



Welcome to the latest edition of the EIT Digital newsletter!

This year marks an important milestone for us: **EIT Digital celebrates 15 years of driving Europe's digital innovation agenda.**

Since our launch as one of the first innovation communities under the European Institute of Innovation and Technology, we've been committed to **shaping Europe's technological future**, empowering talent, and building a strong open innovation ecosystem.

Now, in 2025, we're entering an exciting new chapter as a financially independent powerhouse. In this issue, we invite you to mark **October 9** in your calendars, when we will **unveil our new identity live** and share our vision for the future. Make sure to register and join us for this moment.

We also spotlight opportunities shaping Europe's tech ecosystem today, from the second round of the **CyberSecDome Open Call** — offering **€720K in financial support** to fuel next-gen cybersecurity solutions — to **Bolzano Slush'D**, the founder-focused event connecting investors, innovators, and startups.

You'll also find insights on inclusive AI innovation from our **Grow Digital series**, and discover how the Business in Dubai initiative is helping European companies access one of the world's most dynamic tech markets.

Fifteen years in, EIT Digital is just getting started — and we're excited to continue building Europe's digital future together.



EIT Digital: 15 Years Strong, A New Name Ahead

EIT Digital — one of the first innovation communities launched under the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) — is celebrating **15 years of driving Europe's digital innovation agenda**. Now, in 2025, it's spinning off as a financially independent powerhouse.

What's Next

CEO **Federico Menna** says the mission stays the same: pushing Europe's digital sovereignty, nurturing entrepreneurial talent, and working closely with EU institutions. Expect a scale-up of its **open innovation ecosystem**, deeper collaboration with organizations such as the European Innovation Council, and the first returns from capital investments made six to eight years ago. Exit rounds from EIT Digital's Equity Portfolio are fully reinvested in deep-tech start-ups.

Save the Date

October 9: EIT Digital reveals its **new name and brand** — live! Tune in for surprises, strategy, and the next chapter.

[Register here for the livestream](#)



CyberSecDome's Next Open Call: €720K Up for Grabs

CyberSecDome — an EU-funded Horizon Europe project — is fusing AI, machine learning, and VR to rethink intrusion detection, incident response, and forensic investigation. Now it's opening Round 2 of its Open Call, with €720K in financial support ready to fuel the next wave of cybersecurity innovation.

The Opportunity

From healthcare to finance, transport to smart manufacturing, CyberSecDome is looking for SMEs, start-ups, and mid-caps to test and validate its integrated cybersecurity system in the real world. Think beyond the lab: your team could pilot AI-driven protection in a hospital's digital infrastructure, automate intrusion detection in a factory, or build smarter defenses for public administrations. Each winning project gets **up to €120K** and 8 months to show how CyberSecDome performs in action.

What You Need to Know

- **Opens:** Aug 1, 2025 | **Deadline:** Sept 30, 2025 (Brussels time)
- **Who can apply:** SMEs, start-ups, mid-caps (small consortia of up to 3, with an SME lead).
- **What's expected:** Deploy the system, propose use cases beyond current aviation & telecom pilots, and share structured feedback on usability, impact, and interoperability

[Apply here](#)



Bolzano Slush'D: Where Founders, Investors, and Innovation Meet

EIT Digital is proud to be an institutional partner of **Bolzano Slush'D**, the Italian chapter of Europe's most founder-focused event, taking place 3–5 September in Bolzano, Italy.

This year's edition brings together 60+ visionary speakers, including **Petter Made** (EWOR) and **Peter Vesterbacka** (Angry Birds), 25+ international investors, 60 startups in the exhibition area, 8 hands-on masterclasses, and a packed agenda of side events designed to spark connections and collaboration.

And don't miss the exclusive **pre-event on 3 September**, hosted by EIT Digital and NOI Techpark. The session will dive into EU funding opportunities, offer practical insights to help startups scale faster, and showcase how NOI is shaping innovation for founders and investors alike.

If you're looking to network, learn, and get inspired alongside some of Europe's most dynamic tech minds, Bolzano Slush'D is the place to be.

[Get your ticket here](#)



A new blueprint for inclusive AI innovation

In the latest installment of the **Grow Digital Insights series**, Dr. Begoña G. Otero [takes us inside a hackathon](#) that dared to flip the script on tech innovation.

What happened: More than 300+ people gathered for the OdiselA4Good Hackathon. Unlike your typical "disrupt everything" event, this one focused on vulnerability—building AI tools for migrants, elderly folks, and other underserved communities.

Of 42 original teams, only 7 kept going months later. But here's the kicker—they're creating some genuinely useful stuff:

- Migration guides for asylum seekers
- Plain-language tools for government websites
- AI companions for lonely seniors
- Medication management for caregivers

Why it matters: A new EU report backs up what this hackathon proved: we're funding companies, not ideas. If policymakers and funders want AI that truly serves society, they need to rethink innovation ecosystems—valuing collaboration, lived experience, and care over disruption and market returns.

[Read the full story](#)



Tap into Dubai's Booming Tech Market

With EU–UAE free trade negotiations underway, there's never been a better time for European tech companies to **explore Dubai's fast-growing innovation ecosystem**. Through the Business in Dubai initiative, EIT Digital and its partners are helping startups and scaleups unlock market access, financial support, and growth opportunities in one of the world's most dynamic hubs.

From real-world pilots at Dubai Silicon Oasis to insights from Oraseya Capital on the region's evolving VC landscape, the program offers everything you need to enter and thrive in the market.

If you're ready to expand globally, Dubai is opening doors and EIT Digital is here to help you walk through them.

Get in touch



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