

# First EDIC Annual Gathering

19-20 November 2025

## PROCEEDINGS REPORT

DG CNECT, MCP Accelerator



### Executive Summary

The First Annual EDIC Gathering brought together EDIC initiatives, Member States, and EU institutions for two days of exchanges on the future of EDIC Ecosystem. Day 1 centred on a panel discussion about **the role of EDICs in enabling open and scalable digital solutions across Europe**. Key themes included interoperability and cross-border collaboration, with an emphasis on shared priorities and operational synergies. Open-source solutions and the involvement of private stakeholders were identified as essential for making EDIC initiatives more accessible and effective. An open debate closed the day, highlighting shared challenges such as governance, sustainability, and coordination across actors. Also on Day 1, participants representing EDICs provided short pitch-style presentations of the essential features of their established and planned EDICs.

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Day 2 featured three parallel sessions on People, Procedures, and Money, designed to gather **practical inputs from the EDIC community** and chaired by representatives of EDICs. Discussions touched on i.e. national registration of EDICs, other administrative processes, funding models, regulatory issues, offering a realistic snapshot of the operational needs emerging across EDICs. The results were then debated in plenary, outlining common obstacles and possible areas for joint action.

The event concluded with the **strong support to the vision of the EDIC framework as an important tool for the digitalisation of the Union**, in particular by mainstreaming its role in the implementation of the upcoming European Competitiveness Fund, and a call to **continue building a collaborative EDIC community** and to advance shared solutions that can support Europe's digital ambitions.

## Objectives of the First EDIC Annual Gathering

The event aimed to enhance coherence of the EDIC ecosystem, aligning the goals and methodologies of individual EDICs with broader European priorities, ensuring consistency across the EDICs. Policy and governance alignment could lead to harmonisation of approaches to governance, regulatory compliance, and technical standards, paving the way for more unified and interoperable infrastructure.

Additionally, the event leveraged the collective expertise and experience to overcome bottlenecks in planning and implementation, leading to faster delivery of formal applications and easier start of projects on the ground.

## Procedural Report

The First EDIC Annual Gathering opened with remarks from Thomas Skordas, Deputy Director-General of DG CNECT, who outlined the purpose of the European Digital Infrastructure Consortium (EDIC) in supporting the EU's Digital Decade goals, emphasizing the importance of large-scale digital infrastructures for multi-country projects. Four EDICs—ALT-EDIC, LDT CitiVERSE EDIC, EUROPEUM-EDIC, and Digital Commons EDIC—have already been established, with IMPACTS-EDIC nearing formalization (N.B. formally established now by Commission Decision (EU) 2025/2414) and more initiatives in progress.

Key topics raised covered legal and operational processes, including state aid, data protection and the national registration of EDICs, which remain among the most pressing challenges. Simplification was identified as key to addressing outstanding practical and legal bottlenecks. It was noted that EDICs may also become useful instruments for supporting the implementation of the new Multiannual Financial Framework, especially in the context of the upcoming European Competitiveness Fund (ECF) and the revision of the Digital Decade Policy Programme Decision.

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## Panel Discussion: Shaping the Future EDIC Ecosystem

The panel discussion highlighted the strategic role of EDICs in supporting **Europe's digital sovereignty and security objectives**. EDICs were described as a **strategic instrument** to pool resources, develop shared digital capabilities and deploy cross-border solutions, as well as a potential delivery mechanism for the ECF.

The conversation highlighted the need for strong **cooperation between EDICs** and close alignment between Member States to create a unified approach consistent with broader **European digital objectives**. Such collaboration is crucial to reducing market fragmentation and fostering a more **competitive** and innovative ecosystem.

**Interoperability** was highlighted as both a challenge and an opportunity. Participants stressed the importance of defining common priorities that are meaningful across all countries, including those not actively involved in EDICs, to ensure smooth functionality and integration of digital infrastructures.

The discussion explored the **involvement of businesses** in EDICs, which can boost competitiveness and strengthen a more **entrepreneurial culture** but must be balanced with the public nature of EDICs and EU competition rules. Alternative industry engagement methods such as strategic advice, networking, and access to EDIC results were proposed as a solution.

**Economic sustainability** was another key theme. Speakers noted that Member States' budgetary constraints negatively impact the participation in the EDICs and the EDICs' scale. It was observed that Member States are more willing to contribute to the areas where EU law requires them to act anyway. Moreover, participants noted the need to create incentives for Member States to join EDICs as members, which may include preferential access to the EDICs' results (as compared to Member States who are observers or do not participate in the EDIC). The challenge of **state aid** constraints was discussed, emphasizing the necessity of the Commission's intervention to ensure long-term sustainability beyond reliance on Member State funding.

Finally, there was an acknowledgment of the need for **strong political backing and consensus to support the EDIC ecosystem**, facilitating open collaboration and collective progress in European digital initiatives.

