

RESEARCH TO REALITY

DIGITAL SOLUTIONS TO
EUROPEAN CHALLENGES



The past, present and future of the Digital Europe Programme: lessons learned

Agenda

**The Digital Europe Programme:
Implementation and main achievements**

Morten FJALLAND

INTERACTIVE PANEL DISCUSSION

- 1. Awareness**
- 2. Participation**
- 3. Implementation**
- 4. Relevance and Flexibility**

AUDIENCE Q&A

CLOSING REMARKS

IMPLEMENTATION OF DIGITAL EUROPE PROGRAMME, SO FAR



Morten Fjalland
Director - DG Connect



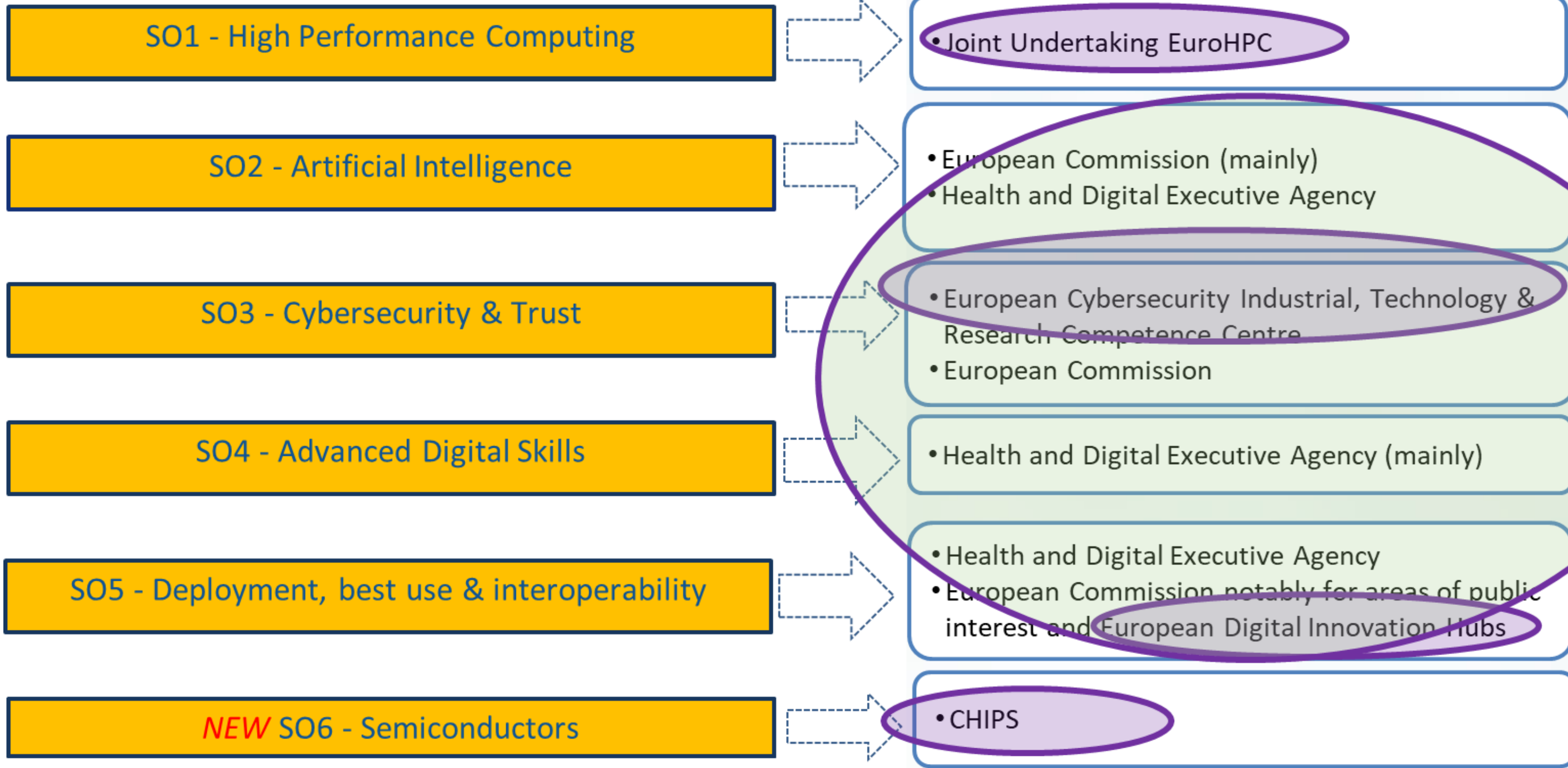
The Digital Europe Programme: *Implementation and main achievements*

