



EUCLUSTERS



TALKS ★

An initiative of the European Union



# Innovation through integration:

How to create and engage a meta-cluster

**24 April 2024**

08:30-09:45 CET

**Online**

# Agenda

1. News from the European Cluster Collaboration Platform  
**Nina Hoppmann**, *Team Member European Cluster Collaboration Platform*
2. Meta-clustering  
**Marek Przeor**, *Team Leader Cluster Policy, DG GROW, European Commission*
3. Interregional Innovation Investments (I3) Instrument  
**Eric Koch**, *Head of Sector for I3, EISMEA, European Commission*
4. Panel debate  
**Erasmia Dupenloup**, *Chairwomen, Silicon Europe*  
**Giovanni Scaramuzzo**, *Project Manager, EXO Ricerca*  
**Maurizio Malè**, *Project Manager, Venetian Cluster*  
**Montse Daban**, *President, Council of European BioRegions (CEBR)*  
**Thomas Röhr**, *Secretary General, European Automotive Cluster Network (EACN)*

# Housekeeping rules

Jennifer Baker, presenter

- We will use **slido** to launch polls. 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

# Register for the European Cluster Conference: 7-8 May 2024

The European Cluster Conference 2024 will take place at the Square, in **Brussels**.

The conference aims to highlight the vital role of clusters in advancing EU industrial priorities. It will address pivotal topics— the **Green Transition**, the **Digital Transition** and **Resilience Building**—providing a deep-dive into key drivers like **skills**, **funding**, and **technology**.

Registration now:

<https://europeanclusterconference2024.eu/>



# Matchmaking event within Cluster Conference

As part of the European Cluster Conference 2024, the next ECCP matchmaking event will take place on **8 May 2024**.

This matchmaking event offers participants a dedicated framework to find potential business partners at all stages of the supply chain. They were invited to look for future project partners or specific products or services for their organisation.

The event will take place **physically** during a 4 hours matchmaking session where participants will meet in a **dedicated room of the conference venue**.



# Register for Clusters meet Regions in Graz, Austria



Anchored in the theme of **Tradition Reinvented**, the event aims to explore how clusters can spearhead transformative shifts towards a climate-neutral, digital future, aligning with European sustainability goals.

As part of the [Clusters Meet Regions event in Graz, Austria](#), a matchmaking event will take place on **18 June 2024**.

# EU-Taiwan Matchmaking



The [EU – Taiwan Matchmaking Event](#) will take place on-site in **Berlin, Germany on 10-12 June 2024** with a delegation of about 80 companies and trade organisations from Taiwan.

**Focus areas:** ICT/Semiconductors and Digital industries; AI/IoT/Advanced manufacturing; Smart Mobility; Green/Circular Economy/Renewable energy/Sustainability; Smart Healthcare; Smart city/Connectivity/5G

First cut-off date is **25 April 2024**.

# EU-South Med Matchmaking



The [EU – South Med Matchmaking Event](#) will take place on-site in **Frankfurt, Germany** on **11-13 June 2024**.

It will bring together cluster organisations and SMEs from the European Union (EU), non-EU countries participating in the Single Market Programme/COSME Strand, and South MED region: **Morocco, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine\* and Tunisia**.

**Focus areas:** Green tech and energy; Digital tech and ICT; Mechanical engineering and manufacturing; Pharma and biotech

First cut-off date is **25 April 2024**.

# Watch live: Investing in EU Industry at Hannover Messe

Until 26 April, the European Commission has a packed programme of over 30 talks and panels on pressing industry topics at Hannover Messe 2024. The programme is **streamed live**.

**Session on clusters on Thursday, 25 April:**

**10:30 - 12:00**

PANEL: **ENERGY TRANSFORMATION: GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS AND ROLE OF CLUSTERS**

*Moderator*

**Marek Przeor**, Team Leader Cluster Policy, European Commission

*Panellists*

**Dr Beate Weidenhammer** - Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, responsible for the “go-cluster” programme

