



2030 | DIGITAL DECADE

THE EUROPEAN WAY
FOR THE DIGITAL DECADE

Digital Decade
A closer look at
MCPs and **EDICs**

Digital Decade Policy Programme 2030

- The DDPP aims to ensure that the European Union achieves its objectives and targets towards a digital transformation of our society and economy in line with the EU's values, reinforcing our digital leadership and promoting human centred, inclusive and sustainable digital policies empowering citizens and businesses.

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dec/2022/2481/oj>

Supporting the DDPP through MCPs

‘Multi-Country Projects’ are large scale projects facilitating the achievement of the digital targets, they pool the Union’s and Member States’ financing, and meet specific requirements;

An open ended initial list of areas of activity for MCPs is outlined in the DDPP Annex. To add new areas, Commission as an MCP Accelerator can coordinate the implementation of an MCP.

Multi-Country Projects may be implemented by the following mechanisms:

- Joint Undertakings;
- European Research Infrastructure Consortia;
- the Union’s Agencies;
- the execution of Important Projects of Common European Interest;
- European Digital Infrastructure Consortia (EDICs)
- Independently, or through other appropriate mechanisms

Multi-Country Projects (MCPs): collaboration among Member States

- **MCPs:** large scale projects for the EU digital transformation, supporting the achievement of the Digital Decade objectives and targets.
- **MCPs:** Addressing strategic vulnerabilities and dependencies along the supply chain.
- **MCPs:** pool EU, national, and private resources to achieve progress that no MS could do on its own.

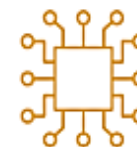
Multi-country projects will facilitate investments in areas like:



