



**DIGITAL INNOVATIONS RECONFIGURING
MEDICAL DIAGNOSTICS VALUE CHAIN
TOWARDS A HEALTH ECONOMY 4.0**



D3.2 FRAMEWORK FOR VOUCHER-BASED FUNDING SYSTEM



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D3.2 Framework for Voucher-based Funding System

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D3.2 Framework for Voucher-based Funding System

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1. Executive Summary

Project Facts

Project Acronym:	DIGI-B-CUBE
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DIGITALNORWAY Toppindustrisenteret AS	DNT	Norway
Cluster für Individualisierte ImmunIntervention EV	Ci3	Germany
INFOPOLE Cluster TIC	INFOPOLE	Belgium
Southern European Cluster in Photonics and Optics	SECPhO	Spain
Business Upper Austria – OÖ Wirtschaftsagentur GmbH	BIZ-UP	Austria
Nuromedia	NMD	Germany
MOTIVIAN	MOT	Greece
Sociedade Portuguesa de Inovação	SPI	Portugal

1.1. Objective of this Deliverable

This Framework for Voucher-based Funding System (D3.2) serves as the conceptual groundwork and guideline for allocating the funding within DIGI-B-CUBE and ensuring its appropriate and efficient use.

Funding SMEs through the voucher system is one of the key innovation support measures in DIGI-B-CUBE for kickstarting cross-sectoral collaboration by facilitating attendance at workshops/matchmaking events and providing the financial means required to implement cross-sectoral innovation projects.

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Cross-sectoral digitalisation collaborations can be structured to meet multiple objectives and can span multiple industries. The overarching aim of DIGI-B-CUBE is to break the barriers across the sectors and establish digital innovation ecosystems for the growth of SMEs. The diagram below depicts the concept of the DIGI-B-CUBE project that will provide multi-fold benefits to the SMEs starting from their digital maturity analysis (part of Digital Transformation Services) to matchmaking with suitable partners followed by working on digitalisation challenges through innovation projects and coaching/synergies that will lead to piloting at the value chain/cross-sectoral levels. Through DIGI-B-CUBE Voucher projects, digital technologies and knowledge developed in the IT related sectors can be applied to Bioimaging, Biosensing, Biobanking and related value chains through establishment of cross-border ecosystems.



Figure 1: Innovation support measures in DIGI-B-CUBE

2. Overall Strategy

Advances in informatics and engineering have significantly influenced diagnostic and therapeutic options in medicine and the whole health industry is undergoing substantial changes. The advancements in Information Technology (IT) and Health sectors in the last decade brought a lot of new discoveries, new knowledge, and information and now turning into the era of personalised medicine. On the other hand, increased complexity and heterogeneity in Bioimaging, Biosensing, Biobanking and related industries have put SMEs working in Medical Diagnostics and related value chains under severe pressure in handling the analysis and automation of the information. The digitalisation of SMEs that are working in Bioimaging, Biosensing, Biobanking and related areas is of relevance not only at the scientific, but also at the industrial and societal level. Through this project, we will support digital innovations in health and medicine, that will lead to a reconfigured Medical Diagnostics value chain 'from single molecules to the entire patient population'. DIGI-B-CUBE project aims to unlock the cross-sectoral collaborative potential of SMEs by combining e.g. Artificial Intelligence (AI), Cognitive Computing Digital Technologies (CCDT) with the Bioimaging-Biosensing-Biobanking (B-CUBE) and related industries to deliver market sensitive disruptive technologies and generating innovative solutions that enhance patient-centred diagnostic work-flows.

The DIGI-B-CUBE project aims to support digital innovations and solutions for the reconfiguration of the Medical Diagnostics and related value chains towards a Health Economy 4.0 with a special focus on Biobanking, Bioimaging, Biosensing and related industries. Advancing these three industries in the digital age requires solutions for issues currently driving the IT and Software Sector, e.g. big data, machine learning, IT security, data protection, and cross-enterprise collaboration. The project will enable a further digitalisation of the Medical Diagnostics and related value chains by applying this knowledge base in an exemplary way, thereby increasing the competitiveness of Biobanking, Bioimaging, Biosensing and related enterprises.

Leading health, medicine, biopharma and IT clusters from five countries (Austria, Belgium, Germany, Norway and Spain) will create cross-border and cross-sectoral collaborations among European SMEs to address innovation barriers in healthcare and Medical Diagnostics related value chains via cutting-edge IT solutions. This will be achieved via an open collaboration space consisting of workshops, the DIGI-B-CUBE collaborative online platform with automated matchmaking capability, and virtual and physical matchmaking events. Together, these measures will trigger efficient partnering. The funding allocated through the voucher-based funding system will then provide partnered SMEs with the financial means to implement cross-sectoral collaboration projects. Ideally, this funding supported initiation and propagation of cross-sectoral collaboration has long-lasting effects on technology transfer and leads to new innovations, solutions, product or service development.

2.1. Recommendations from D3.1 Strategy Document

Based on the experience of Oslo Cancer Cluster, BizUp and Ci3 in the Horizon2020 INNOSUP-1 project PERMIDES, the consortium designed the voucher types described below. In the sectoral and cross-sectoral workshops of WP3, DIGI-B-CUBE clusters introduced the voucher system to SMEs from various sectors and received positive feedback. The topics that project proposals should address in order to be selected for funding are described in the open call document (D5.1) and are based on the output of the sectoral- and cross-sectoral workshops which is summarized in D3.1.

3. Definition of the Voucher-based Funding System

Through the voucher-based funding system, DIGI-B-CUBE offers direct financial support to SMEs from the **healthcare, medicine, biotech, biopharma, IT and related sectors**

- for attending sectoral and cross-sectoral workshops to identify innovation barriers in the **Medical Diagnostics and related value chains** as well as digital solutions designed to overcome these barriers.
- for attending matchmaking events to find partners for collaborative innovation projects and other ways of cooperation.
- for implementing collaborative projects with participation of organizations from various sectors.

DIGI-B-CUBE will support SMEs in applying state-of-the-art digital technologies across the Medical Diagnostics and related value chains leading to improved internal processes or to innovative products.

The total amount of direct financial support for SMEs in DIGI-B-CUBE is €2,700,000. This funding is distributed through four types of vouchers, which differ in purpose, maximum financial support and awarding processes (see below). Depending on the actual demand of the different voucher types, the potential number of different SMEs receiving funding range from 50 to hundreds.

In response to the open calls published on the DIGI-B-CUBE website and the European Commission website, SMEs from the diagnostics, IT and related sectors can apply for vouchers. The applications must be submitted digitally using the web-based DIGI-B-CUBE Collaborative Platform (<https://digibcube.eu/collaborative-platform/>).