**Christoph Frenkel**, Deputy Managing Director of the Thuringian Renewable Energies Network

**Frederik Wewetzer**, Project Manager at HZwo - the Saxon innovation cluster for fuel cell and hydrogen technology

**Johan Wasberg**, Development Director of Merinnova / EnergyVaasa Cluster

**Sophie Schmitz or Thibaud Vanrooden** – Pôle Mecatech (Belgium), cluster partner in DREAM Eurocluster

# Meta-Clustering

**Marek Przeor**

Team Leader Cluster Policy, DG GROW, European Commission

# Interregional Innovation Investments (I3) Instrument

**Eric Koch**

Head of Sector for I3, EISMEA, European Commission

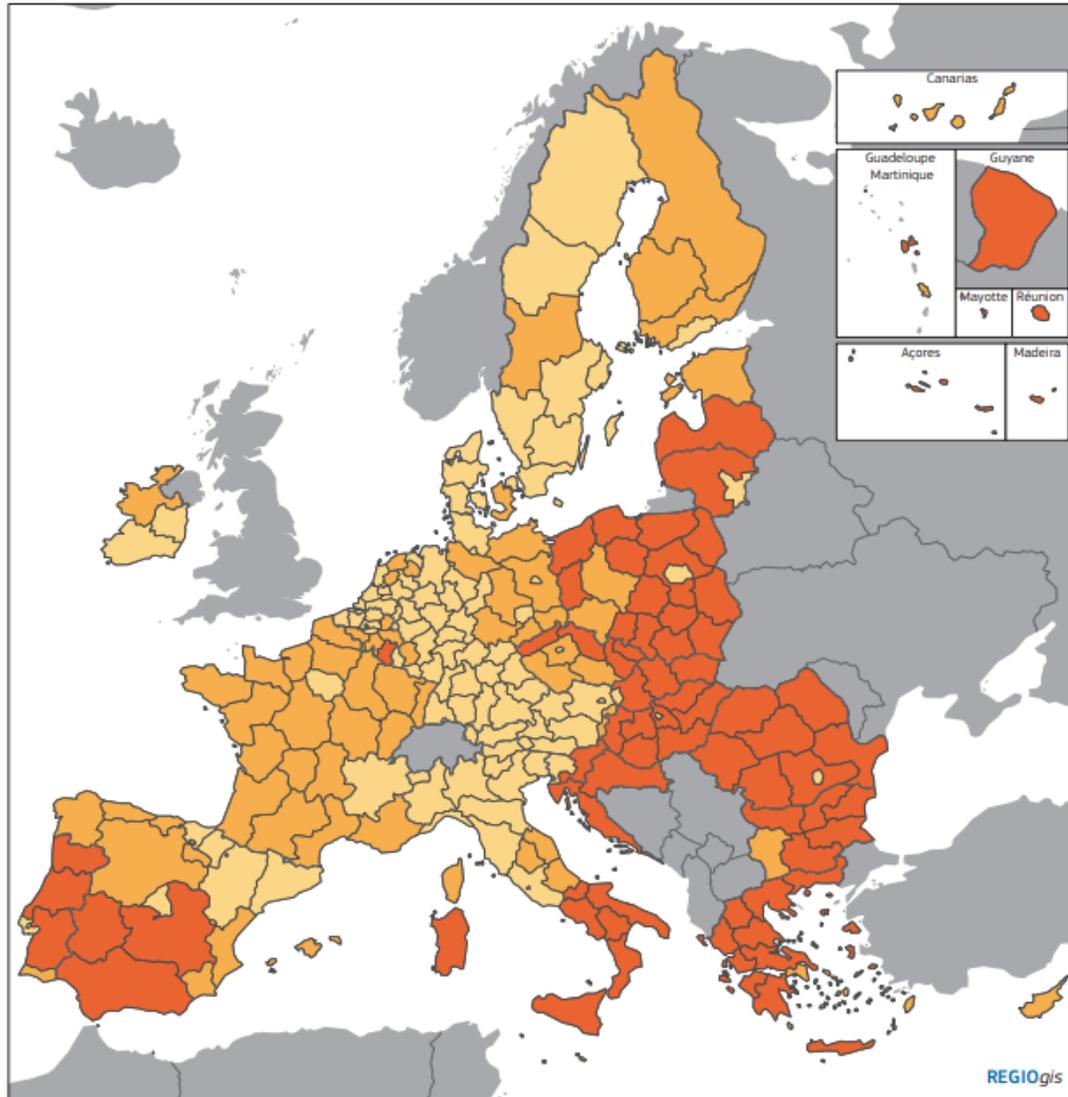


# I3 Interregional Innovation Investments Instrument

EU Cluster talk  
24/04/2024  
Eric Koch  
Head of Sector, EISMEA I.01.2, I3 Instrument



