

Annual Report 2024

DIGITAL INNOVATION ZONE ASSOCIATION



European
Digital Innovation
Hubs Network

About NAO

This year, the cover of the Digital Innovation Zone Annual Report features NAO – his presence at key events in our region is made possible thanks to the ongoing commitment to innovation from the *Gheorghe Asachi Technical University of Iași*, a partner that transforms ideas into reality for the good of the community. Choosing NAO is no coincidence, but rather a reflection of our belief that innovation and the collaboration between humans and technology, when placed in the service of good, can transform lives.

“NAO, our little ally with a digital soul, is more than just a robot – he is a trusted friend on children’s path to learning and development. Through his gentle and interactive presence, NAO brings smiles and supports, step by step, the therapeutic process of children with autism. Each gesture, each word he speaks becomes a bridge between the world and the child, offering them confidence, safety, and courage.”

— Lecturer Dr. Eng. Otilia Zvorișteanu, TUIASI

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Foreword

Dear collaborators and supporters,

The Digital Innovation Zone Association is the ecosystem organization of the **European Digital Innovation Hub – Digital Innovation Zone**, structured as a non-profit entity with economic activity. The Association is headquartered in Iași, at 3 Verde Street, ground floor, room 1, Iași County, and is a non-governmental organization with economic activity (NACE code 6202), registered under the unique ID number 43866222.

The year **2024** has been a productive one for us. Not only did we continue expanding our activities and supporting SMEs and public institutions in adopting digital solutions, but we also received important recognition for our efforts: the **“Champion of Sustainable Development” award** for the Health Innovation Zone program at the 2024 Sustainable Development Gala. This award confirms the impact DIZ has within the innovation ecosystem of the North-East region.

We started 2024 with enthusiasm and the desire to further develop our key programs. Now in its third edition, Health Innovation Zone has once again proven to be a valuable framework for validating health-tech solutions, contributing to the acceleration of digital transformation in the healthcare sector. We organized workshops, mentoring sessions, and networking events to connect innovators, investors, and medical professionals.

We continued to be a reliable partner for over **150 companies**, with whom we developed and implemented innovation and digital transformation plans. Additionally, we provided consultancy services to over 10 public organizations, including hospitals, local authorities, and museums – helping them identify their digitalization needs and the best solutions, including funding options.

Another major highlight of 2024 was securing funding for the SustainX program. Through **SustainX**, we aim to develop the necessary skills for sustainable digital innovation within a unique **one-stop-shop model**. The program will provide a platform with access to resources, experts, tools, technologies, and successful models for organizations seeking to integrate sustainability into their digitalization strategies.

In a year marked by the rise of artificial intelligence and the enforcement of the **AI Act**, DIZ has taken an active role in promoting the responsible use of this technology. We organized awareness sessions and debates on AI ethics, emphasizing the importance of compliance with European regulations and the integration of ethical principles into the development and implementation of AI-based solutions.

We are proud of our achievements in 2024 and of the impact we have had on the community in the North-East region. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported us in this journey: our team members, associate members, advisory board members, national and international partners, volunteers, and all those who believe in the power of innovation to transform our region.

Cristina Mihaela Baghiu – President of the Association



Board of Directors



Cristina Baghiu

Hub Coordinator,
CEO of Atelierul de Idei &
President of the DIZ NGO



**Assoc. Prof. Dr.
Simona Caraiman**

Vice-Rector for IT&C, Gheorghe
Asachi Technical University of Iași



Lidia Mocanu

Head of One Stop Shop Office,
North-East Regional
Development Agency



Carmen Mihai

Manager Cluster Imago Mol



**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ionuț
Nistor**

Director of the MAVIS Innovation and
Technology Transfer Center, "Grigore T.
Popa" University of Medicine and
Pharmacy of Iași



Florin Cardașim

Co-funder Strongbytes



Georgiana Dragomir

CEO GRAPEFRUIT

Advisory Board



Vasile Asandei

Vasile Asandei, Director General of the North-East Regional Development Agency, is a seasoned leader with extensive experience in coordinating regional development projects and attracting European funding. Through his expertise in strategic planning and interinstitutional collaboration, Vasile supports DIZ's vision of creating an innovation-friendly and digitally advanced environment in the North-East region.



Emilia Țânțar

Prof. Dr. Emilia Țânțar is an internationally recognized expert in emerging technologies and digital transformation. With an academic career spanning over two decades and a remarkable contribution to the development of innovative digital solutions, Emilia brings a valuable strategic perspective and a deep understanding of the opportunities and challenges within the global digital ecosystem.



Piet Verhoeve

Piet Verhoeve is an entrepreneur and international consultant with extensive experience in business transformation through digitalization. His expertise includes the implementation of tailored digital solutions and the development of public-private partnerships. Piet contributes a practical and innovative approach, aiming to create sustainable solutions for the digitalization of organizations.



ABOUT

Digital Innovation Zone

The Digital Innovation Zone – European Digital Innovation Hub is an ecosystem of organizations from complementary fields, supporting the digital transformation and innovation of SMEs and public entities in the North-East region of Romania through expertise, solutions, programs, and professionals.

We act as a single point of contact and expertise between research and the market. We bring together local know-how, regional technology providers, and the SMEs and hospitals we serve.

Our aim is to raise the level of digitalization by encouraging the adoption of advanced technologies such as *AI*, *cybersecurity*, and *quantum computing*, while actively supporting innovation in the North-East region of Romania.



Objectives:

- Develop the one-stop-shop concept in the region by providing support services for the digitalization of companies and public hospitals.
- Act as the epicenter of the regional digital innovation ecosystem in the North-East region.
- Support regional, interregional, and international cooperation, as well as collaboration between the research sector, public institutions, private sector, and universities.
- Transform the regional workforce into a highly digitalized one, aligned with the needs of sectors with smart specialization potential in the region.