The following sections describe the different voucher types, eligibility criteria, potential partnering scenarios as well as the voucher application and evaluation system.

3.1. DIGI-B-CUBE Vouchers: Sectors and Value Chains

SMEs from the following sectors are eligible to apply for DIGI-B-CUBE vouchers:

- **healthcare / medicine / biotech / biopharma**
- **IT and related sectors (robotics, automation, electronics, nanotech etc)**

The DIGI-B-CUBE vouchers will support the projects in the reconfiguration of Medical Diagnostics and related value chains depicted in the diagram below:

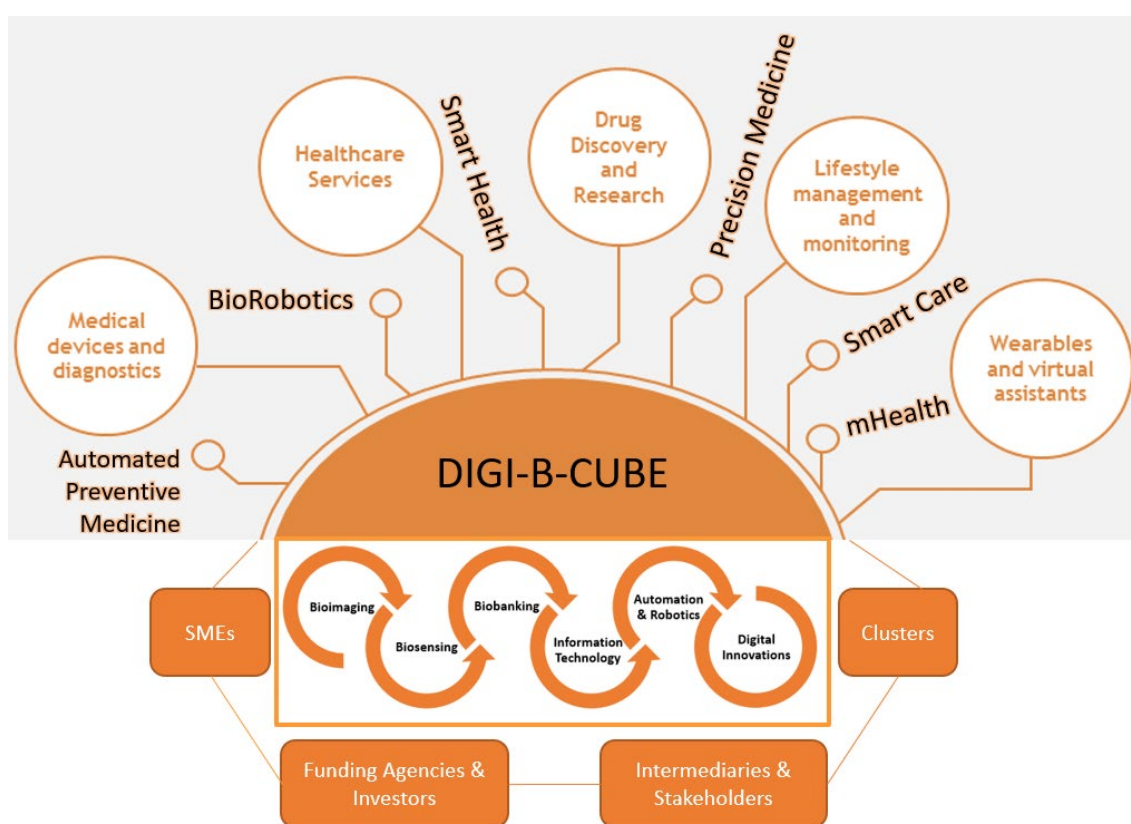


Figure 2: Medical Diagnostics and Related Value Chains

3.2. DIGI-B-CUBE Vouchers: Value drives, Challenges and pressure for change

Treating complex diseases effectively requires integrated and automated Medical Diagnostics processes for multiple problems from clinics, labs, multiple health and wellness providers. In addition to early detection and quality treatment, prevention is a key component in delivering value to patients and saving costs for everyone in the healthcare system. Greater flexibility, automation and digital innovation in Bioimaging, Biosensing, Biobanking and related industries are needed in order to respond in a timelier, integrated and customer-centred way to complex health care needs. The adoption of artificial intelligence, digital innovations and automation in Medical Diagnostics has been lagging behind compared to adoption by other industries for several reasons. The first reason is already the high initial costs of Bioimaging, Biosensing, Biobanking & related infrastructure; and that adds to the high costs involved in adapting to automated technologies, but also the industry is abound with misperceptions that digital systems are too complicated to use and require complex programming. Innovations in digital technologies and automated systems will dramatically increase the capability and flexibility of Medical Diagnostics and through DIGI-B-CUBE we envisage that the SMEs with advanced Bioimaging, Biosensing, Biobanking & related infrastructure could soon be pivotal to healthcare system in their ability to reduce costs and increase overall efficiency through implementing agile and automated diagnostic processes. The figure below depicts the **reconfiguration of Medical Diagnostics value chain** in the **health sector** via **integrating digital innovations** (such as Artificial Intelligence and Cognitive Computing) from the **IT sector** in **Bioimaging, Biosensing and Biobanking** industries to **increase the competitiveness of the participating SMEs** towards a Health Economy 4.0.

Medical Diagnostics in Healthcare, irrespective of its geographical location and socio-political environment, can be viewed as comprising three stakeholder groups (providers, supporting industry and governance) sharing the common aim of providing the best service to a fourth stakeholder group – the patients as consumers. Each of these stakeholders will have shared and differing, indeed often competing, values, needs, expectations and challenges, which will ultimately form the growth drivers. There are many factors coming into play in the landscape of Molecular Diagnostics affecting each stakeholder, either selectively or generically (see figure on the next page). SMEs are the innovation link between all these stakeholders and have a great potential of growth and impact on job creation. Naturally, the SMEs from Bioimaging, Biosensing, Biobanking and related industries will be at the heart of the digital health transformation resulting from integrating the automation and digital innovations in Medical Diagnostics and related value chains. DIGI-B-CUBE activities are therefore dedicated to the SMEs proven by the large portion of the direct funding allocated through vouchers and the innovation services that will be provided to the SMEs by the consortium.

