



SPIN: Rise 2026

Join us in boosting the European pipeline from research to market impact



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

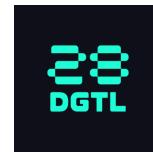


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1 Introduction

Europe's competitiveness in the global economy depends on its ability to translate cutting-edge research into real-world impact. As Mario Draghi observed in his 2024 report, "The problem is not that Europe lacks ideas or ambition. We have many talented researchers and entrepreneurs filing patents. But innovation is blocked at the next stage: we are failing to translate innovation into commercialisation"¹. **SPIN: Rise 2026** addresses this critical challenge, by equipping researchers with the skills and knowledge to unlock the commercial potential of their work. This programme serves as a bridge between academic research and industrial impact, empowering researchers to explore pathways for **Intellectual Property (IP) valorisation** through **licensing, industry partnerships** and **venture creation**.

28DIGITAL is inviting proposals from organisations to design and deliver this pre-incubation programme. Selected partners will co-invest with us and benefit from contributing to improved entrepreneurial education for researchers. **SPIN: Rise 2026** aims to build bridges between academia and industry by equipping researchers with the tools and skills to collaborate effectively, unlock the commercial potential of their research, and foster impactful partnerships with industry.

The following organisations are invited to apply: innovation hubs, technology and science parks, venture builders and incubators with a focus on IP valorisation and early-stage ventures, industry associations with sector-specific networks, innovation teams within universities and research institutions with expertise in commercialisation, business schools specialising in entrepreneurial education, and technology transfer offices experienced in IP management.

The programme 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.

¹ Mario Draghi, *The Future of European Competitiveness: A Competitiveness Strategy for Europe*, European Commission, 2024, p. 6. Available at: https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/97e481fd-2dc3-412d-be4c-f152a8232961_en.

2 Programme structure

28DIGITAL aims to select **multiple delivery partners** to run different SPIN: Rise programmes in 2026, each focusing on one of the below areas of interest:

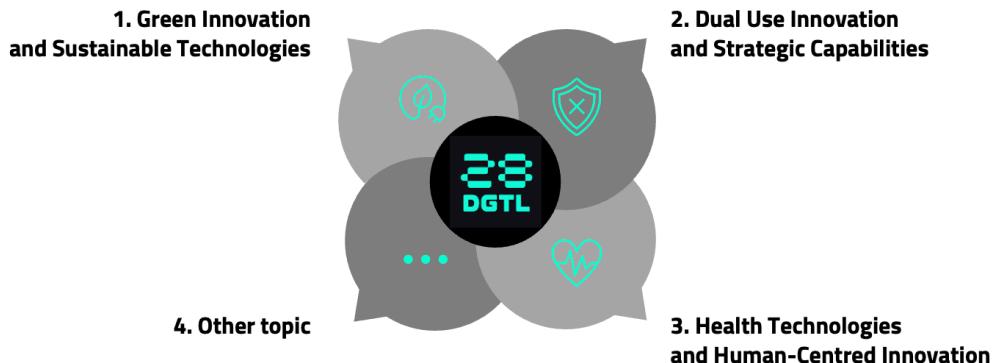


Figure 1. SPIN: Rise areas of interest

1. Green Innovation and Sustainable Technologies

For researchers developing solutions that advance the green transition, including clean energy systems, resource-efficient processes, advanced materials, circular economy technologies, environmental monitoring, and next-generation sustainability tools.

2. Dual-Use Innovation and Strategic Capabilities

For researchers working on technologies with applications in both civilian and defence contexts, such as advanced sensing, secure communications, resilient infrastructure, autonomous systems, and edge computing.

3. Health Technologies and Human-Centred Innovation

For researchers creating technologies that improve health and wellbeing through advanced sensing, diagnostics, medical devices, neurotechnology, AI-enabled decision support, and human-machine interfaces.

4. Other topic:

For researchers working on disruptive solutions in other sectors, which are strategic for European digital sovereignty and strategic autonomy, such as Smart Manufacturing and Industrial Transformation, Physical AI etc.

Applicants should specify in their proposal **one** of these areas of interest, which they are looking to deliver the programme for. The fifth topic allows applicants to propose a sector of their choosing, in addition to the four already specified.

