



EUCLUSTERS TALKS ★

Joint Cluster Initiatives:

Presenting the new Euroclusters in Strand 2

14 January 2026

08:30-10:00 CET

Online

Agenda

1. News from the European Cluster Collaboration Platform

Nina Hoppmann, Team Member European Cluster Collaboration Platform

2. Euroclusters in the context of the Competitiveness Compass and the new MFF proposal

Marek Przeor, Team Leader Cluster Policy, DG GROW, European Commission

3. Results from previous Eurocluster projects

Valentino Izzo, Programme Coordination Manager, EISMEA, European Commission

4. Presentation of Euroclusters

ELEVATEX: Robin Oddon, Techtera

FutureProof Textiles: Olena Mariuk, Greenwin LLC

GATE5.0: Isabel Botey, Digital Cluster of Catalonia

GRAPPA: Gus Verhaeghe, Flanders' FOOD

MAT4EU: Elsa Cousin, POLYMERIS

CITADEL: Alain Dinis, Systemic Paris Region

CR.EU.IN.HERITAGE: Carlotta Campanini, Venetian Cluster

ECDI: Laure Vidal, Aerospace Valley

5. Q&A

6. Funding opportunities

Nina Hoppmann, Team Member European Cluster Collaboration Platform

Housekeeping rules

Zivile Kropaite, presenter

- We will use **slido** to launch a poll. Please scan the QR code to answer.
- Please use the **Zoom Q&A function to ask questions**, and the **chat function** to comment or share links.
- If you want to speak: Please **raise your hand** and we will give you the floor.
- Please note that the session is being **recorded** and that the recording will be **published** on the European Cluster Collaboration Platform.

NEWS FROM THE EUROPEAN CLUSTER COLLABORATION PLATFORM

Help Shape the Future EU for Business Network

The European Commission is inviting stakeholders to contribute to **the design of a future “EU for Business Network”**, a new initiative proposed under the European Competitiveness Fund (ECF) for the EU’s next Multiannual Financial Framework (2028–2034).

The initiative aims to strengthen support for SMEs, startups, scaleups and small mid-caps across the Single Market by **streamlining and integrating advisory and partnering services** currently offered through European initiatives such as the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN), the European Cluster Collaboration Platform (ECCP) and others.

To ensure the new network responds to real needs on the ground, the Commission is launching **an informal consultation**.

 Deadline to contribute: 30 January 2026

 Take the survey:

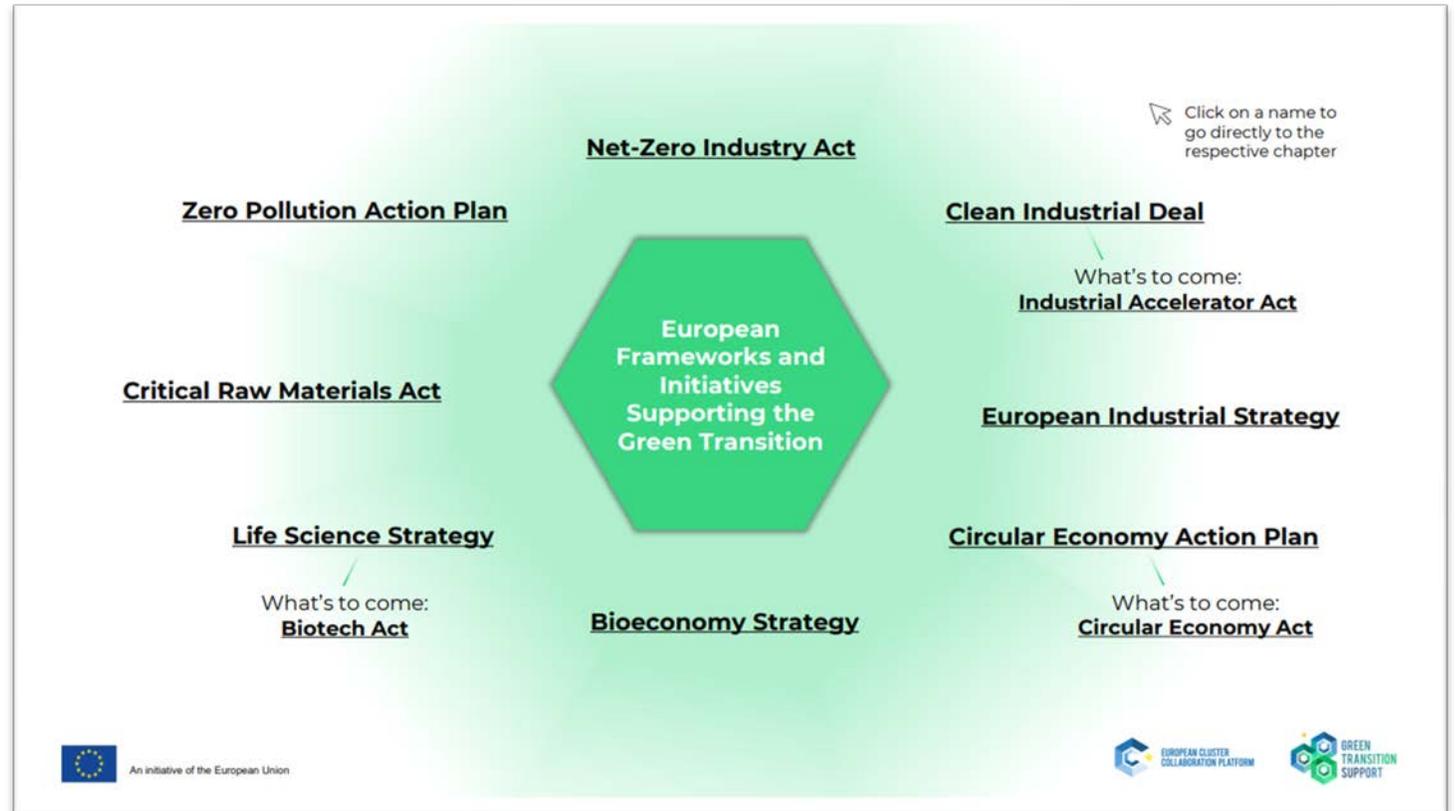
<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/EU4BInformalConsultation>



New guide: European Frameworks and Initiatives Supporting Clusters in the Green Transition

Whether you are a cluster manager, a project coordinator, or an organisation seeking an overview of EU policy, this slide deck serves as a **practical guide to understanding the regulations, initiatives, and strategies** driving the green transition.

👉 Available in the [ECCP Library](#)



Clusters and Europe's Competitiveness: ECCP Summary Report 2025

A central contribution of the report is its clarification of how clusters can advance the three core priorities of the Competitiveness Compass:

- **Closing the innovation gap** by organising demand-driven collaboration, connecting SMEs with anchor firms and testbeds, and building cross-border technology adoption pipelines, illustrated by meta-cluster models such as Silicon Europe.
- **Decarbonising with competitiveness by enabling collective action**, including shared infrastructure, industrial symbiosis and coordinated roadmaps, supported by place-based approaches such as Net-Zero Acceleration Valleys.
- **Reducing excessive dependencies and increasing security** by supporting value-chain diversification and re-anchoring, accelerating technology substitution, and strengthening ecosystem resilience.

👉 Available in the [ECCP Library](#)



Simplifying the Better Regulation Framework

As announced in the Commission Work Programme 2026, a communication on simplifying the Better Regulation framework will be adopted in Q2 2026. It aims to **reconcile speed of law-making with evidence-based policy making**.

The European Commission has launched a **Call for Evidence** on this Communication, inviting industry and business stakeholders to **share practical input** on how EU law-making can be improved.

The consultation focuses on three key issues:

- 1) how to better reconcile evidence-based policymaking with the need for urgent action;
- 2) how to ensure a more holistic and efficient approach to stakeholder consultations, including across policy fields;
- 3) what practical steps could make EU legislation simpler and easier to implement in practice ('Simplicity by design').

The initiative supports priorities on competitiveness, regulatory simplification and effective implementation in the Single Market.

It is open until 4th February 2026: https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/16232-Communication-on-better-regulation_en