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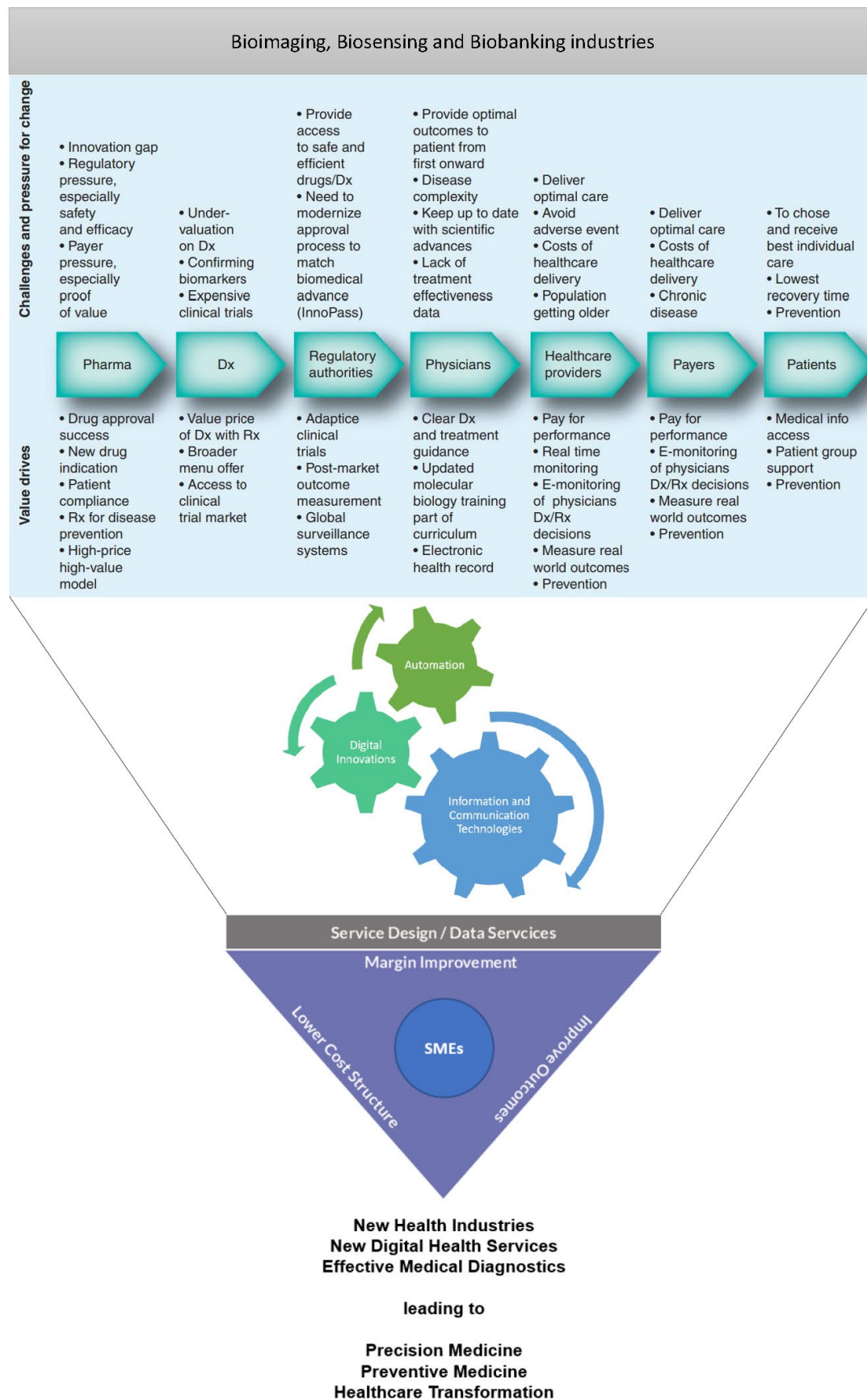


Figure 3: DIGI-B-CUBE Value drives, Challenges and pressure for change

4. Voucher Types and Values

There are four types of vouchers: travel vouchers, prototyping vouchers, customized solution innovation vouchers and co-working disruption lab vouchers as detailed in the voucher descriptions below and in Table 1. Travel vouchers are designed to facilitate attendance at dedicated DIGI-B-CUBE events, whereas three different types of vouchers are available for supporting innovation projects, allowing SMEs to tackle and solve challenges at different levels of complexity and at different stages of product/service development.

Each SME can apply for multiple vouchers, but is restricted to the maximum value of each voucher type as detailed in the voucher descriptions below and Table 1. **The overall maximum funding per SME is €60,000.** An SME can apply for vouchers until the cumulative value of awarded vouchers reaches this overall upper limit. **Only eligible expenses incurred on an actual real cost basis can be reimbursed through a voucher.** Services and work exceeding the granted voucher amount will not be covered, but must be paid for by the SMEs themselves.

Eligibility criteria:

1. The applying SME fulfils the [SME definition of the European Union](#).
2. The applying SME is headquartered in a [EU Member State](#) or [Horizon2020-associated country](#)
3. The applying SME is operating in the health, medicine, biotech, biopharma, IT or related sectors (robotics, automation, electronics, nanotech etc).

Admissibility Criteria:

1. Voucher applications are submitted through the DIGI-B-CUBE collaborative platform <https://digibcube.eu/collaborative-platform/>
2. The submission language is English

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Voucher Type	Max value per voucher (€)	Max funding per SME per voucher type (€)	Max funding per project (€)	Purpose	Applicant Group / Requirement	Project Runtime
Travel	2,000	6,000	-	Support participation of SMEs from various sectors in DIGI-B-CUBE workshops and matchmaking events.	1 SME from healthcare/medicine/biotech/biopharma, IT and related sectors	-
Prototyping	20,000	20,000	60,000	Support to prototype or conceptualise a solution (proof of concept, feasibility study) for a digitalization challenge in the Medical Diagnostics and related value chains.	Consortium consisting of minimum 2 SMEs and maximum 3 organizations; From at least 2 different sectors (Example: An SME from healthcare/medicine/biotech/biopharma + An SME from IT and related sectors)	1 to 3 months
Customised Solution Innovation	50,000	50,000	150,000	Support to jointly develop a novel product/service based on an existing proven concept that addresses a digitalization challenge in the Medical Diagnostics and related value chains.	Consortium consisting of minimum 2 SMEs; From at least 2 different sectors (Example: An SME from healthcare/medicine/biotech/biopharma + An SME from IT and related sectors)	2 to 6 months
Co-working Disruption Lab	10,000	10,000	10,000	Support to further advance a successfully completed customised solution innovation voucher project in an incubator / accelerator / co-working space of the DIGI-B-CUBE clusters' network (or) in labs, technical and innovation facilities of other relevant SMEs.	One SME from a completed Customized Solution Innovation Voucher project consortium + a host organisation (host does not receive direct funding from this voucher)	0.5 to 2 months

Table 1: Overview of DIGI-B-CUBE Voucher Types

4.1. Travel Vouchers

Purpose:

The DIGI-B-CUBE events aim to create a common understanding of the innovation barriers in Medical Diagnostics and related value chains and potential solutions through digital technologies, as well as to provide an opportunity for networking/matchmaking of organizations from healthcare, medicine, biotech, biopharma, IT and related sectors.

