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Joint Press Release

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**By Digital Hub Logistics, VTT,  
Friuli Innovazione/TEC4IFVG, Endeava, MEST,  
Apodissi, and BongoHive**

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# DIGILOGIC: A Legacy of Innovation in African and European Digital Logistics.

[DIGILOGIC](#), which the European Commission funds under Horizon 2020, held a consortium meeting in Udine, Italy, from 24th to 26th October 2023. This meeting was held as the project approached its end in December. The partners visited several innovative companies during the gathering for a study tour. Furthermore, discussions were held on assessing and exploiting DIGILOGIC's results.

## EXPLORING INNOVATIVE ENTERPRISES DURING THE DIGILOGIC WORKSHOP IN FRIULI

To make a real impact on digital logistics, DIGILOGIC recognises the importance of having insight into cutting-edge technologies and sustainable business practices and how they play a role in logistics operations. During the Udine Study Visit, the partners participating in the DIGILOGIC workshop had the opportunity to visit several innovative companies in Friuli, including [D'Agaro](#), [Ceccarelli Group](#), [Elifriula](#), [Illiria S.p.A](#), and [Danieli Automation](#).

They observed these companies' innovation processes, technology adoption challenges, and collaborations during the visit. Each of these companies showcased the industrial excellence of the region while also managing the challenges of sustainability and innovation adoption.

During the first stop of the itinerary, the partners visited the **Ceccarelli Group** in the Carnia Industrial Park located in Tolmezzo (Udine). The Ceccarelli Group has introduced a revolutionary service that enables manufacturing companies to outsource their logistics operations, which results in significant advantages for their bottom line. Additionally, the company shares its multi-client platforms with local businesses, providing them with complete digital visibility into the progress of their handling processes. The centre's technical director explained the project's innovative aspects, highlighting the comprehensive logistics management and the utilisation of their storage facilities. All these operations are facilitated through a digital platform that shares real-time movement updates with clients.

The delegation travelled a few kilometres to the Tolmezzo Technology Park, where they visited **Elifriulia**. The company was founded in 1971 by Luigi Coloatto and has since evolved from selling rotary-wing aircraft to providing helicopter services such as passenger transport, air ambulance services, flight training, and maintenance. The company's impressive advancements in helicopter-based firefighting and prevention were of particular interest, which was made possible thanks to an innovative application developed by a small start-up. The application uses an infrared camera mounted on the helicopter's nose to identify high-risk areas during firefighting missions. This infrared camera technology can detect concealed sources of fire, thereby enhancing firefighting efficiency and reducing the risk of unexpected flare-ups. This ground-breaking tool, designed to identify hidden fire sources invisible to the human eye, has taken the firefighting industry by storm. It can prevent the rekindling of fires, even long after the initial suppression efforts. The technology represents a significant step forward in fire prevention and control, offering a game-changing solution for emergency responders. The application ultimately improves safety and operational effectiveness by equipping firefighting teams with the tools to mitigate the risks of rekindling fires. Moreover, the application uses artificial intelligence to optimise flight paths, reducing costs and increasing safety.

The partners also had the opportunity to visit **D'Agaro** in Amaro in the Carnia Industrial Park. This company strongly emphasises the selection and development of local human resources through high-level training courses. By collaborating with its suppliers, D'Agaro could train drivers to make fuel-efficient adjustments to their driving systems. D'Agaro's "GREEN APPROACH" is focused on using EURO 6 vehicles and advanced instrumentation for consumption monitoring, which results in reduced air pollutants. Their partnership with [Volvo Truck](#) has facilitated the implementation of an information system for fleet monitoring, which has enhanced delivery reliability and simplified route planning.

The following day, the partners visited **Illiria S.p.A**, a company specialising in the production and management of vending machines. It operates across Italy and now has a partnership with Morocco. Illiria manages a vast network of operators that oversee the maintenance and restocking of vending machines. The company's significant focus is ensuring food expiration dates are correctly managed to avoid selling expired products. To handle the vast amount of data, the company has set up an operations room with several monitors that provide real-time updates on stock levels, equipment status, and machine contents. This significant investment, primarily developed in-house, underlines the company's commitment to quality and safety.