EUROCLUSTERS

14 January 2026

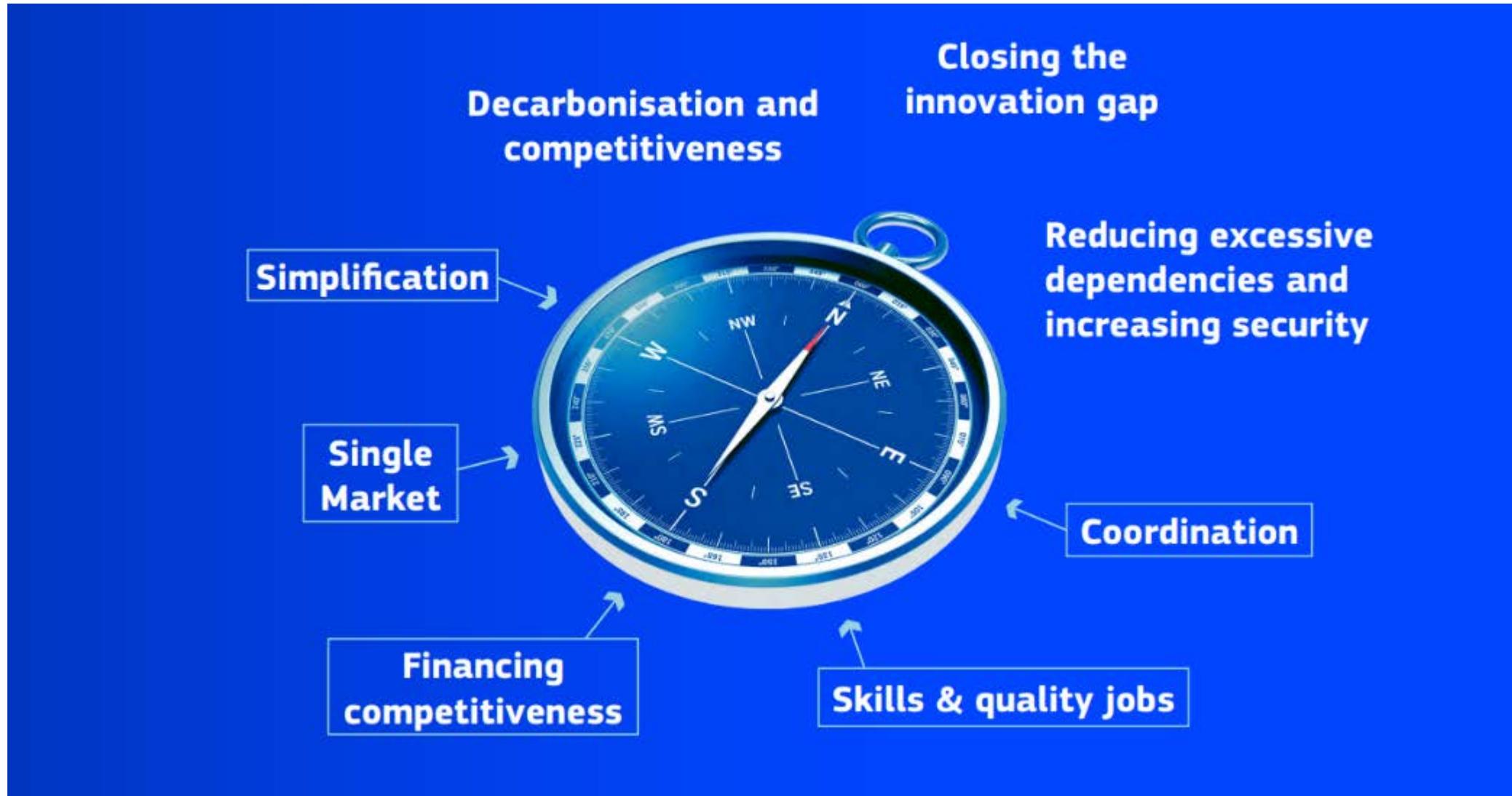
Marek Przeor

European Commission

DG GROW



Competitiveness Compass EU priorities



31 December 2026
Deadline for Recovery and Resilience Facility payments to Member States

December 2026
2028-2034 MFF agreement objective:
• within the Council (European Council)
• between Parliament and Council (Parliament interim report)

4th quarter 2026
EC proposes:
• revision of national targets and flexibilities (EU climate policy framework)
• update of governance of energy union and Climate Action Regulation

4th quarter 2026
EC proposes an update of the rules on shareholder rights

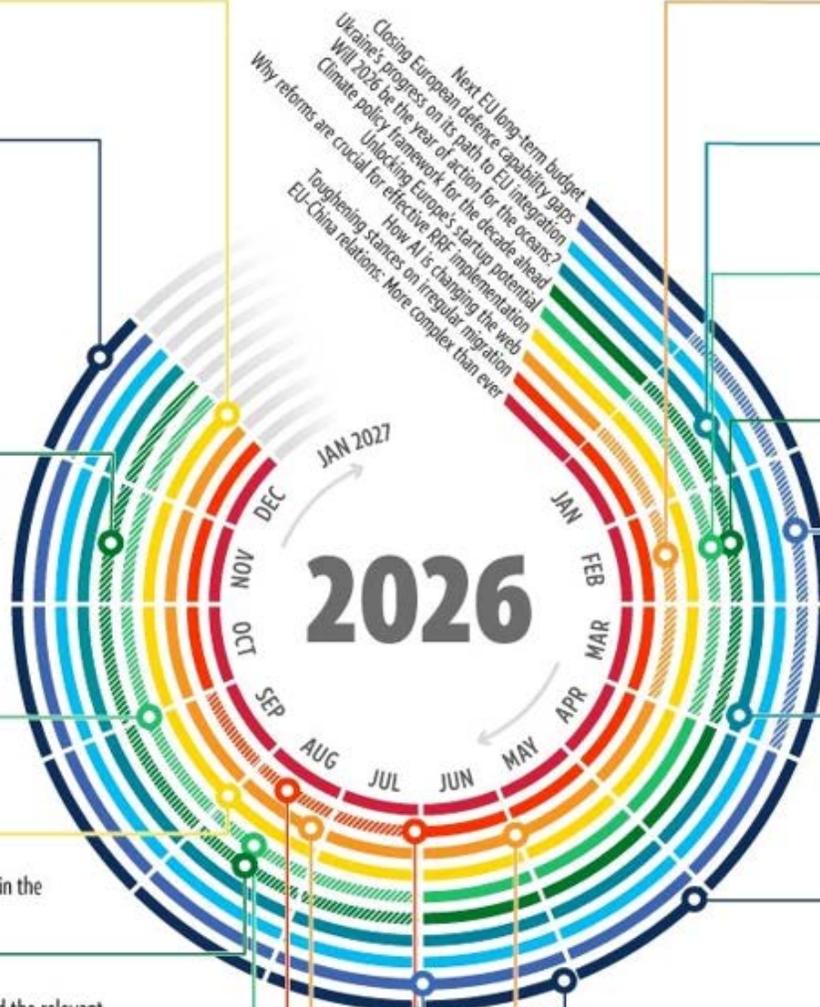
31 August 2026
Final deadline for implementing measures in the national recovery and resilience plans

3rd quarter 2026
EC proposes an update of the EU ETS1, and the relevant market stability reserve (MSR)

3rd quarter 2026
EC proposes an update of the European Venture Capital Funds Regulation

3rd quarter 2026
Proposal to strengthen Frontex's mandate for return and border management

2 August 2026
The Artificial Intelligence Act applies



1st quarter 2026
European Commission (EC) proposes the cloud and AI development act

17 January 2026
United Nations (UN) High Seas Treaty enters into force

1st quarter 2026
EC proposes:
• 28th regime for EU companies
• European innovation act (EIA)

1st quarter 2026
Expected adoption of the amended European Climate Law

1st quarter 2026
Capability coalition formation in all priority areas

26-29 March 2026
World Trade Organization (WTO) holds its 14th ministerial conference

May 2026
European Parliament adopts interim report on 2028-2034 multiannual financial report (MFF)

June 2026
Cyprus EU Council Presidency plans to adopt 'MFF negotiating box' with figures

June 2026
EC carries out review of the 2019 Copyright Directive

By mid-2026
• Industrial capacity mapping
• Project launches within first half of 2026

1 July 2026
The asylum and migration pact applies



Sharper in priorities

A 7-YEAR MFF: **2028-2034**

From 7 to **4 headings**

1. EUROPE'S ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND TERRITORIAL COHESION, AGRICULTURE, RURAL AND MARITIME PROSPERITY AND SECURITY

- National and Regional Partnership Plans
- Repayment of NextGenerationEU

3. GLOBAL EUROPE

- Global Europe Instrument
- Common Foreign and Security Policy, Overseas countries and Territories (incl. Greenland)

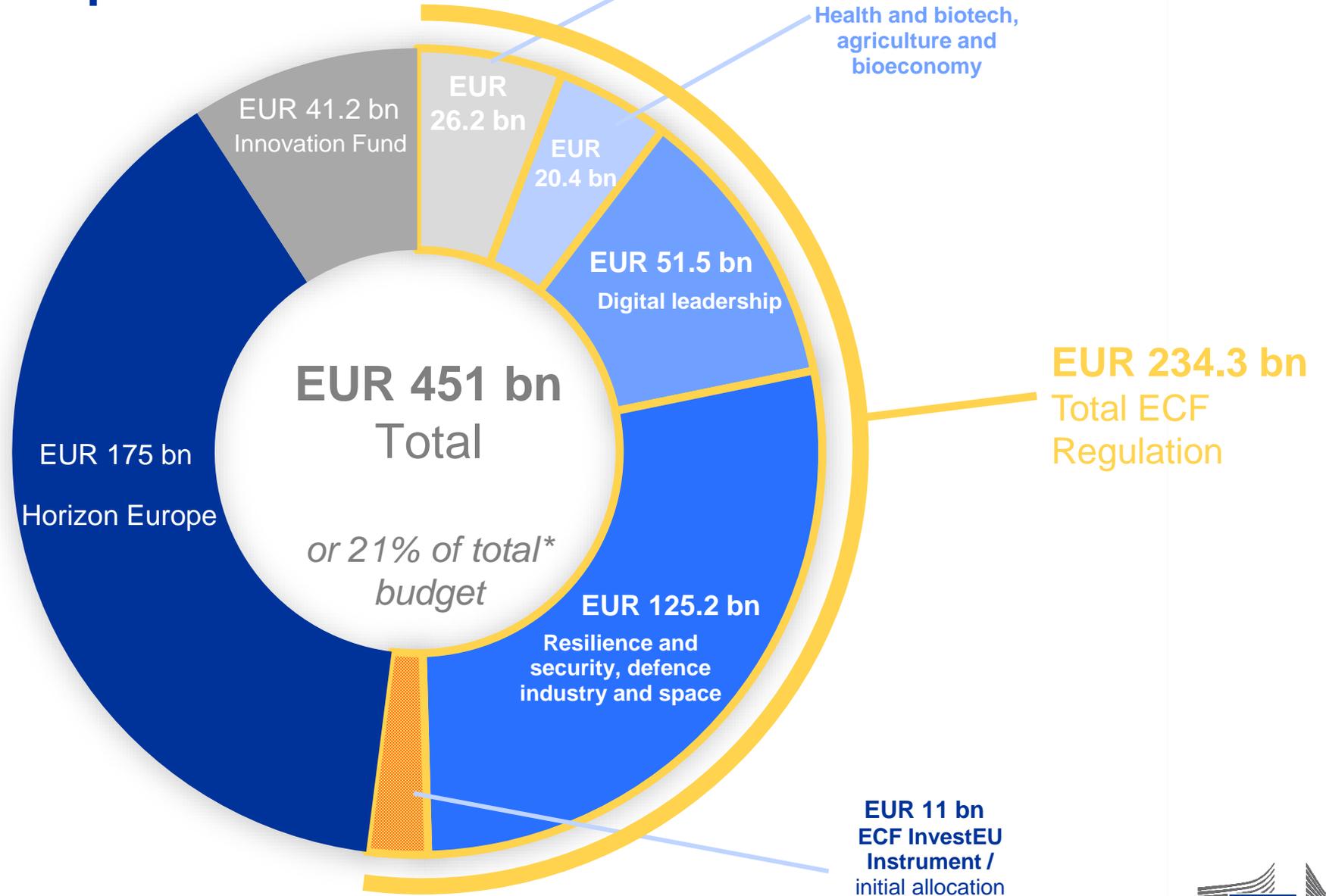
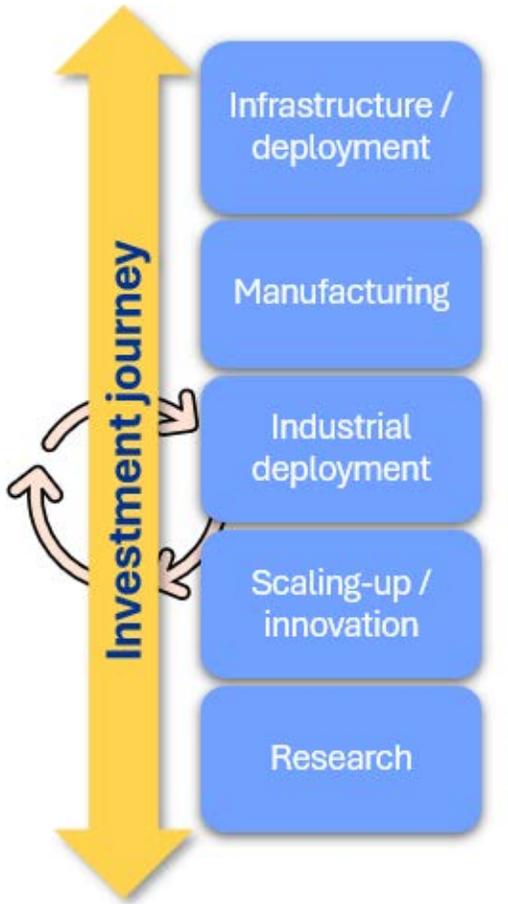
2. COMPETITIVENESS, PROSPERITY AND SECURITY

