Implementing Digital Europe Programme

26 October 2022
DG CNECT – R5 – Programme Implementation

#DigitalEuropeProgramme

Specific Objectives (SO) - Description

SO1 - High Performance Computing

- Build up and strengthen the **EU's supercomputing** and data processing capacities.
- **Increase accessibility** and broaden the use of supercomputing in areas of public interest and in industry, including small and medium-sized enterprises.

SO2 - Artificial Intelligence

- Invest in and open up the use of **artificial intelligence** by businesses and public administrations.
- Set up a true **European data space** and facilitate safe access to and storage of large datasets and trustworthy and energy efficient **cloud infrastructure.**
- Strengthen and support existing artificial intelligence **testing and experimentation facilities** in areas such as health and mobility in Member States and encourage their cooperation.

SO3 - Cybersecurity & Trust

- Strengthening **cybersecurity coordination** between Member States tools and data infrastructures.
- Support the wide deployment of the **cybersecurity capacities** across the economy.

SO4 - Advanced Digital Skills

- Support **programmes and traineeships** for the future experts in key capacity areas like data and AI, cybersecurity, quantum and HPC.
- Support the **upskilling** of the existing workforce through **short trainings** reflecting the latest developments in key capacity areas.

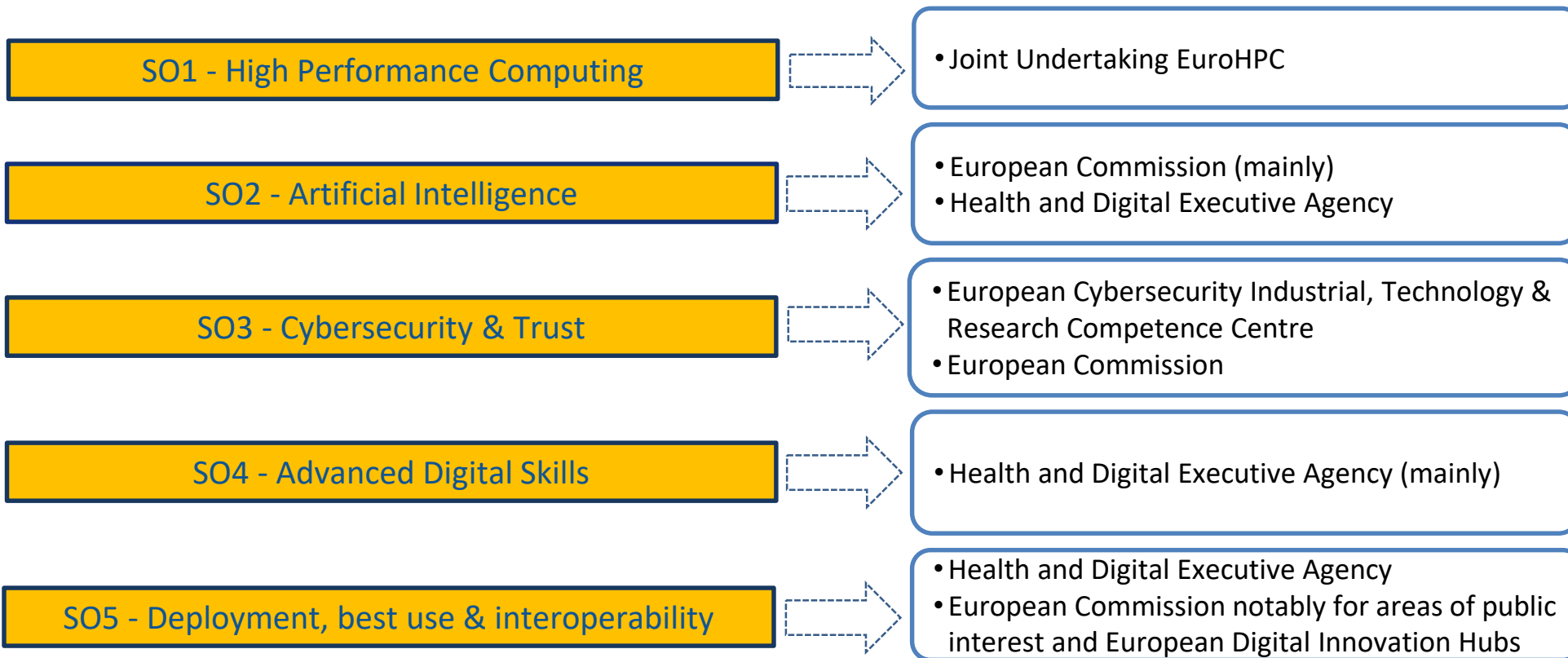**SO5 - Deployment, best use & interoperability**

