, it will have special impact on the Objective 3 set in the DIHNET.EU project: *To develop a clear **overview of the DIH related services provided in Europe** to better align the offering of services and improve access to the services offered, by providing a common framework for the **upgrade and update of the information provided by the Catalogue of DIHs**. The **DIH Catalogue** will be further improved in cooperation with the JRC and other networks. The project will facilitate the development of a structured approach, creating added value for all participants, but aligning their actions through a systematic multi-user data model (e.g. policymakers, SMEs/MidCaps, regional development agencies, individual DIHs, H2020 Innovation Actions, H2020 CSAs).*

There is no specific KPI to measure the impact of this Deliverable and Task, but it is related to KPI 2.6 under WP2:

KPI nº	KPI name	KPI target	Success
KPI 2.6	# of digital maturity scan tools	1 tool	Reached in April M6

2 Common Approach for the Maturity assessment

2.1 Objectives

The main objective is to define a **Common Approach** that will permit to select Mature DIHs, that could be showcased as Good practices inspiring other DIHs and promoting a learning process.

The DIHs Champions Challenge is a process developed by DIHNET.EU project for its Community of DIHs with the objective to:

- identify good practices of advanced/mature DIHs that others could learn from;
- identify the DIH champions under two categories that focus on collaboration;
- foster future matchmaking opportunities (DIHs finding those with the expertise they need/miss) and
- help fine-tune information in the DIH catalogue on a regular basis.

The contents of both Deliverables; the Maturity Tool and the Common Approach have been discussed and agreed with the European Commission.

2.2 Common approach for Maturity Assessment

To support the process of selection of Good and mature DIH Practices/DIH Champions and the Prize described, DIHs will be assessed against a Common approach structured in the following 10 blocks:

1. Basic Data
2. DIH Outcomes
3. Strategic positioning in regional/national innovation eco-system
4. Services offered by the DIH to support SMEs
5. Collaboration Strategy
6. Skills development strategy for SMEs
7. Sustainability mechanisms
8. Technological Focus
9. Sectoral Focus
10. Processing of personal data

Each of these Block consists on a set of quantitative and qualitative questions, that have been detailed in the Deliverable 2.3.

Every year the DIHNET.EU project will organise and launch a Call at the [DIHNET Community](#) to select the **Best DIH Practices/ DIH Champions** that will be closely followed by a Prize. The main purpose of

this initiative is to identify, show and support success stories on **Mature DIHs** that can inspire and guide other DIHs in their developments.

The announcement and submission of the DIH Champion Challenge, as well as other related news will be on the **DIHNET.EU Community**. The winner will be presented in one of the European Commission events related to Digital Transformation, like the Stakeholders Forum or DIH Annual Event.

2.3 Categories for the Maturity Assessment

Two main Categories are suggested for the assessment of the DIH Maturity and the selection of the **DIH Champions**, provided that these categories are key to measure the performance of DIHs, as well as to guide and inspire others. The **Categories to assess the DIH Maturity are related to:**

- **Services offered** by the DIH to support the digitalisation of SMEs related to ecosystem building, financing, testing, digital Skills development.
- **Collaboration Strategy** leading to a number of cross-border technology transfer opportunities or joint investments due to structured and sustainable collaboration, including **mechanisms** such as (business models, impact KPIs, Funding mechanisms) and **alignment with S3 priorities**.

Those DIHs that perform well under these categories will be considered as Best Practices in the context of DIHNET.EU. One Champion will be selected maximum two per year (one per Category). It is important to take into consideration that cooperation is the essence for the maturity of DIHs as DIHNET.EU aims to create a sustainable European network of Digital Innovation Hubs, by boosting the collaboration. In itself, cooperation will need to be visible in all the Categories suggested. On top of this, these Categories are aligned with the established Working Groups launched in the framework of the project, where we expect to foster DIH cooperation as well as to create dynamic discussions on key topics and concerns for DIHs. The Working Groups are focusing on:

- Finance and funding opportunities.
- Collaboration activities and mechanisms.
- Connection with regional and national policies and strategies.
- Business Models and Sustainability:

DIH Maturity will be assessed against a **DIH maturity questionnaire** linked to Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that will allow to select the mature **DIH** and the **Champions**. The procedure will be documented and explained in our DIHNET.EU Community.