# Cohesion policy - the EU's main investment policy

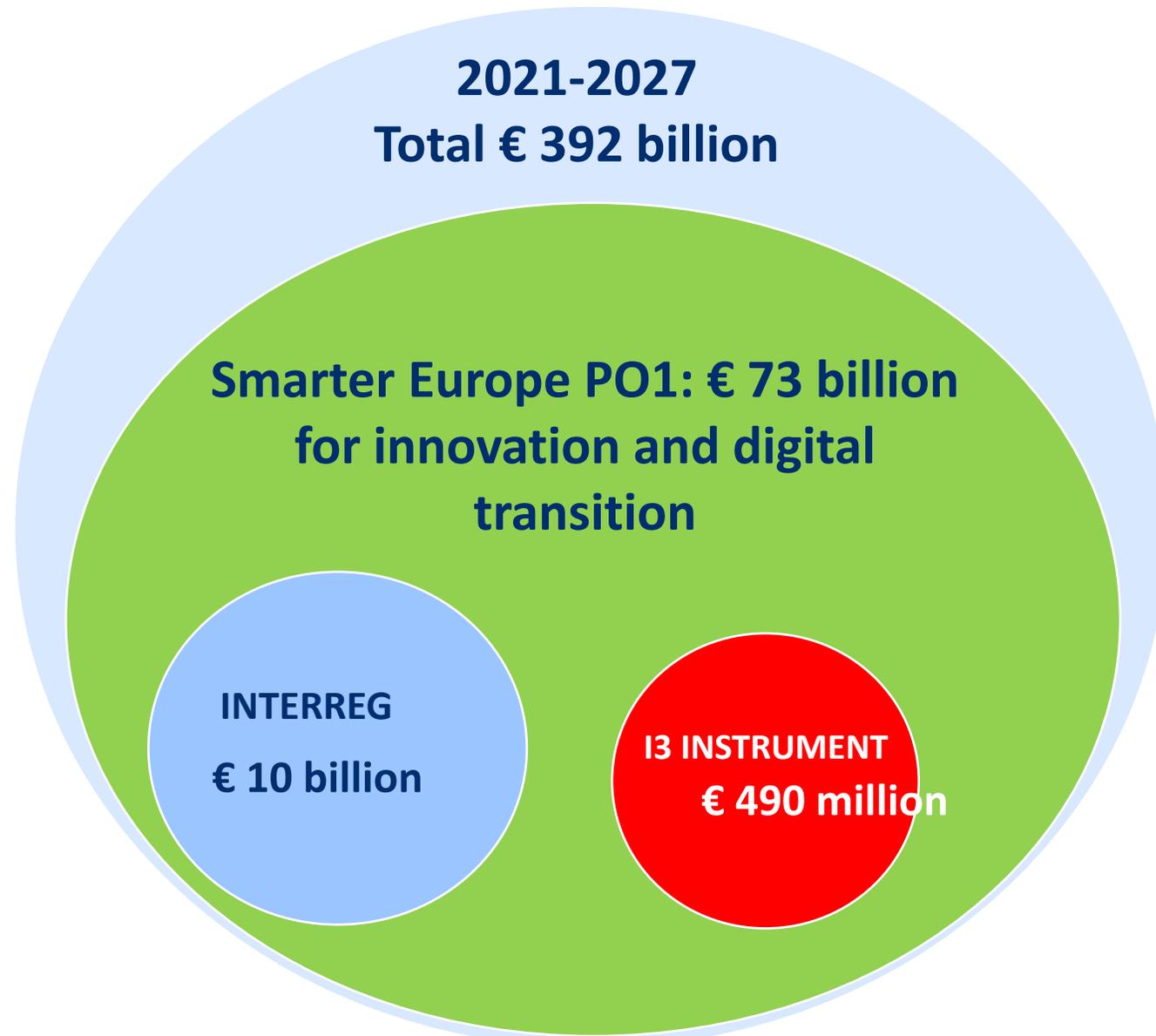


Category of regions for cohesion policy (ERDF and ESF+), 2021–2027

- Less developed regions (GDP per head (PPS) less than 75% of the EU-27 average)
- Transition regions (GDP per head (PPS) between 75% and 100% of the EU-27 average)
- More developed regions (GDP per head (PPS) above 100% of the EU-27 average)

*Cohesion Policy targets all regions and cities in the European Union in order to support job creation, business competitiveness, economic growth, sustainable development, and improve citizens' quality of life.*

# Cohesion policy - the EU's main investment policy



# Interregional Innovation Investments (I3) Instrument

**INTERREGIONAL**

- Creating links between EU regions around **shared or complementary smart specialisation (S3)** areas and involving all components of the regional or national innovation ecosystems
- Supporting the development of value chains in less developed regions

*“ The interregional component provides a unique opportunity to cross-fertilise actual instruments and facilitate the market uptake of the solutions developed. ”*