Common data infrastructure and services



Blockchain



Low-power processors



Pan-European deployment of 5G corridors



High-performance computing



Secure quantum infrastructure and network of cybersecurity centres



Digital public administration



Digital innovation hubs

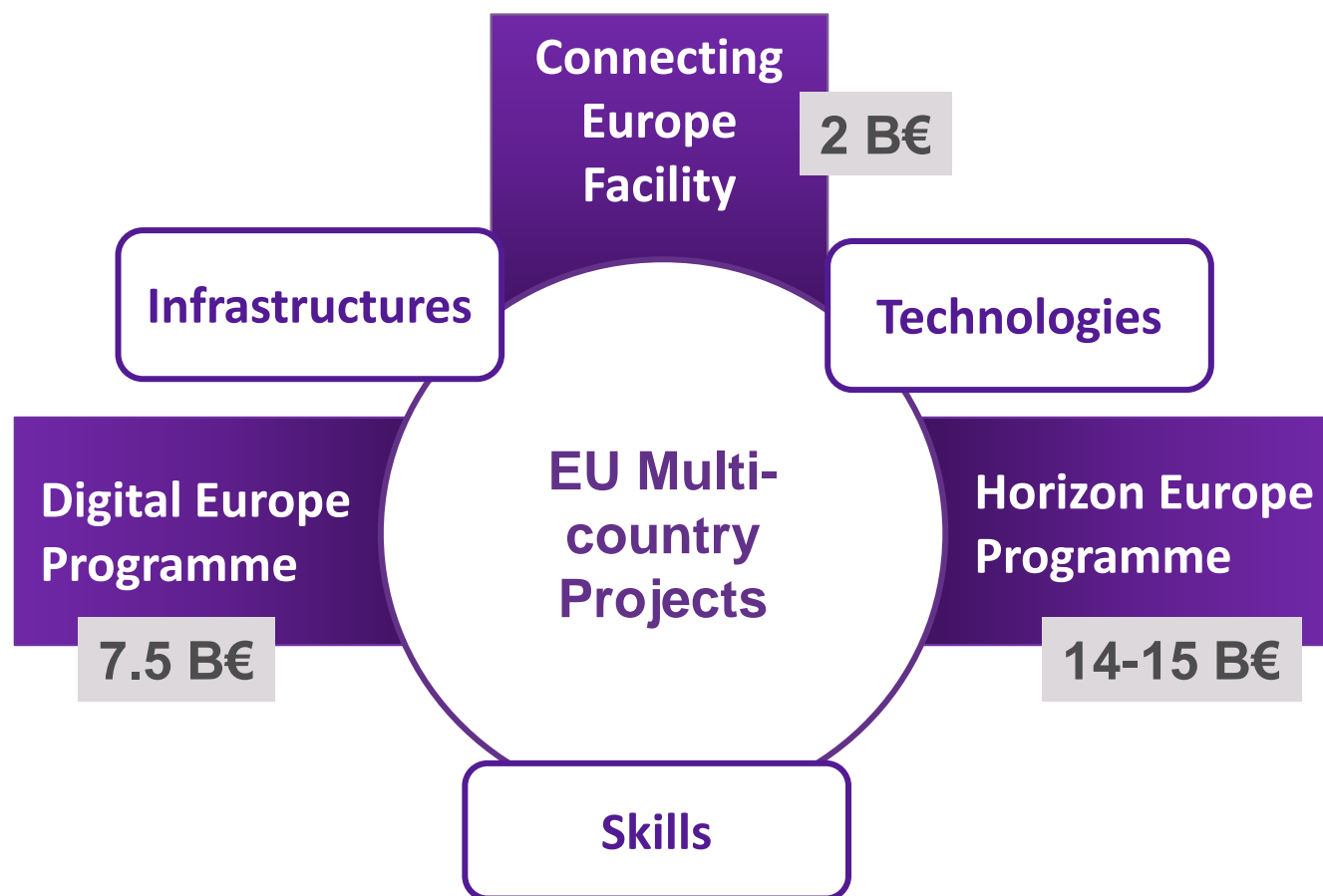


High-tech partnerships for digital skills

The concept has been introduced to the MS during the Recovery and Resilience Facility negotiations. Some MS have already outlined investments into MCPs in their Recovery and Resilience Plans.

EU funding instruments that could support MCPs

(managed by the EU or by the MSs)



Recovery and Resilience facility



European Digital Infrastructure Consortia (EDIC)

The concept was introduced to address the strategic needs of deployment Multi Country Projects:

- Quick set up;
- Flexible implementation;
- Participation of several MS from the very beginning, and remaining open for the other MS throughout the EDIC lifecycle;
- Legal personality, enabling infrastructure deployment and operation combined with long-term sustainability.

European Digital Infrastructure Consortia

What is an EDIC?

- The concept of EDICs is influenced by the success of European Research Infrastructure Consortia (ERICs),
- A legal entity but not a Union body (in contrast to Joint Undertakings), and the Commission will not hold votes.

European Digital Infrastructure Consortia (EDIC)

How EDICs are going to work:

- A legal entity set up by a decision of the Commission upon a request of a group of MS. Legal personality and full legal capacity recognised in all MS. Liable for its own debts.
- At least three MS as members. Flexible internal structure defined in the statutes by members.
- EDICs must remain open for participation of new MS (in contrast to the IPCEI), subject to rules provided for in the Statutes. Incumbent MS may not block such participation.
- Commitments of the members and grants from EU instruments expected to be the main sources of financing.
 - The EDIC will be able to apply for funding from the centrally-managed EU programmes (e.g., DEP, CEF, Horizon Europe), RRF and funds under shared management.

European Digital Infrastructure Consortia

EDICs Governance:

- Strong position of MS in EDIC's governance: only MS who provide financial/non-financial contributions will have voting rights. Other MS may join EDICs as observers. Other public/private entities can become members, they may not be able to outvote MS.
- The Commission involved in the following elements of an EDIC's governance:
 - The deliberations of the assembly of members of an EDIC, without voting rights
 - If funded by an EU instrument, Commission veto right on the decisions of the assembly concerning actions funded by this instrument
 - Recommendations regarding the matters covered in an EDIC's annual activity report