3 The Champions Challenge 2019

DIHNET.EU Consortium will organise the DIHs Champions Challenge 2019. Information on DIHNET.EU consortium partners is available on DIHNET.EU website <https://dihnet.eu/>.

The **2019 edition** is the first edition of this Prize. It was announced on 1st July on the occasion of the **7th DIH Working Group Towards a sustainable pan-European DIH-network in Brussels** (<https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/seventh-meeting-working-group-digital-innovation-hubs>). The Prize will be awarded at the Stakeholder Forum **13-15 November 2019 in Madrid**.

3.1 How to participate in the Champions Challenge?

DIHs willing to participate in this Challenge will need to answer the Questionnaire (presented under Deliverable 2.3) at the DIHNET.EU Community.

In case of Questions, DIHs could also ask under the Q&A section. A Webinar is also expected to be organised to support DIHs.

3.2 Eligibility Criteria

A specific **Guideline** has been developed and uploaded at the DIHNET.EU Community together with the Call detailing the eligibility criteria, the deadlines, the evaluation process, etc.

Among others, the following criteria will be considered for the Eligibility:

- DIHs **part of the Catalogue that are Fully Operational**.
- DIHs from the **H2020 associated countries**.
- Applications should address **technologies related to digitalisation** in line with the Digitising European Industrial (DEI) strategy, launched by the European Commission (EC) in April 2016 as part of the Digital Single Market (DSM) Strategy and the Coordinated Plan on Artificial Intelligence. DEI aims to reinforce the EU's competitiveness in digital technologies and to ensure that every business in Europe - whichever the sector, wherever the location, whatever the size - can draw the full benefits from digital innovation. Under the DEI initiative, DIHs are seen as “the tool”, a one-stop-shop, to support industry in their digital transformation with knowledge, services and access to technology, testing facilities and different technological and business solutions.
- **English is the official language for submitting the Questionnaire**. This applies to all parts of the questionnaire to be eligible. If part of it will not be submitted in English, the application will not be considered eligible.
- **Only one candidature per DIH** will be accepted, the first one received.

3.3 Procedure

On 10th July 2019, the Call will be opened at the DIHNET.EU Community. All DIHs will have the opportunity to present their candidatures from 10th July up to 15th September 2019.

Approximate evaluation dates are shown in the table below:

Launch of the Call	Launch of the Call and Open of the submission process	10/07/2019
Evaluation	End of submission process	15/09/2019
	Eligibility Check	16-20/09/2019
	Evaluation DIHNET.EU Consortium	20/09/2019 – 11/10/2019
	Consensus meeting	Immediately after the evaluation Out of this meeting we expect to have a maximum of 10 DIH finalists
	Final selection with the Advisory Board Group	End of October
	Winners communication	Early November 2019
Services offered to the winner	Official Award Ceremony at the Stakeholders Forum in Madrid	November 2019
	Visibility and communication package	After official announcement TBD
	Access to DIHNET materials	After official announcement TBD

*Based on estimations according to the expected number of proposals received.

The selection process will be as follows:

- **Questionnaire reception:** On receipt of each questionnaire, the system will send an Acknowledgment of receipt to the proposer. Late submissions will not be accepted.
- **Phase 1. General Eligibility Check:**
 - Must comply with all the ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA listed in Section 4 of the Guidelines.
 - Must be submitted through the DIHNET.EU DIH Champion Challenges link: <https://dihs-champions-challenge.fundingbox.com/>.
 - Must be submitted before the deadline 15th September 2019 at 17:00 (CEST (Spain)).
- **Phase 2. Evaluation:**

The evaluation group will focus on the following requirements when making their evaluation of each proposal entry. Three evaluation steps are foreseen for only those candidates that have accomplished with the eligibility criteria:

- **First pre-scoring:** The consortium will check the responses against predefined KPIs selecting the 1' applications with higher rate on the performance indicators.
 - **Second step:** The proposals with higher rate resulting from the pre-scoring, will be assessed by the consortium members. Those DIHs showing higher scores and most innovative results will be prioritised. A maximum of 10 DIHs candidatures will be selected from this second step evaluation.
 - **Third step:** An Evaluation Committee will oversee the final selection, including selected members from the Advisory Board. They will receive the list containing a maximum of 10 DIH candidatures, out of which, they will select a maximum of two winners for the DIH Champions Challenge 2019.
- **Phase 3. Publication of results:**
 - **Results** will be published in early November 2019. Prize will be given during the stakeholders Forum in Madrid.