Community Involvement

In 2024, **Digital Innovation Zone (DIZ)** continued to demonstrate that technology can be a true driver of change within communities. Our activities extended beyond supporting the digitalization of companies and institutions, focusing also on strengthening a regional ecosystem where innovation becomes a common good, accessible to all and with a direct impact on people's lives.

Through **dedicated calls for SMEs and public institutions in the North-East region**, DIZ provided concrete support for digitalization and innovation, contributing to the improvement of service quality in key sectors such as healthcare, education, and public administration. Each funded project, each audit, and every consultancy or training session was centered around the real needs of people and the potential of technology to meet them. In 2024:

- **Over 130 SMEs** were supported in conducting digital feasibility studies;
- **4 public hospitals** each received €1 million in funding for advanced digitalization projects, with direct impact on the quality of healthcare services;
- **Over 30 innovative SMEs** benefited from customized service packages and funding of up to €150,000;
- **Over 20 transformative SMEs** received support for the development of digital solutions, each with funding of €50,000.

This support was complemented by **training sessions, mentorship, demonstrations of emerging technologies (test-before-invest)**, and **networking activities** that brought together entrepreneurs, solution providers, public authorities, and research institutions.

The social impact of digitalization is central to DIZ's mission. Through our projects, we have supported organizations working directly with vulnerable populations — such as hospitals treating children with disabilities or chronic illnesses — as well as initiatives that promote education, vocational training, and the inclusion of young people in the digital economy.

We are **building communities, not just digital capacities**. Throughout the year, DIZ organized numerous **regional events** across the North-East counties — **Bacău, Iași, Neamț, Suceava, Vaslui, and Botoșani** — which served as active spaces for dialogue among **entrepreneurs, universities, NGOs, public authorities, and technology experts**.

These meetings promoted **cross-sector collaboration** and laid the groundwork for **sustainable partnerships** for the future.

A **milestone moment** was the signing of a **strategic partnership** in **September 2024** with the **Employers' Association of the Software and Services Industry (ANIS)**. This partnership aims to support **startups, spin-offs, and innovative SMEs** in the region, while also facilitating access for public institutions to tested, efficient, and needs-adapted digital solutions.

In **December 2024**, we celebrated **5 years of activity**, marking a period during which we consistently focused on **digital inclusion, equity in access to resources**, and on strengthening the **capacity of local communities to innovate from within**.

Recognition of this journey came in **January 2025**, when DIZ was awarded at the **2024 Sustainable Development Gala**, organized by the Department for Sustainable Development within the Government of Romania. The award, granted in the NGO category, acknowledged the innovative **Health Innovation Zone** program. This recognition reflects our contribution to sustainable regional development and the strengthening of a responsible innovation model.



Projects Funded by Non-Reimbursable Funds

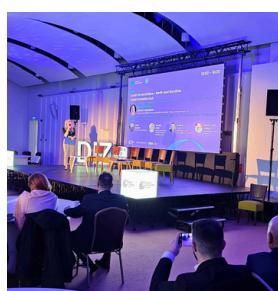


Co-funded by
the European Union



European
Digital Innovation
Hubs Network

Project Title	MANUFACTURING & SMART HEALTH for better business, life and health in the North East Romania region		
Acronym	eDIH-DIZ	Project Duration	01.10.2022–30.09.2025
Budget	3.709.388 EUR	EU Funding Amount through the Digital Europe Programme: 1 854 694.00 EURO	Funding Amount through PCIDIF: 9,059,496.39 LEI
Objective	Ensures a smart, sustainable, and coherent digital transformation in the North-East region of Romania through the successful operation and delivery of a comprehensive set of services by the Digital Innovation Zone European Digital Innovation Hub (DIZ). These services will have a direct impact by 2025 on over 100 SMEs and public institutions active in the manufacturing and healthcare sectors — areas identified as having high growth potential according to the North-East RIS3. The services will be developed and delivered during the project implementation period.		
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gheorghe Asachi Technical University of Iași • North-East Regional Development Agency • Iceberg Plus • Grapefruit • Grigore T. Popa University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Iași • IMAGO-MOL – Regional Innovative Cluster for Molecular Imaging • Atelierul de Idei TRAIN-IC • Digital Innovation Zone Association – Digital Innovation Zone • Strongbytes Consulting • RomSoft 		
Target Group	SMEs and Public Institutions from the North-East Region of Romania		

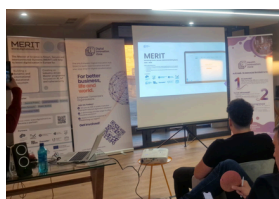
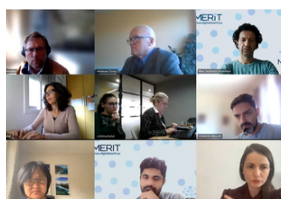




Co-funded by
the European Union




Project Title	MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SMART, SECURE AND INTERCONNECTED SYSTEMS		
Acronym	MERIT	Project Duration	01.10.2022-30.09.2026
Budget	6 246 793.75 EUR		
Objective	Ensures a smart, sustainable, and coherent digital transformation in the North-East region of Romania through the effective operation and delivery of a comprehensive package of services by the Digital Innovation Zone European Digital Innovation Hub (EDIH DIZ). These services will have a direct impact, by 2025, on over 100 SMEs and public institutions active in the manufacturing and healthcare sectors – areas with significant growth potential according to the North-East RIS3 strategy. All services will be developed and delivered during the project implementation period.		
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNIVERSITAT POLITECNICA DE CATALUNYA • VILNIAUS GEDIMINO TECHNIKOS UNIVERSITETAS • RIGAS TEHNISKA UNIVERSITATE • TALLINNA TEHNIKAÜLIKOOOL • Digital Innovation Zone Association – Digital Innovation Zone • FONDAZIONE BRUNO KESSLER • ASOINDEL S.L. • SAULETEKIO SLENIO MOKSLO IR TECHNOLOGIJU PARKAS • FUNDACIO CENTRE D'INNOVACIO I TECNOLOGIA DE LA UPC • EXACASTER, UAB 		
Target Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students and graduates from universities across various EU countries • Employees in the ICT sector or individuals with an ICT background who lack up-to-date advanced digital skills • Representatives of SMEs, the public sector, and other institutions that could directly benefit from the programme through collaborative outcomes (e.g., student projects, ideas for improving SME digitalization) • EDIH networks at both EU and national level • SME associations, regional business and innovation ecosystems • The general public 		