- European Competitiveness Fund including Horizon Europe
- Erasmus+; AgoraEU; Justice; Union Civil Protection Mechanism & Health Response
- Connecting Europe Facility; Single Market and Customs Programme; Euratom/ITER; Nuclear decommissioning; Pericles

4. ADMINISTRATION



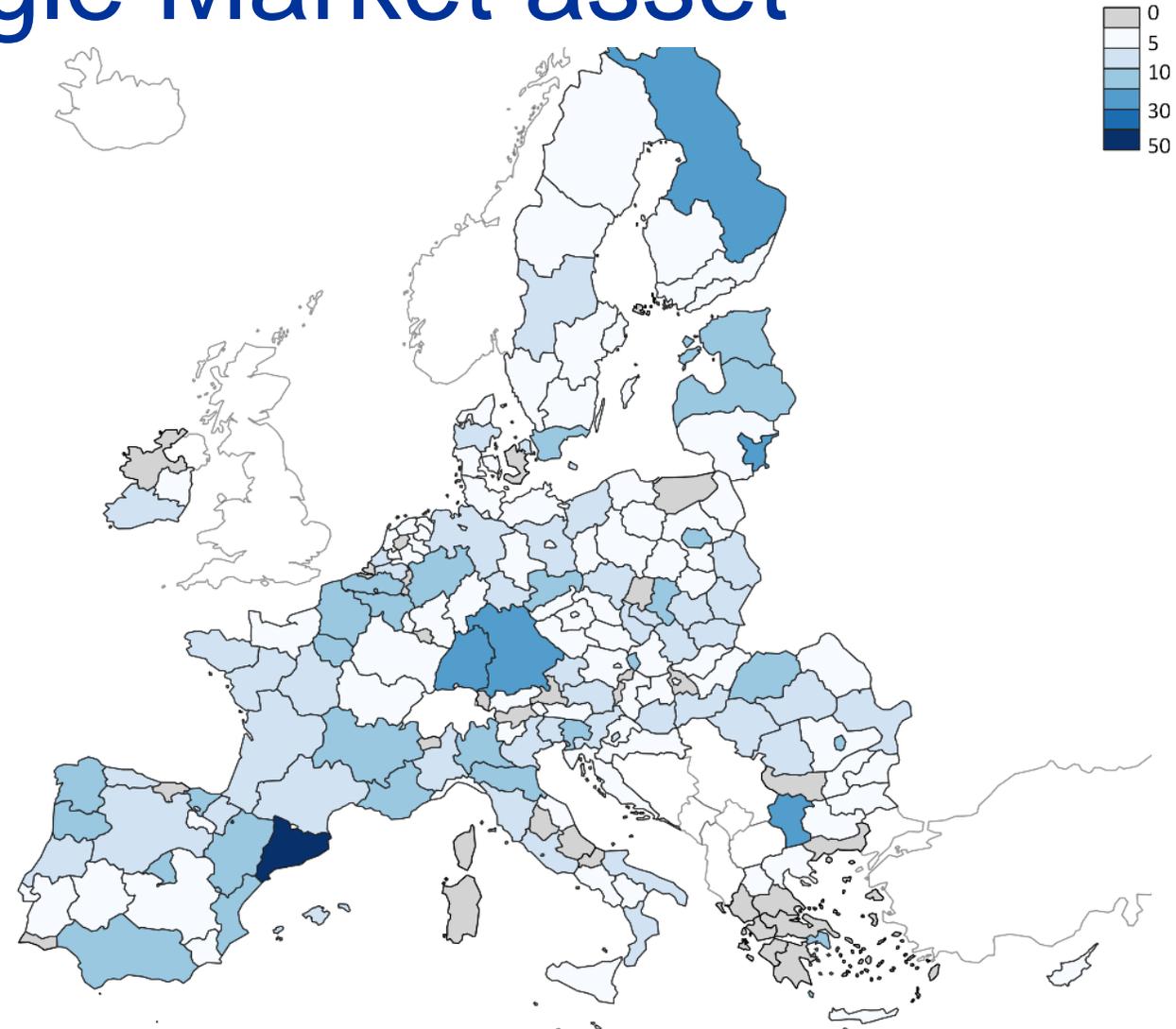
European Competitiveness Fund (ECF)



* excluding Innovation Fund

EU cluster community integrated and working together is the EU Single Market asset

- 1,500** cluster organisations on the ECCP (1,200 in the EU)
- 40%** of the EU cluster organisations established since 2014
- ~170,000** cluster members represented by cluster organisations
 - 140,000** SMEs
 - 16,000** Large enterprises
 - 13,000** Research organisations
- 70** National cluster associations & Meta clusters in the EU



Source: [European Cluster Panorama, 2024](#)



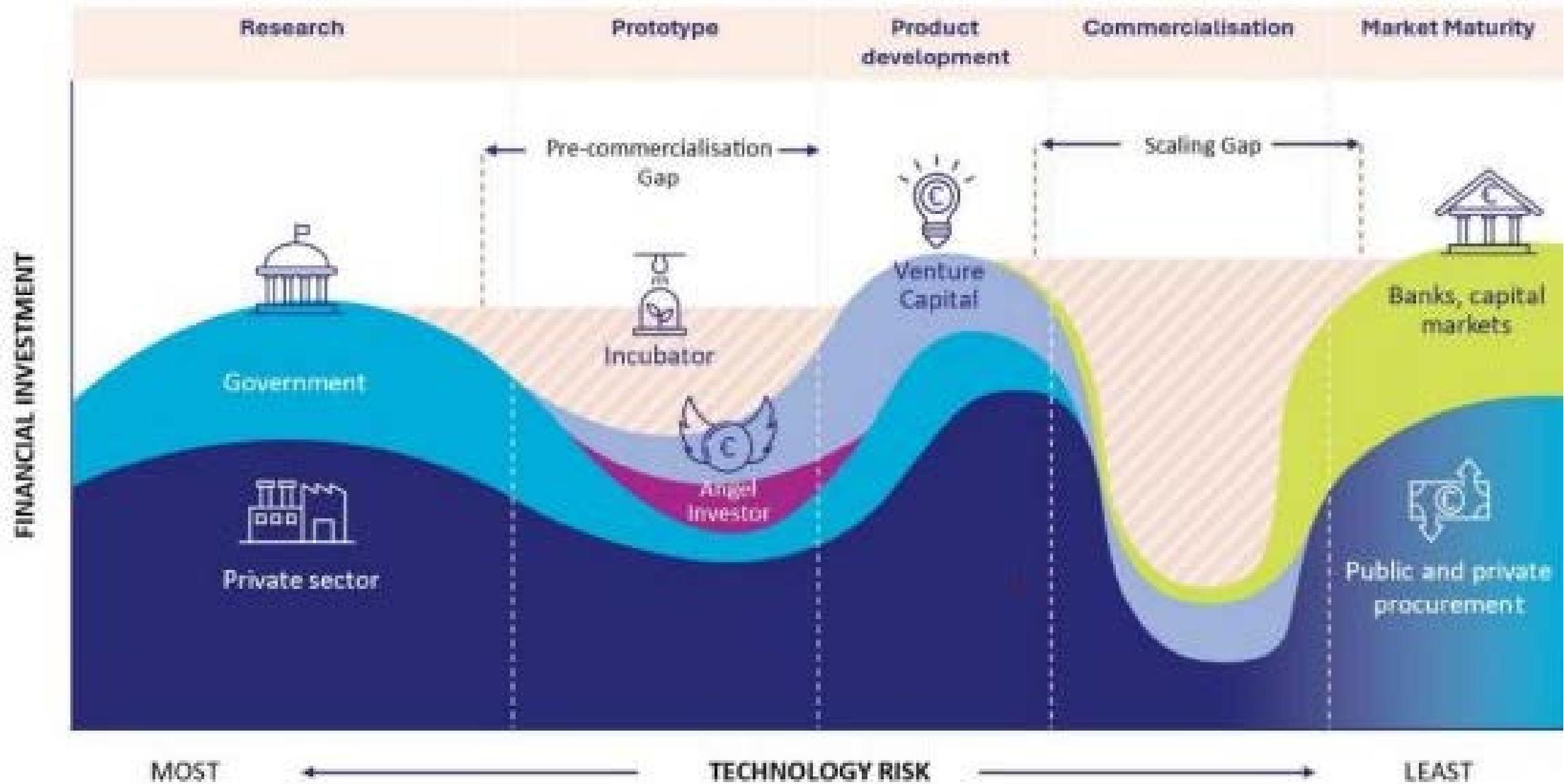
Possible role of clusters in ECF towards the more competitive industry

