Digital Innovation Ecosystems

Learnings in Lower Austria

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Online Discussion

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European Union | European Regional Development Fund

Digital change in Lower Austria

House of **digitalization**

2017

2018

Establishment of an interdepartmental office for digitalization in the province of Lower Austria to coordinate all measures concerning digitalization

ecoplus was commissioned to develop and implement the program **House of Digitalization**

Lower Austria develops its own **strategy for digitalization**

Start of the lighthouse project **House of Digitalization**

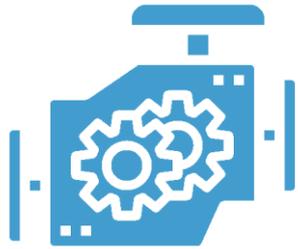# Interregional learning & partnerships

2016

Start of **INKREASE** and **CLUSTERIX 2.0**

Interreg Europe
European Union | European Regional Development Fund

2019

Start of **INNO Industry** and **Next2Met**

House of Digitalization: The development

House of digitalization

The network.

In **2018 an intelligent digital network** was established. This living network is the **engine of the project.**

The virtual house.

In **2019**, the virtual **House of Digitalization** was established as the cross-industry, structured and online **information hub** of the project.

The actual building.

The real **House of Digitalization** is the last piece of the puzzle in this process and will become **the heart of the whole project**.
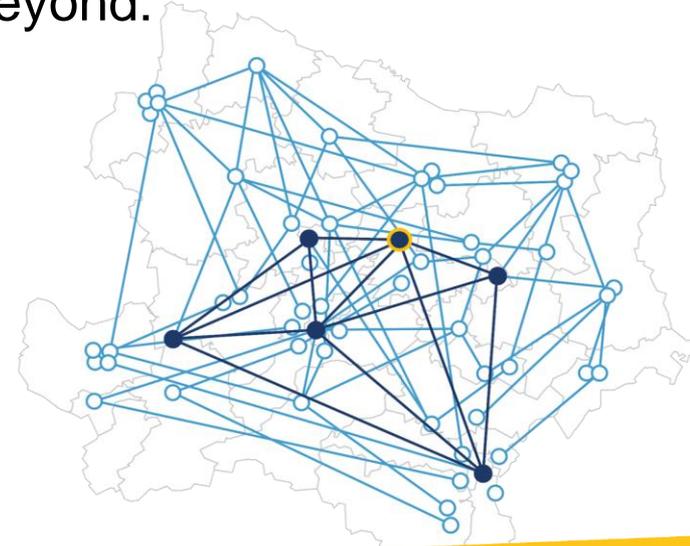
Learning from Good practice

- **INKREASE**: Increase the capacities of innovation ecosystems, reinforce collaboration between research & business communities and exploit the economic valorisation processes of research results

- Good Practice from Bretagne: **CRAFT** platform for regional innovation partners

- **Virtual house of digitalisation** improvement: increased resources for facilitation / maintenance of web platform

Sharing our Good Practice

- In ongoing projects **INNO Industry** and **Next2Met**

- **Success factors**:
  - ➢ Involvement of all relevant stakeholders in the Digital Innovation Ecosystem
  - ➢ Growing partnership within the region & beyond:
    Lower Austrian lighthouse project
    Austrian Digital Innovation Hub (DIHOST)
    preparation of joint EDIH application

- **Challenges** for policy makers:
  - ➢ Incentives for cooperation needed
  - ➢ How to monitor performance and results

Policy Improvement

- Learnings from **INNO Industry** GPs from Slovenia and Portugal
- New regional financial support scheme for digital transformation of companies launched in June 2020: **Digi4SME** - since Nov. 2020: **Digi4Business**
- ➢ Enlarged target group incl. service sector
- ➢ Simplified, faster application process: jury meetings every 2 weeks, official project approvals every month, application form: 2 pages only.
- **Output:** ca 1200 project applications since June 2020
- **Impact**: a lot of new companies reached, far beyond the « usual suspects »

Recommendations for (regional) policy makers

1. Put **needs of SMEs at the centre** (not technology)

2. Incentivise cooperation of stakeholders in your Digital Innovation Ecosystem

3. Build on existing competencies within your region and connect to complementary competencies beyond