



# Summer Schools 2026

Join us in boosting entrepreneurship and education for a strong digital Europe.



## Change Log

ID	Date	Document	Page	Description
1	24 November 2025	Call Document	6	Budget description for organization costs has been revised to ensure accuracy.

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## 1. Introduction

Would you like to boost entrepreneurship and deep-tech education in Europe? The EIT Digital Entrepreneurial Academy is looking for digital deep-tech education providers to develop innovative programmes with business-oriented components. To this end, the EIT Entrepreneurial Academy launches on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025 an open **Call for Summer Schools** with submission deadline on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

The entrepreneurial education proposals should bring together education, research and innovation within the context of a specific societal relevant theme guided by the five focus areas of the 28DIGITAL's [Strategic Innovation Agenda](#): Digital Tech, Digital Industry, Digital Cities, Digital Wellbeing, Digital Finance.

The selected programmes will be included in 28DIGITAL's portfolio of Summer Schools delivered in partnership with training providers from 28DIGITAL's pan-European ecosystem of partners from research and academia, business and industry, investment, and the public sector.

The programmes will be run under the Funding Condition: this collaboration is contingent upon receiving funding from the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT). If the necessary funding is not secured, 28DIGITAL reserves the right to delay, modify, or cancel any collaboration agreements. Furthermore, 28DIGITAL may adjust agreements based on changes in circumstances or the availability of funding.

## 2. EIT Digital Entrepreneurial Academy

Partners are invited to co-invest with us and benefit from the impact of improved Education contributing to the digital transformation of Europe and the creation of a European talent pool and a digitally skilled workforce. Entrepreneurial education is a cornerstone in creating a Europe where industry and key public sectors are populated, on all levels, with knowledgeable, innovative and entrepreneurial people that drive the innovation economy and create open and effective public organisations.

The **EIT Digital Entrepreneurial Academy** supports the development and deployment of programmes and courses with business development-oriented components. The education paradigm is that learning must emulate the speed of business to meet disruptive technology and business model changes. 28DIGITAL does this through the EIT Label programs:

- **Master School** educational programmes breeding talents with an entrepreneurial mindset,
- EIT Digital **Summer School** based on innovation and business education through real cases studies,
- EIT Digital **Professional Education** at the technology and innovation front.

## 3. Summer School

The EIT Digital Summer Schools are programmes that combine state-of-the-art excellence in key digital technologies, societal and industrial applications with expertise in Innovation and Entrepreneurship (I&E). They aim to foster creativity and critical thinking to help students identify innovative business opportunities. They are structured as a two-week program welcoming students from the EIT Digital Master School as well as external participants. They expose participants to I&E concepts, methods and tools specific to a thematic area, facilitate student interactions with companies, industry professionals and experts as well as foster a community among various universities.

Summer School are mandatory scheduled between **July** and **mid-August 2026**. For the EIT Digital Master School students, this is positioned between the first and second year of the Master program. They account for **4 ECTS** and 112 hours of students' work. The minimum expected number of participants is **50**.