**Morten Fjalland, DG CONNECT
Director Resources and Support**

Introduction: Programme Structure

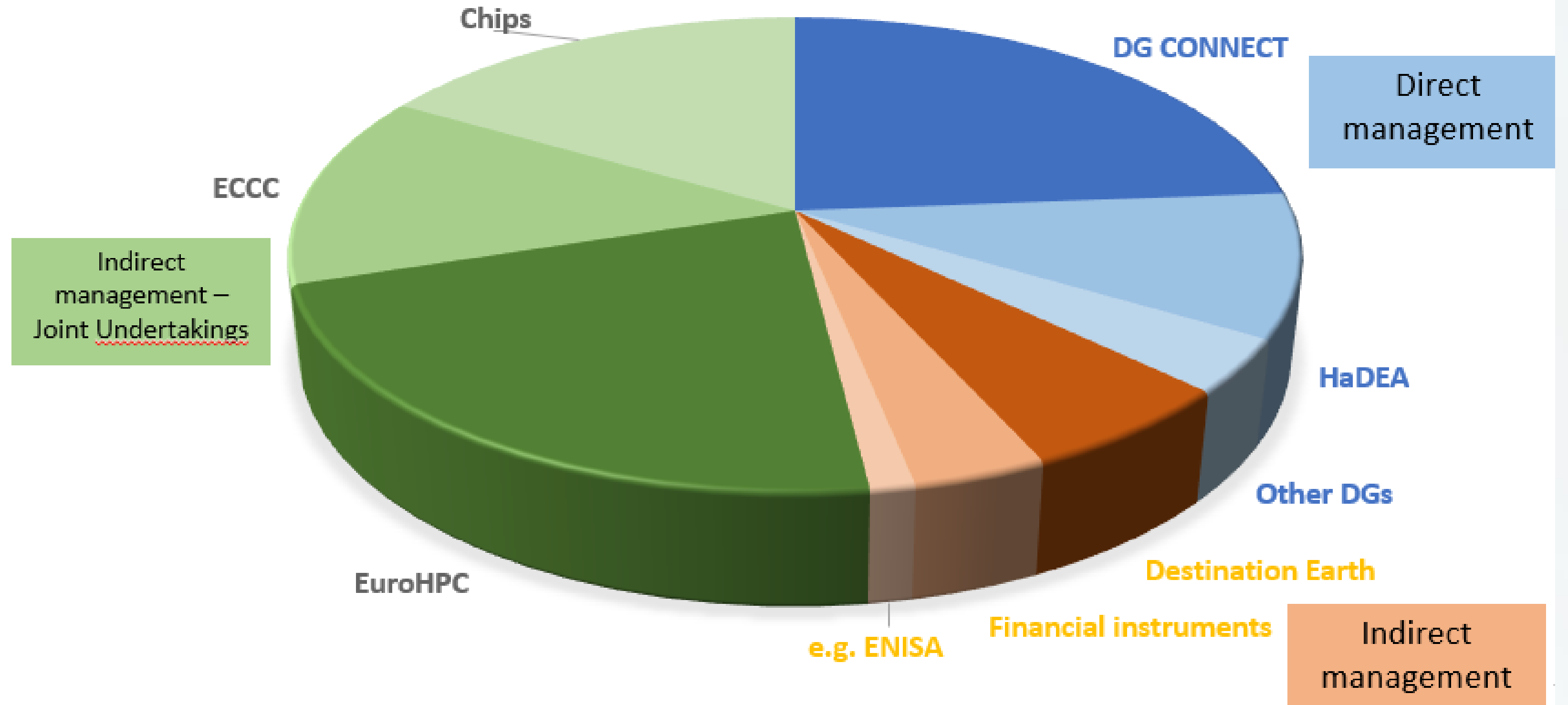
Specific Objectives

Implementing bodies and WPs



Implementation of the Digital Europe Programme