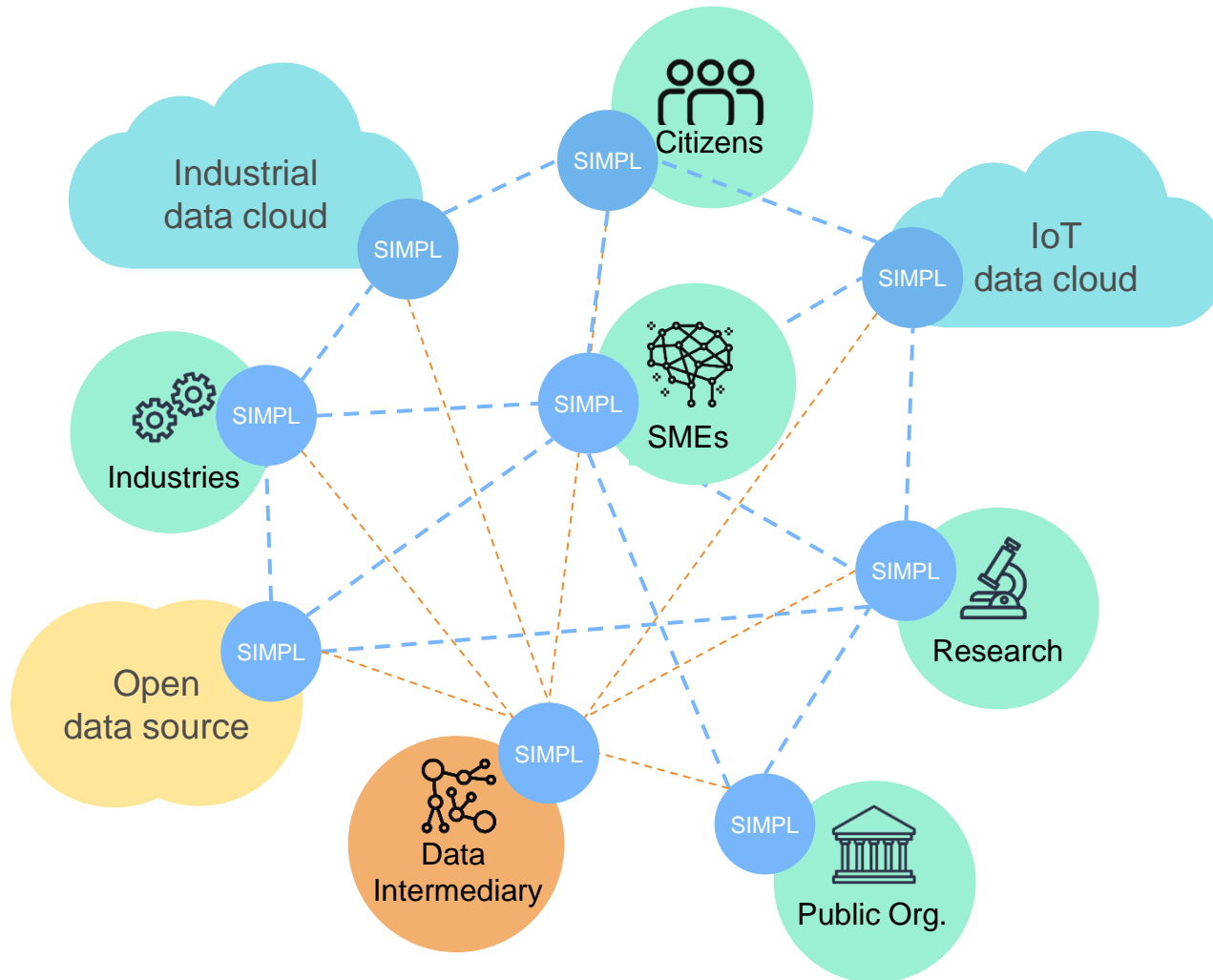
European Common Data Infrastructure and Services MCP

In the European strategy for data, the Commission announced the creation of common *European data spaces* and *federated cloud infrastructures and services*.

The objective is to provide an integrated strategy for European investments in the data economy by interlinking on the one hand, innovative data ecosystems and, on the other hand, the necessary data processing infrastructure and services.

Both will be part of the MCP in **European Common Data Infrastructure and Services**.

A definition of Common European Data Spaces



Common European Data Spaces are **a federated data ecosystem based on shared policies and rules**. The participants of data spaces are enabled to access data in a secure, transparent, trusted, easy and unified fashion.

Data holders remain in control of who can access and use their data, for which purpose and under which conditions.

From a technical perspective, a data space is a data integration concept which does not require common database schemas and physical data integration. A data space is rather based on distributed data stores and integration on an “as needed” basis.

European Common Data Infrastructure and Services MCP

Two implementing mechanisms:

- IPCEI on Next Generation Cloud Infrastructure and Services.
- Implementation of the common European data spaces via EDICs



Four EDICs are under preparation for the creation of data spaces:

- Mobility data space
- AgriFood data space
- Genomics
- Cancer Imaging

European Digital Infrastructure Consortia (EDICs)

Rationale and main features

- **EDIC purpose:** To implement Multi-Country Projects. The concept draws inspiration from the success of European Research Infrastructure Consortia (ERICs).
- **Advantages:** Swift establishment and flexible implementation.
- **Legal status:** An EDIC becomes a legal entity upon the Commission's decision, requested by a group of Member States (MS). It possesses legal personality and full legal capacity recognized in all MS, being responsible for its own debts.
- **Membership requirements:** An EDIC must have at least three Member States as members. The internal structure is flexible and defined in the statutes by its members.
- **Financing sources:** Commitments from EDIC members, an EDIC can also seek funding from centrally-managed EU programs (such as DEP, CEF, Horizon Europe), RRF, and funds under shared management.



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