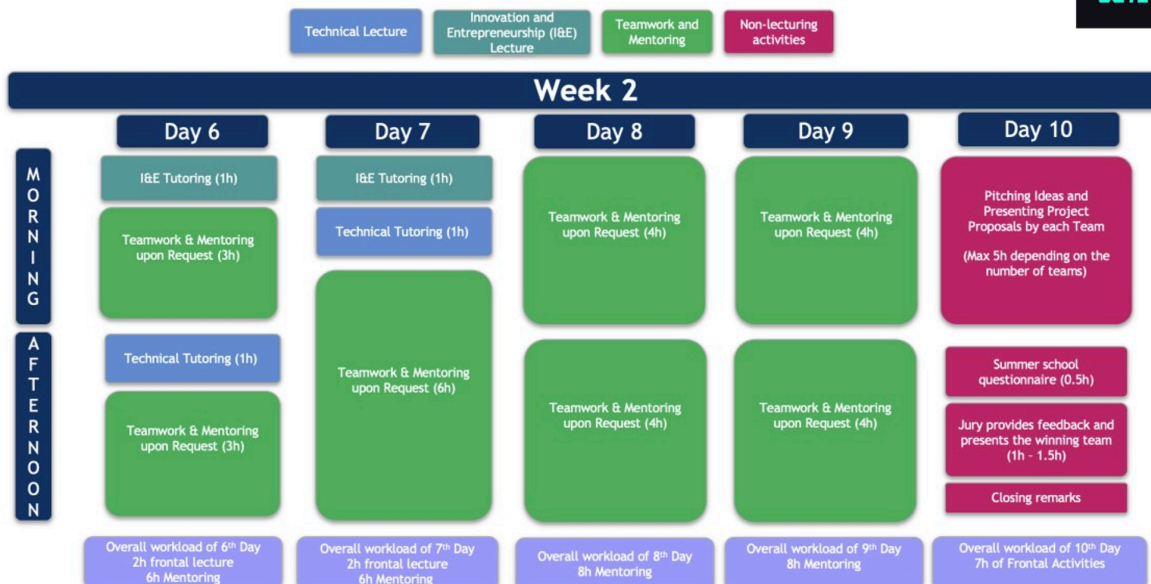
In the first week, students will explore emerging technologies through focused lectures, keynotes from academics and industry experts, and discussions with professionals. During the second week, they work in teams under the guidance of coaches to gain the knowledge, skills, and hands-on experience needed to conceptualize, develop, and potentially launch their own entrepreneurial ventures. A final pitch competition at the end of the program provides students with an opportunity to present their ideas and receive valuable feedback from a selected jury.

### Example of Summer School Structure and Program

#### SCHEMATIC PROGRAM – WEEK 1



#### SCHEMATIC PROGRAM – WEEK 2



On completion of the Summer School course, students should have acquired the following competences:

- **Entrepreneurial competences:** ability to transform new ideas and technology into a viable business solution with a customer/user-centric perspective; understand thematic area-specific product/services development processes; perform a business concept design project.
- **Innovation competences:** the ability to include ethical, societal and sustainability considerations when developing a new product/technology; addressing legal, regulatory, IP obstacles when developing a new product/technology; the ability to understand global/market trends, innovation routes, industry value networks in the thematic area.
- **Soft skills:** linked to teamwork, decision making, leadership, effective communication, conflict resolution.

### Key Ingredients for a Strong and Impactful Proposal

A successful Summer School proposal should outline a strong academic program but also demonstrate strategic alignment, entrepreneurial focus, and the capacity to deliver real impact. Some of the core elements for a compelling proposal are:

- **Topic:** The proposal should align with one of the five strategic focus areas in the 28DIGITAL Strategic Innovation Agenda: Digital Tech, Digital Industry, Digital Cities, Digital Wellbeing, or Digital Finance.
- **Location:** An easily accessible European location to facilitate travel logistics.
- **Entrepreneurship:** Proposals should clearly define how they will emphasize entrepreneurship. This can be achieved in one or more of the following ways:
  1. *(Preferred)* Students engage with local TTOs, researchers and scientists to develop business concepts around patented innovations.
  2. Students are encouraged to submit preliminary business ideas before the program begins. The best ideas are selected, and students are then grouped to collaboratively develop these concepts into viable ventures throughout the Summer School.
  3. Students engage with companies that can provide them with business concepts for development of innovative products and services.
- **Experience:** Proposals should demonstrate solid track record in the venture creation process and provide evidence of the ability to effectively mentor and guide participants.

## 3. Funding Model

The overall value of the call amounts to € 170,000. Through the selection process, 28DIGITAL aims to select two Summer Schools. The **maximum EIT funding** that can be requested per proposal amounts to **€ 85,000**. The **co-funding requirement** for the Partner at the Activity level is **minimally 30%** of the total budget of the proposal.

The following are examples of potential setups of an activity budget:

- Total EIT funding amount requested: € 70,000. Partner must provide minimally 30% in co-funding of the total budget, i.e., at least € 30,000.
- Total EIT funding amount requested: € 85,000. Partner must provide minimally 30% in co-funding of the total budget, i.e., at least € 36,400.

Partners will run Summer Schools in 2026 under the funding condition, i.e. this collaboration is contingent upon receiving funding from the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT). If the necessary funding is not secured, 28DIGITAL reserves the right to delay, modify, or cancel any collaboration agreements. 28DIGITAL reserves the right to modify, delay, or cancel agreements based on changes in circumstances or the availability of funding.