Article 16 **Single Market value chains builder**

*In order to foster resilient Union value chains, the work programmes may include **dedicated value-chains scale up calls** which shall support both project preparation and crowding in of additional public and private capital to integrate suppliers, manufacturers, and innovators from different Member States and diversify sources of supply.*



Scale UP



Source: European Commission (2025). The EU Startup and Scaleup Strategy



Euroclusters 2nd call



- **At least 75%** to support the **main objective** (*Innovation and adoption of new processes* and advanced technologies for strategic autonomy*)
- **Maximum grant amount** to be granted to each third party: **EUR 60,000**



Euroclusters objectives



- **(MAIN OBJECTIVE)** Innovation and adoption of new processes and advanced technologies for strategic autonomy, to build capacity in the most critical areas of their ecosystems, and to reinforce transformation into a greener, more digital, and resilient economy
- **Communicate effectively** about the work and results of the Eurocluster
- **Establish networks and strategic partnerships** to improve the resilience of the EU industrial ecosystems by developing and strengthening value chains in the EU Single Market
- **Provide training** to foster upskilling and reskilling of the workforce and attracting talents
- **Go international** to boost access to global supply and value chains

Mandatory activities



Euroclusters - cross-sectorial, interdisciplinary and trans-European strategic cluster initiatives

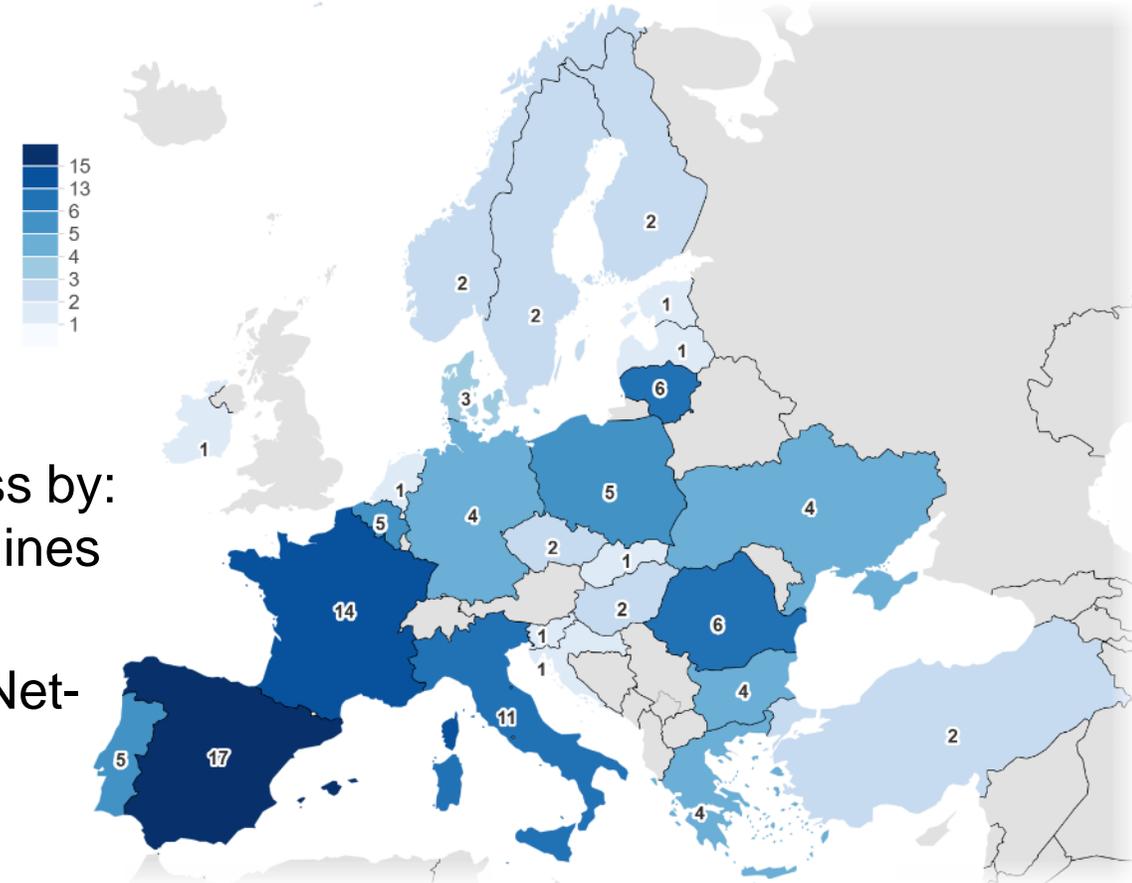
Projects duration 2025 - 2028

- **16 projects** (2,5MEuro each)
 - 8 Euroclusters in Strand 1 (NZA, CRMA)
 - 8 Euroclusters in Strand 2 (IT, agri-food, textiles, defence, creative, etc.)
- **107 partners from 26 countries**

Euroclusters contribute to the Competitiveness Compass by:

- Closing the innovation gap through cross-border pipelines and pilot projects;
- Accelerating decarbonisation and competitiveness in Net-Zero sectors;
- Strengthening resilience by reducing dependencies in critical technologies and materials

Euroclusters 2024
Participation per country



Thank you

www.clustercollaboration.eu



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Results from previous Euroclusters projects

Valentino Izzo

Programme Coordination Manager, EISMEA

Euroclusters I – overview

What	Who	How	How much
30 projects that are helping in the implementation of the updated industrial strategy (green, digital, resilient)	Altogether 171 beneficiaries from 23 countries and cover all 14 industrial ecosystems	By creating vital collaboration networks at EU-level and are developing and implementing supporting measures for SMEs	Total Budget: EUR 42M Max. grant amount: EUR 1,4M Duration: up to 3 years Start: 1 September 2022 Finish: October 2025

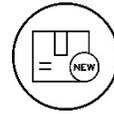
Objectives:

- improve the resilience of the EU industrial ecosystems.
- build capacity in the most critical supplies and technologies of their ecosystems.
- foster up- and re-skilling of the workforce whilst attracting talents.
- boost access to global supply and value chains.

Euroclusters I – key achievements



219 resilience preparedness and business continuity plans developed.



502 number of new-to-firm products and services were identified.



1954 SMEs have been supported which have undertaken business process innovation tied to technological adoption leading to higher sustainability and digitalization.



67217 followers have been obtained by Euroclusters' projects altogether.



2775 SMEs have invested in skill development of their employees in the scope of the project.



1879 employees in various cluster organisations have received trainings.



3586 SMEs have benefited from internationalisation services.



237 "known" collaboration agreements have been signed with entities in third countries.

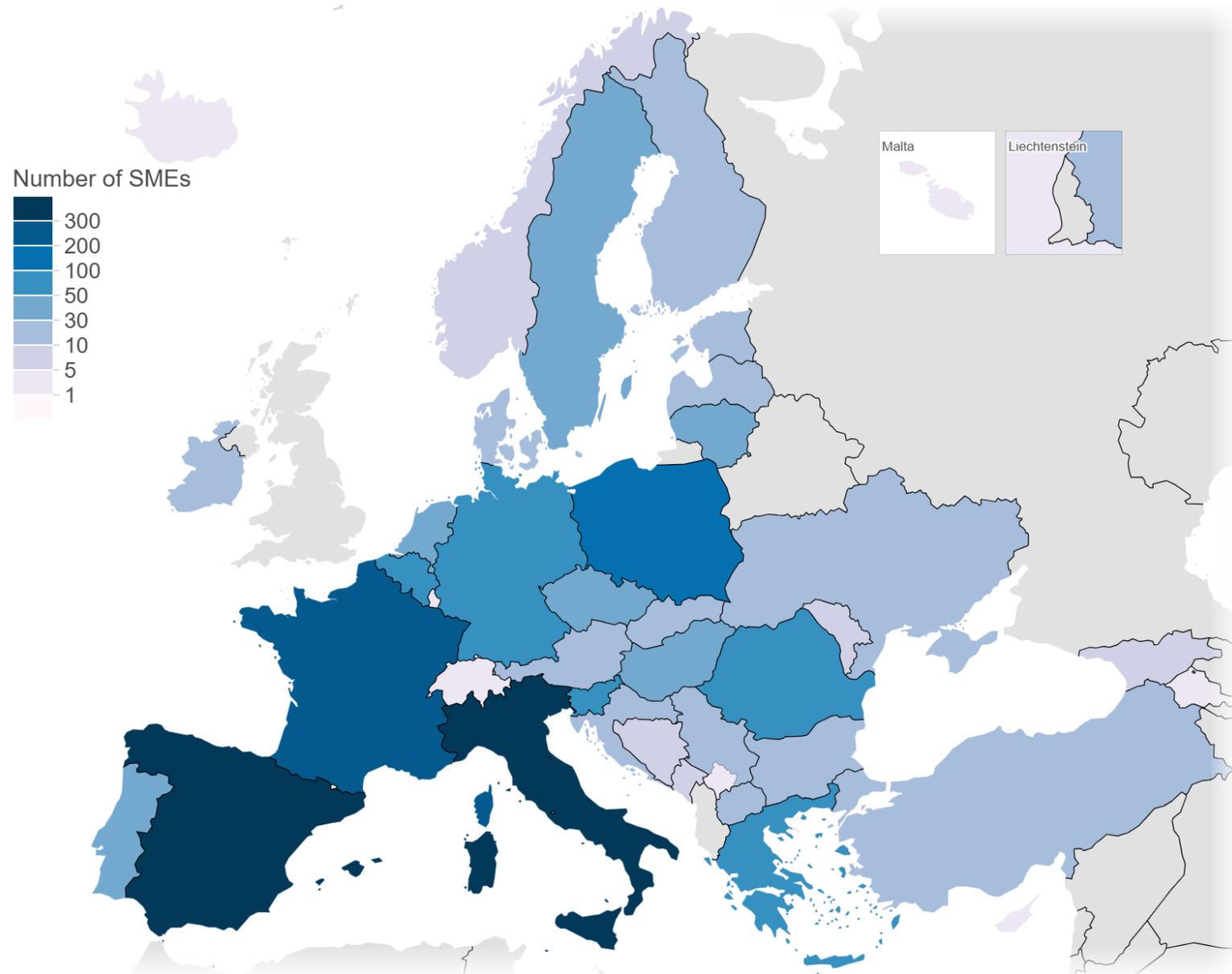
FSTP – Euroclusters 1st generation impact