3.4 Benefits from Champions

A maximum of **two winners** are expected to be selected for the Champions Challenge 2019, one per category. If there is no winner corresponding to one of the categories, the evaluators will consider giving only one Prize or two to the same category.

The **Champions DIHs** will benefit among others from:

- Widespread visibility on the DIHNET.EU website and community platform.
- Visibility, attendance and awarding at World Class Events.
- Networking opportunities and the ability to connect with and contact potential partners, stakeholders, investors, member states, regions, etc.
- Specific guidance and follow up on the topics treated within DIHNET.EU project (business models, pan European collaboration, etc.).
- Benefit from exhibition areas, such as in the next Stakeholder Forum in November 2019, in Madrid.
- Other (tbc in the following weeks)

Annex 1: Guidelines for Applications for Champions Challenge 2019



DIH Champions Challenge guidelines for Applicants

Date 10/07/2019

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under grant agreement No 825640.

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1. About DIHNET.EU

The overall aim of DIHNET.EU is to create a sustainable European network of Digital Innovation Hubs (DIHs), by developing a set of tools and boosting the collaboration of the different DIH networks, DIHs and other key DIH stakeholders in Europe. The project will act as a coordinator to enhance the collaboration, aligning and synchronising their activities. This is considered crucial for a better support of SMEs and MidCap companies in offering and using digitisation services.

Among other activities, DIHNET.EU foresees the definition and launch of a **Prize for Mature DIHs**. The Maturity of DIHs will be assessed against a questionnaire that will be published at the DIHNET.EU Community. Only Fully Operational DIHs from the Catalogue are eligible candidates for the Prize. It is expected that Mature DIHs could inspire other DIHs.

DIHNET.EU is a project coordinated by TNO and implemented together with Tecnalia, Fundingbox, euRobotics, BluMorpho and FEDIL, partners with strong experience on the field.

2. DIH Champions Challenge

The DIHs Champions Challenge is a process developed by DIHNET.EU project for its Community of DIHs with the objective to:

- identify good practices of advanced/mature DIHs that others could learn from;
- identify the DIH champions under two categories that focus on collaboration;
- foster future matchmaking opportunities (DIHs finding those with the expertise they need/miss) and
- help fine-tune information in the DIH catalogue on a regular basis.

Two main Categories are suggested for the assessment of the DIH Maturity and the selection of the **DIH Champions**, provided that these categories are key to measure the performance of DIHs, as well as to guide and inspire others. The **Categories to assess the DIH Maturity for the 2019 Challenge** are:

- **Services offered** by the DIH to support the digitalisation of SMEs related to ecosystem building, financing, testing, digital Skills development.
- **Collaboration Strategy** leading to a number of cross-border technology transfer opportunities or joint investments due to structured and sustainable collaboration, including **mechanisms** such as (business models, impact KPIs, Funding mechanisms) and **alignment with S3 priorities**.

Those DIHs that perform well under these categories will be considered as Best Practices in the context of DIHNET.EU. One Champion will be selected maximum two per year (ideally, one per Category). It is important to take into consideration that cooperation is the essence for the maturity of DIHs, as DIHNET.EU aims to create a sustainable European network of Digital Innovation Hubs, by boosting the collaboration. Cooperation will need to be visible in all the Categories suggested.

DIH Maturity will be assessed against a **DIH maturity questionnaire** linked to Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that will allow to select the shortlisted DIHs. The procedure will be documented and explained in our DIHNET.EU Community. The 2019 edition of the **DIH award/Prize** will be delivered during **Stakeholder Forum on 13-15 November 2019 in Madrid**.