The budget of each program includes:

- **Organization Costs:** teaching staff, didactic material, engagement activities to market the summer school and attract companies for providing cases, recruiting external participants, engaging coaches or external lecturers, costs related to the location and social events, meals.
- **Variable costs (per student)** connected to the Summer School: lodging. This should be expressed as a cost per student and has been estimated at a cost of € 550 per student (approximately € 27,500 per program). Lodging costs will be paid by 28DIGITAL but should be estimated and arranged by the partners.

Travel costs for students will be directly managed and paid by 28DIGITAL and not subject to the proposal individual budget. This should ease the administrative and financial burden on the individual Summer School teams.

## 4. Eligibility Criteria

### Who can participate

28DIGITAL is a **partnership-based organization**. Therefore, proposers are expected to be or become Partner of 28DIGITAL once the proposal is selected. A recommendation to Partners, especially to new Partners, is to be in contact with 28DIGITAL before the submission date to ensure a clear understanding of the requirements.

Eligible countries are the Member States (MS) of the European Union (EU) including their outermost regions and countries which associated to Horizon Europe<sup>1</sup>. At least one of the Summer Schools selected is to take place in a RIS country.

For partners from Hungary: the Council Implementing Decision 2022/2506 might directly impact the implementation of Summer School grant. This Decision stipulates that legal commitments must not be entered into with any public interest trusts established on the basis of the Hungarian Act IX of 2021 or any entity maintained by such a public interest trust. This applies as of 16 December 2022 for as long as the measures are in place.

We advise partners from these countries to connect with the relevant Regional Directors to confirm under which conditions they can participate in the Entrepreneurial Academy 2026.

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[https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation\\_horizon-euratom\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-euratom_en.pdf)

Applicants are not limited to participate with only one proposal<sup>1</sup>.

### Proposal submission

All proposals need to be filled in and formally submitted via the **Proposal Submission System** that can be reached via the 28DIGITAL [intranet page](#). Please make sure you can access the 28DIGITAL intranet within reasonable time ahead of proposal drafting.

All proposals need to be formally submitted before the hard **deadline on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026, 5 pm CEST (Brussels time)**.

Information events will take place in November 2025 to provide additional information to the applicants to improve their chances of successful applications. The Summer School website contains information about the Info Session and a list of FAQs for this call. Lastly, any enquiries or requests for clarification regarding this call can be submitted to the 28DIGITAL Team at [proposal\\_support@28DIGITAL.eu](mailto:proposal_support@28DIGITAL.eu).

Should the quality of proposals be insufficient based on the evaluation criteria listed in this document, 28DIGITAL reserves the right to open a second submission to collect and assess new Education Activity proposals.

## 5. Award Criteria

The detailed process, including requirements, criteria and evaluation methodology for Entrepreneurial Academy Activity proposals, are presented below.

### Evaluation Gates

Each proposal will be reviewed in three Evaluation Gates.

1. **First Gate - Experts Review:** Submitted proposals are assessed by independent external experts. Each expert individually evaluates each proposal following specific evaluation criteria and provides comments supporting their assessment, recommendations to the Review Gate, as well as feedback to the applicants.
2. **Second Gate - Review Gate:** Experts come together and discuss each proposal based on their own individual assessments, following the requirements and guidelines of this document. The outcome is a consensus evaluation for each proposal that integrates and supersedes individual assessments as well as recommendations to MC Gate.
3. **Third Gate – MC Gate:** The Management Committee of 28DIGITAL analyses the Review Gate outcomes to build a strong strategic education portfolio for the 28DIGITAL Business Plan. This is done based on the external evaluators' scores (i.e. the top ranked proposals), recommendations and contingent on the available funding. The outcome is a final go/no-go decision for each proposal and/or requests for changes (e.g. budget adjustments, changes in activity descriptions. A backup list of proposals may also be defined. In this case the duration of validity of the back-up list will be three months after the date of the award decision.

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<sup>1</sup> Submissions must ensure that there is no double funding within the proposed budget across all submitted proposals.