- More than EUR 31 million has been awarded to about 2000 SMEs.
- The supported SMEs covered all EU Member States and 14 non-EU countries.

**provisional data*

Financially supported SMEs

Number of SMEs supported per country



Provisional data

Administrative boundaries: © EuroGeographics © OpenStreetMap

RE-CENTRE



Project title: Cross-sectoral Cluster approach for higher Competitiveness through digital, green transition and resilience

Budget: € 1,399,000.00

Main sectors: furniture, interiors, IT, green energy

Start date: 01/09/2022

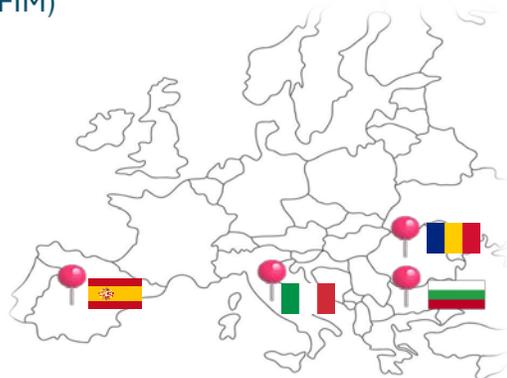
End date: 28/02/2025

Description of the project:

RE-CENTRE brings together the furniture/interiors, IT, and energy sectors through a four-partner consortium to support SMEs in developing innovative, resilient, and competitive business models. By fostering deep cross-sectoral and cross-cluster collaboration, RE-CENTRE turns sectoral diversity into innovation opportunities and strengthens SME resilience and market positioning.

Members of consortium:

- CENTRE DE DIFUSIO TECNOLOGICA DE LA FUSTA I DEL MOBLE DE CATALUNYA (CENFIM)
- DISTRETTO INTERNI E DESIGN DID (DID)
- CLUSTER ZELENA SINERGIYA (GSC)
- ASOCIATIA CLUJ IT (CLUJIT)



Key achievements:

- **Around 1,500 stakeholders** mapped and actively collaborating across sectors to support green and digital transitions.
- **€1.04M awarded to 20 innovation projects involving 41 SMEs**, forming RE-CENTRE's first innovators' community.
- Prepared and launched internationalisation activities, opening **B2B opportunities** with partners in **Mexico and Chile** to support SMEs' global market access, resulting in **39 signed MoUs**.

RE-CENTRE

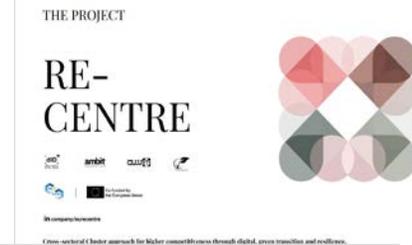


RE-CENTRE Training E-book

The RE-CENTRE Training E-book consolidates the content of the eight workshops delivered within the project into a single, publicly accessible publication:

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7162691558582960128/>

The E-book is available for download in PDF format and includes direct links to presentations, webinar recordings, and additional resources. Designed with a clear and engaging layout, it represents a valuable dissemination tool that can be widely shared through project channels, including LinkedIn, with direct access to the downloadable document.



Resilience preparedness and Business Continuity Plans for the 3 sectors and the project itself

For each of the three sectors, RE-CENTRE has established dedicated working groups composed of experts with specific knowledge of the twin transition.

Insights gathered during these sessions have been incorporated to enhance the sectoral analysis with up-to-date, on-the-ground information.

Additionally, data from 100 company questionnaires - drawn from the 1,466 stakeholders mapped in the ecosystem - have been included to provide a detailed understanding of the current challenges faced by SMEs in their respective markets. This comprehensive analysis forms the basis for developing targeted resilience and business continuity strategies for both the sectors and the RE-CENTRE Eurocluster as a whole.



RE-CENTRE ecosystem mapping

A functional mapping with 1466 entities (SMEs and start-ups, research organizations, training agencies, innovation partners, clusters, business associations, etc.) that will act as the ground on which all contents and activities managed in the project will be shared.

The 1466 entities mapped have been screened through a dedicated profiling sheet with specific questions on the nature of the business, critical issues and challenges in relation to supplies and technology adoption with a specific attention to the twin transition.

Addressed sectors are furniture-interiors-living spaces, IT and energy-green circularity.

Website: <https://recentre-map.com/>

RE-CENTRE supported SMEs through cascading calls



EUREPOT - transforming discarded gardening plastic products into high quality vanguard In & Out planters.



Partners:

- Citysens Designs S.L and PLASTICPeople S.L.
located in Spain

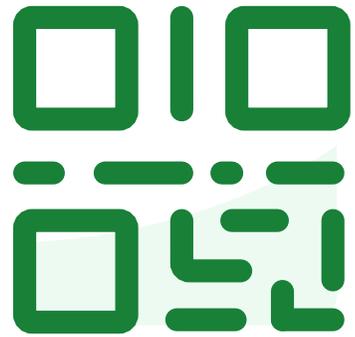




EUCLUSTERS

THANK YOU





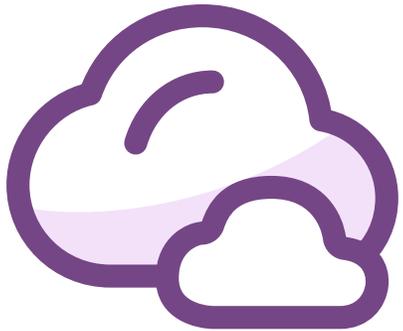
**Join at slido.com
[#Euroclusters2](https://twitter.com/Euroclusters2)**



**Have you participated in any
Eurocluster-related activity in the past
years?**



How can you see your organisation benefiting from a Eurocluster and its activities?



How can Euroclusters contribute to building EU value chains?

Euroclusters in Strand 2

ELEVATEX in a nutshell



Ecosystem(s)

- Textile value chain
- Applicative markets: Transports, defence, clothing, sports, infrastructure, healthcare...
- Solution providers: Green+Digital

Partners

- Techtera (FR, COO), CITEVE (PT), NTT (IT), ATEVAL (ES), TEXTILS.CAT (ES)
- Textile clusters incl. 2 with R&D facilities

Main challenges

- Green transition: Lower environmental impact, improved circular value chains (technical solutions, business solutions)
- Digital transition: Modernisation and efficiency
- Competitiveness: New performant solutions, new markets in a context of a challenging international competition and evolving regulations

ELEVATEX – Main activities



Cascade funding

- 2 calls:
 - Individual textile SMEs: June 2026
 - Consortia (textile SME + solution provider): February 2027
- 6-month duration
- 1.980.000€ in total

Strategic partnerships

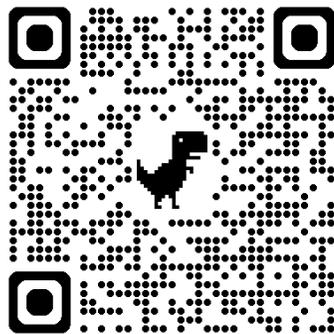
- Applicative markets and solution providers
- Action plans (during the project)
 - Webinars, workshops, visits...
 - Create and reinforce bonds
 - Connect ecosystems
- Action plans (post-project)

Internationalisation

- Japan
- USA
- 2 exploratory missions, starting 2027
- 20 textile SMEs



[ECCP Profile](#)



[LinkedIn Page](#)



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Contact: Robin Odon
roddon@techtera.org

FutureProofTextiles: Supporting SMEs for Digital and Green Resilience

Coo: Prof. Ioannis Sarris, UNIWA (Greece)

Duration: 36 months

Objective: Support 40 SMEs in the textile sector through the dual transition (digital & green)

Support Mechanisms:

- Cascade funding: €50,000 per SME (40 SMEs).
- Training, mentoring, and innovation spaces for collaboration.

Context: Textile SMEs face barriers in adopting advanced technologies and sustainability practices

Consortium

UNIWA (Greece) – Coordinator, management & research.

CS-POINTEX (Italy) – Textile innovation & digitalisation.