Co-funded by
the European Union



Project Title		PeRsonalised medicine Empowerment Connecting Innovation ecoSystems across Europe.	
Acronym		PRECISEU	Project Duration 01.07.2024–30.06.2029
EU Contribution		11 340 050,00 €	Total buget: 22 730 100,00 €
Objective		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accelerates the adoption of personalized medicine in Europe by reducing fragmentation and inequalities across the EU, and by facilitating the implementation of advanced technological innovations in diverse ecosystems with varying levels of innovation, activity, strategies, and policies.• It connects innovation ecosystems across Europe to advance toward truly personalized healthcare through personalized medicine.• It contributes to the transfer of practices and solutions between European regions.• It supports the scaling up of advanced technological innovations in the healthcare sector, based on the two key pillars of personalized medicine: health data and advanced therapies based on genes, tissues, and cells.	
Partners		 <p>The map shows the following partners and their locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Sweden: BUSINESS REGION GÖTEBORG, SAHLDRÈNSKA SCIENCE PARKGermany: BIO PRO Baden-Württemberg GmbHSpain: eatris, BioRN, Vlaamse overheid, MEDVIA, biocat, ACCIÓ, Generalitat de Catalunya, Generalitat de Catalunya Departament de Salut, AstraZeneca, ESC, Barcelona Supercomputing Center, CENTRE NACIONAL DE SUPERCOMPUTACIÓItaly: Regione Emilia RomagnaPoland: Inovacijų agentūra, RYNE INTERREGIONAL MEDICAL CLUSTERRomania: Digital Innovation Zone, IMAGO-MOL, ADRI NORD-ESTGreece: HEALTH & LIFE SCIENCE CLUSTER, Sofia, FORTH, REGION OF CRETE	



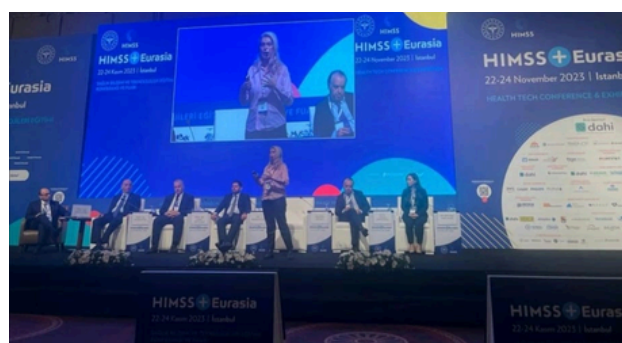
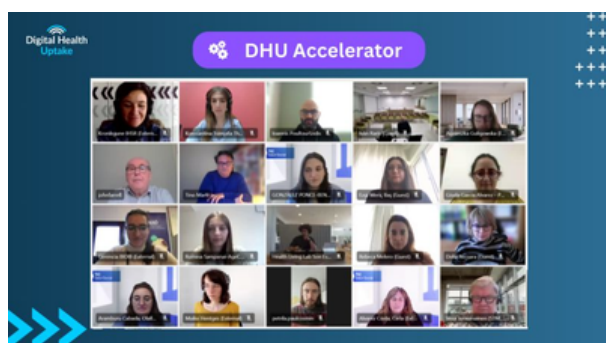
Programme Title	HEALTH INNOVATION ZONE		
Acronym	HIZ by DIZ	Project Duration	01.04.2024–02.11.2024
Objective	<p>Fostering the entrepreneurial spirit of young people by engaging them in structured non-formal training activities in the field of entrepreneurship, with a focus on developing solutions for digitalization and technological innovation in healthcare, as part of the second edition of the Health Innovation Zone (HIZ).</p> <p>Organization of the second edition of HIZ, the first program in Romania for the pre-validation of innovative technological solutions in the medical field.</p> <p>Development of digital, entrepreneurial, and technological innovation skills among the young participants in the program.</p> <p>Laying the groundwork for the digitalization of medical institutions by establishing collaboration partnerships for the clinical pre-validation of innovative entrepreneurial solutions developed within the program.</p>		
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital Innovation Zone Association – Digital Innovation Zone "Gheorghe Asachi" Technical University of Iași "Grigore T. Popa" University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Iași 		
Target Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Innovative startups in the fields of healthtech, medtech, and biotech Innovative SMEs in the fields of healthtech, medtech, and biotech 		
Programme Sponsors and Partners	 		
Achievements	<p>Digital Innovation Zone was awarded the title of Champion of Sustainable Development in Digitalization, in the NGO category, for its innovative Health Innovation Zone program. This award represents a recognition of the significant impact Digital Innovation Zone has had in promoting digitalization in support of sustainability.</p> <p>More details about the results and participants AVAILABLE HERE.</p>		



