

## PROBLEM/ISSUE ADDRESSED

The development of SMEs became the centrepiece of strategies to achieve growth in RIS countries. The challenges that Manufacturing SMEs face include among the others: difficulty in filling positions, a lack of young high tech expertise, an aging high-tech workforce, skills shortages, the need for more academia-industry cooperation. Therefore, future education and training efforts should prepare current workers for work both in new jobs and roles and in new sectors by promoting lifelong skills-driven learning.

## SOLUTION

Improve the EIT RIS countries innovation capacity by changing the educational approach, enhancing the digital skills of manufacturing SMEs and promoting digitalization under the umbrella of Industry 4.0. This program addresses the skills needs to further innovate and improve the competitiveness of the manufacturing sector with a focus on SMEs, while supporting addressing labor market challenges.

## WHY IT IS IMPORTANT FOR SOCIETY

- Academia, by promoting lifelong skills driven learning, prepares current workers for working both in new jobs and in new sectors.
- Employees develop their high-tech skills and competencies leading to high quality jobs.
- Academia optimizes its research by focusing on real industrial needs.
- Students develop their digital skills through Teaching Factory to become hi-tech talents contributing to the growth and low unemployment rate.
- Academia-industry collaboration benefits the social and economic growth of the countries and regions where model is implemented.

“Thanks to EIT ...we were able to disseminate the project's outcomes and benefits to potential stakeholders in order to involve more stakeholders in the EIT community”



## MAIN RESULTS & INSIGHTS



5 Teaching & Learning Factories



Open Information Online Event ‘Digitalization of SMEs for solving manufacturing challenges’



Over 70 participants from Industry & Academia



**Asst. Prof. Panagiotis Stavropoulos**

Laboratory for Manufacturing Systems & Automation (LMS), Mechanical and Aeronautics Engineering, University of Patras.

**SmartDIGI project**

Aim: delivering a program where industry and academia work together to build skills by co creating solutions to real manufacturing challenges. Part of this SmartDIGI program are Teaching (TF) and Learning Factories (LF) .



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