

VANGUARD INITIATIVE

New growth through smart specialisation

SUMMIT SYMPOSIUM

Regional Innovation and Manufacturing Industry: the role of AI in European SMEs Digital Transformation

Efficient and Sustainable Manufacturing Pilot

September 25th, 2023

Lombardy Delegation Office

Place du Champ de Mars, 2 -1050 – Brussels.

[REGISTRATION IS MANDATORY](#)

The AI REGIO project organizes a political event at the Lombardy Delegation Office for regional representatives interested. Three panel sessions available to deepen the importance of regional innovation, to discuss the implementation of the EDIH network for manufacturing and to share some best practices ongoing in different regions. The main AI REGIO objectives, in particular, are: i) to foster closer cooperation across EU and non-EU countries to make sure innovations can scale, ii) to integrate Digital Manufacturing Platforms from previous EU-funded projects into Digital Innovation Hubs offerings and iii) to further enhance the network of regional DIHs and SMEs, which will jointly conduct 30 AI-driven application experiments.

The event is organized within the Digital Transformation demo-case of the Efficient and Sustainable (ESM) Pilot of the [Vanguard Initiative](#).

AGENDA

13:00 Networking lunch and registration

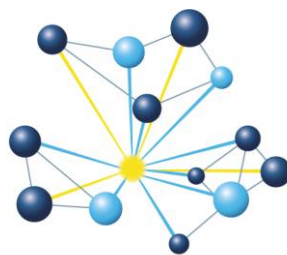
14:20 Welcome and opening remarks
Elena Mossali, Innovation and Technology Manager - AFIL

14:30 **AI REGIO and Regional Innovation in Manufacturing**

Regional innovation is the main aim of Vanguard Initiative, a unique alliance that gathers 38 of the most advanced industrial regions in Europe, focused on stimulating industrial innovation and building European value-chains based on complementarities in regional smart specialisation strategies. The AI REGIO EU-funded project has initially collected 13 Vanguard regions, then expanded to 19 through the FSTP mechanism (Open Calls).

In this session will be discussed the role of VANGUARD Regions in the Digital Transformation of EU Manufacturing Industry, the opportunities, and challenges.

Moderator: Elena Mossali, AFIL Introduction
Speakers: Joan Guasch, Vanguard ESM Pilot
Sabine Hafner-Zimmermann, Vanguard AI Pilot
Tomislav Pinter, DG REGIO



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15:30 **AI REGIO and the Network of EDIH for Manufacturing**

The AI REGIO network of DIHs in Manufacturing is sharing the METHODIH framework for service portfolio analysis (D BEST), customer journeys definition (Providers, Users), service pipelines development (Gaps Analysis) and cross-DIH collaborations identification (Matchmaking). Now the EDIH program and the Digital Transformation Accelerator are creating vertical Working Groups for the Manufacturing Industry.

In this session will be discussed how to exploit synergies and create a network of DIHs and EDIHs, towards the inclusion of most mature and less mature (E)DIHs.

Moderator: Oscar Lazaro, Innovalia Association, Introduction

Speakers: Yves Paindaveine, DG CONNECT, EDIH Initiative

Maria Rossetti, MADE Competence Center, EDIH L and EDIH4MANU

Maurits Butter, TNO, DIHNET / BOWI

16:30 **AI REGIO and the Digital Transformation demo-case in ESM Pilot: industrial demonstrators.** AI REGIO has promoted the development of 17 SME-oriented experiments in the 13 VANGUARD Regions.

After the two waves of Open Calls, we have increased the number of experiments to 21 more from 6 additional countries (Greece, Turkey, Serbia, Hungary, Belgium and UK).

In this session, through the sharing of best practices and success stories, will be discussed the role of DIHs in the Digital Transformation of SMEs.

Moderators: Sergio Gusmeroli, POLIMI; Coen de Graaf, Province of North Brabant

Speakers: Rohan Vangal, INTELLIMECH, Lombardy Region

Jeroen Jansen, Radboud University, East Netherlands

Minna Lanz, Tampere University, Tampere Region

17:30 Wrap-up and End of meeting