Project Title	DIGITAL NOMAD
Project Duration	01.08.2024–31.10.2024
Description	<p>The Digital Nomad Platform was created with the goal of strengthening the city of Iași's position as a modern and welcoming destination for digital nomads who choose to work remotely.</p> <p>The project is funded by the Iași City Hall under Law no. 350 / 2005 and was developed through a partnership between the Iași Tourist Information Center, Digital Innovation Zone – EDIH, and the North-East Regional Development Agency.</p> <p>The platform serves as an essential information and networking tool for digital nomads, promoting interaction and collaboration among members of the community.</p>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital Innovation Zone Association – Digital Innovation Zone Iași City Hall Iași Tourist Information Center North-East Regional Development Agency
Target Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HoReCa Turism



Project Title	SMART HOSPITAL
Project Duration	12.02.2024 – 09.08.2024
Description	<p>Digital Health Uptake (DHU) is a EU-funded project under the Digital Europe Programme. The aim of Digital Health Uptake is to facilitate the alignment of policies, strategies, tools, and activities to promote the adoption of digital health solutions and services across Europe.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To monitor and analyze the adoption and use of digital health and care solutions in regions, EU Member States, and associated countries. To create a cooperative environment that enables the active contribution of stakeholders, fostering regular exchanges between the demand and supply sides to stimulate cross-border scaling of digital health solutions and services. To strengthen implementation and adoption capacity by identifying and qualifying relevant tools and methodologies that provide guidance, encouraging mutual learning and the transfer of innovative practices between regions, Member States, and associated countries – in order to support adoption, scaling, large-scale implementation, and capacity building.
DIZ's Mission	<p>Our mission is to develop and implement advanced technological solutions that optimize the healthcare sector and facilitate the exchange of knowledge and innovation within this field. Through this collaboration, we aim to bridge the gap between the innovative technologies of Smart Hospital and the specific needs of our community. We will also share our own experience and contribute to the enhancement of the Smart Hospital network, bringing value both to our local community and to healthcare service users more broadly.</p>



EVENTS 2024

Mobile World Congress Barcelona

DIZ participated at the invitation of i2CAT, in collaboration with the Digital Catalonia Alliance (DCA) and the Government of Catalonia.

On February 28, DIZ took part in the i2CAT-organized tour showcasing the i2CAT ecosystem, where we had the opportunity to connect with some of the most innovative and pioneering Catalan companies in the sectors of IoT, AI, Cybersecurity, Blockchain, New Space, and Drones.



26TH-29TH FEBRUARY 2024

LOCATION

BARCELONA

SPAIN

Digital Innovation Hubs Days (DIH Days)

Digital Innovation Zone, together with the "Grigore T. Popa" University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Iași, participated in the Digital Innovation Hubs (DIH) Days, an event held on March 5-6, 2024, in Sarajevo.

The event showcased the newly established digital innovation hubs in Bosnia and Herzegovina, along with experiences from across the region and the European Union.

More **[DETAILS HERE](#)**.



5TH-6TH MARCH 2024

LOCATION

SARAJEVO

BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

Digital Innovation Zone Conference 2024

The conference provides the perfect environment to lay the foundation for successful collaborations and offers extensive opportunities to tap into the innovation network of the DIZ ecosystem – both at national level and across Europe – to find the right partners, expertise, and technologies for your business.

The second edition of the Digital Innovation Zone Conference – Digital Transformation 2.0 focused on the digitalization of the healthcare and manufacturing sectors, targeting both SMEs and public hospitals.

More **[DETAILS HERE](#)**.



28TH MARCH 2024

LOCATION

IASI

ROMANIA



EVENTS 2024

Regional Cooperation 2024: Digital Transformation and the Transition toward Smart Communities

The event brought together experts and professionals from the fields of digital innovation and regional development, who discussed the challenges and opportunities of digital transformation in smart communities across the country. On the first day of the Conference, DIZ, as the European Digital Innovation Hub (EDIH) for the North-East Region, participated in the panel titled "Digital Innovation Hubs – Capabilities, Services, and Opportunities for the Public and Private Sectors." During the session, the 2024 open call for SMEs and public institutions was presented, with a particular focus on the collaboration developed with the public institutions benefiting from the call.



9TH-12TH APRIL 2024

LOCATION

BRASOV

ROMANIA

MERIT Project General Assembly

The MERIT project meeting aimed to strengthen the project's results and impact through collaboration and knowledge exchange among partners. Focused on best practices in technologies such as IoT, cybersecurity, and AI, the meeting supported the advancement of the digital skills and diversity agenda, contributing to digital empowerment in an ever-evolving technological landscape.

More **[DETAILS HERE](#)**.



13TH-15TH MAY 2024

LOCATION

RIGA

LATVIA

Cybersecurity Working Group for Public Institutions and Hospitals

As part of the first session of the Working Groups, we met with representatives from the public and healthcare sectors. The event took place at Casa Pogor – The Museum of Romanian Literature in Iași. On this occasion, the 2024 work plan in the areas of innovation and digitalization was presented. A dedicated session was held on the implications of the NIS2 Directive and cybersecurity, and participants also benefited from matchmaking meetings with potential technology partners.



24TH MAY 2024

LOCATION

IASI

ROMANIA



EVENTS 2024

Cybersecurity Working Group for the Manufacturing Sector

A meeting was held at V7 Startup Studio, where we gathered to present the 2024 work plan in the fields of innovation and digitalization. The event included a dedicated session on the implications of the NIS2 Directive and cybersecurity, and participants had the opportunity to engage in matchmaking meetings with potential technology partners.



28TH MAY 2024

LOCATION

IASI

ROMANIA

New approaches to address healthcare challenges: DIHs for P4 Medicine

DIZ participated in the panel "Opportunities Brought by EDIHs for the Healthcare Ecosystems," which highlighted the efforts of European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs) in promoting the P4 paradigm in healthcare (Predictive, Preventive, Personalized, and Participatory), as well as supporting the digitalization of the health sector through a variety of services and collaborative mechanisms within the ecosystem.