Travel vouchers have the purpose of facilitating attendance at dedicated DIGI-B-CUBE events. A travel voucher is awarded to the SME as an organization, not to individual persons. Thus, a travel voucher can cover costs of multiple persons travelling for the benefiting SME.

Target group/requirements: Individual SMEs from healthcare, medicine, biotech, biopharma, IT and related sectors.

Maximum amount per voucher: €2,000

Maximum funding per SME per voucher type: €6,000

Duration: Per event

Availability: 20/09/2019 – 28/02/2022

Travel Voucher budget planned* by DIGI-B-CUBE: €200,000

**Might be changed during the project period based on the need and circumstances.*

Eligible costs are:

Costs for transportation

- local transport (e.g. bus, taxi, metro)
- trains
- car
 - kilometre allowances of up to EUR 0.22/km
 - cannot be higher than the cost for a comparable first-class rail fare. A price comparison indicating how much the rail fare would have been has to be provided.
- flights
 - only economy-class
 - only for distances exceeding 400 km (i.e. return flight above 800 km)
 - cannot be higher than the cost for a comparable first-class rail fare unless flight is significantly more efficient in terms of travel time. A price comparison indicating how much the rail fare would have been on the day of booking has to be provided.

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Costs for accommodation

- costs for accommodation in 5-star hotels will not be accepted
- not exceeding the amounts shown below per night and per person
- daily subsistence allowances (DSA) will **not** be paid

Destination		Hotel price in EUR per night per person
AL	Albania	160
AT	Austria	132
BA	Bosnia-Herzegovina	135
BE	Belgium	148
BG	Bulgaria	135
CH	Switzerland	140
CY	Cyprus	140
CZ	Czech Republic	124
DE	Germany	128
DK	Denmark	173
EE	Estonia	105
EL	Greece	112
ES	Spain	128
FI	Finland	142
FR	France	180
HR	Croatia	110
HU	Hungary	120
IE	Ireland	159
IS	Iceland	160
IT	Italy	148
LI	Liechtenstein	95
LT	Lithuania	117
LU	Luxembourg	148
LV	Latvia	116
ME	Montenegro	145
MK	North Macedonia	160
MT	Malta	138
NL	The Netherlands	166
NO	Norway	140
PL	Poland	116
PT	Portugal	101
RO	Romania	136
RS	Serbia	145
SE	Sweden	187
SI	Slovenia	117
SK	Slovak Republic	100
TR	Turkey	165
UK	United Kingdom	209
XK	Kosovo (under UNSCR 1244)	145

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Conference fees of up to €1,000 in connection with DIGI-B-CUBE events (including satellite events, i.e. organized/co-organized by the DIGI-B-CUBE consortium)

Value added tax (VAT) for all costs is only eligible where it is not recoverable under the applicable national VAT legislation and is paid by a beneficiary other than a non-taxable person as defined in the first subparagraph of Article 13(1) of Council Directive 2006/112/EC of 28 November 2006 on the common system of value added tax.

Application:

Information about dedicated DIGI-B-CUBE events is available on the [DIGI-B-CUBE website](#), and travel voucher applications can be submitted through the [DIGI-B-CUBE collaborative platform](#) after registering for the event (also through the [DIGI-B-CUBE collaborative platform](#)).

Evaluation:

Travel vouchers are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis by the DIGI-B-CUBE consortium party that is organizing the event. The number of vouchers available depend on the travel voucher budget allocated/available and the maximum participant number of the corresponding event.

Reporting:

After proven attendance at the event (by signature on the attendance form), eligible costs incurred have to be listed by the beneficiary in the travel expense report form (available as a download in the user dashboard of the [DIGI-B-CUBE collaborative platform](#)). The completed travel expense report form and all supporting documents (such as tickets and invoices) must be submitted within 30 working days after the respective event via the [DIGI-B-CUBE collaborative platform](#).

Payment:

The DIGI-B-CUBE project coordinator will transfer the reimbursement within 30 days after submission of the travel expense report form and all supporting documents.

Link to DIGI-B-CUBE Travel Vouchers Announcement:

<https://digibcube.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/DIGI-B-CUBE-Travel-Vouchers-Announcement.pdf>

Link to DIGI-B-CUBE Travel Vouchers FAQ:

<https://digibcube.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/FAQ-Travel-Voucher.pdf>

4.2. Prototyping Vouchers

Purpose:

Prototyping Vouchers provide financial support to prototype or conceptualise a solution for a digitalization challenge in the Medical Diagnostics and related value chains. A prototyping voucher project can address an internal process within the SME/the value chain, or can focus on the early-stage development of an innovative product or service for the market (proof of concept, feasibility study).

Target group/requirements: Minimum two SMEs, maximum 3 organizations per voucher project. Besides SMEs, organizations that are non-SME entities such as academic institutions and large enterprises may join the project, but only SMEs are eligible for funding. The SMEs have to represent a minimum of two sectors (Example: An SME from healthcare/medicine/biotech/biopharma sectors + An SME from IT and related sectors).

Maximum amount per voucher: €20,000

Maximum funding per SME per voucher type: €20,000

Maximum funding per voucher project: €60,000

Project duration: Minimum one month, maximum three months

Availability: 22/04/2020 – 03/02/2021. Applications received until the respective cut-off dates will be evaluated (see below) and projects will be selected for funding.

1. Cut-off date: 29.07.2020
2. Cut-off date: 03.02.2021

Prototyping Voucher budget planned* by DIGI-B-CUBE: €600,000

**Might be changed during the project period based on the need and circumstances.*

Eligible costs:

- *Personnel costs* required for planned work implementation (i.e. real actual costs; no unit costs allowed). Usual rates of the respective roles (e.g. junior programmer, senior programmer, junior researcher, etc.) of the SME must be applied as per their respective pay slips.
- *Subcontracting costs*
- Other direct costs such as for travel, hardware and software licenses are **not** eligible
- Value added tax (VAT) for all costs is only eligible where it is not recoverable under the applicable national VAT legislation and is paid by a beneficiary other than a non-taxable person as defined in the first subparagraph of Article 13(1) of Council Directive 2006/112/EC of 28 November 2006 on the common system of value added tax.

Application:

After forming a prototyping voucher project consortium and selecting a lead beneficiary who is the main responsible party for communication with the DIGI-B-CUBE team, the lead beneficiary submits the voucher application through a web form on the [DIGI-B-CUBE collaborative platform](#).

Evaluation:

All prototyping voucher applications submitted until the respective cut-off dates will be evaluated by three internal reviewers from the DIGI-B-CUBE consortium (at least one representing the health related sector and at least one representing the IT related sector).