Implementing bodies



ECCC: European Cybersecurity Competence Centre

EuroHPC: European High-Performance Computing

ENISA: European Union Agency for Cybersecurity

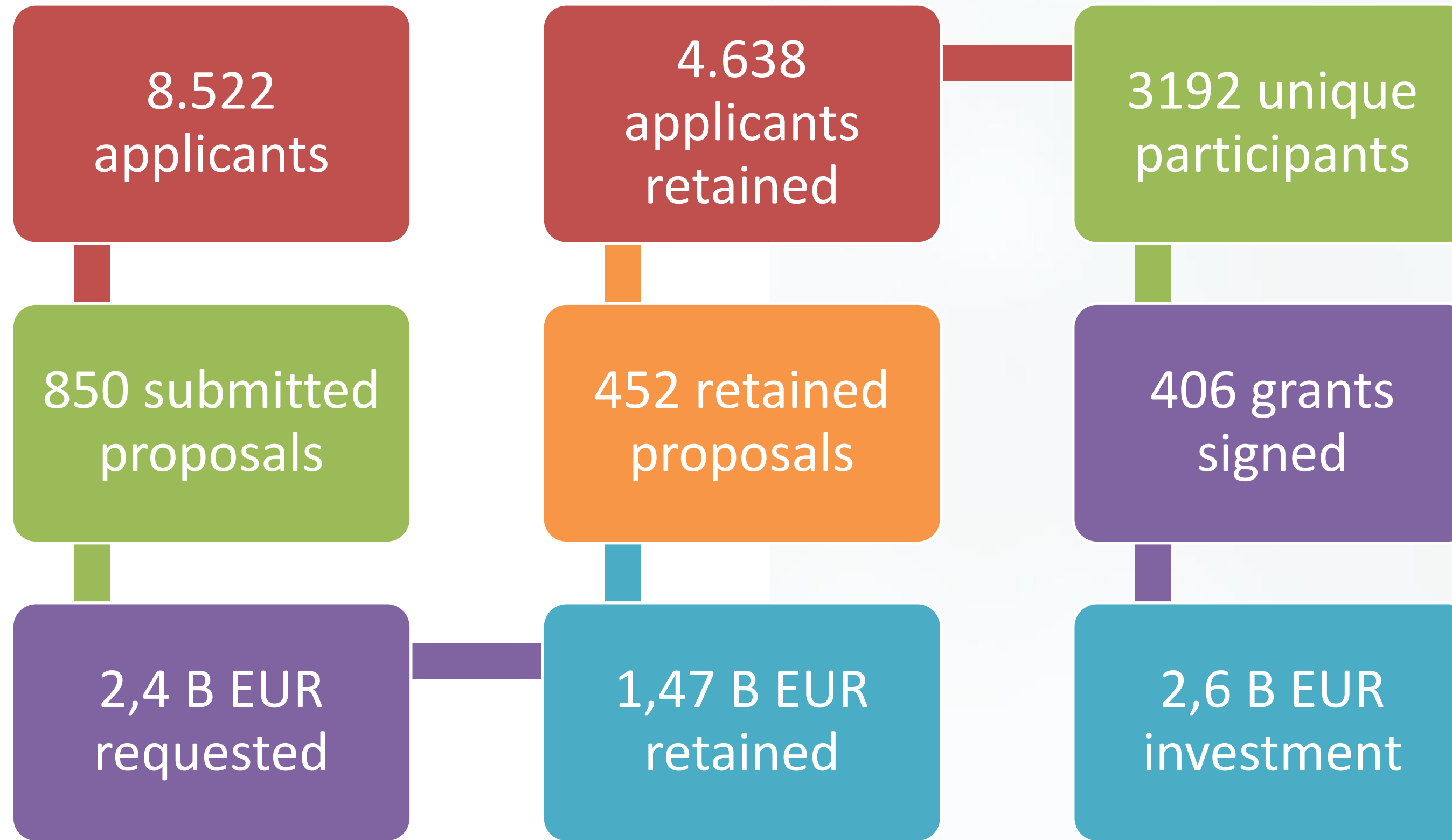
HaDEA: European Health and Digital Executive Agency