GREMI & AECIM (Spain) – SME support, market research, dissemination.

BDC (Bulgaria) – SME training, innovation acceleration.

BCCI & BUTEKOM (Turkey) – Advanced textile technologies.

GW LLC & CCE (Ukraine) – Circular economy & sustainability.

Objectives

- Accelerate adoption of digital tools and technologies.
- Promote circular economy and sustainable practices.
- Build SME capacity with training, mentoring, technical support.
- Foster cross-border cooperation and SME networks.

Expected Impact

- 40 SMEs implement transformative digital/green projects.
- Increased resilience, competitiveness & sustainability.
- Replicable models & best practices for Europe's textile industry.
- Contribution to EU Green Deal and Digital Transition goals.

Accelerating the green and digital transformation of Europe's agrifood sector

Green and Digital Transitions for a Sustainable European Agrifood Ecosystem

GATE5.0 is a European initiative co-funded by the European Union under the SMP-COSME EUROCLUSTERS programme. The project drives the digital and green transition of the agrifood ecosystem by empowering SMEs to adopt Agriculture 5.0 technologies such as IoT, AI, robotics and data analytics.

Through funding, capacity-building, and internationalization, GATE5.0 strengthens sustainability, competitiveness and resilience across Europe's agrifood value chain.

Provide financial support and capacity building through an Acceleration Programme offering up to €118,500 per SME consortium (including direct funding and training).

Foster innovation in Agriculture 5.0, supporting SMEs to develop digital and sustainable products and services.

Accelerate the green and digital transition through training, mentoring, and technology validation.

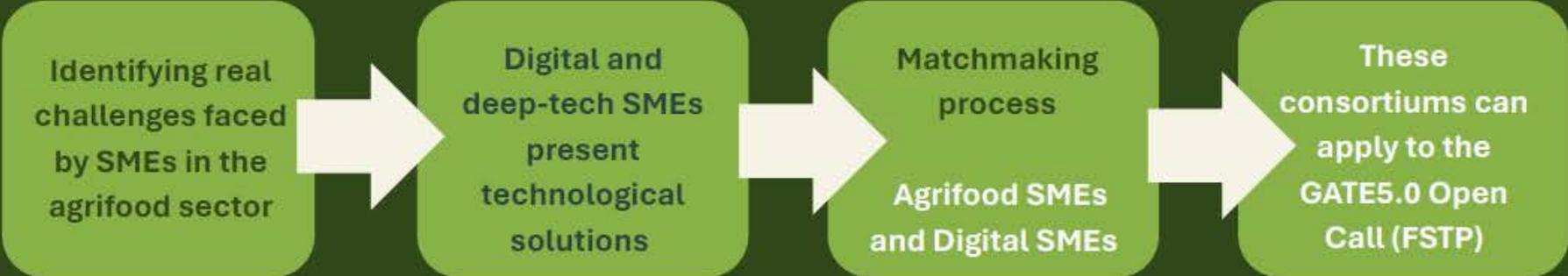
Build collaborative regional ecosystems connecting digital and agrifood actors, academia, investors, and policymakers.

Support European SMEs in global expansion, focusing on international markets.

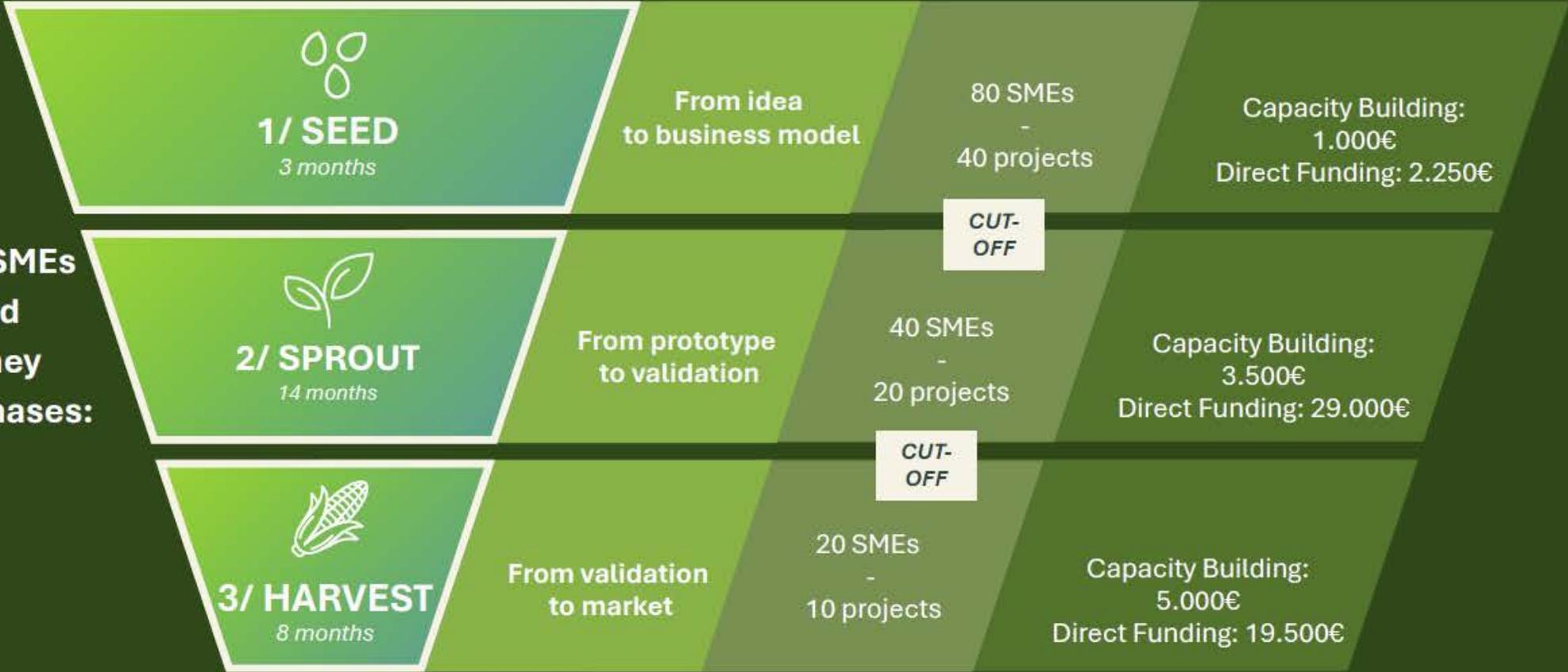


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Once selected, the SMEs enter a structured acceleration journey consisting of three phases:





GATE 5.0



Green Resilient Approaches to anchor European food-Producing and Processing SMEs into global value chains through connecting place-based biomass system innovation Actors

Gus Verhaeghe - 14 January 2026



GRAPPA will foster the **development, adoption and commercialisation** of new, **innovative** and affordable **upcycled food ingredients and products**, as well as **processes and technologies**, including digital, that allow the **valorisation** of agri-food **biomass and side-streams**. This through **fostering innovation, collaboration and skills**, and so contributing to European agri-food companies (especially SMEs) becoming more **technologically advanced, greener, more digital and resilient**.

CHALLENGES

Environmental impacts

Resource inefficiency

Consumer shifts

Regularity and supply chain pressures

OBJECTIVES

Innovation projects implementation through FSTP

Identifying innovation opportunities and define collective intelligence

Capacity building: reinforcing competences, skills and knowledge of SMEs' and clusters' staff in agri-food sector

Networking SMEs and value chain stakeholders

Boost the access to global value chains

Knowledge sharing and innovation diffusion

Systemic innovation



Empowered by Ingredients for a Circular Economy



Financial Support

- 2€M budget
- 35 SMEs
- Co-fund of 15%
- Open call: March '26
- 2 cut-off dates
 - May 2026
 - October 2026



Spring 2027



Symposium + Pitch&Connect



Thank you

Contact



Gus Verhaeghe

Coordinator

Gus.verhaeghe@flandersfood.com





MAT 4EU

ADVANCED MATERIALS FOR A SUSTAINABLE EUROPEAN FUTURE



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Consortium

This partnership brings together six top European clusters to forge a unified Advanced Materials ecosystem. Leveraging regional strengths and established networks, the initiative drives collaboration and innovation across Europe.

MAT 4EU

 **France**
POLYMERIS
Project coordinator

 **Spain**
Advanced Materials Cluster
of Catalonia

 **Poland**
Bydgoszcz Industrial Cluster
Tool Valley

 **Lithuania**
LINPRA – Engineering and Technology
Industries Association of Lithuania

 **Denmark**
Plast Center Danmark

 **Germany**
RKW Sachsen



Follow us
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PROJECT INFO

 **Duration of the Project:** 1.10.2025 – 30.09.2028

 **Project budget:** 2 702 463,91 EUR
EU co-financing: 2 623 941,00 EUR

 The project is carried out as part of the Single Market Programme – EUROCLUSTERS call (SMP-COSME-2024-CLUSTER) under the Grant Agreement No. 101236716



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MAT 4EU

CHALLENGES OF THE PROJECT



Fragmentation of the research and innovation (R&I) ecosystem



Insufficient private investment to meet growing needs



Lack of progress in terms of circularity and material efficiency



Innovation processes that are too long and low level of digitalization



Disconnect between innovative research and industrial applications



Lack of testing and experimentation infrastructure



Absence of harmonised standards



Insufficient skills and appropriate training

Background

Advanced Materials (AM) are engineered for superior performance and sustainability, driving innovation across energy, electronics, construction, mobility, aerospace, and healthcare. Recognised in the Materials 2030 Manifesto and as one of the EU's ten critical technology areas, **AM are crucial for Europe's industrial competitiveness and the twin green and digital transitions.**

Despite high R&D investment, the EU holds only 15% of AM patents, trailing the US and Japan, and growth is stagnating, risking dependence on external innovation. The Draghi Report and the 2024 European Commission strategy call for boosting EU leadership by accelerating R&D, scaling up production, and speeding industrial adoption. **Four strategic pillars: research & innovation, lab-to-fab transfer, financing, and production will build an inclusive EU AM ecosystem, with IAM4EU and the Technology Council driving implementation.**

4 advanced materials



Metal



Ceramics



Polymers



Composites

6 sectors



Mobility



Aerospace & Defence



Construction



Agri-food



Renewable energy



Health

The MAT4EU project aims to structure the European advanced materials ecosystem by bringing together six European clusters active across various industrial sectors.