The evaluation will be carried under appropriate ethical conduct and will respect the confidentiality of the information received. The reviewers will use specific criteria (see below) to evaluate the content of applications. All applications will be ranked according to their total evaluation score with regard to the evaluation criteria, and the projects with the highest scores will be selected for funding. The cut-off will be determined by the amount of funds available in this evaluation period, but a certain minimum score will be required to ensure a standard of quality.

In case of equal evaluation scores of proposals and insufficient funding to fund all equally rated proposals, a second evaluation round will be carried out to establish a definite ranking among those equally rated proposals.

Unsuccessful applications can be re-submitted in the next application period.

The following criteria will be used by all evaluators to review the prototyping voucher applications:

Evaluation criteria	Sub-criteria	Scoring
Impact <i>Industrial relevance and exploitation plans</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overall impact of the proposed project if successful;• Industrial relevance of the proposed project if successful;• Quality of the exploitation plans and market potential;• Relevance of the project to the objectives of the call.	Threshold 3/5; Weight 2
Concept <i>Soundness of concept</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feasibility of the proposed project and technological contribution;• Level of innovation and technological challenges addressed;• Quality of the work plan.	Threshold 3/5; Weight 1
Consortium <i>Partners of the consortium</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quality of the consortium and cross-sector check;• Clarity of partner roles and completeness of the consortium;• Technical capacity, excellence and Quality of the partners.	Threshold 3/5; Weight 1
Resources <i>Deployment of resources</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allocation of appropriate resources to the proposed experiment;• Justification of the proposed resources.	Threshold 3/5; Weight 1

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For the evaluation, each criterion will be scored from 1-5:

- **1 Poor:** The criterion is addressed in an inadequate manner, or there are serious inherent weaknesses;
- **2 Fair:** While the proposal broadly addresses the criterion, there are significant weaknesses;
- **3 Good:** The proposal addresses the criterion well, although improvements would be necessary;
- **4 Very good:** The proposal addresses the criterion very well, although certain improvements are still possible;
- **5 Excellent:** The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question. Any shortcomings are minor.

The average for each criterion will be calculated from all reviewer evaluations. The average of all reviewer evaluations for a particular criterion has to be at least 3. If a criterion is rated on average below 3, the application will not be funded. The sum of these averaged scores results in the total evaluation score for each project. Thus, the highest achievable total evaluation score is 20. The minimum total evaluation score for a project to be fundable is 12.

After going through the scores of the evaluators, a panel meeting to achieve consensus will be held to unify the proposal scores and to rank the proposals.

In case there are **proposals with equal scores** the following criteria will be applied in strict order:

- The proposals will be ranked based on their higher impact potential (Criterion 1),
- In case there are proposals in the same position, priority will be given to proposals that have ranked higher in Criterion 2 and
- In case there are still proposals in the same position, priority will be given to proposals which have higher score in Criterion 3.

Reporting modalities:

1) Intermediate report (if the project duration is longer than 2 months)

An intermediate report has to be submitted within two weeks after the first half of the project duration using a webform on the [DIGI-B-CUBE collaborative platform](#). The intermediate report consists of two parts. The first part must be submitted by the lead beneficiary and describes the status/progress of the project (incl. a short description of the work done by all partners) and deviations from the proposed workplan that may have arisen or are foreseeable. The second part has to be submitted by every beneficiary and must list the budget spent and contain copies of the corresponding invoices.

2) *Final Report*

To successfully complete the project, the final report has to be submitted using a webform on the [DIGI-B-CUBE collaborative platform](#) within two weeks of the project end date.

The final report consists of two parts. The first part has to be submitted by the lead beneficiary and has to inform about the performance and the major results of the project (incl. a short description of the work done by all partners), as well as derivations from the proposed workplan that may have arisen. The second part must be submitted by every beneficiary and must list the budget spent and contain copies of the corresponding invoices. Also, the second part contains a short feedback section about the collaboration project as well as the DIGI-B-CUBE project as a whole.

Payment modalities:

Beneficiaries will receive 50% of their estimated eligible costs listed in the application form within two weeks after signing the grant agreement. These costs will be pre-financed and paid via bank transfer by the DIGI-B-CUBE project coordinator. The remaining funds will be transferred after successful completion of the project (approved intermediate report (if applicable, see above) and approved final report within two weeks after submission of the final report. Please note that the approval of the respective reports may take up to three to four weeks.

If the actual costs incurred after completion of the project are less than the transferred pre-financing, the excess funds have to be refunded to the DIGI-B-CUBE project coordinator by the beneficiary within two weeks after approval of the final report by the DIGI-B-CUBE consortium.

4.3. Customised Solution Innovation Vouchers

Purpose:

Customized Solution Innovation Vouchers provide support to jointly develop an existing proven concept in order to address a digitalization challenge in the Medical Diagnostics and related value chains. The project can address an internal process within the SME/the value chain, or can focus on the development of an innovative product or a service for the market. It can build up on a completed prototyping voucher project.

Target group/requirements: Minimum two SMEs per voucher project. The project consortium can also contain non-SME entities such as academic institutions and large enterprises, which are not eligible for funding. The SMEs have to represent a minimum of two sectors (Example: An SME from healthcare/medicine/biotech/biopharma sectors + An SME from IT and related sectors).

Maximum amount per voucher: €50,000

Maximum funding per SME per voucher type: €50,000

Maximum funding per voucher project: €150,000€

Project duration: Minimum two months, maximum six months

Availability: 22/04/2020 – 03/02/2021. Applications received until the respective cut-off dates will be evaluated (see below) and projects will be selected for funding.

1. Cut-off date: 29.07.2020
2. Cut-off date: 03.02.2021

Customised Solution Voucher budget planned* by DIGI-B-CUBE: €1,750,000

**Might be changed during the project period based on the need and circumstances.*

Eligible costs:

- *Personnel costs* required for planned work implementation (i.e. real actual costs; no unit costs allowed). Usual rates of the respective roles (e.g. junior programmer, senior programmer, junior researcher, etc.) of the SME must be applied as per their respective pay slips.
- *Subcontracting costs*
- Other direct costs such as for travel, hardware and software licenses are **not** eligible
- Value added tax (VAT) for all costs is only eligible where it is not recoverable under the applicable national VAT legislation and is paid by a beneficiary other than a non-taxable person as defined in the first subparagraph of Article 13(1) of Council Directive 2006/112/EC of 28 November 2006 on the common system of value added tax.

D3.2 Framework for Voucher-based Funding System

Application:

After forming a voucher project consortium and selecting a lead beneficiary who is the main responsible party for the communication with the DIGI-B-CUBE team, the lead beneficiary submits the voucher application through a web form on the [DIGI-B-CUBE collaborative platform](#).