Organisers commit to running SPIN: Rise programmes between **September and December 2026**. Each programme is designed for a **mandatory minimum of 20**

participants. 28DIGITAL reserves the right to cancel the activity if the minimum amount of participants is not achieved.

SPIN: Rise has a total duration of **7 weeks**, from kick-off to closing event. The format is **hybrid**, with a training and mentoring online component, followed by an in-person bootcamp. The schedule below is the proposed timeline, although applicants are invited to detail any proposed changes:

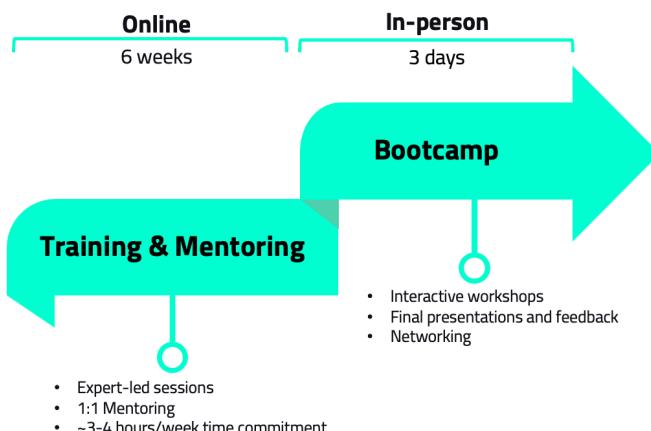


Figure 2. SPIN: Rise Programme Structure

For the in-person bootcamp, budget should cover costs for participants' **accommodation (single room for at least 2 nights, with private bathroom)** and **some meals** (lunches, select dinners during social events). Travel expenses for participants are not included in the budget.

Key Ingredients for a Strong and Impactful Proposal:

- **Topic:** The proposal should align with one of the strategic sectors of the SPIN: Rise programme, or another sector with disruptive potential and which is strategic for European digital sovereignty and strategic autonomy.
- **Location:** An easily accessible European location to facilitate travel logistics for participants.
- **Focus on Entrepreneurship and IP Valorisation:** Proposals should define how they will support researchers with innovations at a low TRL in developing entrepreneurial skills and exploring the commercial potential of their intellectual property (IP). This should include:
 1. Providing training and education on IP valorisation, focusing on strategies to engage with industry partners and investors to explore commercialisation routes such as licensing, venture creation and industry collaborations.

2. Equipping participants with the tools and knowledge to create viable business models and interact with investors and industry stakeholders to advance their research innovations towards market applications.
3. Offering structured support to guide researchers through the process of identifying the commercial value of their work, preparing for market entry, as well as understanding the mechanisms of technology transfer and funding opportunities.

- **Experience:** Proposals should demonstrate a strong track record in entrepreneurial education, IP valorisation and pre-incubation for early-stage innovations. Evidence should be provided of the ability to effectively mentor and train researchers in developing their innovations from low TRLs towards successful commercialisation.

3 How to 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. All questions should be sent to spin@28digital.eu.

Please refer to Section 4 for a more detailed description of Call Criteria.

3.1 Proposal submission

All proposals need to be filled and submitted via the 28DIGITAL submission system that can be reached via the [28DIGITAL intranet page](#). Proposals need to be formally submitted via the 28DIGITAL submission system before the hard **deadline on 17 March 2026**, 5 pm CEST (Brussels time).

An information event will take place in February 2026 to provide additional information to the applicants to improve their chances of successful applications. Applicants can also find a list of FAQs on the webpage where the call is published.

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

4 Call Criteria

Following the deadline for submission, the admissibility, eligibility, exclusion and selection criteria checks will be performed for each proposal in line with the following criteria.

4.1 Admissibility

Proposals shall be considered admissible only if they:

- are submitted electronically via the 28DIGITAL submission system;
- are submitted before the deadline specified in the call;
- are complete, using the required templates and including all mandatory information;
- are submitted in English;
- include a valid Participant Identification Code (PIC) for the applicant organisation at the time of submission.