To support the process of selection of Best DIH Practices/DIH Champions and the Prize described, DIHs will be assessed against a common approach consisting on several questions under the following 10 blocks:

1. Basic Data
2. DIH Outcomes
3. Strategic positioning in regional/national innovation eco-system
4. Services offered by the DIH to support SMEs

5. Collaboration Strategy
6. Skills development strategy for SMEs
7. Sustainability mechanisms
8. Technological Focus
9. Sectoral Focus
10. Processing of personal data

Every year the DIHNET.EU project will organise and launch a Call at the [DIHNET Community](#) to select the **DIH Champions** that will be closely followed by a Prize. The main purpose of this initiative is to identify, show and support success stories on **Mature DIHs** that can inspire and guide other DIHs in their developments.

The announcement and submission of the DIH Champion Challenge, as well as other related news will be on the DIHNET.EU Community. The winner of the Challenge will be presented in one of the European Commission events related to Digital Transformation, like the Stakeholders Forum or DIH Annual Event.

The **2019 edition** is the first edition of this Prize. It was announced on 1st July on the occasion of the **7th DIH Working Group Towards a sustainable pan-European DIH-network in Brussels** (<https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/seventh-meeting-working-group-digital-innovation-hubs>). The Prize will be awarded at the Stakeholder Forum **13-15 November 2019 in Madrid**.

3. DIHNET.EU Champions Challenge 2019

DIHNET.EU Consortium (hereinafter DIHNET), will organise the DIHs Champions Challenge 2019. Information on DIHNET consortium partners is available on DIHNET.EU website/Community <https://dihnet.eu/>.

The DIHNET.EU project will launch the Champions Challenge Call and select the best DIH cases or Mature DIHs. This Open Call is available to DIHs which are part of the Catalogue (<http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/digital-innovation-hubs-tool>).

The **Champions DIHs** will benefit among others from:

- Widespread visibility on the DIHNET.EU website and community platform.
- Visibility, attendance and awarding at World Class Events.
- Networking opportunities and the ability to connect with and contact potential partners, stakeholders, investors, member states, regions, etc.
- Specific guidance and follow up on the topics treated within DIHNET.EU project (business models, pan European collaboration, etc.).
- Benefit from exhibition areas, such as in the next Stakeholder Forum in November 2019, in Madrid.
- Other (tbc in the following weeks)

Any matters not covered by this Guide for Applicants of the DIH Champions challenge will be governed by Polish law, in particular, the provisions of the Polish Civil Code and the law of the European Union.

4. Eligibility criteria

All applicants will have to abide to all the general requirements described to be considered eligible for the Champions Challenge Awards.

Questionnaires must be only submitted through the DIHNET.EU Community. Questionnaires sent by any other means will not be considered.

4.1. Type of beneficiaries

- DIHs part of the **Catalogue** that are **Fully Operational**.
- **DIHs from the H2020 associated countries**.

4.2. Type of activities

- The purpose of the DIHNET Champions Challenge is to give visibility to those **Fully Operational DIHs**, which will be considered as Mature and thereby serve as an inspiration for other DIHs.
- The **Categories to assess the DIH Maturity are related to:**
 - **Services offered** by the DIH to support the digitalisation of SMEs related to ecosystem building, financing, testing, digital Skills development.
 - **Collaboration Strategy** leading to a number of cross-border technology transfer opportunities or joint investments due to structured and sustainable collaboration, including **mechanisms** such as (business models, impact KPIs, Funding mechanisms) and **alignment with S3 priorities**.
- Applications should address **technologies related to digitalisation** in line with the Digitising European Industrial (DEI) strategy, launched by the European Commission (EC) in April 2016 as part of the Digital Single Market (DSM) Strategy and the Coordinated Plan on Artificial Intelligence. DEI aims to reinforce the EU's competitiveness in digital technologies and to ensure that every business in Europe - whichever the sector, wherever the location, whatever the size - can draw the full benefits from digital innovation. Under the DEI initiative, DIHs are seen as “the tool”, a one-stop-shop, to support industry in their digital transformation with knowledge, services and access to technology, testing facilities and different technological and business solutions.

4.3. English language

English is the official language for submitting the Questionnaire. This applies to all parts of the questionnaire to be eligible. If part of it will not be submitted in English, the application will not be considered eligible.

4.4. Multiple submissions are forbidden

- Only one proposal per DIH can be submitted in this Call.

- If more than one proposal per DIH is identified by the **DIHNET.EU** team, only the first proposal received will be evaluated.