12TH JUNE 2024

LOCATION

CLUJ

ROMANIA

#DIZ Comes to Your Hometown – Suceava

The event held at the Suceava Chamber of Commerce and Industry brought together entrepreneurs interested in digital transformation and innovation, alongside the Digital Innovation Zone team – the European Digital Innovation Hub for the North-East region.

During the meeting, available support opportunities for SMEs in the process of digitalization or business model innovation were presented.

Cristina Baghiu, Coordinator of the Digital Innovation Zone hub, delivered a presentation on the services offered to support this process. Another highlight of the event was the intervention by Expertware, addressing the topic of cybersecurity, followed by the presentation of a success story illustrating the collaboration between Raisis and Digital Innovation Zone. The meeting concluded with a networking session and open discussions among participants.



17TH JUNE 2024

LOCATION

SUCEAVA

ROMANIA



EVENTS 2024

HIZbyDIZ Pitch day

In this edition of Health Innovation Zone – Pitch Day, the Imago-Mol Cluster and Digital Innovation Zone organized the national pre-selection.

*Teams had the opportunity to be selected for the Health Innovation Zone program and to win a €5,000 support package to participate in the HealthTech Investor Summit in Bruges, December 9–11, 2024. More [**DETAILS HERE**](#).*



21ST JUNE 2024

LOCATION

IASI

ROMANIA

Kick off meeting project PRECISEU

Digital Innovation Zone (DIZ), together with IMAGO-MOL and the North-East Regional Development Agency (ADR NE), is participating in the PRECISEU project alongside 21 other partners from 12 regions and 10 EU Member States. The consortium includes regional authorities, clusters, a European research infrastructure consortium, global pharmaceutical companies, and European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs).

*The project is funded through the Horizon Europe programme and is coordinated by Biocat (Spain). More [**DETAILS HERE**](#).*



10TH–11TH JULY 2024

LOCATION

BARCELONA

SPAIN

EIT Health Top Female Founders

Organized by EIT Health with the support of Boehringer Ingelheim, University of Coimbra, IESE Business School, Heidelberg University, INiTS | Vienna's High-Tech Incubator, Rīga Stradiņš University, and BDO Austria, the event combined online learning with in-person training sessions.

*Participants had the opportunity to collaborate with industry experts and discuss the development of innovative solutions in the healthcare sector. More [**DETAILS HERE**](#).*



15TH–19TH JULY 2024

LOCATION

VIENNA

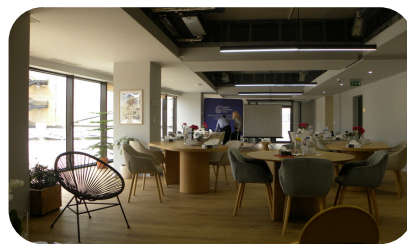
AUSTRIA



EVENTS 2024

Smart Hospital Solutions Working Group for Hospitals and Medical Clinics

The event brought together medical organizations selected through the "Accelerating Change" Call, launched by Digital Innovation Zone, with the aim of facilitating dialogue between medical institutions and digital solution providers. The discussions opened with a panel on digitalization needs in the healthcare sector, moderated by Dr. Ionuț Nistor, and included the participation of representatives from Iași Public Health Directorate (DSP), the College of Physicians, and the "Gr. T. Popa" University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Iași. This was followed by presentations from various technology providers, who introduced innovative solutions aimed at supporting the digital transformation of hospitals and clinics. The event concluded with a networking session, offering participants the opportunity to explore concrete collaboration opportunities.



16TH JULY 2024

LOCATION

IASI

ROMANIA

Advanced Technology Skills for SMEs

The project is funded through the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR) – Component C7 Digital Transformation, under Investment I19 – Schemes dedicated to upskilling and/or reskilling employees in companies.

Cristina Baghiu, President of Digital Innovation Zone (DIZ), participated as a speaker, offering valuable insights into the adoption level of advanced technologies within Romania's private sector. More

[DETAILS HERE](#).



17TH SEPTEMBER 2024

LOCATION

IASI

ROMANIA

CRAI Conference

The event brought together innovators, entrepreneurs, and startups from Romania, promoting technology transfer and entrepreneurial education. It gathered over 170 participants, including industry experts and international speakers.

More **[DETAILS HERE](#)**.



23RD-24TH SEPTEMBER 2024

LOCATION

IASI

ROMANIA



EVENTS 2024

Digital Transformation Days 2024 – Moldova DIH Summit – The Digital Transformation Pillar

The event brought together representatives of central and local public authorities, members of the DIH of Moldova community, local and international partners, as well as representatives from academia and the private sector.

The “DIH of Moldova – The Digital Transformation Pillar” Summit served as a platform for exchanging ideas, promoting innovation, and strengthening strategic partnerships.



24TH SEPTEMBER 2024

LOCATION

BALTI

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

SMART HEALTH – Study Visit Ia FORTH

DIZ participated in the study visit organized by the European Digital Innovation Hub for Smart Health: Precision Medicine and Innovative E-health Services (smarHEALTH) at the Foundation for Research and Technology – Hellas (FORTH) campus in Heraklion, Greece.

This visit provided an excellent opportunity for knowledge exchange and sharing of best practices in the areas of digital health, medical innovation, and the use of advanced technologies to improve healthcare services. More [**DETAILS HERE**](#).



25TH–27TH SEPTEMBER 2024

LOCATION

HERAKLION

GREECE

Innovation breakfast

Innovation Breakfast is an event dedicated to innovation and digitalization for companies.

The event brought together several entrepreneurs from the Iași area, interested in exploring how they can integrate innovation into their own businesses.

The workshop was led by Piet Verhoeve, a Belgian expert and founder of Origanus, where he works as a collaboration and innovation specialist. His work focuses on developing smart partnerships that drive growth, transformative outcomes, and value for clients.