DG CONNECT: Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology

Key programme characteristics



Statistics on grants: 2021 - today



Major accomplishments in implementation

- ✓ Successful onboarding into corporate IT systems.
- ✓ More than 30 calls for about 90 topics opened.
- ✓ Call opening and evaluation goes smoothly and according to time plan.
- ✓ About 100 National Contact Points.
- ✓ More than 300 questions on restricted calls and more than 300 questions on other legal issues.
- ✓ Guidances: Guide for implementation; ex-ante control strategy; Digital Europe Programme specificities in corporate guidances.
- ✓ Info sessions and trainings.
- ✓ Security scrutiny processes and PC working group on security scrutiny.
- ✓ Restricted calls: preparation, guidance note and implementation (including IT solutions).
- ✓ Flexible solutions to increase budget consumption.

Security and Strategic Autonomy: restrictions in the Digital Europe Programme

- Certain calls for proposals may restrict participation according to the articles 12.5 or 12.6 of the Digital Europe Programme Regulation.
- The calls that are subject to such restrictions and the precise conditions for each call are set out in the Work Programmes published on the Funding & Tenders Portal.
- **Entities controlled by non-eligible countries or entities established in Associated Countries** cannot participate under Article 12.5 (unless otherwise provided in the Work Programme), whereas Article 12.6 allows for their participation provided they comply with certain conditions established in the Work Programme (guarantees)

Restricted calls in figures

30+

- More than 30 topics with restrictions in the first two years

600+

- More than 600 Ownership Control Assessments finalized
- More than 50 (about 8%) non-EU controlled entities

20

- Changes in about 20 contracts due to entities not fulfilling art. 12(5) or 12(6) requirements

40

- Overall, 40 guarantees have been approved

National Contact Points

- The Commission has asked from participating countries to nominate National Contact Points that will act as ambassadors of the Programme in their respective countries.
- To date, there are **122 National Contact Points from 33 participating countries**.
- Contact details can be found on the Funding & Tender Opportunities portal.
- The European Commission is in daily contact with the Digital Europe Programme NCPs on various thematic and horizontal issues.
- A proposal for a Coordination and Support Action is currently under evaluation for further supporting NCPs' activities in cross-country coordination activities.

Main achievements of the Digital Europe Programme

SO 1

HPC & Quantum

3 EuroHPC supercomputers are now in the Top10 in the world & among greenest in the world

Procurement for JUPITER, Europe's first exascale supercomputer

DestinE

Procurements of major components completed (core platform, data lake and first 2 Digital Twins), services and infrastructure to be available in June 2024

EDIH

151 **EDIHs** in all EU countries as well as Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein established

EDIHs services are available in nearly 90% of the European regions serving public and private organisations, in particular SMEs

- Test before Invest
- Innovation Ecosystem
 - Digital skills
- Access to finance

SO 2

Four **TEFs** established (agrifood, healthcare, manufacturing and smart cities and communities) offering testing and validation services to AI innovators (as of 2024)

First milestones for **data spaces** (for instance, health data space linking up 36 datasets with a total of 200 000 image series.)