The recording of the livestream on Day 1 is available via the following link:  
<https://webcast.ec.europa.eu/edic-annual-gathering-event-2025-11-19>

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## Evidence from the Parallel Sessions

On the second day, the parallel sessions presented varied yet interconnected themes, exploring the establishment of EDICs (PROCEDURES), budgetary concerns (MONEY), and governance structures (PEOPLE).

The **PROCEDURES** session highlighted the necessity of **creating a cohesive EDIC community**, supported by Member States' **political backing** to improve coordination and facilitate smoother operations.

Procedural key barriers included complex **national regulations** and different approaches to **registration processes** across different countries, which can delay implementation. Variations in **political support** and differing interpretations of legal requirements, such as **VAT exemptions**, were also highlighted as complicating collaboration. The **distinction between economic and non-economic activities**, necessary esp. for tax and State aid perspective may also be challenging. From this perspective, participants expressed the need for **strengthening cooperation on practical matters and legal guidance**.

The **MONEY** session was devoted to budget and finance. The discussion emphasized the value of robust **investment plans** combining Member States' contributions, EU funding, and market-oriented approaches, supported by a clear business plan based on a proper identification of **demand**. Presenting a strong **policy value vision** was seen as essential to engage Member States and justify contributions.

Budgetary challenges included integrating **private sector entities** without granting membership, **intellectual property rights**, and **HR-related issues** such as member liability in specific national contexts.

The **PEOPLE** session focused on designing a balanced governance model to maintain **alignment between local and global priorities**, which was identified as a challenge for ERICs as well. **Clear goal definitions** and **agile methods** were suggested to enhance coordination and to encourage experience sharing across EDICs.

Participants noted administrative barriers such as **short-term funding** and **misalignment** between national and European priorities, which hinder effective coordination among multiple stakeholders. In this context, complexities in **handling increasing expectations** of Member States were seen as substantial challenges. Additionally, **disparities in decision-making power** and **weak involvement** of members prevent efficient and unified governance strategies.

These sessions collectively highlighted the importance of political leverage in surmounting procedural, financial, and governance barriers, advocating for a coordinated and flexible approach to EDIC decision-making and execution.

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## Conclusions

In summary, the gathering highlighted how closely political commitment and practical implementation are linked in making EDICs successful. In this context, participants shared the vision of EDICs as an important tool for the digitalisation of the Union. In this context, they supported a more mainstreamed role of EDICs in the implementation of the upcoming European Competitiveness Fund.

The participants observed that political backing at both national and EU levels is essential to overcome procedural barriers and enable effective financial planning, while governance discussions emphasized the need for an open community-building approach. Recognizing the diversity of EDICs, the dialogue encouraged synergies, collaboration with ERICs, and broader stakeholder engagement, all within a strong political framework that prioritizes digital sovereignty and sustainability.

Overall, the event conveyed a shared vision in which political guidance, technical work and financial planning move together to advance Europe's digital ambitions.



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## ANNEX – GET TO KNOW THE EDICS (Information provided by the EDICs)

### ***Alliance for Language Technologies (ALT-EDIC) – set up by Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/458***

ALT-EDIC stems from the need for Europe to assert its role amid recent technological disruption. Its central objectives are supporting Europe's linguistic diversity and preserving languages and cultures using digital tools and technologies. Two key aspects are data and evaluation, focusing on the technical work for data handling and system training evaluation. The EDIC employs six staff members and counts eighteen members (17 Member States and one region). Link to ALT-EDIC website: [The Alliance for Language Technologies EDIC - ALT-EDIC](#)

### ***Local Digital Twins CitiVERSE EDIC (LDT EDIC) – set up by Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/459***

LDT CitiVERSE EDIC's goal is the virtualization of cities to tackle complex challenges like emission reduction and quality housing. A cross-domain approach integrating economic development and sustainability is essential. The EDIC aims to offer products, services and facilities to aid cities in transitioning towards the CitiVERSE. The EDIC currently counts fifteen Member States as members and is headquartered in Valencia. Link to LDT CitiVERSE EDIC website: [LDT Citiverse EDIC – LDT Citiverse EDIC](#)

### ***EDIC for European Blockchain Partnership and European Blockchain Service Infrastructure (EUROPEUM-EDIC) – set up by Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/1432***

EUROPEUM-EDIC's goal is to expand the European Blockchain Services Infrastructure (EBSI). EUROPEUM-EDIC aims to provide blockchain-based services for private and public sectors, covering supply chains, public administration, copyright management and digital passports. The EDIC has eleven members and remains open to additional members.

### ***Digital Commons EDIC (DC-EDIC) – set up by Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2025/2170***

DC-EDIC stems from the need to reduce Europe's dependency on big tech. Transitioning to alternative solutions is difficult now due to limited options. DC-EDIC aims to create an ecosystem to compete with major tech companies. The goal is to institutionalize a collaborative workspace, bring it to the market, and demonstrate that private companies can build upon these efforts. The EDIC has five members and four observers and remains open to additional members.

