


Proposal Evaluation Form

	EUROPEAN COMMISSION Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL)	Evaluation Summary Report
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Call: DIGITAL-2021-EDIH-01
Type of action: DIGITAL-SIMPLE
Proposal number: 101083646
Proposal acronym: GR digiGOV-innoHUB
Duration (months): 36
Proposal title: The Greek digital Government and Public Services innovation HUB
Activity: DIGITAL-2021-EDIH-01

N.	Proposer name	Country	Total Cost	%	Grant Requested	%
1	NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURES FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY	EL	1,802,787.36	30.97%	901,393.68	30.97%
2	PANEPISTIMIO DYTIKIS ATTIKIS	EL	391,448.8	6.72%	195,724.4	6.72%
3	Information Society SA	EL	389,094.8	6.68%	194,547.4	6.68%
4	PANEPISTIMIO KRITIS	EL	168,888.8	2.90%	84,444.4	2.90%
5	ETHNIKI EPITROPI TILEPIKOINONION & TACHYDROMEION	EL	240,108	4.12%	120,054	4.12%
6	DIETHNES PANEPISTIMIO ELLADOS	EL	190,203.2	3.27%	95,101.6	3.27%
7	INSTITUTE OF COMMUNICATION AND COMPUTER SYSTEMS	EL	167,056.96	2.87%	83,528.48	2.87%
8	ETHNICON METSOVION POLYTECHNION	EL	422,607.2	7.26%	211,303.6	7.26%
9	UNIVERSITY OF MACEDONIA	EL	174,624	3.00%	87,312	3.00%
10	ATHINA-EREVNITIKO KENTRO KAINOTOMIAS STIS TECHNOLOGIES TIS PLIROFORIAS, TON EPIKOINONION KAI TIS GNOSIS	EL	391,226.24	6.72%	195,613.12	6.72%
11	ATHENS UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS - RESEARCH CENTER	EL	271,437.59	4.66%	135,718.79	4.66%
12	IONIAN UNIVERSITY	EL	241,220.8	4.14%	120,610.4	4.14%
13	ETHNIKO KENTRO DIMOSIAS DIOIKISIS & AFTODIOIKISIS	EL	252,520	4.34%	126,260	4.34%
14	ELLINIKI ETAIREIA EPISTIMONON HLEKTRONIKON YPOLOGISTON KAI PLIROFORIKIS (E.P.Y)	EL	101,457.4	1.74%	50,728.7	1.74%
15	PANEPISTIMIO AIGAIΟΥ	EL	212,288	3.65%	106,144	3.65%
16	ETAIREIA ELEYTHEROY LOGISMIKOY LOGISMIKOY ANOIKTOY KODIKA	EL	404,631.2	6.95%	202,315.6	6.95%
Total:			5,821,600.35		2,910,800.17	

Abstract:

GR digiGOV innoHUB aims to support the development of a new generation of Public services based on advanced digital technologies, open standards and open source solutions for citizens and businesses; to enrich GR digiGOV innoHUB aims to support the development of a new generation of Public services based on advanced digital technologies, open standards and open source solutions for citizens and businesses; to enrich the ecosystem of Digital Transformation actors; and to facilitate innovation in Public Administration, transforming it into a large innovation buyer and investor.

It will act as a virtual GOVtech Lab that can accelerate the development, innovative and cost-effective digital solutions through agile and efficient "borderless" collaborations among the public and private sectors, the civil society and academia. A contribute towards the definandbox environment will be developed around the National Digital Portal for Public Services gov.gr.

The partnership is led by GRNET - National Infrastructures for Research and Technology, which together with the top Academic and Research Institutions that specialize in AI, HPC and digiGOV issues, and the vibrant professional and scientific networks, form an experienced team, field-proven in the COVID19 period, in orchestrating the design and development of advanced information systems and infrastructures for the digital transformation of the Greek Public Administration.

The Hub is also supported directly by a broad assortment of key industry actors, regional authorities and civic society organisations that have expressed their willingness to participate.

Through this aggregation of creative forces, the Hub will constitute a network of excellence, with presence in almost all Greek regions, providing access for entrepreneurial actors to knowledge, experience and infrastructures and an accelerator that employs state-of-the-art frameworks and methods in order to develop and implement a new generation of public services.

Evaluation Summary Report

Evaluation Result

Total score: 12.50 (Threshold: 10)

Criterion 1 - Relevance

Score: **4.00** (Threshold: 3/5.00 , Weight: -)

The following aspects have been taken into account:

- **Alignment with the objectives and activities as described in the Call document**
 - **Contribution to long-term policy objectives, relevant policies and strategies, and synergies with activities at European and national level**
 - **Extent to which the project would reinforce and secure the digital technology supply chain in the EU***
 - **Extent to which the project can overcome financial obstacles such as the lack of market finance***
- * **May not be applicable to all topics (see Call document).**

The proposed EDIH will serve public and private sectors, the civil society and academia in Greece. The proposal aims to support the development of a new generation of public services based on advanced digital technologies, open standards and open-source solutions for citizens and businesses. It aims to further develop the innovation ecosystem of e-government by enhancing the digital skills and innovation capacities of SMEs and the public sector. It is considered well aligned to the topic of the call.

A price list of services is presented, although it lacks a more detailed description of the services. For SMEs and mid-caps, the services will be mostly free.

Collaborations with other EDIHs are foreseen. A Memorandum of Understanding and a Public Sector Corridor have been created to exchange knowledge and expertise. In addition, collaboration with Enterprise Europe Network and Startup Europe is planned. As a minor shortcoming, the proposal does not sufficiently acknowledge the role of the Digital Transformation Accelerator in the early section of the proposal.