SO 3

27 National Cybersecurity Coordination Centers

established providing access to research and technological expertise in cybersecurity at national/regional levels and ensuring cross-border cooperation

SO 4

Over 2500 students and participants in the first digital master's programmes (for instance, in digital health and civil engineering), and short-term training courses (in AI, cybersecurity, IoT, blockchain, quantum and robotics)

SO 5

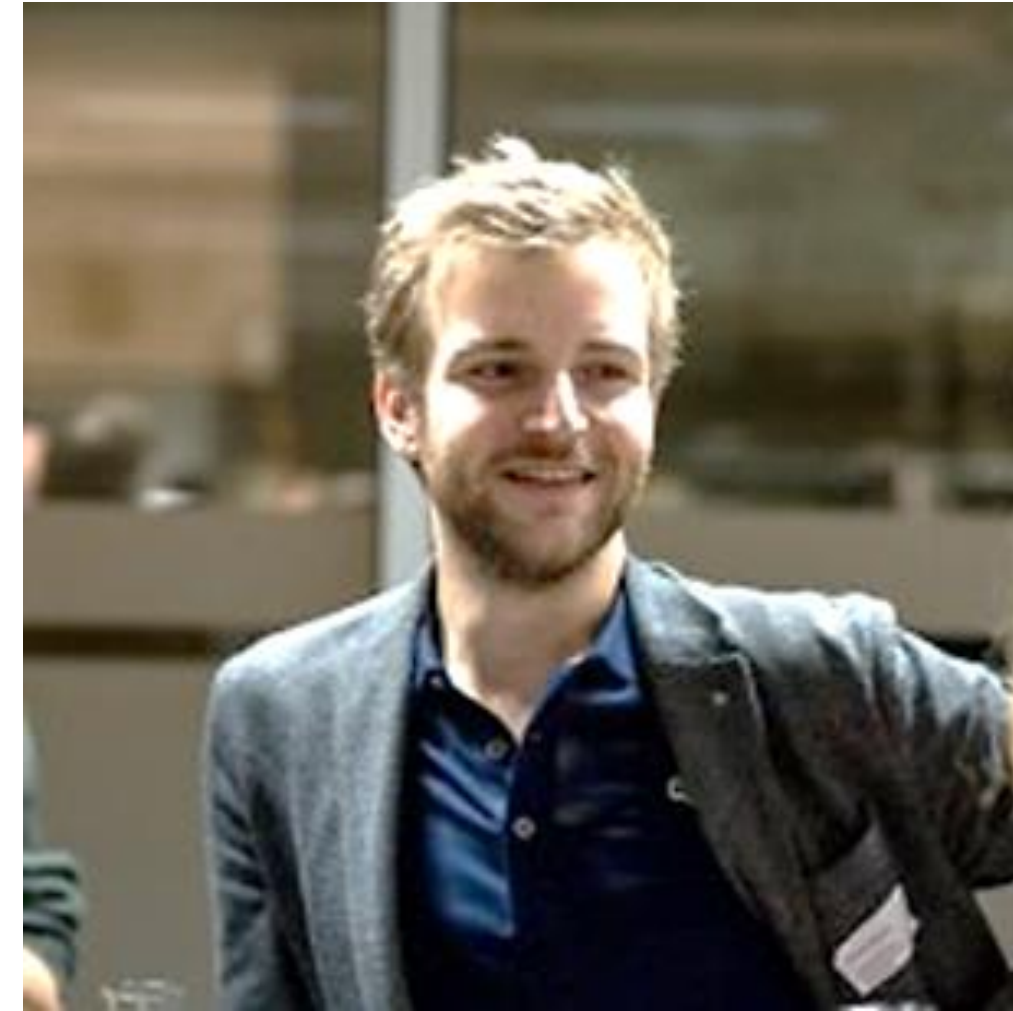
European Digital Media Observatory established & 14 Hubs covering all Member States to strengthen the detection and analysis of disinformation campaigns

25 Safer Internet Centres established in Member States providing safety information, educational resources, public awareness tools as well as counselling and reporting services

Consumer Protection: Authorities in 24 countries use eLab to screen e-commerce websites for consumer rights violations

The Digital Europe Programme: *Panel discussion*

Panel



Simon Verschaeren (BE)
Delegate - Digital Europe Programme
Committee
Policy advisor - Department of
Economy, Science and Innovation



DEPARTMENT OF
ECONOMY
SCIENCE &
INNOVATION

Panel



János Dászkál (HU)
Senior Project Manager
NCP Hungary

MFOI Advisory
Hungarian Development Promotion Office

Panel



Jeanette Nilsson (SE)
AI Ecosystem Expert
Research Institute of Sweden



Panel



Emilie Parthoens (BE)
Project Officer, AGORIA
EDIH-WalHub Coordination

.AGORIA



WALHUB

BOOST YOUR DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Panel



Bernd Deutschmann (AU)
Coordinator of the Greenchip EDU
Professor at Graz University of
Technology



Agenda

INTERACTIVE PANEL DISCUSSION

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Awareness

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What is the type of your organization?