More [**DETAILS HERE**](#).



26TH SEPTEMBER 2024

LOCATION

IASI

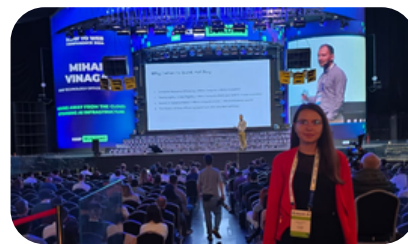
ROMANIA



EVENTS 2024

How To Web

Digital Innovation Zone was a community partner in the 2024 edition of the How to Web Conference, one of the most important technology and startup conferences in Eastern Europe.



2ND-3RD OCTOBER 2024

LOCATION

BUCHAREST

ROMANIA

#DIZ Comes to Your Hometown – Bacău

On October 15, at Hotel Fiald in Bacău, a meeting dedicated to local SMEs was organized by Digital Innovation Zone.

The event provided participants with valuable information on available support for digitalization and innovation, as well as opportunities for collaboration with universities and technology providers.

Cristina Baghiu, Coordinator of the Digital Innovation Zone hub, presented the support services available to SMEs for the implementation of digitalization projects. This was followed by contributions from Prof. Dr. Eng. Carol Schnakovszky, Rector of "Vasile Alecsandri" University of Bacău, and representatives from technology companies such as Aliant Business Solutions and Custom Code Factory, who shared examples of collaborations and digital solutions developed for the business environment.



15TH OCTOBER 2024

LOCATION

BACAU

ROMANIA

#DIZ Comes to Your Hometown – Piatra Neamț

On October 17, at Hotel Central Plaza in Piatra Neamț, an informal meeting dedicated to local SMEs was organized by Digital Innovation Zone.

The event provided participants with information on available support for digitalization and innovation, as well as examples of best practices.

Presentations were delivered by Cristina Baghiu (Digital Innovation Zone), Lidia Mocanu (North-East RDA), Gabriela Macoveiu (North-East RDA), and Bogdan Clipa (Custom Code Factory).

The event also included a panel discussion on the digitalization needs of SMEs and a networking session.



17TH OCTOBER 2024

LOCATION

PIATRA NEAMT

ROMANIA



EVENTS 2024

FACTORY 4.0: Digital skills & Industry 4.0

*The conference aimed to explore topics such as AI, robotics, cybersecurity, and digital industrialization, highlighting the importance of innovation and collaboration in driving growth within the sector. With a variety of esteemed speakers and engaging discussions, FACTORY 4.0 served as a platform for networking, knowledge sharing, and addressing the challenges and opportunities presented throughout the event. More [**DETAILS HERE**](#).*



17TH OCTOBER 2024

LOCATION

BUCHAREST

ROMANIA

Digitalization Working Group for the HoReCa and Tourism Sectors

On October 24, 2024, in Iași, the Digitalization Working Group for the HoReCa and Tourism sectors was held, organized by Digital Innovation Zone at V7 Startup Studio.

*The event was dedicated to professionals and companies in these sectors, offering them the opportunity to discover digital solutions specifically designed to meet the needs of the industry and to attract digital nomads. More [**DETAILS HERE**](#).*



24TH OCTOBER 2024

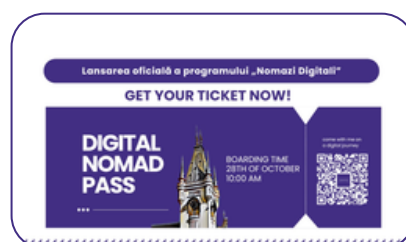
LOCATION

IASI

ROMANIA

Launch of the Digital Nomads Programme

*Digital Innovation Zone, in collaboration with the Iași Tourist Information Center and the Iași City Hall, officially announced the launch of the "Digital Nomads" programme—an initiative aimed at increasing the visibility of Iași County for digital visitors from around the world. More [**DETAILS HERE**](#).*



28TH OCTOBER

LOCATION

IASI

ROMANIA

EVENTS 2024

HIZbyDIZ Demo day

Health Innovation Zone – Demo Day 2024 - November 2, 2024 | V7 Start-up Studio, Iași

Now in its second edition, the Health Innovation Zone program offers support for the validation and development of innovative solutions, connecting them with experts, investors, and industry partners.

Demo Day is a unique opportunity to discover the latest healthcare innovations and to attend the pitches of the most promising startups from the current cohort.

More [**DETAILS HERE**](#).



2ND NOVEMBER 2024

LOCATION

IASI

ROMANIA

Deep Tech Skills Days 2024

Organized by the EIT Deep Tech Talent Initiative, this event aims to develop the skills needed to support technology innovation at the European level.

Participants had the opportunity to engage in in-depth discussions, share best practices, and forge new partnerships with like-minded individuals who are also committed to shaping the future of tech education.

More [**DETAILS HERE**](#).



12TH-13TH NOVEMBER 2024

LOCATION

WARSAW

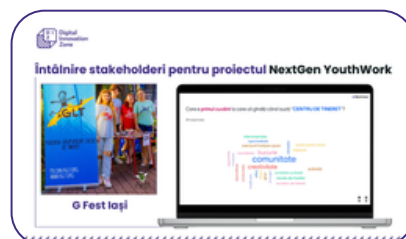
POLAND

NextGen YouthWork – Working Meeting

NextGen YouthWork aims to develop and improve youth work activities by implementing locally adapted solutions in the partner countries of the project.

In this context, the network seeks to support young people through solutions tailored to the needs and challenges of the online environment.

More [**DETAILS HERE**](#).