To conclude, the study visit partners were in Buttrio, Udine, to see **Danieli Automation**, a division of Danieli S.p.A., a leading global company in steel rolling mill technology. They are proud to be the first to produce steel rolling products using green technologies worldwide. The engineers and project managers presented their latest project in Mexico, where they manage large quantities of semi-finished steel worldwide with great efficiency. Adopting digital twin technology and artificial intelligence has achieved remarkable workplace safety and social impact results and increased women's participation in what was once a male-dominated industry. However, they mentioned they face challenges in finding practical solutions to translate scientific research into manufacturing practices.

The visit highlighted certain aspects of the companies encountered. Despite their different sizes and operations, they all have one thing in common: an eagerness to incorporate technology and digitisation into their operations. To achieve this, they require a high degree of application customisation, which is where Digital Hubs come in. These hubs play a crucial role in incubating and developing applications that can be seamlessly integrated into various production, commercial, or managerial contexts.

DIGILOGIC's attending partners gained first-hand insights into the needs of the potential market, which is becoming increasingly global, offering promising opportunities for mutual collaboration. These visits showcased the commitment of Friuli-based companies to innovation, sustainability, and excellence in various industries. The knowledge and experiences gained during this workshop will undoubtedly inspire future endeavours and collaborations.

### **DIGILOGIC RESULTS ASSESSMENT AND EXPLOITATION**

The partners' meeting assessed the DIGILOGIC results and explored potential collaboration and networking opportunities for future EU-AU smart logistics projects. The DIGILOGIC partners shared the significant outcomes, learnings, and assets developed as they strategised for exploitation. The event allowed the partners to reflect on their accomplishments and discuss ways to improve future undertakings. The partners expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to collaborate and were optimistic about the prospects for continued collaboration in the future.

### **DIGILOGIC PARTNERS' UPCOMING LOGISTICS PROJECTS**

[Markku Mikkola](#), Senior Scientist at VTT, offered an example of relevant smart logistics ongoing research introducing the [ADMIRAL project](#). The project's main objective is to create a low-emission marketplace for the logistics supply chain powered by artificial intelligence (AI) and capable of handling multiple modes of transportation. The project aims to help companies meet regulatory and consumer emission-reduction demands, foster cooperation, and resilience among the different actors in the supply chain and encourage the industry to prioritise emission reductions.

*"Being a DIGILOGIC partner allowed us to understand better the smart logistics needs in Europe and Africa. We're in the extraordinarily privileged position of being at the crossroads of innovation with our team based in Udine, Lagos, Windhoek, and Dubai. Certainly, different needs and perspectives, but entrepreneurs share the same underlying driving factors: a forward-looking perspective, the inner drive to reimagine, every day, new ways to answer to the markets' challenges while preserving the ecosystem and reducing the impact on the natural resources available,"* says [Adriano Mauro](#), Managing Director of [Apodissi](#) and [AREA](#), an SME based in Udine.

*"Hosting DIGILOGIC Europe and Africa partner representatives in Udine provided valuable collaboration and knowledge exchange opportunities. It also allowed us to strengthen our connections with local and renowned companies within the dynamic logistics platform of Friuli*

Venezia Giulia, bridging the Mediterranean and Central Europe. By showcasing our ecosystem, we gained a deep understanding of its untapped potential and acted as catalysts for growth and collaboration within our local community. This experience vividly demonstrates the transformative power of connectivity and the limitless possibilities that lie ahead," says [Claudia Baracchini](#), Project Manager at [Friuli Innovazione/TEC4IFVG](#).

"The consortium meeting and study visit at Friuli Innovazione/TEC4IFVG in Italy brought along the opportunity to experience once again live the results and great work that the project partners have achieved: a reliable network between organisations and innovators from EU and AU active or interested in logistics; a shared understanding for the current challenges, needs and trends in the logistics industry in Europe and Africa; and finally, many best practices and use cases for the support of entrepreneurs and for the collaboration across the two continents of Europe and Africa. As a result of the DIGILOGIC project, I take a bag full of learnings, collaboration partners that I can trust and many exciting opportunities ahead," says [Charlotte Edzard](#), Innovation Manager at [Digital Hub Management](#).

The project's partners:

#### European Partners



#### African Partners



This press release and a press picture are available [here to view and download](#).  
For more information, view the [DIGILOGIC consortium](#) and the [DIGILOGIC smart logistic approach](#).

For more information on the DIGILOGIC project, please see [www.digilogic.africa](http://www.digilogic.africa)

For media enquiries: [info@digilogic.africa](mailto:info@digilogic.africa)

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