

Digital Hubs: Opportunities and practical support for rural areas

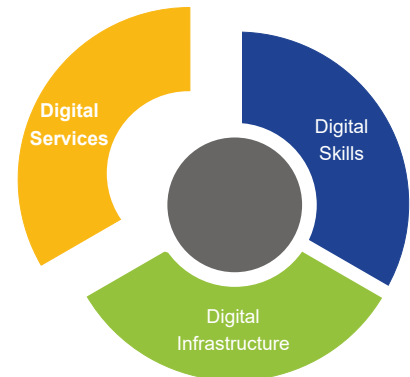
Interreg
North Sea Region
CORA

European Regional Development Fund



EUROPEAN UNION

CORA
CONNECTING
REMOTE
AREAS



IN A NUTSHELL

Across rural Europe, broadband infrastructure and opportunities for digital services and skill development are limited, creating spatial digital divides. The CORA project seeks to minimise these by working with local authorities and policymakers to identify training opportunities, develop tools and pilot innovative solutions to enhance digital awareness among different target groups. As part of this project, we are exploring fixed and mobile 'digital hubs' as sources for digital engagement and innovation. Hubs exist across a range of settings, i.e. as coworking or networking spaces; as innovation spaces in specific economic development contexts; as spaces for emergent technology demonstration; or as public access points to broadband.

Rural digital hubs represent one method of engaging a specific area or group of people with digital technology and improving their digital skill competencies, feeding into economic and social enhancement for those users and their rural areas. The various types that we have presented in this course can help individuals or communities seeking to build a hub identify the most appropriate features/mechanism to support their regions digital ambitions.



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Public Internet Access Point

- Aim: Provide access to high speed Internet
- May also provide ICT training sessions
- Location: Often in public buildings, possibly with other public services
- Scale: Local



Incubator / Co-working Space

- Aim: Provide space for meeting, networking and collaborating with access to technology
- Often focus on businesses, start-ups and entrepreneurs
- Location: Often located within business centres or co-located with a business
- Scale: Regional



Advice, Training and Support Space

- Aim: Provide businesses and citizens with training, advice and support in ICT
- Often focus on more general digital skill development
- Location: Typically public buildings, but can be co-located with a business or in a business district
- Scale: Regional



Sector-specific Space

- Aim: Provide access to a specific range of technology that can be experimented with by users from a specific sector
- Often includes technology such as 3D printers, scanners, robotics
- Location: Typically within a business or research setting
- Scale: Regional

<https://coraproject.eu/training>