● Myriam Martin, HealthChain project

**INNOVATION**

- Testing, demonstration, piloting, large-scale product validation and market replication, adaptation of existing prototypes
- Accelerating innovation, bringing innovative solutions and new products in:
  - **Digital transition**
  - **Green transition**
  - **Smart manufacturing**

*“ The programme helped us establish the first interregional green hydrogen value chain in South Estonia and Northern Latvia for activating the emerging hydrogen and providing a blueprint for setting up green hydrogen ecosystems in other regions. ”*

● Jaanus Tamm, H2 Value project project

**INVESTMENTS**

- Financial and advisory support for joint innovation projects
- Smart economic transformation by moving from investment ideas to actual implementation
- Direct investment to companies (mainly SMEs)

*“ I3 Instrument supports SMEs to be internationally competitive whilst at the same time addressing actual pan-European unmet needs and unlocking cross-sectoral and inter-regional markets. ”*

● Magnus Wallengren, Digit Pre project

# 13 Instrument - Upstream and downstream dependency

## CAPACITY BUILDING

13 Instrument's success and impact is dependent on the existence of the many partnerships, networks as well as partners' capacity to engage in joint projects.

- 13 Strand Cap2b
- 13 support facility
- Smart Specialisation Community of Practice (S3 COP)

CONNECT

LEARN

## INVESTMENT (TRL 6-9)

SCALE-UP

COMMERCIALISE

DEMONSTRATE

**13 Strand 1:** support for investments in interregional innovation projects in shared smart specialisation areas

**13 Strand 2a:** support for investments in interregional innovation projects for the development of value chains in less developed regions



# Thematic priorities

Green transition

Digital transition

## Strand 1

Investment support on the basis of shared S3, typically to strengthen the competitiveness of existing EU value chains

S3

## Strand 2a

Investment support on the basis of shared S3, for the development of value chains in less developed regions

Smart manufacturing

## Strand 2b

Capacity building for less developed regions



# Eligible activities (TRL 6-9)

## VALUE CHAIN INVESTMENT PORTFOLIOS

Implementation of Investments  
“new to Europe” or “new to the  
application sector”.

**Commercialisation**  
activities bringing  
**innovative ideas &  
products**  
to the market (new  
to Europe, new to  
the sector)

**COLLABORATIVE JOINT  
INNOVATION ACTIVITIES**  
in shared **S3 areas**

**Test beds &  
post prototyping  
activities**

**Validation & testing  
in real environment**  
(demonstration,  
innovation activities  
developed with  
end users)

**instrumental to bring innovative ideas and new products to the market**

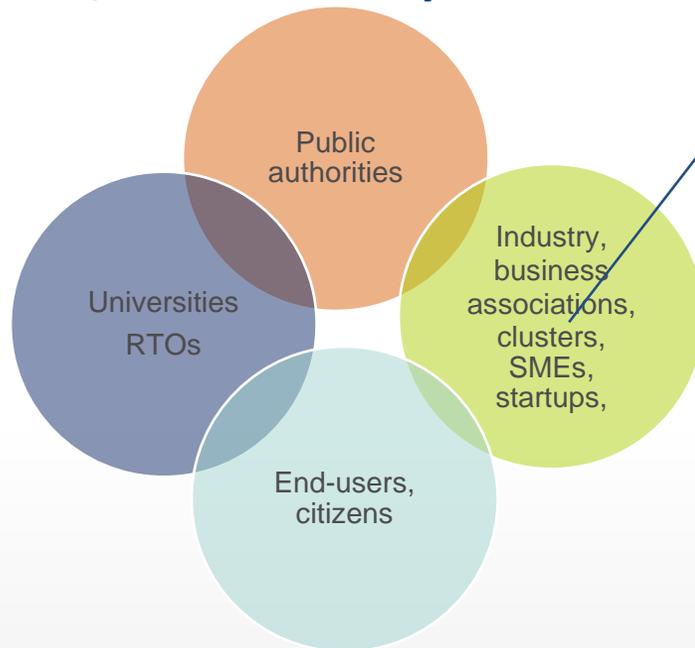


# Interregional Dimension

Clusters...!!!