- Build up and strengthen the network of **European Digital Innovation Hubs**, aiming to have a Hub in every region, to help companies benefit from digital opportunities.
- Support **high impact deployments** in areas of public interest: health (complemented by EU4Health programme), Green Deal, smart communities and the cultural sector.
- Support the **uptake of advanced digital and related technologies** by the industry, notably small and medium-sized enterprises.
- Support European **public administrations and industry** to deploy and access state of-the-art digital technologies (such as blockchain) and build trust in the digital transformation.
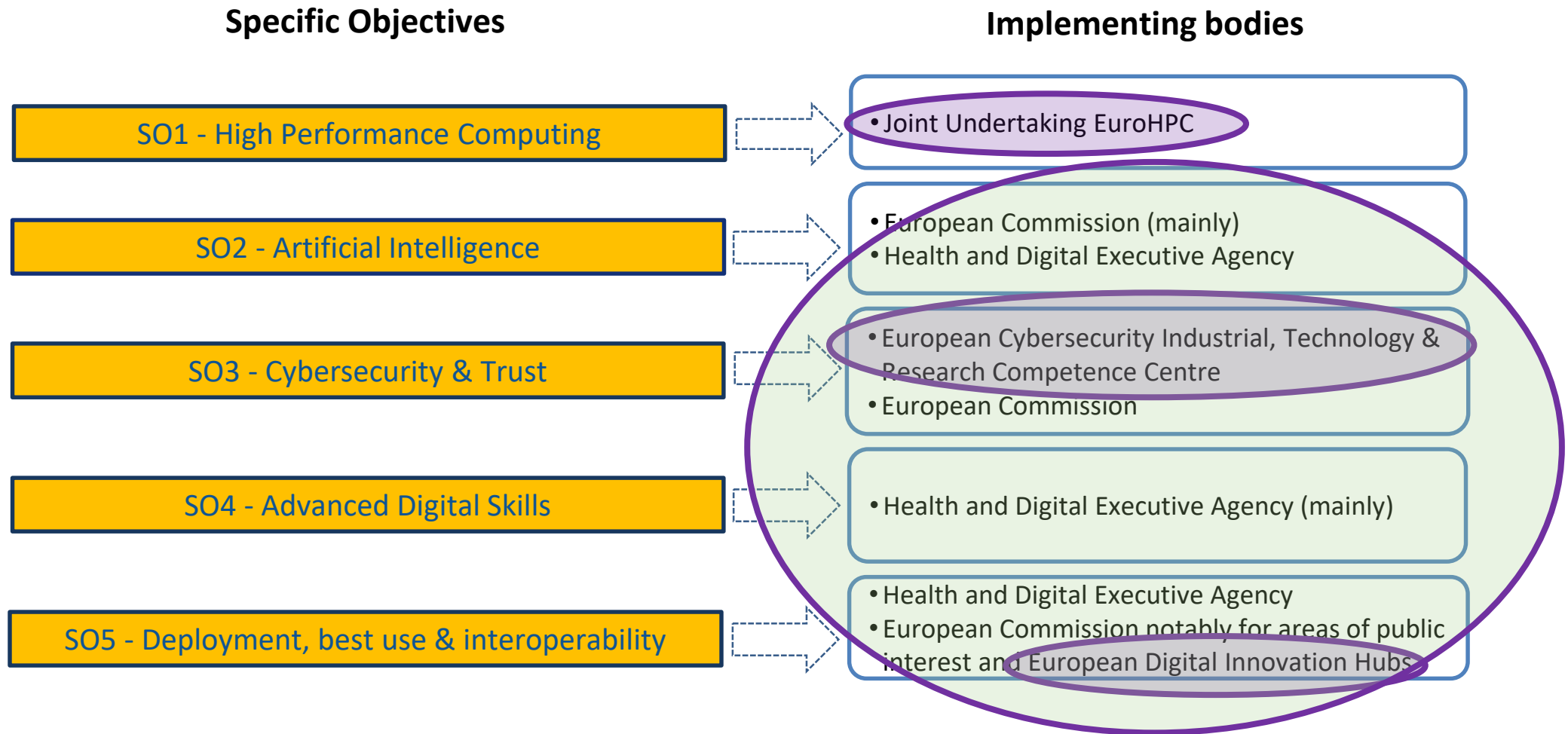
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Programme structure