Evaluation:

All customized solution innovation voucher applications submitted until the respective cut-off dates will be evaluated by two internal reviewers from the DIGI-B-CUBE consortium who perform an initial eligibility check first and also score the proposal. In addition, one external subject matter expert/business developer from the health related sector as well as one external subject matter expert/business developer from the IT related sector will review and score the proposal.

The evaluation will be carried under appropriate ethical conduct and will respect the confidentiality of the information received. For the evaluation of the content of applications, specific criteria will be used by the reviewers (see below). All applications will be ranked according to their total evaluation score with regard to the evaluation criteria, and the projects with the highest scores will be selected for funding. The cut-off will be determined by the available funds in this evaluation period, but a certain minimum score will be required to ensure a standard of quality.

In case of equal evaluation scores of proposals and insufficient funding to fund all equally rated proposals, a second evaluation round that establishes a definite ranking among those equally ranked proposals will be carried out.

Unsuccessful applications can be re-submitted in the next application period.

The following criteria will be used by all evaluators to review the prototyping voucher applications:

Evaluation criteria	Sub-criteria	Scoring
Impact <i>Industrial relevance and exploitation plans</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overall impact of the proposed project if successful;• Industrial relevance of the proposed project if successful;• Quality of the exploitation plans and market potential;• Relevance of the project to the objectives of the call.	Threshold 3/5; Weight 2
Concept <i>Soundness of concept</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feasibility of the proposed project and technological contribution;• Level of innovation and technological challenges addressed;• Quality of the work plan.	Threshold 3/5; Weight 1
Consortium <i>Partners of the consortium</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quality of the consortium and cross-sector check;• Clarity of partner roles and completeness of the consortium;• Technical capacity, excellence and Quality of the partners.	Threshold 3/5; Weight 1
Resources <i>Deployment of resources</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allocation of appropriate resources to the proposed experiment;• Justification of the proposed resources.	Threshold 3/5; Weight 1

D3.2 Framework for Voucher-based Funding System

For the evaluation, each criterion will be scored from 1-5:

- **1 Poor:** The criterion is addressed in an inadequate manner, or there are serious inherent weaknesses;
- **2 Fair:** While the proposal broadly addresses the criterion, there are significant weaknesses;
- **3 Good:** The proposal addresses the criterion well, although improvements would be necessary;
- **4 Very good:** The proposal addresses the criterion very well, although certain improvements are still possible;
- **5 Excellent:** The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question. Any shortcomings are minor.

The average for each criterion will be calculated from all reviewer evaluations. The average of all reviewer evaluations for a particular criterion has to be at least 3. If a criterion is rated on average below 3, the application will not be funded. The sum of these averaged scores results in the total evaluation score for each project. Thus, the highest achievable total evaluation score is 20. The minimum total evaluation score for a project to be fundable is 12.

After going through the scores of the evaluators, a panel meeting to achieve consensus will be held to unify the proposal scores and to rank the proposals.

In case there are **proposals with equal scores** the following criteria will be applied in strict order:

- The proposals will be ranked based on their higher impact potential (Criterion 1),
- In case there are proposals in the same position, priority will be given to proposals that have ranked higher in Criterion 2 and
- In case there are still proposals in the same position, priority will be given to proposals which have higher score in Criterion 3.

Reporting modalities:

1) *Intermediate report*

An intermediate report has to be submitted within two weeks after the first half of the project duration using a webform on the [DIGI-B-CUBE collaborative platform](#). The intermediate report consists of two parts. The first part has to be submitted by the lead beneficiary and states the status/progress of the project (incl. a short description of the work done by all partners) and derivations from the proposed workplan that may have arisen or are foreseeable. The second part has to be submitted by every beneficiary and must list the budget spent and contain copies of the corresponding invoices.

2) *Final Report*

To successfully complete the project, the final report has to be submitted using a webform on the [DIGI-B-CUBE collaborative platform](#) within two weeks of the project end date.

The final report consists of two parts. The first part must be submitted by the lead beneficiary and must inform about the performance and major results of the project (incl. a short description of the work done by all partners), as well as derivations from the proposed workplan that may have arisen. The second part must be submitted by every beneficiary and must list the budget spent and contain copies of the corresponding invoices. Also, the second part contains a short feedback section about the collaboration project as well as the DIGI-B-CUBE project as a whole.

Payment modalities:

Beneficiaries will receive 50% of their estimated eligible costs listed in the application form within two weeks after signing the grant agreement. These costs will be pre-financed and paid via bank transfer by the DIGI-B-CUBE project coordinator. The remaining funds will be transferred after successful completion of the project (approved intermediate report and approved final report) within two weeks after submission of the final report. Please note that the approval of the respective reports may take up to three to four weeks.

If the actual costs incurred after completion of the project are less than the transferred pre-financing, the excess funds have to be refunded to the DIGI-B-CUBE project coordinator by the beneficiary within two weeks after approval of the final report by the DIGI-B-CUBE consortium.

4.4. Co-working Disruption Lab Vouchers

Purpose:

Co-working Disruption Lab Vouchers provide financial support to further advance a successfully completed Customised Solution Innovation Voucher project in an incubator/accelerator/co-working space of the DIGI-B-CUBE clusters' network (or) in labs, technical and innovation facilities of other relevant SMEs.

Target group/requirements: One SME from a Customized Solution Innovation Voucher project consortium and a host (host does not receive direct funding from DIGI-B-CUBE voucher scheme). The applications for Co-working disruption lab vouchers should be submitted by the SMEs within one month after the completion of their respective customised solution innovation voucher project/s.

Maximum amount per voucher: €10,000

Maximum funding per SME per voucher type: €10,000

Maximum funding per voucher project: €10,000

Project duration: Minimum two weeks, maximum two months

Availability: 28/10/2020 – 27/10/2021

Co-working Disruption Lab Voucher budget planned* by DIGI-B-CUBE: €150,000

**Might be changed during the project period based on the need and circumstances.*

Eligible costs:

- *Subcontracting costs* for services offered by the host
- Other direct costs such as for travel, hardware and software licenses are **not** eligible
- Value added tax (VAT) for all costs is only eligible where it is not recoverable under the applicable national VAT legislation and is paid by a beneficiary other than a non-taxable person as defined in the first subparagraph of Article 13(1) of Council Directive 2006/112/EC of 28 November 2006 on the common system of value added tax.

Application:

The beneficiary submits the voucher application through a web form on the [DIGI-B-CUBE collaborative platform](#).

Evaluation:

All disruption lab voucher applications submitted will be evaluated by two internal reviewers from the DIGI-B-CUBE consortium (one representing the health related sector and one representing the IT related sector).