## Overview of the review process



## Feedback and following steps

1. Applicants will be provided with feedback to their proposal in the *Feedback* tab of the submission system approximately three weeks after the submission proposal deadline. This includes: the “go/no-go” outcome and the basis for this as well as any requests for changes. Note that for proposals involving organisations applying for an 28DIGITAL partnership, proposal acceptance is dependent on the 28DIGITAL Supervisory Board’s approval of the partnership application.
2. Applicants with “go” feedback may receive requests for changes to the activity proposal and must implement those, as presented on the feedback tab of the submission system. These may include adjustments to the content of the activity (outputs, KPIs, descriptions, etc.) and budget changes (re-dress procedure). Once changes are made, the reviewed proposal needs to be resubmitted in the 28DIGITAL submission system. If the required budget changes are not implemented within 5 business days from the communication of the results, then the financials will be automatically and linearly adjusted for all Activity Partners to meet the requested target values.
3. 28DIGITAL includes the selected activities in the 28DIGITAL Business Plan and sends it for internal approval to its governing bodies and the EIT. Once 28DIGITAL receives feedback from the EIT on the Business Plan, the Education Activity Leader may be required to implement additional changes to the Activity proposal on the request from the EIT.
4. Activities are expected to start in February, after the selection process has ended and will be fully concluded by 31st December 2026.

## Appeal procedure

28DIGITAL will, in good faith, address any potential disputes on the outcome of the selection process described in this document in a timely manner. An appeal should be issued in writing, by the proposers, to the attention of the relevant Node Director, by factually underpinning the alleged incorrections in the evaluation and feedback provided by 28DIGITAL. Contacts of the Node Directors will be found in the application form in the Proposal Submission System. Please note that the External Experts evaluation cannot be appealed.

## Overview of Process Timeline

Action	Date
Submission system opens	17 November 2025
Info Session	27 November 2025
Proposal Submission closes	19 January 2026
Feedback to selected/rejected activities	6 February 2026
Appeal window (5 business days)	13 February 2026
Proposal adjustments window (5 business days)	13 February 2026

<b>Activities start</b>	<b>23 February 2026</b>
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### External experts' evaluation criteria

In line with the submission requirements, education activity proposals will be reviewed based on their quality and impact, market relevance, and financial sustainability of 28DIGITAL following the evaluation process previously described.

The assessment by independent individual external experts will be based on the questions reported in the table below. Reviewers will be asked to provide a score with respect to each question (scale of 0 to 5 with 5 being the best assessment) and comments for each question, as well as an assessment of the whole proposal.

### Questions for external experts (first gate)

Dimension	Question		Score Range	Min Score
<b>Excellence</b>	Q1	How well the proposal aligns with 28DIGITAL Focus Areas and Strategic Innovation Agenda?	0-5	2
	Q2	How strong and disruptive is the proposal in the digital deep-tech domain?	0-5	2
<b>Impact</b>	Q3	To which extent is the proposal contributing to entrepreneurial education?	0-5	2
	Q4	How does the proposal help bridge the digital skill gap for participants?	0-5	2
<b>Quality and Efficiency of the Implementation</b>	Q5	How well is the proposal aligned with the requirements (workplan, KPIs, topic, financials, sustainability, format, responsibilities)?	0-5	2
	Q6	How precisely has the market been analysed?	0-5	2
	Q7	How does the profile of the team members and previous experience in successfully implementing education activities ensure the proposal's successful implementation?	0-5	2
<b>Minimum Required Score *</b>				<b>14/35</b>

\* *Minimum Required Score' should be achieved in all the above categories for a proposal to proceed.*

### Expected Outcomes

Partners submitting a proposal for a Summer School commit to delivering Innovation and Entrepreneurship (I&E) Education in accordance with current EIT Digital Summer School guidelines.

### Deliverables and Outputs

Proposals are expected to include Deliverables and Outputs such as:

- Execution of the Summer School;

- Summer School Programme: detailed description, full schedule, description of lectures, workshops, company visits, business cases, composition of business panel, planning of business development project and coaching;
- Implementation Plan: including engagement activities, marketing, budget estimate, location;
- Evaluation Report: including project work, presentations, student feedback and evaluation by the organizers and coaches (lessons learned).

### Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Each Proposal needs to define its target values for a set of relevant KPIs, consisting of:

- EIT-Level KPIs (EIT KPIs): defined by the EIT for the entire EIT community (KICs). These are the most important KPIs and require supporting formal evidence of achievement. For example:
  - **EITHE07** Graduates from EIT-labelled programmes
- KIC-Internal KPIs (INT KPIs): defined by 28DIGITAL as additional monitoring parameters. For example:
  - **INT10**: Number of Women part of the Activity Team,
  - **INT11**: Number of Industry Partners engaged in Education Activities.
- Activity Specific Quantifiable Targets (ASQTs): defined by individual Activity proposers and requested to define additional, measurable, activity-specific targets that can demonstrate the impact of its implementation. These may include, for example, the number of students/learners that after the training are participating to one of our standup/startup innovation instruments (DeepHack, Innovation Factory, RIS Venture Program).

When defining their KPI targets, proposal authors need to be aware of the acceptance requirements of KPIs. Without the required evidence documentation, KPIs may not be accepted by EIT in the formal Activity review process. Please note that financial penalties may be applied by the EIT and 28DIGITAL in case of under-delivery, including underachievements in any of the 3 above categories of targets and KPIs.

As valuable KPI achievements may also materialise during subsequent years, partners will be asked to support the reporting of KPI results related to their Activity even after its official end. 28DIGITAL follows-up the selected activities up to 5 years after activity completion to track long-term impact and to ensure the achievement of KPIs after the activity ends.

### Costs Planning

This section of the Call Document includes important additional information related to formal requirements on financial costs and partnership for funded activities that will be included in the 28DIGITAL Business Plan. **It is therefore important that applicants read this section carefully.** All Business Plan Activities need to comply with the Horizon Europe and EIT requirements, which may be subject to changes. The [28DIGITAL intranet page](#) contains further essential information for proposal authors and will be kept up to date with the latest information.

**Type of Financial Support:** The financial support offered by 28DIGITAL is structured in the form of reimbursement of actual costs declared in the activity proposal budget. The funds are released in several tranches during a time frame of 9-12 months.

## Prefinancing tranches

Action	Prefinancing percentage	Liked deliverable
April 2026	20%	Summer School Programme
June 2026	30%	Implementation plan
September/October 2026	30%	Evaluation Report
February/August 2027	20%	-

The proposal authors will have to provide detailed information with regards to the cost planning in the proposal form. The financial justification of the activity is detailed in tab “5. Tasks and Costs”, tab “6. Cost justification” and in tab “7. Funding”. The budget information needs to be precise and concrete, considering the requirements from the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement (MGA) and the 28DIGITAL Financial Support Agreement (FSA). These are key documents defining the general framework under which Activities need to operate and are available via the 28DIGITAL intranet page. It is highly recommended for activity partners that are not 28DIGITAL Partners yet, to get in contact with 28DIGITAL staff early on to gain access to the intranet, where both the Strategic Innovation Agenda (SIA) and the Model Grant Agreement (MGA) documents, as well as the submission system, can be found.

It is very important that the activity proposal assigns its budget to the correct cost categories, amongst the following:

- A. Personnel costs
- B. Sub-contracting costs
- C. Purchase costs
- D. Other cost categories
- E. Indirect costs. This is a flat rate of 25% calculated on the eligible direct costs (categories A-D, except volunteer's costs, subcontracting costs, financial support to third parties and exempted specific cost categories, if any).

Please note the following about the content in the Model Grant Agreement and 28DIGITAL submission system:

- The “action” refers to the 28DIGITAL Business Plan including its Annexes.
- Costs need to be allocated to one or more tasks. Tasks define how the work is broken down between partners and how much each part of the work costs. It is possible to model the budget of a Task based on planning assumptions, while the reporting will have to be based on actual costs, which cannot exceed the approved budget.
- Financial Support to Third Parties (or sub-granting) can be used to allocate budget to third parties outside of the 28DIGITAL partnership requirement. The sub-grantee selection process should be open, transparent and follow all applicable rules (as defined in the Model Grant Agreement). It is recommended to make a limited use of this cost category.
- Sub-contracting needs to be explicitly defined in the proposal that will be included in the Business Plan and follow all applicable rules, especially regarding the value for money and avoidance of conflict of interest.

- Full Time Equivalents (FTE): We strongly recommend a commitment of at least 0.2 FTEs per partner and Task Leader/Contributor to ensure meaningful involvement and the allocation of enough capacity to the specific task.