Specific Objectives

Implementing bodies

SO1 - High Performance Computing	• Joint Undertaking EuroHPC
SO2 - Artificial Intelligence	• European Commission (mainly) • Health and Digital Executive Agency
SO3 - Cybersecurity & Trust	• European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology & Research Competence Centre • European Commission
SO4 - Advanced Digital Skills	• Health and Digital Executive Agency (mainly)
SO5 - Deployment, best use & interoperability	• Health and Digital Executive Agency • European Commission notably for areas of public interest and European Digital Innovation Hubs

Programme structure – work programmes

Specific Objectives

Implementing bodies

SO1 - High Performance Computing

- Joint Undertaking EuroHPC

SO2 - Artificial Intelligence

- European Commission (mainly)
- Health and Digital Executive Agency

SO3 - Cybersecurity & Trust

- European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology & Research Competence Centre
- European Commission

SO4 - Advanced Digital Skills

- Health and Digital Executive Agency (mainly)

SO5 - Deployment, best use & interoperability

- Health and Digital Executive Agency
- European Commission notably for areas of public interest and European Digital Innovation Hubs

Useful links

Digital Europe Programme website

https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/activities/digital-programme

Digital Europe Programme Regulation

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32021R0694&qid=1621344635377

Digital Europe Programme – work programmes

https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/activities/work-programmes-digital

DIGITAL
EUROPE
PROGRAMME

Work programme 2021-2022 (main WP)

Type of action	SME support grant (75% co-funding rate for SMEs and 50% for all the other beneficiaries)
Indicative Budget	EUR 25 million
Indicative time of call opening	Second call
Indicative duration of the action	36 months
Indicative budget per Grant (EU contribution)	EUR 2-3 million
Implementation	Executive Agency

Work programme 2021-2022 (main WP)

- Section 8 - Implementation
  - Instruments
  - General information on evaluation process
  - Use of experts
  - Indicative implementation calendar
- Annex 1 – Award criteria
- Annex 2 – Type of actions
- Annex 3 – Implementation of Article 12(5) and 12(6)

Instruments and types of actions
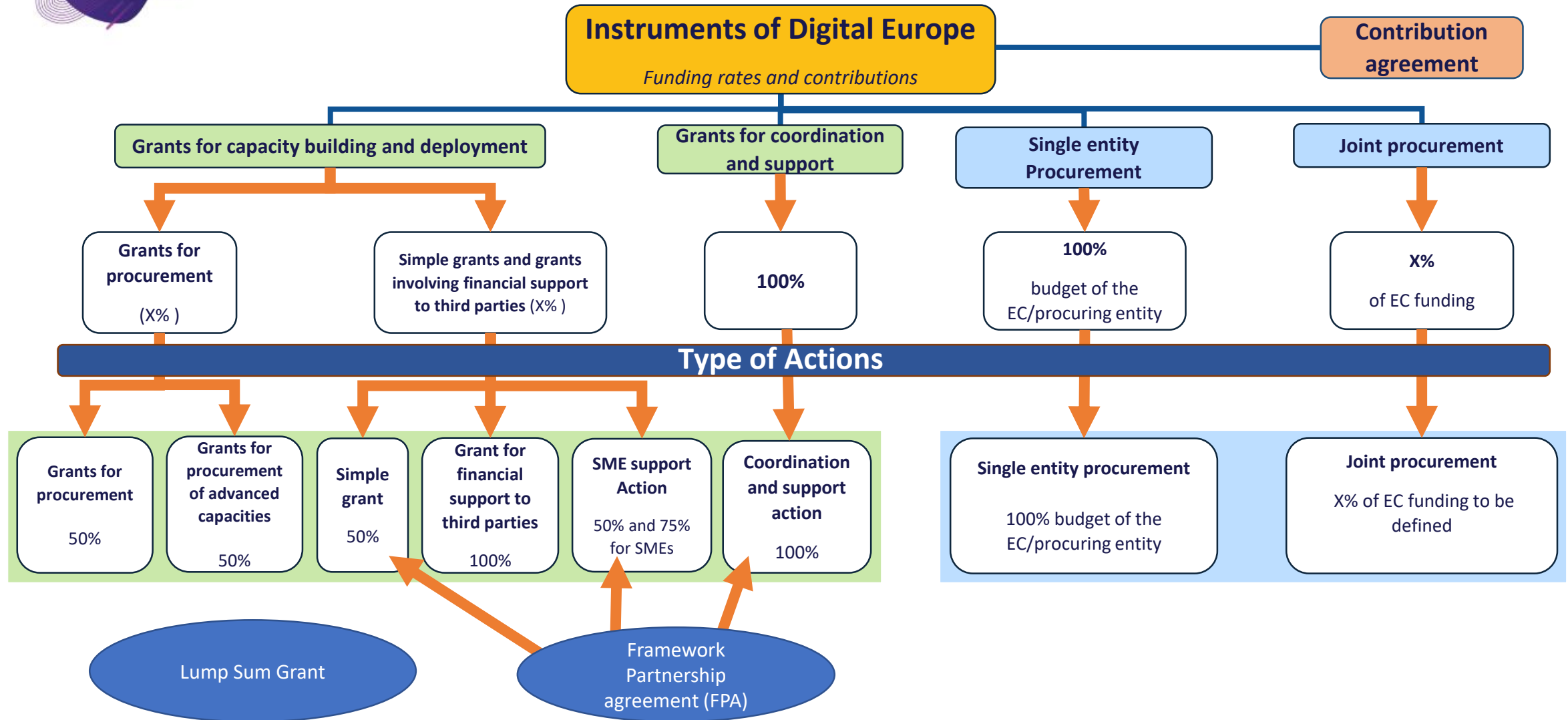
- DIGITAL Europe is implemented through **work programmes** which set out funding opportunities mainly through **calls for proposals**.