The evaluation will be carried under appropriate ethical conduct and will respect the confidentiality of the information received. For the evaluation of the content of applications, specific criteria will be used by the reviewers (see below).

The mode for selection will be on a **first-come-first-serve** basis; but a certain minimum score will be required to ensure a standard of quality.

The following criteria will be used by all evaluators to review the voucher applications:

- **Quality of completed CSIV project**
How well was the CSIV project executed? How was the quality of the work and the impact of results?
- **Probability of further benefit**
How likely is it that the project can further benefit from the disruption lab voucher?
- **Technical Feasibility**
Is the proposed project likely to be successful with the technological means described? Is the methodology well chosen?
- **Partner Competence**
Does the expertise of the host match the necessary competence?
- **Resource Capacities**
Are the resources to be committed sufficient?

For the evaluation, each criterion will be scored from 1-5:

- **1 Poor:** The criterion is addressed in an inadequate manner, or there are serious inherent weaknesses;
- **2 Fair:** While the proposal broadly addresses the criterion, there are significant weaknesses;
- **3 Good:** The proposal addresses the criterion well, although improvements would be necessary;
- **4 Very good:** The proposal addresses the criterion very well, although certain improvements are still possible;
- **5 Excellent:** The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question. Any shortcomings are minor.

The average for each criterion will be calculated from all reviewer evaluations. The average of all reviewer evaluations for a particular criterion has to be at least 3. If a criterion is rated on average below 2 the application will not be funded. The minimum total evaluation score for a project to be fundable is 12.

Reporting modalities:

Final Report

To successfully complete the project, the final report has to be submitted using a webform on the [DIGI-B-CUBE collaborative platform](#) within two weeks of the project end date.

The final report consists of two parts. The first part informs about the performance and the major results of the project. The second part lists the budget spent and contains copies of the corresponding invoices. Also, the second part contains a short feedback section about the collaboration project.

Payment modalities:

The beneficiary will receive 100% of the funds after successful completion of the project (approved final report) within two weeks after submission of the final report from the DIGI-B-CUBE project coordinator by bank transfer. Please note that the approval of the report may take up to three to four weeks.

5. DIGI-B-CUBE Open Call Diagram

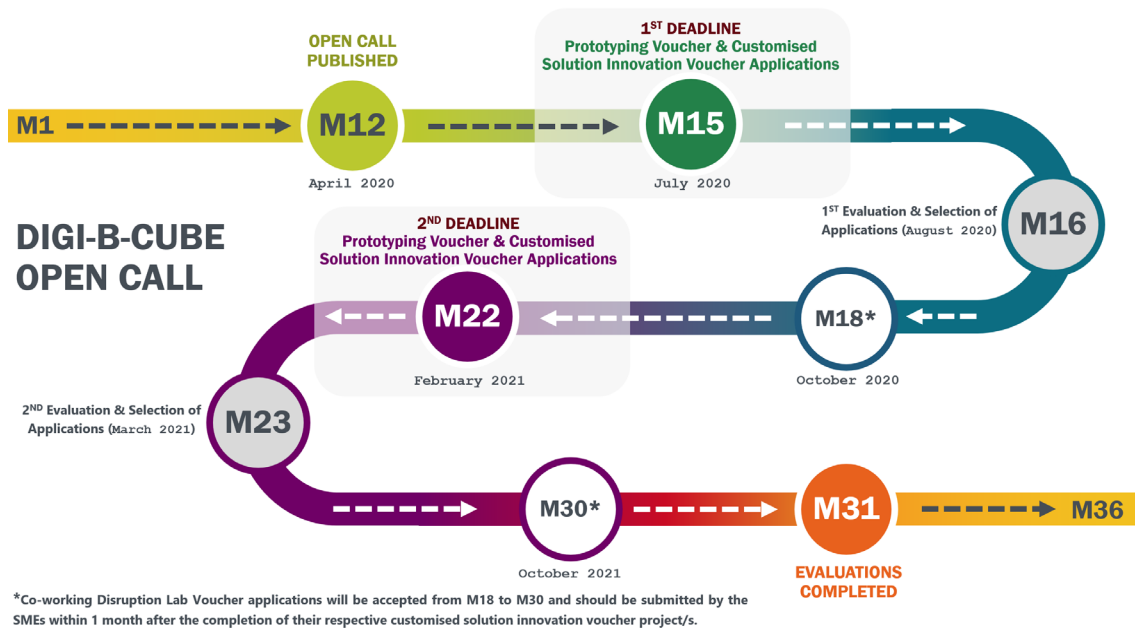


Figure 4: Overview of DIGI-B-CUBE Open Call

Approximately 60% of the total budget allocated for Prototyping Vouchers and Customised Solution Innovation Vouchers will be reserved for the successful applications of the 1st Deadline, whereas the remaining budget will be reserved for the successful applications of the 2nd deadline. This budget division across the deadlines and/or vouchers may change depending on the number of respective voucher applications and quality of the respective voucher applications received.

The evaluation of the respective voucher applications submitted by the SMEs will take place at a maximum of two to four weeks from the close of the respective deadlines. The voucher applications will go into the online evaluation module established by the project consortium. The evaluation module is only accessible to the evaluators of the applications where they can remotely see and evaluate the potential of the proposals from SMEs.

5.1. Related Deliverables

The following deliverables are closely related to this *Framework for Voucher-based Funding System* (D3.2):

- **D5.1 Open Call Document**
Open Call Document will define the requirements and processes for the call proposals.
- **D5.2 Application and Reporting Document for Sub-projects**
This deliverable comprises of the application and reporting templates for voucher projects funded by DIGI-B-CUBE.

6. Responsibilities of Voucher Beneficiaries

The selected SMEs are indirectly beneficiaries of European Commission funding. As such, they are responsible for the proper use of the funding and ensure that the recipients comply with obligations under H2020 specific requirements as described in Horizon 2020 - the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation¹. The obligations that are applicable to the recipients include²:

6.1. Conflict of Interest

The beneficiary SMEs must take all measures to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective implementation of the sub-project is compromised for reasons involving economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional ties or any other shared interest ('conflict of interests').

They must formally notify to the DIGI-B-CUBE coordinator without delay about any situation constituting or likely to lead to a conflict of interests, and immediately take all the necessary steps to rectify this situation. The DIGI-B-CUBE coordinator (together with the internal reviewers) may verify that the measures taken are appropriate and may require additional measures to be taken by a specified deadline.

If the sub-contract consortium member breaches any of its obligations, the sub-contract may be automatically terminated. Moreover, costs may be rejected, and the pre-financing amount may be asked to be returned to DIGI-B-CUBE.