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Have you ever submitted an application to the DEP? (not for Policy Makers, Gov Repres., NCP's)

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What is the extent to which you believe the programme is known, overall?

HaDEA Survey: awareness



Communication of funding opportunities

- **48% of beneficiaries of the Digital Europe Programme first heard about the funding opportunity for their project via the EC's Funding and Tenders Portal, another 14% by contact with local, regional and national contact points.**

HaDEA Survey: awareness



Communication on funding opportunities:

“93% of beneficiaries of the Digital Europe Programme consider identifying the most appropriate EU funding programme for their project quite or very easy.”

Participation

HaDEA Survey: participation



“The level of satisfaction of beneficiaries of the Digital Europe Programme is 82%, as 24 out of 29 beneficiaries indicated to be satisfied or very satisfied.”

HaDEA Survey: participation



**Considering applying for
EU funding again:**

***“97% of beneficiaries of
the Digital Europe
Programme would consider
applying for EU/HaDEA funding
again.”***

***“For those who disagree,
the main reasons
were administrative burden
and complex application
procedures.”***

Questions to the Panel

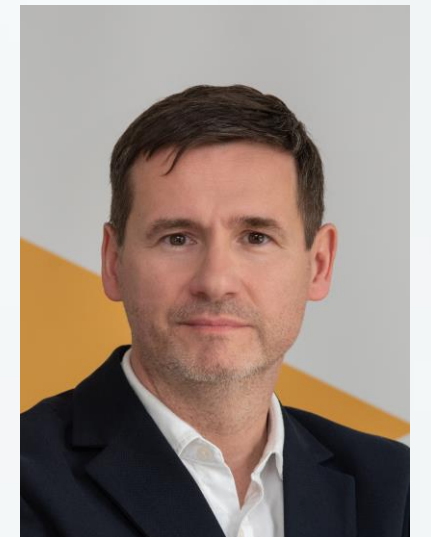
Which activities are being conducted to reach the stakeholders and support applicants?

Does the Programme address the stakeholders that it should address?

In your perspective what could be improved to ensure wide participation of relevant stakeholders?



Morten Fjalland
Director - DG Connect



János Dászkál
NCP Hungary

Questions to the Panel

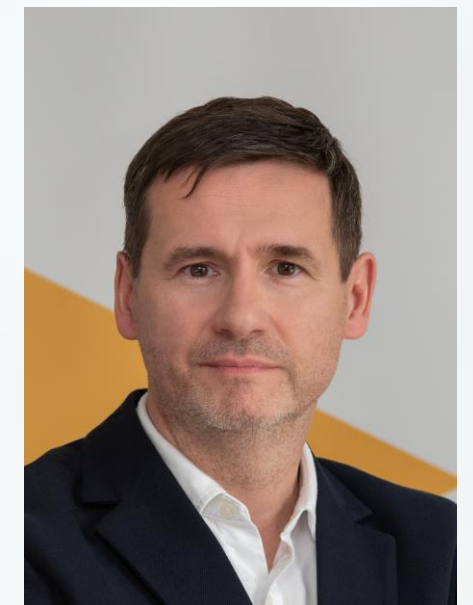
Is the information on the deployments of digital technologies and services funded by DEP complete?

What do you consider as barriers to participation in the Programme?

How efficient is it to bring information to the final beneficiaries of EDIH ?



Jeanette Nilsson
RISE



János Dázkál
NCP Hungary



Emilie Parthoens
Agoria

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**Were you aware of the Digital Europe National Contact Points Network before this event?
Please, do not reply if you are a Member State delegate, EC staff, or a National Contact Point**

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Do you find all necessary information on the Funding and Tenders Portal? If no, please explain

slido



Do you know your DEP NCP?

