**Faro, 12.2019**

# INTRA

## Algarve enters the European catalog of Digital Innovation Hubs

The Algarve STP – Systems and Technology Partnership Association took over, at the end of November, one of the four Digital Innovation Hubs (DIH) recognized in Portugal.

The application was submitted with the acronym Algarve Smart Destination DIH and the European network of Digital Innovation Hubs approved it with the attribution of 'fully operational'.

More information at:

<https://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/digital-innovation-hubs-tool/-/dih/16876/view>

Algarve Smart Destination (DIH) is formed by an informal network, led by ASTP, which has, as partners, public and private entities, such as the University of Algarve, Fraunhofer Portugal, Altice Labs, Algarve Evolution Association and several technology companies based in the Algarve.

In 2016, the European Union launched the Digital Single Market package program to stimulate investments in the digitization of the economy and to create favourable conditions for a digital revolution.

One of the fundamental axes for the digitization of European industry is the development of collaborative activities. With the emergence of DIH one-stop-shop, the aim is to help companies to be more competitive in developing new processes, products, and services using digital technologies.

A DIH is a multipartner cooperation that includes various stakeholders such as universities, industry associations, private companies and research centres, with links to service providers outside the region, attracting and gathering new and complementary competence for the territory.

The European Union is expected to fund DIHs with € 500 million over the next five years, with funds from the Horizon 2020 program. The program aims to have DIH in all European regions, in order to foster collaboration between them.

The Algarve STP Association aims, among others, to develop and consolidate the Algarve's innovation ecosystem, based on a strong structured partnership between associations, entities and companies.

The fostering of a regional ecosystem of innovation, fostered by the ALGARVE TECH HUB, aiming to raise cooperation towards research and development among private companies and the regional stakeholders, and anchored in the acceleration capacity of the Algarve Tech Park, is framed among the actions of INTRA project. These actions aim to benefit SMEs in overcoming their internationalisation challenges and barriers, and increasing cooperation among the stakeholders.

Therefore, these actions are supported in Phase 1 and monitored in Phase 2 of INTRA.

For more information on the Algarve DIH:

<https://www.algarvesmartdestination.com/>