

FUTURE APPROACHES AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO ENHANCE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF SMEs

SMART ANYTHING EVERYWHERE CONSULTATION MEETING

FACILITATED BY THE SMART4EUROPE PROJECT

WHAT ARE THE NEEDS, TECHNOLOGY TRENDS AND INNOVATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR SMEs IN EUROPE?

HOW CAN THE EC BEST SUPPORT DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION NOW AND IN HORIZON EUROPE?

WHAT ARE THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE SAE INITIATIVE /DIHs NETWORK TO EVOLVE?

DATE: 25 JUNE 2019

TIME: 9.00 – 16.00 H

PLACE: BRUSSELS

The **Smart Anything Everywhere – EC Consultation Workshop** will discuss the needs, trends and visions for **Digital Transformation** and the deployment of digital technologies by SMEs in different application domains. The interactive workshop will discuss emerging research and technology fields through a Technology Radar to fuel digitization, as well as the needs and barriers for a broad and successful implementation by SMEs. The main focus will be on the evolution of the SAE Initiative in order to provide:

- improved (future) offers to SMEs in terms of ‘test before invest’,
- innovation support and skilling/training,
- closer collaboration amongst the EU-wide network of supporting Digital Innovation Hubs (DIHs).

Recommendations for Horizon Europe will also be presented and discussed with the aim of building an effective future network that will have a real impact on SMEs and the EU economy. The workshop will gather experts from related projects, Innovation Actions, SME clusters, national/regional initiatives and also from policy-making, which will elaborate on solutions to jointly meet the challenges of Digital Transformation for European Industry.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP WILL BE TO ELABORATE ON THE

- **Technology Radar:** Which are the emerging technologies supporting digital transformation, and how mature are they? How can SMEs effectively test them?
- **Lessons learnt:** What are the experiences in SAE, I4MS, national and regional initiatives supporting SMEs in ‘Digital Transformation’ and what can we learn from them?
- **Vision:** Evolution of SAE and the overall network of DIHs across Europe (now and under Horizon Europe). Where do we want to go? Who are the key players and how do we create an ecosystem that can fully exploit the impacts?

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Smart Anything Everywhere – EU Consultation Meeting	
09:00	Registration
09:30	Welcome and Introduction <i>Introduction to Smart4Europe / SAE and the aims of the day (Haydn Thompson; THHINK)</i>
09:45	Presentations <i>EC Vision: DIHs in Horizon Europe (30 mins) – xxx (tbc)</i> Smart4Europe Results <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technology Radar/ Application Domains (10 + 5 mins) - Improving the joint offer (infrastructure, innovation support, training/skilling, ...) (10+5) - Networking DIHs, Collaboration model, Connecting to national/regional Initiatives (10+5) - Vision for Sustainability (10+5) -
11:15	Coffee Break
11:45	Share and Learn <i>Experiences and Lessons Learnt (helping SMEs in Digital Transformation, joining efforts)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SAE - I4MS (tbc) - DIHNET.EU (tbc) - PPPs / ARTEMIS / ECSEL (tbc) - SME/ Industry, ...(tbc)
12:30	Lunch
13:30	Assessment of Results (interactive session) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assessment of emerging technologies and applications - Assessment of needs to improve the SAE/DIH network offer and impacts - Assessment of networking and sustainability Issues
14:30	Coffee Break
14:45	Elaboration of Recommendations (group work) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A Future Technologies and Applications (chaired by H. Thompson; THHINK) ▪ B Improving the SAE offer (chaired by Meike Reimann; S2i) ▪ C Networking and Collaboration (chaired by xx; xx) <p>(in depth exploration of recommendations)</p>
15:45	Final Discussion, Conclusions & Feedback
16:00	Closing of Workshop