4.2 Eligibility

Following the admissibility check, only proposals complying with the following conditions will be considered eligible for further evaluation:

4.2.1 Entities eligible to participate

Any legal entity, regardless of its place of establishment, including legal entities from non-associated third countries is eligible to participate, provided that the conditions laid down in the Horizon Europe Regulation have been met (e.g. the entity is not under EU sanction), along with any other conditions laid down in the specific call/topic.

For this call, a ‘legal entity’ means any legal person created and recognised as such under national law, EU law or international law, which has legal personality and which may, acting in its own name, exercise rights and be subject to obligations, or an entity without legal personality.

4.2.2 Eligibility for funding

In accordance with the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2025², in order to be eligible for funding, the applicant must be established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.:

²https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2025/wp-14-general-annexes_horizon-2025_en.pdf



- the Member States of the European Union³, including their outermost regions;
- the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) linked to the Member States⁴;
- countries associated to Horizon Europe⁵;
- certain low- and middle-income countries⁶.

Legal entities, which are established in countries not listed above will be eligible for funding if their participation is considered **essential for implementing the action by the EIT**.

Affiliated entities — Affiliated entities are eligible for funding if they are established in one of the countries listed above, or in a country identified in the call.

Associated partners — Entities not eligible for funding (and therefore not able to participate as beneficiaries) may participate as associated partners.

Only proposals satisfying all the eligibility criteria shall pass on to the selection and evaluation stages.

4.3 Exclusion

Applicants will be excluded from participation in the Call and from the award if they are in one of the situations referred to in Article 138(1) of the EU Financial Regulation. Applicants that are subject to EU administrative sanctions (i.e. exclusion) or are in one of the following exclusion situations that bar them from receiving EU grants can NOT participate:

³ For partners from Hungary: the Council Implementing Decision 2022/2506 might directly impact the implementation of SPIN: Rise 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 SPIN: Rise 2026.

⁴ Entities from Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) are eligible for funding under the same conditions as entities from the Member States to which the OCT in question is linked. See the Horizon Europe Programme Guide on the portal for a complete list of OCTs.

⁵ Please see the Horizon Europe Programme Guide on the Funding and Tenders Portal for up-to-date information on the current list of and the position for Associated Countries:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/programme-guide_horizon_en.pdf

⁶ See the Horizon Europe Programme Guide on the Funding and Tenders Portal for a complete list of these countries.



- bankruptcy, winding up, affairs administered by the courts, arrangement with creditors, suspended business activities or other similar procedures (including procedures for persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts);
- they are in breach of social security or tax obligations (including if done by persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts);
- they are guilty of grave professional misconduct (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant);
- they are guilty of fraud, corruption, having links to a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant);
- they have shown significant deficiencies in complying with their main obligations under an EU procurement contract, grant agreement, prize, expert contract, or similar (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant);
- they are guilty of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of Regulation No 2988/9534 (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant); or
- they have created under a different jurisdiction an entity with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or other legal obligations in the country of origin or created another entity with this purpose (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant).
- have misrepresented the information required as a condition for participating in the procedure or have failed to supply that information; or
- were previously involved in the preparation of documents used in the award procedure where this entails a breach of the principle of equality of treatment, including distortion of competition, that cannot be remedied otherwise.

5 Process overview

5.1 Requirements

The **maximum EIT funding amount is 85,000 €** per SPIN: Rise⁷ programme designed for mandatory minimum of 20 participants. Applicants are not limited to participate with only one proposal⁸.

The **co-funding requirement** for the Partner at the Activity level is **minimally 30%** of the total budget of the KIC Added Value Activity (KAVA).

The total budget for the call is 340,000 € of EIT funding, to fund up to four proposals depending on the quality of the submissions.

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 €.

If additional budget becomes available and the proposals meet the required quality standards, we may fund more proposals beyond the initial four, including, where appropriate, leveraging alternative financing mechanisms.

5.2 Review process

5.2.1 Evaluation Gates

Each Education Activity proposal will be reviewed in three Evaluation Gates. Each Gate decision supersedes the previous one.