4.5. Absence of conflict of interest

Applicants shall not have any potential conflict of interest with the selection process. All cases of potential conflict of interest will be assessed case by case.

Data provided should be actual, true and complete and should allow assessment of the proposal.

5. Other

- DIHNET.EU will make it best effort to keep all provided data confidential, however, for the avoidance of doubt, the DIH applicant is solely responsible to indicate its confidential information as such.
- DIH applicants are solely responsible for verification of the completeness of the form. Data not included in the questionnaire will not be considered during assessment regardless of the reason for not being included.

6. Support to DIH applicants

For more information about the **DIHNET.EU Champions Challenge** Call, please check:

- A webinar explaining the application process will be held.
- Space for questions and answers: [Q & A section](#)

7. Deadline for submission of application

The deadline for submission of applications is **15th September 2019 at 17:00 (CEST (Spain))**. Applicants are encouraged to submit their applications a few days before the deadline to avoid possible problems during the submission process. Proposals submitted after the deadline, including force majeure circumstances, will result in rejection of the proposal.

8. Evaluation process and winner selection

A maximum of **two winners** are expected to be selected for the Champions Challenge 2019, one per category. If there is no winner corresponding to one of the categories, the evaluators will consider giving only one Prize or two to the same category.

Only the questionnaires submitted on the DIHNET.EU Community will be considered by the Evaluators.

The selection process will be as follows:

- **Questionnaire reception:** On receipt of each questionnaire, the system will send an Acknowledgment of receipt to the proposer. Late submissions will not be accepted.
- **Phase 1. General Eligibility Check:**
 - Must comply with all the ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA listed in Section 4.
 - Must be submitted through the DIHNET.EU DIH Champion Challenges link: <https://dihs-champions-challenge.fundingbox.com/>.
 - Must be submitted before the deadline 15th September 2019 at 17:00 (CEST (Spain)).

- **Phase 2. Evaluation:**

The evaluation group will focus on the following requirements when making their evaluation of each proposal entry. Three evaluation steps are foreseen for only those candidates that have accomplished with the eligibility criteria:

- **First pre-scoring:** The consortium will check the responses against predefined KPIs selecting the 1' applications with higher rate on the performance indicators.
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 - **Third step:** An Evaluation Committee will oversee the final selection, including selected members from the Advisory Board. They will receive the list containing a maximum of 10 DIH candidatures, out of which, they will select a maximum of two winners for the DIH Champions Challenge 2019.
- **Phase 3. Publication of results:**
 - **Results** will be published in early November 2019. Prize will be given during the stakeholders Forum in Madrid.

Approximate evaluation dates are shown in the table below:

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	Final selection with the Advisory Board Group	End of October
	Winners communication	Early November 2019
Services offered to the winner	Official Award Ceremony at the Stakeholders Forum in Madrid	November 2019
	Visibility and communication package	After official announcement TBD
	Access to DIHNET materials	After official announcement TBD

*Based on estimations according to the expected number of proposals received.

9. Announcement of the Champions Challenge Prize winner

The Champions Challenge winner will be announced after the evaluation process via website, social media and the DIHNET.EU Community. The official announcement of the Challenge will be given during the Stakeholders Forum in Madrid in November 2019 where the winning DIHs will be invited to present themselves if not physically, by any other potential means.

Participants will be informed of the results on the day of the publication of the results.

10. Obligations of the beneficiaries

- The applicants will need to base their answers on original works and going forward any foreseen developments are free from third party rights, or they are clearly stated.
- The DIHNET.EU consortium is not obliged to verify the authenticity of the ownership of the answers.
- There are no IPR obligations toward the European Commission (EC) nor to the DIHNET.EU consortium. The winner will agree that certain information regarding the winning DIH can be used by DIHNET.EU project for communication purposes.
- The winner is obliged to obey provisions related to the tax on winnings due according to the provisions of tax law binding in their place of fiscal residence.