6.2. Confidentiality

If information has been identified as confidential during the sub-project execution or only orally, it will be considered to be confidential only if this is accepted by the DIGI-B-CUBE coordinator and confirmed in writing within 15 days of the oral disclosure. Unless otherwise agreed between the parties, they may use confidential information only to implement the sub-project agreement.

The sub-project consortium may disclose confidential information to the DIGI-B-CUBE consortium and to the external reviewers, who will be bounded by a specific Non-Disclosure Agreement.

The EC and the DIGI-B-CUBE consortium shall be authorised to publish, in whatever form and on or by whatever medium, the following information:

- the name of the beneficiary SME;
- contact address of the beneficiary SME;
- the general purpose of the project;
- the amount of the financial contribution foreseen for the project; after the final payment, and the amount of the financial contribution actually received;

¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en>

² The obligations described here are not binding and may be modified, refined or additional obligations may be inserted during the sub-project negotiation if needed.

D3.2 Framework for Voucher-based Funding System

- the geographic location of the activities carried out;
- the list of dissemination activities and/or of patent (applications) relating to foreground;
- the details/references and the abstracts of scientific publications relating to foreground and, if funded within the sub-project, the published version or the final manuscript accepted for publication;
- the publishable reports submitted to DIGI-B-CUBE;
- any publishable diagram, workflow, picture or any audio-visual or web material provided to the EC and DIGI-B-CUBE in the framework of the project.

The beneficiary SME shall ensure that all necessary authorisations for such publication have been obtained and that the publication of the information by the EC and DIGI-B-CUBE does not infringe any rights of third parties.

Upon a duly substantiated request by the sub-project coordinator on behalf of any sub-project member, the DIGI-B-CUBE, if such permission is provided by the EC, may agree to forego such publicity if disclosure of the information indicated above would risk compromising the beneficiary's security and/or commercial interests.

6.3. Promoting the action and give visibility to the EU funding

The beneficiary SMEs must promote the sub-project, the DIGI-B-CUBE project and its results, by providing targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public) in a strategic and effective manner and to highlight the financial support of the EC.

Unless the European Commission or the DIGI-B-CUBE coordinator requests or agrees otherwise or unless it is impossible, any communication activity related to the action (including in electronic form, via social media, etc.), any publicity, including at a conference or seminar or any type of information or promotional material (brochure, leaflet, poster, presentation etc.), and any infrastructure, equipment and major results funded by the grant must:

- (a) display the EU emblem;
- (b) display the DIGI-B-CUBE and
- (c) include the following text:

For communication activities: *“This project has indirectly received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme, via an Open Call issued and executed under project DIGI-B-CUBE (grant agreement No 824920)”*.

For infrastructure, equipment and major results: *“This [infrastructure][equipment][insert type of result] is part of a sub-project that has indirectly received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme, via an Open Call issued and executed under project DIGI-B-CUBE (grant agreement No 824920)”*.

D3.2 Framework for Voucher-based Funding System

Any publicity made by the beneficiary SME in respect of the project, in whatever form and on or by whatever medium, must specify that it reflects only the author's views and that the EC or DIGI-B-CUBE project is not liable for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

When displayed in association with a logo, the EU emblem should be given appropriate prominence. This obligation to use the EU emblem in respect of projects to which the EC contributes implies no right of exclusive use. It is subject to general third-party use restrictions which do not permit the appropriation of the emblem, or of any similar trademark or logo, whether by registration or by any other means. Under these conditions, the Beneficiary is exempted from the obligation to obtain prior permission from the EC to use the emblem. Further detailed information on the EU emblem can be found at: https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/grants/grant-management/acknowledge-funding_en.htm

7. Redress Procedure and Data Protection

7.1. Redress Procedure

All applicants have a right to a redress procedure if they feel that there has been a shortcoming in the way their proposal was evaluated, or if they believe that the results of the eligibility checks are incorrect. Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will be rejected, indeed applicants will receive an email stating the reason for rejection.

Eligibility criteria for each proposal are checked by the DIGI-B-CUBE consortium (internal reviewers) before the evaluation begins. Proposals which do not fulfil eligibility criteria are not included in the evaluation. The redress procedure is concerned with how the application was handled in the evaluation and eligibility-checking process. It is not an automatic re-evaluation; the judgement of appropriately qualified experts is not called into question.

The redress requests must be addressed to info@digibcube.eu with the subject line “REDRESS REQUEST”, and they will be examined by the DIGI-B-CUBE internal reviewers and the external reviewers (if needed).

Together with DIGI-B-CUBE internal reviewers, the DIGI-B-CUBE coordinator will review the complaint and will recommend an appropriate course of action. This ensure a coherent interpretation of such requests, and equal treatment of all applicants.

Requests must:

- be related to the evaluation process, or eligibility checks;
- include the title of the application, voucher type, any relevant other information (such as application ID) and a clear description of the grounds for complaint;
- be received within the time limit specified, i.e. 3 days from the receipt of evaluation verdict/rejection letter;
- sent by the legal representative that has also submitted the proposal.

Please note:

- The redress procedure is concerned only with the evaluation and/or eligibility checking process. This will not call into question the scientific or technical judgement of appropriately qualified experts.
- A re-evaluation will only be carried out if there is evidence of a shortcoming that affects the final decision on whether to fund it or not. This means, for example, that a problem relating to one evaluation criterion will not lead to a re-evaluation if a proposal has failed anyway on other criteria.
- The evaluation score following any re-evaluation will be regarded as definitive. It may be lower than the original score.
- Only one request for redress per proposal will be considered. All requests for redress will be treated in confidence.
- The evaluation of redress request/s may take up to two to four weeks. The final verdict will be communicated via email to the applicant.

7.2. Data Protection

In order to process and evaluate applications, DIGI-B-CUBE will need to collect Personal and Industrial Data. All applications and related data must be submitted through the DIGI-B-CUBE platform. The DIGI-B-CUBE platform's design and operational procedures ensure that data is managed in compliance with The General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR).

Please refer to <https://platform.digibcube.eu/GDPRPrivacyPolicy> to check DIGI-B-CUBE platform privacy policy. Before [registering](#), each applicant will accept the DIGI-B-CUBE platform privacy policy to ensure coverage.

Please note that DIGI-B-CUBE requests the minimum information needed for respective voucher application to deliver the evaluation procedures. Additional information (such as bank account details, information for sub-grant agreements) will only be requested if the SMEs' voucher application is selected for funding as per the DIGI-B-CUBE voucher framework.



DIGITAL INNOVATIONS RECONFIGURING
MEDICAL DIAGNOSTICS VALUE CHAIN
TOWARDS A HEALTH ECONOMY 4.0



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