



EU4Digital ICT Innovation event on joining the EU networks and platforms: ICT Innovation for Manufacturing SMEs (I4MS)

CONCEPT OUTLINE

About this event

When and where: 30 September 2021, 12:00 - 14:00 (CET), online.

Concept: The EU4Digital Initiative ICT Innovation stream will hold a virtual consultation session to further support the integration and joining of the EaP stakeholders to a specific EU network - [I4MS](#). The network was introduced during a dedicated networking event organised on the topic "[Networking with EU Digital Innovation Hubs to enable the development of competence centres, platforms, tools and services supporting digital transformation of SMEs](#)" in the policy area "Digitising industry (digital transformation of SMEs in traditional sectors)" on 22 April 2021.

This event is complemented with the Guide, that provides an in-depth overview of the possibilities for stakeholders of the six Eastern partner countries to join the selected EU networks and platforms in the area of ICT Innovation.

Language: The event will be held in English.

Topic: Joining I4MS to provide EaP manufacturing SMEs a better access to finance and expertise for acceleration of digital transformation

Goals: The ultimate goal of this event is to provide more opportunities for EaP manufacturing SMEs to get access to finance and expertise for digital transformation.

Main beneficiaries addressed by EU4Digital activity:

- *Business associations* and organisations that can support local manufacturing SMEs by promoting I4MS services, such as cascade funding and testing of technologies.
- *Competence centres* and organisations with specialized technological expertise that can develop their capacity to support SMEs in digital transformation by accessing specialized trainings for their experts, through knowledge exchange and transfer of service toolkits from European DIHs.

Organisation details

- **Short description:** The [I4MS](#) is the EU initiative to digitalise the manufacturing industry (SMEs and mid-caps). It is promoted by the European Commission to expand the digital innovation of manufacturing SMEs in Europe and is one of the key initiatives of the European Commission to shape the pan-European network of Digital Innovation Hubs (DIHs). 84% of its industrial members are SMEs, to whom I4MS provides an opportunity to apply for technological and financial support to experiment with different technologies and services, to improve the innovation skills of staff and the technologies and services that the company provides. I4MS maintains the community of experts, the working groups and the contact points across Europe. Finally, I4MS has support partners such as FundingBox Accelerator which is a non-profitable initiative promoting and launching technological and innovative businesses in Europe. [Presentation of organisation](#).
- **Mission statement:** The main goal is to support manufacturing SMEs and mid-caps in the widespread use of information and communication technologies (ICT) in their business operations. The objective is to accelerate the uptake of digital technologies in processes across Europe focused on extending the transformative impact to companies, regions and sectors, and supporting personalised and cost-effective small-scale production based on secure digital technologies.
- **Priority topic(-s):** Technological areas related to digital transformation of manufacturing SMEs such as Smart modelling, Robotics, Internet of Things, Cybersecurity and others (see for more [here](#)).
- **Community:** I4MS connects and collaborates with many organisations across Europe, including different types of organisations such as SMEs (the biggest group constituting 40% of the network), DIHs (a second largest group with about 30% of organisations), which connect I4MS indirectly with the SMEs and facilitate support to SMEs, intermediary support organisations, public administration, corporates, industry associations.



Agenda

EU4Digital ICT Innovation event on joining EU networks and platforms:

«Joining I4MS to provide EaP manufacturing SMEs a better access to finance and expertise for acceleration of digital transformation»

30 September 2021 – Thursday		
Time (CET)	Topic	Speaker
11:45 – 12:00	Time for connection – the session will start at 12:00 sharp	EU4Digital Facility ICT Innovation Team
12:00 – 12:20	Opening notes. I4MS joining event - goals and objectives. Brief introduction of participants from EaP.	EU4Digital Facility ICT Innovation Team / I4MS Maria Roca
12:20 – 12:45	1. Joining the online community at I4MS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Signing up to FundingBox ID; exploring members directory and its functions. ○ Joining the EaP stakeholders community on Smart Industry and explore its functions. ○ Joint work in the EaP stakeholders community on Smart Industry: connecting with other community members, raising questions, indicating technology areas of interest, proposing joint projects. 	I4MS Maria Roca / Ola Sawicka-Green; All participants; Facilitated by EU4Digital Facility ICT Innovation Team
12:45 – 13:00	2. Brokerage system (by FundingBox project) for manufacturing SMEs and projects opportunities for entities from eligible countries: virtual excursion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Exploring the open links to I4MS projects and I4MS contact points on the map. ○ Signing up to receive your FundingBox ID. ○ Intro to the Brokerage system application form. ○ Checking the calendar of open calls for projects. Intro to application form for the relevant open call. 	I4MS, Marta Portalés
13:00 – 13:15	3. Training opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Virtual excursion into Catalogue of training opportunities provided in different modes by I4MS members related to different technological areas as IoT, Robotics, AI, HPC, Cloud and other. ○ Intro into searching for training opportunities and submitting new trainings to the Training Catalogue via online form. 	I4MS, Marta Portalés
13:15 – 13:30	4. Becoming part of I4MS Network of Contact Points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Overview of benefits being I4MS Contact Point. ○ Virtual excursion into the Application form for entities from eligible countries. 	I4MS, Irina Frigioiu
13:30 – 13:45	Experience of acting as an I4MS Contact Point	Alexander Yurchak, Director at The Association of Industrial Automation of Ukraine (APPAU)
13:45 – 13:55	Questions and suggestions from EaP participants	All participants
13:55 – 14:00	Wrap up and closure of the event	EU4Digital Facility ICT Innovation Team