Annex 1: Informed consent form

By ticking the box related to informed consent during the application process, I confirm that I have read and understood the [information sheet](#), and in particular I have noted that:

- *I have been given the opportunity to ask questions about the project and my participation via <https://spaces.fundingbox.com/spaces/dihnet-eu-community-q-a-dih-champions-challenges> and I voluntarily agree to participate in the DIH Champions Challenge.*
- *I understand that I can withdraw from the DIH Champions Challenge at any time without giving reasons and that I will not be penalised for withdrawing nor will I be questioned on why I have withdrawn.*
- *The procedures regarding confidentiality have been clearly explained (e.g. use of names, anonymization of data, etc.) to me in the [processing of personal data](#) section and [information sheet](#).*
- *The use of the data in research, publications, sharing and archiving has been explained to me.*
- *I understand that other researchers will have access to this data only if they agree to preserve the confidentiality of the data and if they agree to the terms specified in this form.*
- *Responsibility for the information and views set out in the application form lies entirely with the applicants.*

By ticking the box related to informed consent during the application process, I also declare and confirm that:

- *I voluntarily agree to get registered at DIHNET.EU Online Community at <https://fundingbox.com/c/dihnet-community-1>.*

Annex 2: Processing of personal data

CONTROLLER'S IDENTITY AND CONTACT DETAILS

The data controller is FundingBox Accelerator sp. z o.o. (Al. Jerozolimskie 136, 02-305 Warsaw, Poland).

In all matters regarding personal data, you can contact us using the following email address: privacy@fundingbox.com

PURPOSES, LEGAL BASIS AND PROCESSING PERIOD

<i>The purpose of processing</i>	<i>Legal basis for processing</i>	<i>Period</i>
<i>To run an Open Call and to evaluate applications submitted in the DIHs Champions Challenge from the DIHNET.EU project.</i>	<i>The legal basis for processing is indispensability to implement the legally justified interest of the data controller, consisting in fulfilling the obligations laid down in the Grant Agreement (Article 6 paragraph 1 point f) GDPR in this respect.</i>	<i>6 years after completing the DIHNET.EU project</i>
<i>To realize the DIHNET.EU project goals described in the Grant Agreement (communication, reporting, collaborating with other project partners)</i>	<i>The legal basis for processing is indispensability to implement the legally justified interest of the data controller, consisting in effectively participating in the project and fulfilling the obligations laid down in the Grant Agreement (Article 6 paragraph 1 point f) GDPR in this respect.</i>	<i>6 years after completing the DIHNET.EU project</i>
<i>In order to possibly establish and enforce claims or defend against them</i>	<i>The legal basis of the processing is the legitimate interest of the data controller consisting in the protection of its rights (Article 6 paragraph 1 point f) GDPR in this respect.</i>	<i>12 years after completing the DIHNET.EU project</i>
<i>In case your application will be selected to participate in a brokerage event and next stage of the project:</i>		
<i>For the implementation of contracts for co-financing concluded by Data controller, EC and other project partners.</i>	<i>The legal basis for processing is indispensability to implement the legally justified interest of the data controller, consisting in fulfilling the obligations laid down in the Grant Agreement (Article 6 paragraph 1 point f) GDPR in this respect.</i>	<i>6 years after completing the DIHNET.EU project</i>

DATA RECEIVERS

Data controller will transfer personal data only to trusted recipients such as entities belonging to the FundingBox's capital group, Project Partners (complete list of the project partners is available at the email address: privacy@fundingbox.com), European Commission, evaluators, IT service providers, accountants, law firms, postal and courier companies (who process personal data on the controller's behalf).

RIGHTS OF DATA SUBJECT

Due to the fact that we process your personal data, you have the right to:

- 1) request access to your personal data,
- 2) demand the rectification of their personal data,

- 3) request to remove or limit the processing of your personal data,
- 4) data portability with respect to the personal data that you have provided to the controller
- 5) complain with the supervisory authority (The President of the Personal Data Protection Office).

You also have right to object to processing of your personal data (according to the Article 21 of GDPR).

INFORMATION ABOUT VOLUNTARY OR OBLIGATORY DATA PROVISION

Providing data is voluntary, although it is necessary to participate in the DIHNET.EU Champions Challenge. Without providing your data, it is not possible to contact you and evaluate the application.