1. **First Gate – Experts Review:** Submitted proposals are assessed by independent external experts. Each expert individually evaluates each proposal following the evaluation criteria described in Section 5.5 and provides comments to the Activity

⁷ A financial support above EUR 60,000 applies to the HE cost eligibility rules. The grant can be awarded in line with the conditions for selecting the recipients of financial support to third parties, as defined in the original Call for proposals and in line with the eligibility requirements from the Grant Agreement Art. 6.2.D.1.
https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/aga_en.pdf

⁸ The submissions shall consider there is no double funding for the submitted budget of all proposals.

proposal supporting their assessment and feedback to the applicants, plus, recommendations to the Review Gate.

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 and recommendations to build a strong strategic education portfolio for the 28DIGITAL Business Plan. This is done based on the external evaluators' scores, MC scores and contingent on the available funding. The outcome is the final decision for each proposal and changes requests to the proposal, such as budget changes or changes in the 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.



5.2.2 Feedback and following steps

- Applicants will find the feedback to their proposals, including any changes requests, in the feedback tab of the submission system approximately three weeks after the deadline date. 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.
- 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.

- Proposals for SPIN: RISE that receive positive feedback are expected to provide the course description by June 2026. Programmes are delivered in a hybrid format between the months of September and December 2026.
- 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 Activity Leader may be required to implement additional changes to the Activity proposal on the request from the EIT.
- Activities are expected to start on the 21st May 2026, after the selection process has ended, and will be fully concluded by 31st December 2026.

5.3 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, 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.

5.4 Review Process timeline

To respect the tight timeline, the following will apply:

1. Publication of the results: approximately four weeks after the submittal deadline.
2. Proposers should bring the appeal to the attention of the relevant Node Director within 5 business days from the publication of the results.
3. The Node Director examines the appeal, and if the grounds for the appeal are found with merit, then the appeal will be sent for a second review by the Management Committee. The 28DIGITAL Management Committee will review the appeal and make a final decision.

Action	Date
Submission system opens	16 January 2026
Information session	5 February 2026
Proposal submission closes	17 March 2026
Feedback to selected/rejected activities	21 April 2026
Appeal window (5 days)	28 April 2026



Action	Date
Proposal adjustments window (5 business days)	28 April 2026
Activities start	21 May 2026
Mid-term evaluation assessment	September 2026

In the event of any updates to the call, all proposers with an open proposal will be directly informed. Additionally, a public announcement will be prominently displayed at the top of the website in red to ensure visibility for all potential applicants.

5.3 External experts' evaluation criteria

In line with the submission requirements, Activity proposals will be reviewed based on their quality, impact and market relevance 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 and comments for each question, as well as an assessment of the whole proposal.

Questions for Education Activity external experts (first gate)

Dimension	Question		Score Range	Minimum Required Score
Excellence	Question 1	How well is the proposal aligned with one of the 28DIGITAL Focus Areas , or another sector which is strategic for European digital sovereignty and strategic autonomy?	0-5	2
	Question 2	How well does the proposal demonstrate a clear understanding of the specific challenges and needs of researchers at early stages of commercialisation?	0-5	2
Impact	Question 3	How convincingly does the proposal demonstrate its ability to connect researchers with industry, investors and other innovation ecosystem actors?	0-5	2
	Question 4	How convincingly does the proposal demonstrate its ability to identify, nurture, and funnel high-potential research teams into next-stage innovation initiatives (i.e. incubation, venture building, or external funding opportunities)?	0-5	2
	Question 5	How well is the proposal aligned with the requirements (workplan, KPIs, topic, format, responsibilities)?	0-5	2



Dimension	Question		Score Range	Minimum Required Score
Quality and Efficiency of Implementation	Question 6	How strong and realistic is the strategy to recruit participants through TTOs, universities, research institutes, or other partners?	0-5	2
	Question 7	How does the profile of the team members and previous experience in successfully implementing entrepreneurial education activities ensure the proposal's successful implementation?	0-5	2
Minimum Required Score*				14/35

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

Table 1

Three independent individual experts will be engaged by 28DIGITAL. The assessment by independent individual external experts will be based on the questions reported in the table above. Reviewers are asked to score each proposal with respect to each question (scale of 0 to 5 with 5 being the best assessment) and provide a textual comment for each question, as well as an assessment for the whole proposal.