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## ***IMPACTS-EDIC – set up by Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2025/2414***

IMPACTS-EDIC's goal is to create significant impact by strengthening connections between public administrations. It aims for long-term cooperation in support of interoperability, establishing an ecosystem of gov-tech stakeholders, including companies, research institutes, non-governmental organisations, focused on government technologies. The EDIC plans to invest in strategic priorities, including user-friendly applications and an interoperability sandbox, collaborating with Member States to provide these services. To start with, the EDIC will have six countries as members, eight as observers and will be headquartered in Athens.

## ***Cybersecurity Skills Coalition EDIC (CSC EDIC) – in the making***

CSC EDIC is a pioneering effort in Europe, aiming to address the cybersecurity skills gap by developing skilled workforce and supporting technological sovereignty. It aligns with the Commission's 2023 Communication on the Cybersecurity Skills Gap, focusing on cybersecurity training and capacity-building actions. Priorities include cooperation with industry and upskilling professionals in SMEs. CSC EDIC intends to support ENISA, the Commission and other coordination centres in connecting policy with practice. The EDIC will have five members to start with and will be headquartered in Athens.

## ***Agrifood EDIC – in the making***

Agrifood EDIC stems from the agrifood sector's role in Europe's digital transformation and technological sovereignty. The EDIC aims to support small administrations with digital tools, reduce the administrative burden on farmers, enhance competitiveness and sustainability, ensure data accessibility, and leverage AI opportunities. The EDIC will have nine members and four observers to start with and will be headquartered in France, with the establishment decision expected in Q1 2026 and launch in Q2 2026.

## ***EDIC for Mobility and Logistics (M&L EDIC) – in the making***

M&L EDIC focuses on mobility for both people and goods within the European mobility data space. While Member States have developed logistic ecosystems, a common platform for interoperability and standardization is lacking. The EDIC aims to address this by collaborating with data spaces and supporting cross-borders operations. The EDIC will have six members and ten observers to start with and remains open to additional participants.

## ***European Startup National Alliance EDIC (ESNA-EDIC) – in the making***

ESNA-EDIC will be the evolution of ESNA organisation, which currently gathers twenty-six Member States plus Iceland and Ukraine. Transitioning to an EDIC offers a formal legal framework, addressing the need for competitiveness and digital capacity and aims to bolster Europe's start-up and scale-up ecosystem. ESNA-EDIC will facilitate cooperation among Member States, harmonizing innovation and entrepreneurship policies to support EU digital objectives and strengthen policy and talent attraction links. Additionally, the initiative aims to build connections with Horizon Europe and Digital Europe Programme, with the transition to an EDIC expected in Q1 2026.

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## *Genome-EDIC – in the making*

Genome-EDIC focuses on creating a genomic data infrastructure for accessing clinical data across Europe to enhance health research. Challenges include limited fundability and usability due to poor harmonization and data integration among Member States, with genomic data scattered across inconsistent repositories and managed by third-country vendors, raising sovereignty concerns. The European Health Data Space Regulation partly addresses these issues but is limited in scope. Genome-EDIC aims to build a data ecosystem aligned with community standards. Four countries intend to become members of the EDIC, which will be headquartered in Luxembourg.

## *EUCAIM EDIC – in the making*

EUCAIM-EDIC focuses on cancer imaging in Europe, where 10 billion medical images are generated annually, yet few are effectively re-used. With the growing role of AI in diagnostics, access to high-quality, harmonized data is essential. Challenges include regulatory framework, data collection, and high operational costs, which limit SME participation. The EDIC aims to create a federated infrastructure, providing cancer images and clinical data through a centralized catalogue with an access-negotiation mechanism, enabling SMEs to validate and develop new tools. Launched in February 2024, the working group received positive feedback to pre-notification in May 2025, aiming for formal establishment in 2026. Spain will host the EDIC, and, at this stage, eight countries intend to become members and eight intend to participate as observers.

## *EBRAINS EDIC – in the making*

EBRAINS EDIC focuses on the European Brain Data Space (EBRAINS) a digital research infrastructure from the Human Brain Project built around six major toolsets. Transitioning to an EDIC aims to enhance data interoperability and ensure the long-term sustainability. Challenges include integrating big data for training LLMs and develop sovereign AI models and attracting Member States while aligning national policies. At this stage, nine countries intend to become members of the EDIC, which will be headquartered in France.

## *TEF Health EDIC – in the making*

TEF Health EDIC focuses on Testing and Experimentation Facilities to support AI and robotics systems under the EU AI Act. Founded in 2023, the consortium includes nine Member States and 52 partner organisations, providing an industry platform for testing facilities and services. The AI act requires Member States to set up AI regulatory sandboxes, and this obligation can be fulfilled either by creating or joining a sandbox. The future EDIC aims to develop, train and test health-care technologies, promoting Europe's leadership in AI and responsible health care. Member States' support will be essential as the working group forms.

For more details about EDICs already set up, please also consult the EDIC website via: [European Digital Infrastructure Consortium - EDIC | Shaping Europe's digital future](#)