- Call for proposals are described in the **call document.**

- A call for proposal normally contains **one or more topics** with a common deadline and defines the **objectives and scope of the action** in more detail.

- The budget of the call is distributed among topics. Proposals within a topics will be competing against each other and will result in a single ranking list.

- Applicants **apply to a specific call and topic**.

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Call document

- Provides guidance on important aspects of the topics in a **call**
- For **each topic**:

  - Objectives
  - Scope
  - Outcome and Deliverables
  - KPIs
  - Targeted stakeholders

  - Type of action
  - Specific topic conditions
  - Budget

Call document - Support to proposers

- Details on **admissibility and eligibility**
- Information for applicants on **financial and operational capacity**
- Exclusion criteria
- **Evaluation procedure**
- Guarantees, obligatory milestones and deliverables, certificates and any many other description on legal conditions to participate in grants
- Financial support to third party schemes and conditions
- All the **mandatory annexes** needed for the call (e.g. ethic issues, security issues)
- **Type of action** description
- Other important legal and operational provisions
- **Help for applicants** and how to reach out to the commission

Some topics may **restrict the participation** to entities established in MS and controlled by MS or its legal entities

- **Non-eligible country controlled entities** cannot participate under 12.5, whereas 12.6 allows for their participation provided they comply with certain conditions established in the Work Programme

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Funding and tenders portal

- The programme uses the EC corporate IT tools for grant management - eGrants systems

- The DIGITAL model grant agreement (MGA) is based on the corporate MGA as well as most templates and guidances

- Funding and tenders portal

What is the Grant Agreement?

The Grant Agreement is the contractual document signed with a 'granting authority' (e.g. the EC or one of its executive agencies) defining

YOUR RIGHTS

- **To receive EU funding,** under the terms and conditions defined in the grant agreement, to help you to accomplish your project
- **To own the results** of the project that you have generated
- **To ask for amendments** of the grant agreement (if something needs to be changed)

YOUR OBLIGATIONS

- **To Implement the project** as planned in the description of the action (Annex 1 to the grant agreement)
- **Submit reports** at the time and for the periods defined in the grant agreement
- **Display the EU emblem and reference to DIGITAL funding** (e.g.information material, equipment funded by the grant, major results);
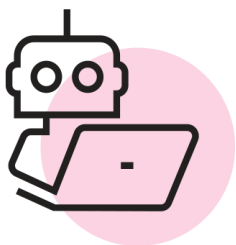
HOW MUCH MONEY YOU CAN GET

Overall, the granting authority can never pay:

- more than the maximum grant amount fixed in the grant agreement.
- But it may pay less; e.g. if the project costs at the end are less than budgeted

Eligible costs

A. PERSONNEL COSTS

- **A.1** Employees
- **A.2** Natural persons under direct contract
- **A.3** Seconded persons
- **A.4** SME owners and natural person beneficiaries
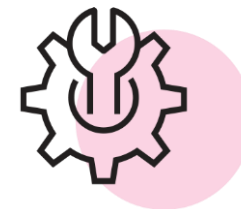
B. SUBCONTRACTING COSTS