As set out in Art. 20 of the HE MGA, each beneficiary must keep appropriate and sufficient evidence to prove the eligibility of all the costs declared, proper implementation of the action and compliance with all the other obligations under the Grant Agreement. The evidence must be verifiable, auditable and available. It must be correctly archived for the duration of the project indicated in the Grant Agreement. In general, the evidence must be kept for at least 5 years after final payment or longer if there are ongoing procedures (audits, investigations, litigation, etc.).

## Further considerations

### Conflict of Interest

Beneficiaries must take all measures to prevent any situation that could compromise the impartial and objective implementation of the Agreement for reasons involving family, emotional life, political or national affinity, economic interest or any other direct or indirect interest ("conflict of interest").

Beneficiaries must formally notify the granting authority without delay of any situation constituting or likely to lead to a conflict of interests and immediately take all the necessary steps to rectify this situation.

The granting authority may verify that the measures taken are appropriate and may require additional measures to be taken by a specified deadline.

### Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations, the grant may be reduced.

### Activity Monitoring

All activities selected for funding undergo continuous monitoring by 28DIGITAL to ensure effective progress and implementation and to trigger payments according to the achievement of milestone, deliverables and KPIs. The mid-term monitoring in May will cover several aspects relating to the activity implementation including, but not limited to: achievement of outputs, milestones, deliverables and KPIs; risk management; financial management; quality assurance; progress against KPI achievement and impact delivery; communication and dissemination; co-branding. 28DIGITAL will request a Deliverable.

In the case of under-performance, significant delay of implementation, or any other reason jeopardizing the timely implementation of the activity identified during the monitoring process, 28DIGITAL reserves the right to discontinue or restructure the funding of the activity at any point during its implementation.

### Gender Equality

28DIGITAL is committed to promoting gender equality and diversity across all its activities, as outlined in its Gender Mainstreaming Policy. Applicants are encouraged to integrate gender considerations into the design of their proposed activities, ensuring Inclusivity and equal opportunities. Additionally, during the implementation of the action, applicants should share their measures and strategies that promote gender equality, contributing to a more equitable digital innovation ecosystem.

## Communication, Dissemination and Promotion

Unless otherwise agreed with 28DIGITAL, the partners of the selected Activities must promote the activity among the EIT Digital Master School students.

Before engaging in a communication or dissemination activity expected to have a major media impact, the partners must inform 28DIGITAL.

### Visibility: the European Flag and Funding Statement

Unless otherwise agreed with 28DIGITAL, communication activities of the partners related to the Activity (including media relations, conferences, seminars, information material, such as brochures, leaflets, posters, presentations, etc., in electronic form, via traditional or social media, etc.), dissemination activities and any infrastructure, equipment, vehicles, supplies or major result funded by 28DIGITAL must acknowledge the EU support and display the European flag (emblem) and funding statement (translated into local languages where appropriate). Other allowed layouts/backgrounds can be found in the 28DIGITAL Intranet.



Initiated by the European Institute  
of Innovation and Technology (EIT)



The emblem must remain distinct and separate and cannot be modified by adding other visual marks, brands or text. Apart from the emblem, no other visual identity or logo may be used to highlight the EU support.

When displayed in association with other logos (e.g. logos of partners), the emblem must be displayed at least as prominently and visibly as the other logos.

For the purposes of their obligations under this section, the partners may use the emblem without first obtaining approval from 28DIGITAL. This does not, however, give them the right to exclusive use. Moreover, they may not appropriate the emblem or any similar trademark or logo, either by registration or by any other means.<sup>β</sup>

### Quality of Information: Disclaimer

Any communication or dissemination must indicate the following disclaimer (translated into local languages where appropriate): *“Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or 28DIGITAL. Neither the European Union nor 28DIGITAL can be held responsible for them.”*

### Specific Communication, Dissemination and Visibility Rules

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced.

#### Dissemination, communication, and exploitation of the results of the activities

Applicants need to respect the provisions of Article 16 regarding the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) — Background And Results — Access Rights And Rights and Article 17 regarding Communication, dissemination and visibility of the (Model) Grant Agreement . Applicants should engage in dissemination, communication and exploitation of the results of the activities.

#### Intellectual property

Participating entities agree to respect IPR Rules (Article 16) of the (Model) Grant Agreement.