

DIH-HERO wishes you a merry Christmas

It is the end of a productive year 2019 and as on January 1st 2020 DIH-HERO will celebrate its first birthday we take this as an occasion to review the first year of our project.

Digital Innovation Hubs in Healthcare Robotics was founded as an independent and sustaining platform to accelerate innovation in robotics for healthcare. Financially supported by the European Community with an amount of 16 Mio € DIH-HERO invests 8 Mio € into own calls for small and medium enterprises (SME). But DIH-HERO is more than just a funding opportunity for SMEs; it connects innovators, providers, business, users and politicians to offer services, facilitate cross national collaboration and to share best practices in efficient product development.

At the kick-off meeting in January 2019 all consortium partners met in Amsterdam to concretize objectives, tasks and steps for the network. Today we take stock in those measures that were transposed from idea into practice during the last 11 months.

While working on the concept and structures of DIH-HERO the core partners promoted the network in numerous events and panels such as the European Robotics Forum 2019 where we held a DIH-HERO workshop, the Medtech Pharma Summit in Nurnberg and Women in Tech at the German Aerospace Center where the DLR Hub was presented.



Andrea Schwier presents the MIRO Innovation Lab at the Women in Tech Forum at DLR

Of course we were also joining Medica, the leading international trade fair for the medical sector. The working group 'robotics in medicine' of the Uniklinik RWTH Aachen, for example, promoted our project at its exhibition stand.

In addition, the difficulties for small companies in the medical robotics sector were discussed in a panel discussion. The presence of DIH-HERO enabled us to further expand the network and hopefully to increase awareness of its profile.



Mare Mechelinck discusses challenges for companies in the medical-robot sector at the Medica fair in Düsseldorf

(©IHK NRW/Wilfried Meyer)



The DIH-HERO Infoday at Tecnalia

Furthermore every hub organized regional Info-days where SMEs got invited to be informed about the cascade funding and application opportunities.



Maren Boedding presents the Cascade Funding at the Brokerage Event

The highlight of our events 2019 was surely the DIH-HERO Brokerage event where more than 140 networking partners and SMEs met to increase cross-national collaboration, in order to accelerate innovation of robotics in healthcare.

To see more pictures of the Brokerage Event please go here:

- <https://www.utwente.nl/en/techmed/forms/photos-brokerage-event-day-1/>
- <https://www.utwente.nl/en/techmed/forms/photos-brokerage-event-day-2/>

The Calls

One of most challenging topics 2019 was to concept the funding that DIH-HERO offers to SMEs.

On July 1st the first DIH-HERO call opened. This call has supported small and medium enterprises with travel vouchers up to € 2000 to visit either a networking partner for co-operation or to visit a DIH-HERO event such as the Brokerage Event in October 2019.

The second call in 2019 is about Technology Demonstrators. Offering financial support of up to €100.000 per Technology Demonstrator, this call is meant to accelerate the development of Healthcare Robotics by demonstrating the feasibility of new, innovative and enhanced robotic solutions in healthcare application domains.

The third call for technology Transfer Experiments finally opens on December 31st. In this call SMEs can apply for a €200'000 funding. The major aim of this call is to stimulate the transfer of innovative technology from outside the robotics and healthcare domains, to solve unanswered clinical questions. Moreover, DIH-HERO is aimed to contribute to overcome implementation hurdles that hinder generating new business for the healthcare robotics industry and to create new links inside the value chain, thereby enabling societal and economic impact.

For more information to the DIH-HERO funding please go here:

<https://dih-hero.eu/calls/>

Services

DIH-HERO offers more than funding. As a sustainable network the aim is to accelerate innovation by offering access to services offered by a broad range of partners in the European healthcare ecosystem including specialized services from DIH-HERO project partners.

In 2019, the DIH-HERO services team setup a first-of-its-kind services directory focusing on healthcare robotics (<https://services.dih-hero.eu/>). This directory is a register of EU companies offering services related to healthcare robotics in the following categories. Any company interested can login and register their services. Today, 172 services are registered.

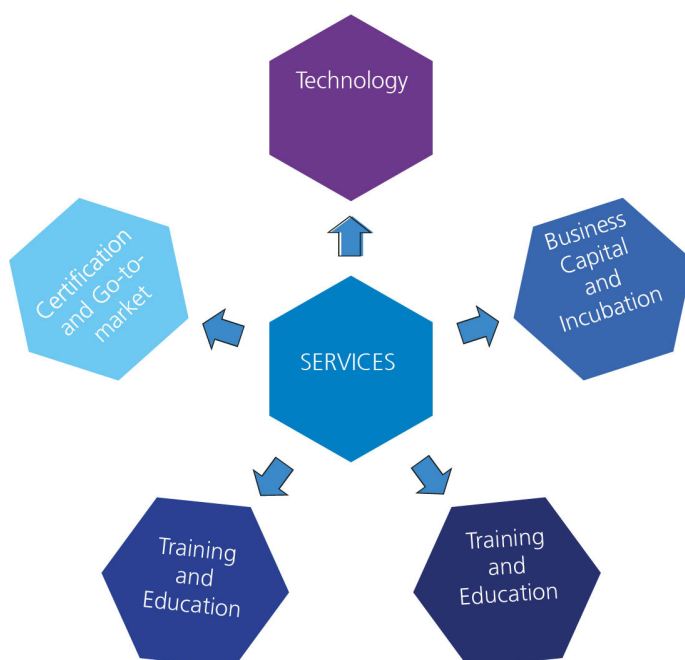
SMEs looking for a partner for the DIH-HERO open calls can start here and with the help of DIH-HERO partner's innovation coaches get introduced to potential suppliers or users. You can also use the directory to find partners to apply for the DIH-HERO open calls. If you have not done it yet, do register your services!

In 2020, expect major enhancements to this directory because we aim to make it a one-

stop-shop for creating innovative partnerships in healthcare robotics.

DIH-HERO's services are clustered by five topic groups:

- **Technology:** Find state-of-art robotics solutions and components to accelerate your project and build partnerships with technology providers to take your innovation to the market.
- **Business Capital and Incubation:** Find financial support in the EU for your project. DIH-HERO can connect you with incubators and accelerators and help you identify regional and EU funding opportunities through our Pan-European network.
- **Certification and Go-to-Market:** We help you find the right expertise for product certification and offer innovation coaching (via the open calls) to support your go-to-market strategy.
- **Training and Education:** we are building community training programs to disseminate the best practices in robotics and help companies find top talent via our academic ecosystem.
- **Testing Facilities:** DIH-HERO offers a range of test labs and facilities and technical support to help you test your technology in realistic conditions



For more information to the DIH-HERO services please go here:

<https://services.dih-hero.eu/>



Standards and Best Practice

DIH-HERO collects and promotes industry-led standards and best practice in the areas of diagnostic robotics, interventional robotics, rehabilitation robotics, robotics supporting patients and robotics supporting healthcare professionals. A sustainable knowledge base with data and insights from over 40 extensive interviews with experts from these fields from all over Europe was just made available online for the benefit of companies and the general public. In the forthcoming years of the project this database will be extended thanks to further interviews and several workshops about

standards regarding machine and interoperability, human-machine interaction, and software. Furthermore, differences in industry-led standards and best practice will be discussed with stakeholders and harmonized by expert groups. Please contact us if you have interest in participating in stakeholder workshops.

For more information please go here:

<https://services.dih-hero.eu/standards>

And we just started...