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How do you fulfill the 50% of financing that is not provided by the Commission?

Implementation

Questions to the Panel

What could improve the efficient implementation of projects?

Which challenges have been experienced in the actual implementation of the projects?

What has worked well, are there any best practices?



Emilie Parthoens
Agoria



Bernd Deutschmann
TU Graz



Jeanette Nilsson
RISE

**Do you have questions
regarding DEP
Implementation?**

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Audience Q&A

**Please vote if you validate
some questions**

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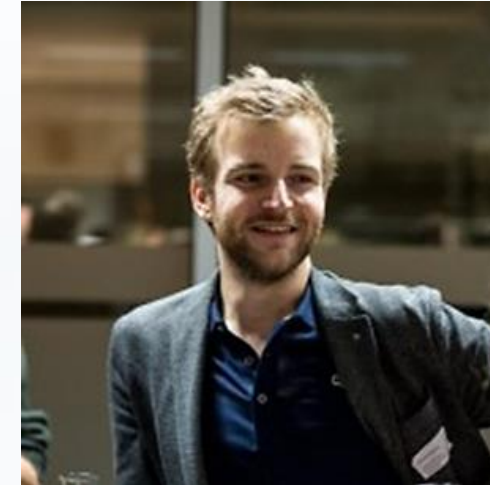


Do you have questions regarding DEP Implementation?

Relevance and Flexibility

Questions to the Panel

In a rapidly changing technological context, is the Programme flexible enough to respond to recent developments?



Simon Verschaeren
Delegate - Digital Europe
Programme Committee

Morten Fjalland
Director - DG Connect



Questions to the Panel

How could the programme become more relevant to the main stakeholders?

Does it adequately respond to the needs ?

How can the EU programmes attract more young people ?



Bernd Deutschmann
TU Graz

Emilie Parthoens
Agoria



Jeanette Nilsson
RISE



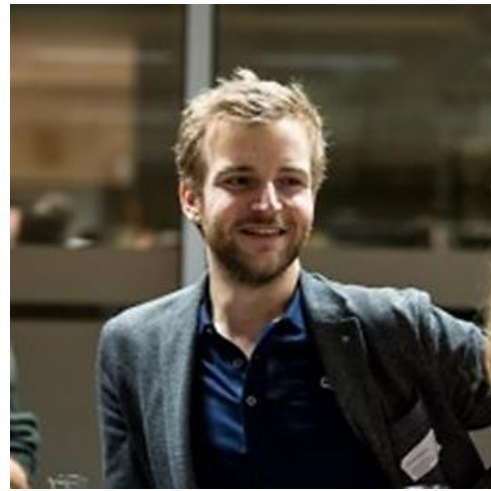
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Audience Q&A Session

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Closing remarks



Simon Verschaeren
Digital Europe
Programme Committee



János Dászkál
NCP Hungary



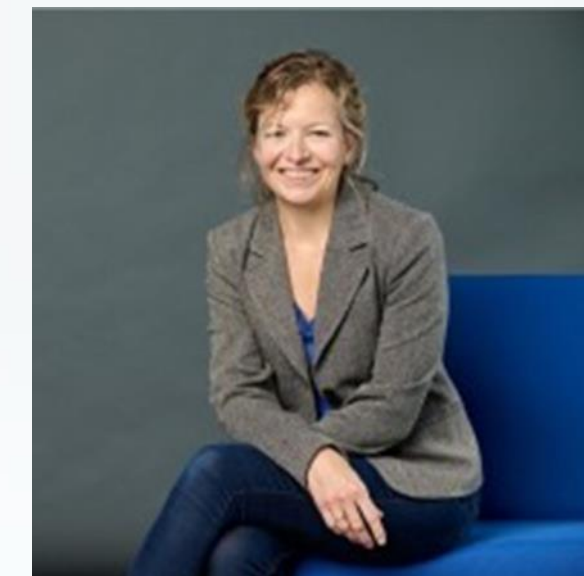
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