After the individual review by the external experts, 28DIGITAL runs a Review Gate meeting (second gate) in which these experts come together and evaluate each proposal based on their own individual assessments. The goal is to reach a consensus evaluation of each proposal that integrates and supersedes individual assessments.

5.4 MC evaluation criteria

During the third and final gate, the 28DIGITAL Management Committee (MC), acting collectively as the internal expert evaluation body, analyses the outcome of the Review Gate, including the assessments and recommendations provided by external experts, and makes the final selection of proposals in order to build a strong, coherent and strategically aligned portfolio. The Management Committee's assessment focuses exclusively on the following strategic aspects:

MC Evaluation Criteria		Score Range	Minimum Required Score
Alignment with 28DIGITAL Strategy	How well the proposal supports the overarching goals and strategic priorities of 28DIGITAL	0-5	2
Portfolio Balance and Complementarity	Ensuring the proposal, together with other selected proposals, maintains diversity across sectors and regions	0-5	2

MC Evaluation Criteria		Score Range	Minimum Required Score
EU Dimension	Ensuring the relevance of the proposal at European level, including its contribution to cross-border collaboration and its alignment with European innovation priorities	0-5	2
Minimum required score*		6/15	

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

Table 2

The evaluation and scoring process is structured as follows:

- External experts assess technical and qualitative criteria (see Table 1) and contribute up to 35 points to the overall score.
- The 28DIGITAL Management Committee evaluates strategic criteria (see Table 2) and contributes up to 15 points to the overall score.
- The final score for each proposal is obtained by summing the external expert points and the Management Committee points, yielding a maximum total score of 50 points.

Applicants will receive written communication of the evaluation outcome, including, where applicable, information on inclusion on a reserve list.

6 Costs Reporting and KPIs

This Section includes important additional information related to formal requirements on KPIs, 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. A dedicated 28DIGITAL intranet page (requiring a valid 28DIGITAL intranet account to be accessed) contains further essential information for proposal authors and will be kept up to date with the latest information. Please get in contact with 28DIGITAL staff (spin@28digital.eu) to make sure you can access the 28DIGITAL intranet. This is especially relevant for activity partners that are not 28DIGITAL Partners yet.

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.

6.1 Cost Reporting

The financial justification of the activity is detailed in the 28DIGITAL submission system (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. These are shared with 28DIGITAL Partners 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 (spin@28digital.eu) 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 a 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.).

6.2 Prefinancing tranches

Action	Prefinancing percentage	Linked deliverable
June/July 2026	35%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contractual and partnership requirements completed • Programme implementation plan
December 2026	25%	Evaluation Report
March/April 2027	40%	Cost Report

6.3 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.

6.4 Consequences of non-compliance

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

6.5 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Each Activity 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.

To define 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 under-achievements 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.

Furthermore, 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.

6.6 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 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.

6.7 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 contract performance, applicants should share their measures and strategies that promote gender equality, contributing to a more equitable digital innovation ecosystem.

7 Communication, Dissemination and Visibility

7.1 Communication, Dissemination and Promotion

Unless otherwise agreed with 28DIGITAL, the partners of the selected Activities must engage in promotion of the activity. Before engaging in a communication or dissemination activity expected to have a major media impact, the partners must inform 28DIGITAL.

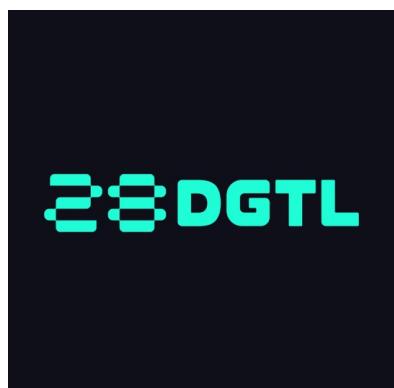
7.2 Visibility: the European Flag and Funding Statement

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).

28DIGITAL logo:



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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.



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For the purposes of their obligations under this Article, 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.

7.3 Quality of Information: Disclaimer

Any communication or dissemination must indicate the following disclaimer (translated into local languages where appropriate):

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7.4 Specific Communication, Dissemination and Visibility Rules

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

7.5 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.

7.6 Intellectual property

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