Annex 3: Information sheet

Project title: DIHNET.EU

Project coordinator (s): Maurits Butter; Ruud Baartmans

About the project

The DIHNET.EU project enables the coordination of European, national and regional initiatives directly supporting the digital transformation and Digital Innovation Hubs (DIHs). The project aims to create a sustainable pan-European network of networks, with a focus on regional DIHs.

Indeed, there is a vast number of networking activities related to DIHs in Europe. However, many of these initiatives have limited connection between each other, especially if the technologies are different. The DIHNET.EU project will support all these networks and initiatives by creating a coordination mechanism, creating synergies and addressing common issues.

More specifically, DIHNET.EU will contribute by:

- Enhancing the collaboration between the different stakeholders from the European DIH Community with a wide range of services, information and tools that will help DIHs to communicate, align, collaborate and synchronize activities.
- Developing a clear overview of the DIHs related services provided in Europe and align them.
- Upgrading the [DIH Catalogue](#) by identifying/triggering activities in the DIH Community in coherence with regional, national and EU policies.
- Creating a strategy to reinforce the specialisation of these services, as well as supporting its uptake by relevant DIHs and DIH networks.
- Creating a vision and strategy on a self-sustaining business model for this network of DIHs, and to make this operational.
- Creating an [online community](#) to foster interaction among hubs, information exchange and peer-learning.

Who is responsible for the data collected in the project?

FundingBox Accelerator is responsible for the data collected in the DIH Champion Challenge, namely through the information provided by the applicant through <https://dihs-champions-challenge.fundingbox.com/>.

Data are collected and processed in accordance with our Terms of use and Privacy policy. You can contact the Project Manager, Maria Roca, for any further queries you may have related to privacy policy.

The DIHNET.EU project will follow the EU directives and regulation which have a significant impact on Data Protection:

- The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union;
- The European Convention on Human Rights and its Supplementary Protocols;

REGULATION (EU) 2016/679 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation)

The data that will be collected, and consequently protected in the DIHNET.EU community and sign-up process and/or open calls, according to aforementioned directives and regulations.

Methods of data collection, storage and sharing

DIHNET.EU will collect data of European entities and individuals through an online form available at <https://dihs-champions-challenge.fundingbox.com/>. The information gathered will serve to evaluate the most mature DIH. Therefore, it is necessary to collect, store and process the online forms that will be submitted by the applicants. Data will be exploited for the following main purposes:

- evaluation of proposals;
- impact assessment of the challenge and/or the project;
- dissemination and communication materials; and
- statistics.

The personal data included in the Application forms, will be stored and secured in the FundingBox online platform in order to guarantee the access only to person authorised via authentication. External Evaluators, will be responsible for evaluating the proposal and thus will be granted access to a limited number of projects. Under no circumstances personal data will be released during the evaluation process. After the evaluation process, the name of the finalists and the information of the awarded projects will be made public in order to give visibility and recognition.

Anonymised data sets will be kept 6 years after the end of the project for statistics purposes. After this period data will be erased definitively from the project repositories.

What are your rights as a participant?

Taking part in the DIHNET.EU project as DIH Champion applicant is voluntary. You may choose not to take part or subsequently cease participation at any time.

Do not hesitate to contact the DIHNET.EU project team in case you are interested in knowing more about the project and learn about the published results (www.dihnet.eu).

Will you receive any payment or monetary benefits for your data collection?

You will receive no payment for the fact of providing the personal data collected by the project, as described above.

Therefore, you should not expect any royalties or payments in concept of “data collected” from the project in the future.

The only expected benefit might refer, not to the collection of data itself, but to the fact of providing those data with the aim of participating in the DIH Champion call and receiving communication and dissemination advantages in the project communication channels according to the conditions established by the DIH Champion Challenges requirements, and which will be published at <https://dihs-champions-challenge.fundingbox.com/>.

On the other hand, the data will not be used by any member of the project team for commercial purposes.

For more information

If you have any further questions about this application process, feel free to leave your question here <https://spaces.fundingbox.com/spaces/dihnet-eu-community-q-a-dih-champions-challenges> or contact:

Begoña Sánchez

email: begona.sanchez@tecnalia.com

Maria Roca

email : maria.roca@fundingbox.com

What if I have concerns about this project?

If you are worried about any of the information requested, or if you are concerned about how it is being collected, please, send an e-mail to privacy@fundingbox.com.