12TH NOVEMBER 2024

LOCATION

IASI

ROMANIA



EVENTS 2024

Charme Project – Working Meeting

The Charme Project, with an implementation period of 36 months starting in April 2024, is funded through the INTERREG EUROPE programme. It is developed in partnership with the municipalities of Pavia (Italy – project leader), Coimbra (Portugal), Iași (Romania), Turku (Finland), Grand Poitiers Urban Community (France), and the City Hall of Lviv (Ukraine – Discovery Partner), along with the University of Pavia (Advisory Partner), within the framework of the EC2U Alliance – European Campus of City-Universities.

More [**DETAILS HERE**](#).



14TH NOVEMBER 2024

LOCATION

IASI

ROMANIA

HealthTech Investor Summit

Digital Innovation Zone served as a Strategic Knowledge Partner at the HealthTech Investor Summit 2024, a European event that connects healthtech entrepreneurs with investors.

At the 2024 edition, two innovative teams from the Health Innovation Zone 2024 program had the opportunity to present their solutions at the European level and engage in discussions with entrepreneurs and investors from the international ecosystem.



9TH-12TH DECEMBER 2024

LOCATION

BRUGES

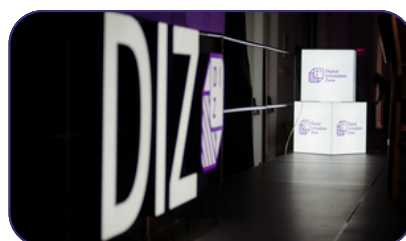
BRUXELLES

5 Years of Digital Innovation Zone

Digital Innovation Zone (DIZ) marks five years of activity, an impressive journey in which innovation and digitalization have been placed in the service of communities, companies, and public administrations.

This anniversary is an opportunity to reflect on achievements, challenges, and impact, while also shaping the future direction of the organization.

More [**DETAILS HERE**](#).



12TH DECEMBER 2024

LOCATION

IASI

ROMANIA



Recurring Events

March (every year)
Digital Innovation Zone Conference

Recurring
Funding Wednesdays Webinars

Recurring
Taming Technology Webinars

Recurring
DIZ Comes to Your Hometown

Recurring
Thematic Working Groups

Recurring
Thematic Deep Tech Innovation Breakfasts

Join the DIZ Digital Community

Want to stay updated on Digital Innovation Zone events & open calls and receive useful information in real time? Join our digital community on WhatsApp by accessing the link available on our website or by scanning the displayed QR code.



Founding Members



An innovation and digital culture agency focused on designing and facilitating change processes within organizations.



An end-to-end digital agency with over 23 years of experience in the digital field, and the first Romanian agency specialized in user experience.



Strongbytes provides software engineering and capacity-building services for data-driven and cloud-enabled organizations.



IMAGO-MOL is a non-governmental entity whose objective is to support innovation and the scientific competitiveness of its members.



TUIASI is one of the oldest public higher education institutions in Romania, with a strong tradition in research and innovation in the field of engineering.



UMF is a public higher education and research institution that offers undergraduate, master's, doctoral, and continuing medical education programs.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS



USV is a public higher education institution, innovative and diverse, offering academic programs across a wide range of fields.



"Vasile Alecsandri" University of Bacău focuses its mission on education, research, and regional, national, and international collaborations.



bioROne is the first biotechnology project in North-Eastern Romania, connecting the academic community, industry, and government.



Iconic Cluster promotes cooperation activities and facilitates connections with other companies, as well as intensive knowledge exchange.



Factory 4.0 positions itself as a catalyst in the Romanian market for training and consultancy in the field of digital transformation.



Composed of experienced IT and business specialists, it relies on long-term relationships and international expertise.



Raisis Software provides consultancy, software development, and solutions for companies' digital presence.



Expertware is a European provider of IT services and solutions, founded in 2006, with offices in Belgium and Romania.



ASSOCIATE MEMBERS AND PARTNERS

**QUARTZ
MATRIX**

Quartz Matrix is a Romanian technology and engineering company with 28 years of presence in the Business-to-Business market in Romania.

INFO MEDIA®



Founded in 1997, InfoMedia develops web applications with teams in Piatra Neamț and Iași, providing efficient solutions for successful businesses.



IT Company



With 13 years of experience in SME development, Goodwill Consulting provides analysis and RPA automation solutions.



RomSoft is a Romanian-owned software development company, founded in 2001 in Iași by Nicu Popescu and Dorin Cristea.



Beenear provides global software services and solutions for various industries, focusing on sustainable partnerships and innovation.



OPTI provides software outsourcing, automation, and data migration services, being a HubSpot partner and a Google Cloud expert.



HTSS is a company with experience in developing software solutions for the healthcare sector, providing technologies for clinics, hospitals, and pharmacies.



C&A CONNECT's main business activity is the distribution of video games, both as CD keys and in classic DVD format.



RELIANS is a leading consultancy in funding services, part of the ROMCAPITAL group, and has been awarded at the European level for excellence in service.



All of EBS Integrator's energy is focused on delivering exceptional digital experiences to every stakeholder, on time.



Aliant has evolved from a leader in document solutions into a technology integrator, providing services for the digital transformation of businesses.



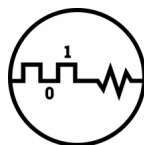
National Partners



AJOFM Iași



International Partners



its4Health
Transforming healthcare



University College Dublin
Ireland's Global University



ROBOCOAST



Companies Portfolio

Digital Innovation Zone promotes a portfolio of companies it collaborates with, which contribute to the development of the regional innovation ecosystem.

The purpose of this initiative is to provide visibility to companies active in the fields of technology and digital transformation, highlighting local innovation potential and fostering collaboration among relevant regional stakeholders.

The portfolio is updated regularly and is **AVAILABLE ONLINE**, making it accessible to the general public, partners, and potential investors seeking information about innovative companies in the region.



With experience in mathematical optimization, software development, and AI, we are ready to provide innovative solutions tailored to specific needs.



