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DATA ECONOMY - A REGIONAL STRATEGY TO SUPPORT AN EFFECTIVE AND INCLUSIVE DIGITAL TRANSITION

Practical case

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Abstract text:

Emilia-Romagna region has a solid reputation in terms of culture, collaboration between science and industry, digital innovation and innovation ecosystem. This is mainly due to the following historical conditions:

- 4 universities located in the territory, dated from 1088 (University of Bologna) to 1391 (University of Ferrara)
 - The most powerful computers in the world installed in Bologna in early '60 (by CNEN and INFN), for scientific use
 - Establishment of CINECA, the consortium among Italian universities for sharing computer power in 1969. At the moment CINECA, with 82 public members – Universities and research centres - is hosting the HPC Marconi100, rated 9th in the top500 most powerful computer in the world.
 - Establishment of GARR, the consortium among public entities in 1988, in order to realize a high speed network to be connected with the scientific networks at international level. One of the three nodes was (and still is) in Bologna.
 - In 1994 the civic network IPERBOLE, thanks to a collaboration among Municipality of Bologna, University of Bologna and CINECA, offered a set of services (including e-mail) to citizens, free of charge.
 - In 2004 start up of LEPIDA, the most awarded public initiative to give broadband access to public organizations located in the Emilia-Romagna region (schools, municipalities...)
- Thanks to the recent European, national and regional investments, at the moment Emilia-Romagna is the most important concentration of computer power in Europe, mostly located in the Bologna Technopole. In fact, it is hosting the next generation HPC of the European Centre for Medium range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF), the pre-exascale European HPC Leonardo (funded in the framework of the Joint Undertaking Initiative EuroHPC) and the next generation data centre of INFN (used to process data from nuclear physics experiments). Then, there is a huge potential to be exploited not only for scientific purposes, but also for civil and industrial aims.

The presentation will discuss how the regional administration used this potential in the recent years for reinforcing the territorial digital reputation and attractiveness and the strategy to put such potential at disposal of citizens, companies and regional administration in the next future. Investments will be addressed to skills, awareness creation, signposting services, proof of concept and high level foresighting. Specific attention will be paid to well experienced cross collaboration among regional, national and European stakeholders. The inclusion of Data Economy strategy into the next S3 will be the final section of the presentation.

Owner:

ART-ER is the not-for-profit in-house company for innovation of the Emilia-Romagna region in Italy. It is supporting the regional authority in the elaboration, implementation and monitoring of the Data Economy Strategy. The strategy aims at exploiting the local potential in terms of computer power (HPC), skills (Artificial Intelligence and Deep Learning) and innovation ecosystem in favour of an inclusive digital transition in important sectors for Italy and Europe (i. e. manufacturing, life science,

weather prediction and satellite monitoring).
The Data Economy strategy is embedded in the regional S3 21-27.

Geographical origin:

Italy

Regione

Emilia-Romagna

Bologna

References (Harvard style):