C. PURCHASE COSTS

- **C.1** Travel and subsistence
- **C.2** Equipment
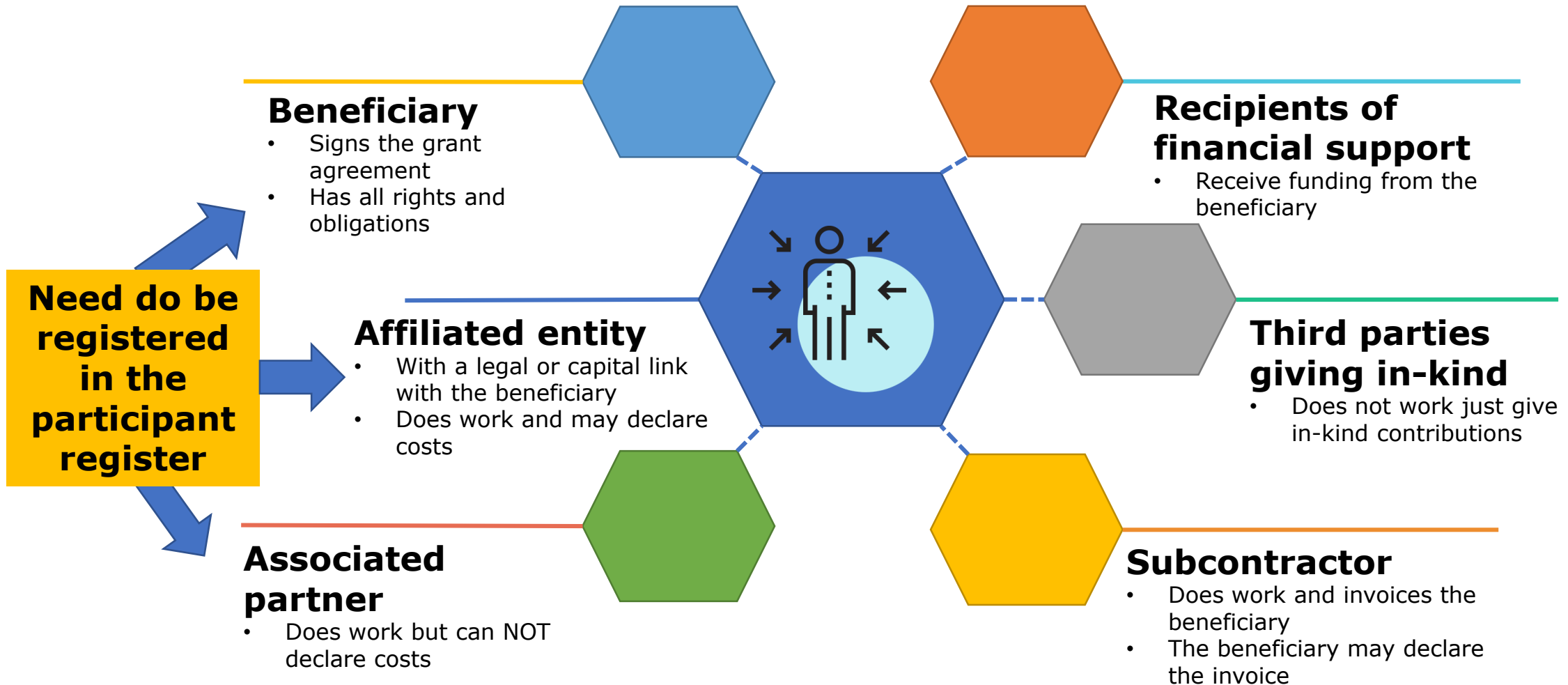- **C.3** Other goods, works and services

D. OTHER COST CATEGORIES

- **D.1** Financial support to third parties
- **D.2** Internally invoiced goods and services
- *[D.5 PAC procurement cost]*

E. INDIRECT COSTS

Different ways to participate

Beneficiary
- Signs the grant agreement
- Has all rights and obligations

Affiliated entity
- With a legal or capital link with the beneficiary
- Does work and may declare costs

Associated partner
- Does work but can NOT declare costs

Need do be registered in the participant register

Recipients of financial support
- Receive funding from the beneficiary

Third parties giving in-kind
- Does not work just give in-kind contributions

Subcontractor
- Does work and invoices the beneficiary
- The beneficiary may declare the invoice

Support to proposers

- Call document
- [EU Grants AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement](#)
- [EU Funding & Tenders Portal Online Manual](#)
- Specific guidance on:
  - [Ethics](#)
  - [Restricted calls](#)
  - [Legal entity validation](#)
- [More than 20 templates for applicants](#)
- [« IT How to » guide](#)
- [IT Helpdesk webform](#)
- Interaction with the constituency through the Funding and tender portal