Approach

Two Open Calls for proposals with two cut-off dates will be launched, providing the laureates with direct financial support:

1st OPEN CALL

SMEs will apply for projects with an overall budget of

80k€

75% cascade funding up to 60k€

2nd OPEN CALL

SMEs will apply for projects with an overall budget of

45k€

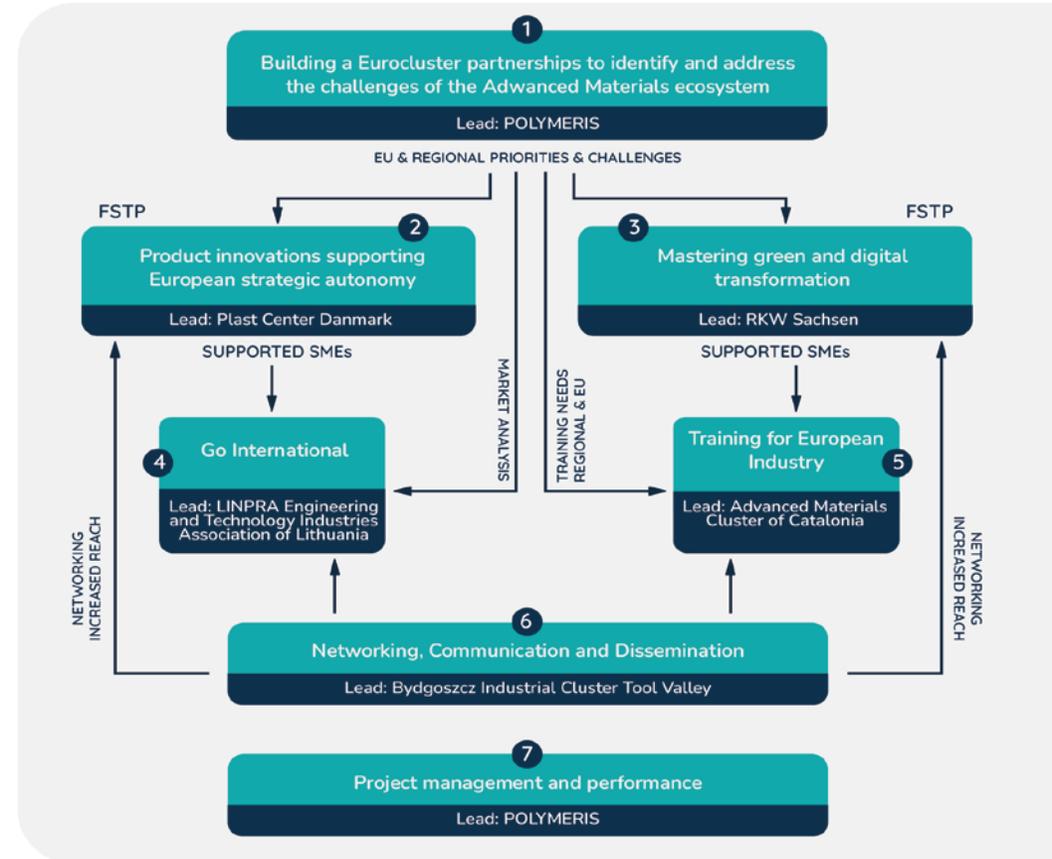
75% cascade funding up to 33,750€

MAT4EU will facilitate SME access to global supply chains and international markets.

The project will provide training tailored to the needs of the European and regional advanced materials ecosystems to foster workforce upskilling and reskilling.



**MAT
4EU**



**MAT
4EU**

MAT4EU will support up to 46 European SMEs that benefit from cascade funding to participate in projects to enhance their competitiveness, sustainability, and/or digitalisation, and/or to innovate business processes:

16 in the development of new products and services based on Advanced Materials to reduce their reliance on critical inputs and/or non-EU technologies
30 focused on materials in their Digital and Sustainable Transition.

The project will identify key partnerships necessary to promote the development and adoption of advanced materials, thereby **improving the strategic autonomy and competitiveness of the European industry.**

MAT 4EU

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or EISMEA. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

Project number: 101236716 | Call: SMP-COSME-2024-CLUSTER



Co-funded by
the European Union

Resilient and secure Europe

**Advancing security
through green and digital transitions**

alain.dinis@systematic-paris-region.org

15/01/2026



This project has received funding from the European Union under the Grant Agreement n°101235136.

CITADEL

Mission / Vision / Strategy

CITADEL Mission

- ✓ To support innovation, networking and adoption of new processes and advanced technologies **on the security value chain**

CITADEL Vision

- ✓ To reinforce the resilience of European **critical infrastructures facing emerging threats**, by leveraging the synergies between digital and green transitions

Strategic objectives via cascade funding

- ✓ Stimulate collaborations between digital companies and the security sector
- ✓ Accelerate the adoption of innovative digital technologies in the security sector
- ✓ Improve the resilience of European critical infrastructures
- ✓ Facilitate access to security markets for innovative SMEs

Starting date : 01/10/2025

Duration: 36 months

Funding program: Single Market Programme, Euroclusters



Financial Support to Third Parties

Security value chain



Critical infrastructures

- ✓ Energy
- ✓ Water
- ✓ Transport
- ✓ Healthcare
- ✓ Digital infra



Resilience

- ✓ Natural disaster
- ✓ Green transition
- ✓ Technological risks
- ✓ Service continuity in case of crisis



Urban environment

- ✓ Smart cities
- ✓ Sustainability
- ✓ Green transition linkage
- ✓ Large events



Risk assessment

Identification and evaluation of potential threats and vulnerabilities



Prevention

Measures to mitigate risks and protect against identified threats



Detection

Systems for monitoring and identifying security incidents in real-time



Response

Immediate actions to address and contain security incidents



Recovery

Restoration of systems and business continuity after incidents

CR.EU.IN. HERITAGE



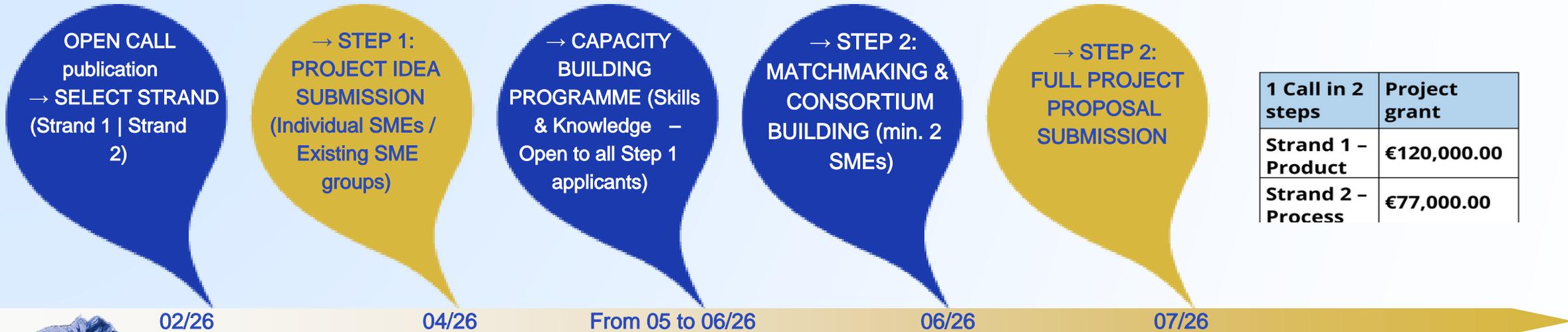
- Venetian Cluster (IT),
- Open Hub (RO),
- France Clusters (FR),
- Italian -German Chamber of Commerce (DE).



- Basilicata Creativa (IT),
- Innoskart (HU),
- Cluster TWIST (BE),
- Athena RC (EL),
- Baltic Film & Creative Tech Cluster (LT).

- Catalan Audiovisual Cluster (ES)





1 Call in 2 steps	Project grant
Strand 1 – Product	€120,000.00
Strand 2 – Process	€77,000.00

STEP 1 APPLICATION

- SMEs, also individually.
- From any ecosystem .
- From any SMP country .
- Focus on Cultural Heritage Value Chain .
- English.
- **STRAND 1:** Expected result on **Product Innovation** + must highlight needs in terms of critical inputs and technologies.
- **STRAND 2:** Expected Result on **Business Process Innovation** linked to the **green and digital transition** + must highlight needs in terms of green transition and digitalisation.

STEP 2 APPLICATION

- Projects by consortia of **at least 2 SMEs**.
- From any ecosystem .
- From any SMP country .
- Focus on Cultural Heritage Value Chain .
- Should apply **EU-based digital solutions and/or technologies** , and/or **engage actively innovation leaders** .
- Must include a **budget for travel** to at least 1 Networking/Business event at EU level.
- **STRAND 1 Mandatory deliverable** : New-to-firm products and/or services differing significantly from the firm's previous goods or services.
- **STRAND 2 Mandatory deliverable** : Business process innovations related to the green and digital transition differing significantly from the firm's previous business process.
- **Financial Capacity Check**.