The proposal builds around various EU policy objectives such as the "Europe fit for the digital age", the Digital Services Act Package and the AI Act. The proposed activities and services meet the three key objectives of "Shaping Europe's digital future" and contribute towards the cardinal points of the 2030 Digital Compass regarding the European approach to the Digital Decade. The proposal is also aligned with major objectives of the Greek Digital Transformation Strategy 2020-2025.

During its operation, it is also foreseen to take into consideration relevant policy initiatives such as (a) the "Adopt-AI" programme to support the public procurement of AI systems, and (b) the "Declaration on European Digital Rights and Principles", which defines a set of principles for a human-centered digital transformation and acts as a reference framework for people, and a guide for businesses and policy-makers.

The EDIH will support SMEs to access regional, national and/or European funding via different relevant activities. New models will be explored in private-public collaborations.

For supporting the clients in overcoming financial obstacles, the proposal has designed a dedicated Work Package (WP5), which will focus on providing support in finding investments for SMEs and Public Sector Organizations, through several core activities, which is considered positive.

The plan to overcome financial obstacles is therefore good as is actually built upon the success of PPPs. This is because it is fully market driven, creating an ecosystem of private SMEs and funders to the benefit of public services in Greece and therefore to the benefit of the Greek society and its economy.

In the budget table in Part A the complementary sources of funding are not properly mentioned, but in Part B it is stated that the other 50% of the budget will be provided by the Member State.

Criterion 2 Implementation

Score: **4.00** (Threshold: 3/5.00 , Weight: -)

The following aspects have been taken into account:

- **Maturity of the project**
- **Soundness of the implementation plan and efficient use of resources**
- **Capacity of the applicants, and when applicable the consortium as a whole, to carry out the proposed work**

The EDIH is already partially operational and therefore ready to start with the implementation of the grant. Preparatory actions for EDIH have been taking place for a couple of years. The EDIH has also formed strategic partnerships with most Regional Authorities and is involved in digital transformation activities.

The proposed work builds on existing strengths of the partners, such as the expertise of the lead partner GRNET, which holds a key role as R&D advisor and executive arm of the Ministry of Digital Governance and is the operator of the national HPC infrastructure (ARIS).

The implementation plan is broadly satisfactory. The resources allocated to the various tasks are proportionate to the objectives. The services provided cover 90% of the total budget. The fact that most of the partners are either public organizations or supervised by the Government helps towards a more rigorous financial discipline.

However, the description of several tasks is partially incomplete. Risks have been addressed, although the provided details are only sufficient. The details of the concrete tasks that will be performed by each team member is poorly described.

The consortium is composed of 16 partners. Most of the consortium's partners have the required experience and skills. Several partners have expertise in technological fields: AI, Machine Learning, Hypercomputing, etc, while some others can offer services such as: coaching, funding support, testing facilities, infrastructure, project management support, MVPs and pilots implementation. The consortium runs the infrastructure of the national services portal (GOV.GR) on which they intend to create a sandbox environment for testing and implementing a new generation of Public Services, augmented by AI.

Appropriate management procedures are foreseen. Subcontracting is used for only one task in WP5, and it is considered appropriate.

The coordinator and partners have already completed some preparatory steps, such as understanding societal and regional needs for Digital Transformation, pre-mapping of stakeholders to be involved, target groups, service offering, collaborations and partnership.

Criterion 3 - Impact

Score: **4.50** (Threshold: 3/5.00 , Weight: -)

The following aspects have been taken into account:

- **Extent to which the project will achieve the expected outcomes and deliverables referred to in the call for proposals and, where**

relevant, the plans to disseminate and communicate project achievements

- Extent to which the project will strengthen competitiveness and bring important benefits for society

- Extent to which the project addresses environmental sustainability and the European Green Deal goals, in terms of direct effects and/or in awareness of environmental effects*

* May not be applicable to all topics (see Call document).

The proposal convincingly describes the expected outcomes and activities. The KPIs are reasonable. Most of them are measurable and achievable, namely expected outcomes, actions and activities. Some other KPIs will be frequently refined and enhanced during the lifespan of the EDIH. Those include also support for DTA, namely digital maturity, market maturity and market creation potential of innovations. Innovation Radar will be used.

The given targets about the number of beneficiaries that the EDIH will support are achievable. The balance between budget and the number of projects is just sufficient.

Communication and outreach measures tailored to the needs of specific audience are generic, with insufficient detail on communication KPIs.

The proposal properly details services that can support the development of a digital ecosystem in the public sector. Moreover, their activities for transforming public procurement in ICT towards a friendlier environment for SMEs and startups, as well as the targeted digital skills' development programmes and accelerated training would possibly benefit the whole Greek society. The capability of the hub to engage public and private funds is clear and assures further continuation of activities after the project end.

The project is aligned to EU and Greek policies for sustainability and the circular economy. In particular, the EDIH will prioritize challenges and projects addressing at least one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and one of the 8 Action Lines of the Green Deal, by adopting criteria for challenges and SME selection that reflect the aforementioned notion.

Scope of the application

Status: **Yes**

Comments (in case the proposal is out of scope)

Not provided

Exceptional funding

Entities from countries mentioned in the work programme (if any) are only exceptionally eligible, if the granting authority considers their participation essential for the implementation of the action.

Please list the concerned applicants and requested grant amount and explain the reasons why.

Based on the information provided, the following participants should receive exceptional funding:

Not applicable.

Based on the information provided, the following participants should NOT receive exceptional funding:

Not applicable.

Artificial Intelligence

Status: **No**

If YES, the technical robustness of the proposed system must be evaluated under the appropriate criterion.

Security restrictions Article 12(5) and (6) (if applicable)

Status: **No**

Can the work be taken over by one of the other participants or will it be necessary to add new ones?

Not applicable.

Overall comments

There will be no ethics issues related to this project or anything similar.



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