ATTA BOARD is a company developing a product dedicated to personal transportation – the Innovative Longboard as an Electric Vehicle (LIVE).



AIRVISION is a video analytics platform based on artificial intelligence visual recognition technology.



Bit&R is the first coding platform in Romania where children aged 8 to 12 learn to code by building games.



TheraLinked streamlines therapeutic processes by providing psychologists with a clear and structured workflow.



Apollo Technologies places patients at the center of healthcare and simplifies a complex, bureaucratic system.



Custom Code Factory is a software solutions development company, with a team of specialists boasting over 15 years of experience.



The company offers English language courses for Cambridge certification preparation.



Labirintul Magic is a mental health center for children and adolescents that develops and applies speech therapy.



Adservio is the first and most widely used school management platform in Romania.



RAISIS helps streamline your company's internal processes through customized digital solutions.



Bramitech is a Romanian company specialized in the distribution of consumable products for auto services and industry.



Founded by an interior architect passionate about sustainability, CUBIN aims to create timeless and eco-friendly furniture.



Companies Portfolio



ColorfulCoding is a creative studio specialized in XR technologies (Augmented and Virtual Reality), dedicated to developing interactive solutions.



The production of intentional and strategic decorations and gifts, created with a strong sense of individuality.



An IT company focused on management and digitalization products for agriculture, offering complete automation solutions.



CommaTech is a company specialized in the sale of earthmoving machinery, offering efficient solutions for the construction sector.



UNDA is a sustainable clothing and accessories brand that uses only completely natural and biodegradable materials.



Be SmartDev is a software development company based in the EU, offering cutting-edge software solutions.



GOV SMART is a provider of digital solutions and consultancy services dedicated to public administration.



BENOLI TECH is a Romanian company based in Bucharest and Iași, with expertise in low-level development (drivers, firmware).



Digitizing the workflow in pharmacies and innovating the production process of prepared pharmaceutical products.



Financial Results for the Year 2024

I. Balance Sheet Indicators

In EUR – BNR Exchange Rate 31.12.2024

A. Fixed Assets:	13.327
B. Current Assets:	698.868
C. Prepaid Expenses:	2.007
D. Liabilities Payable Within One Year:	50.698
E. Net Current Assets or Net Current Liabilities:	120.060
F. Total Assets Minus Net Current Liabilities:	133.387
G. Liabilities Payable After More Than One Year:	0
H. Provisions:	0
I. Deferred Income:	530.117
J. Equity (Own Capital):	133.347
Total Equity	133.388

II. Income Statement Indicators

In EUR – BNR Exchange Rate 31.12.2024

• <i>Income from Non-Profit Activities</i>	• 221.033
<i>of which:</i>	<i>of which:</i>
• <i>Income from Membership Fees and Charges</i>	• 13.395
• <i>Sponsorships</i>	• 20.596
• <i>Subsidies</i>	• 184.863
• <i>Other Income</i>	• 2.179
• <i>Expenses Related to Non-Profit Activities</i>	• 194.262
<i>of which:</i>	<i>of which:</i>
• <i>Personnel Expenses, Including Contributions</i>	• 165.239
<i>Result of Non-Profit Activities – Surplus:</i>	26.771
Income from Economic Activities:	231.879
Expenses Related to Economic Activities:	193.086
<i>of which:</i>	<i>of which:</i>
• <i>Personnel Expenses, Including Contributions</i>	• 95.890
• <i>Expenses for Other Services Provided by Third Parties</i>	• 89.233
Result of Economic Activities – Surplus:	38.793
Total Income	452.912
Total Expenses	387.349
Surplus:	65.563



Projected Income and Expenditure Budget for the Year 2025 (EUR)

• <i>Income from Non-Profit Activities</i>	• 246.598
<i>of which:</i>	<i>of which:</i>
• income from membership fees and charges	• 21.758
• sponsorships	• 10.000
• subsidies	• 214.700
• other income	• 140
• <i>Expenses Related to Non-Profit Activities</i>	• 221.255
<i>of which:</i>	<i>of which:</i>
• <i>personnel expenses, including contributions</i>	• 188.375
<i>Result of Non-Profit Activities – Surplus:</i>	25.342
Income from Economic Activities:	180.000
Expenses Related to Economic Activities:	156.031
<i>of which:</i>	<i>of which:</i>
• personnel expenses, including contributions	• 100.000
• expenses for other services provided by third parties	• 52.891
Result of Economic Activities – Surplus:	23.698
Total Income	426.598
Total Expenses	387.349
Surplus:	39.311



Digital Innovation Zone Team



Adelina Ezariu
Senior Health Innovation
Manager



Adina Ghinea
Public Institutions
Digitalization Expert



Andreea Vaculișteanu
Digitalization and
Business Analysis Expert



Cristina Baghiu
Hub Coordinator



Cristina Bulat
Project Manager



Florentina Topirnac
Executive Project
Assistant



Ionuț Vărvăruc
Communication Expert



Irina Robuleț
Non-Reimbursable
Funding Consultant



Lidia Mocanu
Strategy Director



Livia Onofrei
Junior Innovation
Consultant



Mădălina Gavril
Communication
Specialist



Nicoleta Rinzascu
Financial Director



Spot
Anti-Stress Expert



Vlad Marinescu
Project Assistant

Where You Can Find Us



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More details about V7 STARTUP STUDIO
are available on their website:
www.v7studio.ro.



GHEORGHE ASACHI TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF IAȘI

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More details about TUIASI are available
on their website: www.tuiasi.ro.



ONLINE





**Digital
Innovation
Zone**

Digital Innovation Zone Association – Digital Innovation Zone

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Headquarters: Iași, Verde Street No. 3, Ground Floor – Room 1, Iași County

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