KNOWLEDGE & SCOUTING TO REDUCE DEPENDENCIES

- Strategic foresight report on key EU-based technologies and actors relevant to promote Innovation in the Cultural Heritage value-chain
- Mapping of Key stakeholders to support innovation in the Cultural Heritage value-chain
- Open Expression of interest by Innovation Leaders
- Open Expression of Interest by private investors/funds/banks

SUPPORTING INNOVATION PROJECTS

- supports innovation and the adoption of new processes and technologies for strategic autonomy in the cultural heritage valorization value chain.
- Launch of the Call for Proposals for Innovation projects.
- Innovation Capacity Building programme
- Tutoring of FSTP-funded innovation projects.
- Promotion of project results

EUROCLUSTER STRATEGIC POSITIONING

- Upscaling the network
- Mainstreaming results into the CR.EU Metacluster
- Promotes project innovation diffusion and adoption
- Strategic analysis report on innovation and resilience in the Cultural Heritage sector
- Sustainability plan to sustain innovations across the CR.EU.IN value chain sectors and beyond

COMMUNICATION AND EVENTS

- Engaging all cultural heritage value chain stakeholders
- Communication strategy and brand identity
- Tailored communication materials (promotional videos, social media, newsletters, ECCp page)
- Final Event



ECDI

EUROPEAN CLUSTER
FOR DRONE INNOVATION



Picture by AZURDRONE

THE TEAM



The ECDI Consortium brings together a strong and complementary partnership:

- Three European Clusters and one Ukrainian Cluster Alliance.
- Apart from the coordinator all partners come from less advanced EU regions in Spain, Poland, and Ukraine.

✓ Shared Strengths of All Partners

- Specialized in Aerospace & Drones
- Members of **Key European networks**:
EACP, ECTL, EDC, GUTMA, DAE, AME
- Active in **EACP working groups** on Coordination, UAS, Science & Technology, Skills, and Internationalization

✓ Expertise

- A strong membership base of **over 750 SMEs and Start-ups**
- Experience in European cooperation within the drone sector
- Solid track records in European projects, including **FSTP initiatives**.



WHAT DO WE PROPOSE

INNOVATIVE PROJECTS

3 types of innovative projects will be proposed in an FSTP Scheme during the projects

- Civil Drones Innovative Programme
- Dual-use Drones Innovative Programme (Mono Projects)
- Dual-use Drones Innovative Programme (Duo Projects)

EUROPEAN NETWORK

Create the Innovation Drone Alliance (IDA) to unite European drone clusters and strengthen Europe's industrial drone base.

- Build a European network and recruit members into the IDA
- Provide access to a shared drone industry database for stakeholders
- Develop a long-term strategy to ensure visibility, collaboration, and sustainability

ENVIRONMENT SERVICES

Support services to SMEs operating in the Civil sector and directly benefitting from ECDI

- Framework for assessing the maturity of SMEs and startups.
- Customized assessments for each SME based on diagnostic analysis.
- Workshop to explore Civil SMEs' potential in the dual-use defense market.

INTERNATIONALISATION

Support SMEs in reaching international markets by aligning innovation projects with global opportunities.

- Facilitate SME participation in EU and international fairs and events
- Help SMEs become market-ready and scale their innovations
- Boost visibility and networking for both civil and dual-use SMEs

DUAL-USE SERVICES

Support Services to SMEs developing dual-use unmanned aerial solutions to address European security challenges.

- Accelerate start-ups and SMEs in their digital and green transition
- Contribute to European standards and interoperability for digital platforms
- Facilitate intra-EU and international cooperation on dual-use drone technologies

UPSKILLING & RESKILLING

Upskill and reskill SMEs to enter the dual-use market and adopt greener practices.

- Train civil SMEs to adapt technologies (AI, IoT, Robotics, Cybersecurity) for dual-use and defense
- Support dual-use SMEs to green their products and production processes
- Build SME capacity at the crossroads of security and sustainability

THE OPEN CALLS

CIVIL OPEN CALL

25 Mono Projects

Support services to **Civilian SMEs** to help them develop a dual-use product to better serve societal, environmental, defence and security issues

- Start - 01/2026
- Cut-off 1 - 03/2026
- Cut-off 2 - 05/2026

€50K per selected
SME



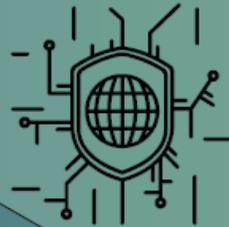
DUAL-USE CALL

10 Mono Projects

Support services to **dual-use SMEs** to improve or launch their environmental and digital transition

- Start - 06/2026
- End - 08/2026

€35K per selected
SME



DUO DUAL-USE CALL

5 Duo Projects

Support services to **two dual-use SMEs** to improve or launch their environmental and digital transition

- Start - 05/2027
- End - 07/2027

€73K per selected
Project





Picture by AZURDRONE

Thank you

CONTACT

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Q&A

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Pilot access schemes to Technology Infrastructures for European startups, scaleups and innovative SMEs (CSA)

- Proposals should demonstrate the following expected outcomes:
 - A sound understanding of the **specific needs of industrial users** (including but not limited to innovative SMEs, startups and scaleups) for Technology infrastructure services in specific priority areas including but not limited to advanced materials, clean energy, or health and biotechnology;
 - Increased opportunities for industrial users for **development, testing, up-scaling and deployment of new technologies** via the use of services offered by Technology Infrastructures;
 - Strengthened innovation and technology development capacity of European SMEs, startups and scaleups via improved access to Technology Infrastructures;
 - Attractiveness and effectiveness of the developed access schemes for **broadening the range of Technology Infrastructures users**, especially for startups and scaleups, including with transnational access.
- Topic ID: HORIZON-CL4-2026-01-MAT-PROD-45
- Deadline: 21 April 2026
- Published on [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

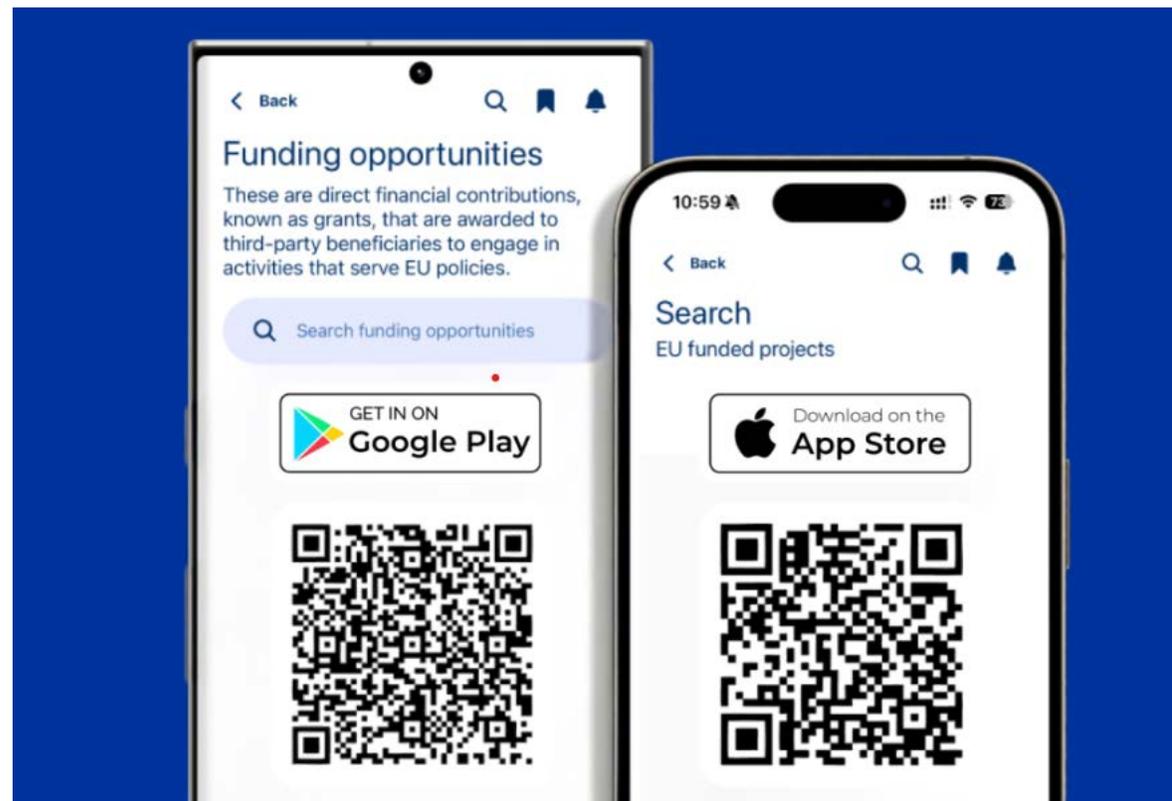
Interregional Innovation Investments Instrument (I3): CAPACITY BUILDING CAP2B

- The outcome of Strand 2b projects is expected to be the increased capacities of **less developed regions**. Regional innovation ecosystems are expected to **strengthen their capacity to deliver concrete interregional innovation investments** within EU value chains and the capacity to tap into other funding instruments, to cover additional funding needs (if necessary).
- Upon project completion, involved SMEs will possess enhanced capacity to **cooperate in interregional value chains** and to attract private investments or to create public- private partnerships.
- This call for proposals aims to improve the capacity of **public authorities and innovation intermediaries** (e.g. clusters) to support companies in the identification of investment portfolios at an interregional scale.
- Topic ID: I3-2026-CAP2B
- Deadline: 19 March 2026
- Published on [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

New mobile app eases access to EU funding

Every year, EU citizens have access to more than €38 billion in funding opportunities through the EU's Funding and Tenders Portal. To make applying for these funds easier and more user-friendly, a new mobile app 'EU funding & me' was launched this week.

[EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)



Register for the next Talks

4 February

The Industrial Accelerator Act: Speeding Up Strategic Projects

11 February

Revising the EU Public Procurement Directives:
A Strategic Tool for Europe's Competitiveness

25 February

Delivering Impact for Europe's Clusters: ECCP Activities and Results

Continue the discussion



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THANK YOU

