

Five types of member organizations

DSP Valley is home to providers of electronic solutions and digital technology, to those that see their business change because of automation and digitization, and to integrators that can pull things together. You can distinguish five types of member organizations:



Companies.

These are organizations deploying an economic activity for a profit, typically in competition with others. Most DSP Valley members belong to this category, and our collaborative business development efforts are mainly targeted to their benefit. Companies are categorized along the European, standardized criteria that can be found in "The revised User Guide to the SME definition". Headcount as well as a financial metric is taken into consideration, and both must be below a certain threshold to qualify for a smaller designation. For instance: a company is considered mid-sized when headcount is between 50 and 250, while at the same time at least one of two financial criteria is not exceeded: annual turnover does not surpass 50 Mio EUR or total value on the balance sheet is not above 43 Mio EUR. The detail is explained on the following link: https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/conferences/state-aid/sme/smedefinitionguide_en.pdf.



Supporting actors

These are often of mixed nature; partly performing fundamental research or other not for profit activities, partly providing commercial services. Examples are Research and Technology Organizations, Hospitals, Cities, ... Supporting actors are measured observing the same parameters as companies; headcount and financials, but with different thresholds. For example: supporting actors that would be 'small', or 'medium-sized' if they were for-profit companies, will be labelled as 'micro', or 'small' respectively.



Investors

Organizations that provide money to companies in exchange for equity or as a loan. They are categorized according to fund size.



Academia

These are organisations without a commercial activity. They are confined to educational and research activities. There is a fee for the main campus, equivalent to a small commercial company, with additional fees for associated campuses.



Start-ups

DSP Valley strongly supports new initiatives and entrepreneurship. In the first three years after establishment, organizations are considered Start-Up, during which period they get 1

year free Cultivate or Consolidate access to a programme of their choice, or free Connect access to two programmes of their choice.