**Applicants:**

**Q-helix partnerships on behalf of regional  
/ national ecosystems**



**Ideally endorsed by competent  
bodies for Smart Specialisation**

**Mostly at NUTS 2 level**

**Ideally full range of innovation  
ecosystems involved**



2024: Strand1/2a >EUR 60 mio, opening June, closing December 2024  
Cap2b: ~EUR 13 mio, closing November 2024

## Project budget and duration, funding rate

Project size

€ 2 – 10 million

Duration

18 – 36 months

Funding rate

70% for all other cost categories

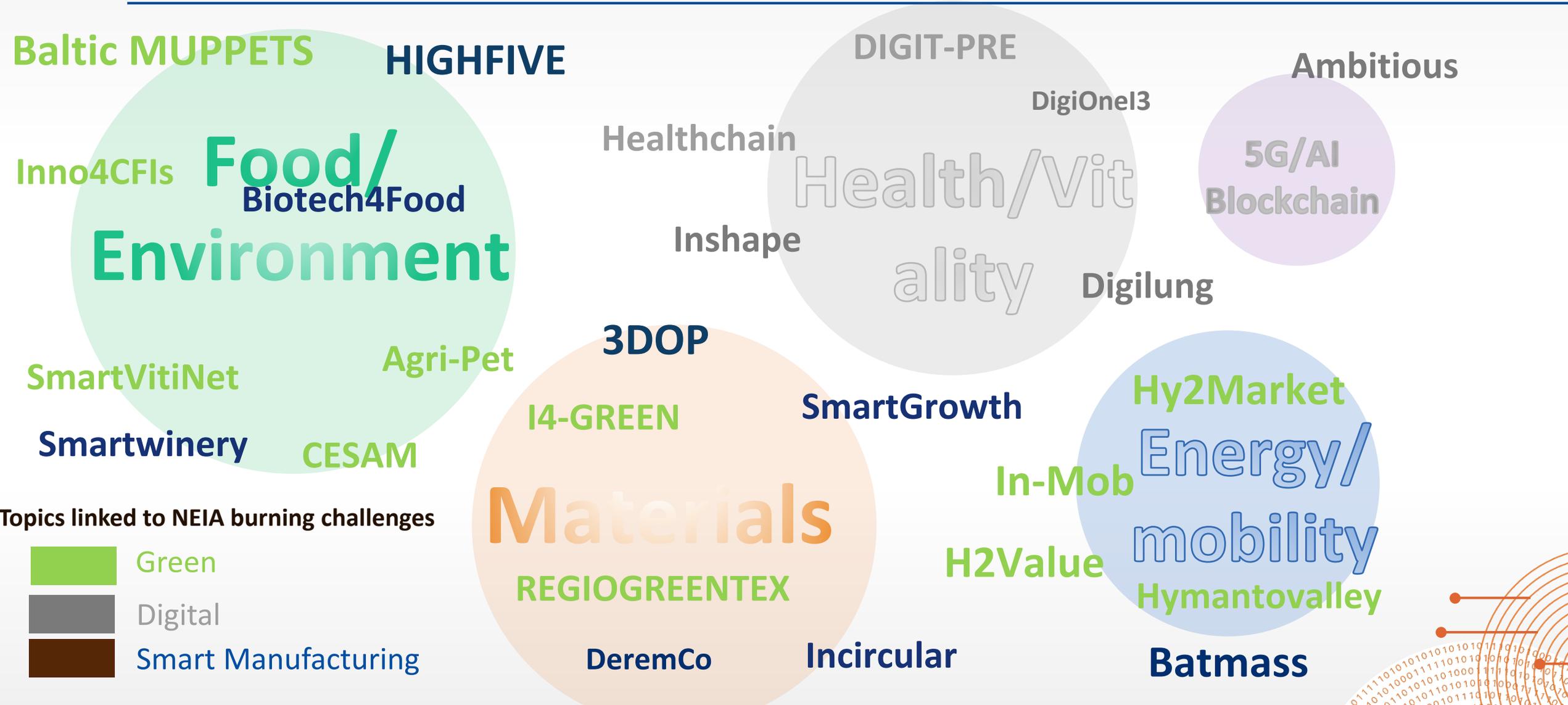
100% for costs of Financial support to 3rd parties

€ 31  
mio/ strand  
2023

B  
O  
T  
H  
  
S  
T  
R  
A  
N  
D  
S

# 13 Strand 1/2a projects, value chains and synergies

EU grant: EUR 1.5-10 million (first 25 running projects)



# Smart Specialisation Thematic Platforms and Partnerships

## S3 Thematic Platforms

Agri-food

Industrial  
modernisation

Energy

Sustainable  
Blue  
Economy

- **Mission:** To initiate and explore new value chains in specific priority areas.
- **Actors:** committed regions, **cluster organisations**, innovation agencies, businesses and innovation actors as well as civil society (quadruple helix).
- **Building** on a range of concrete initiatives and interregional collaborations (e.g. running I3 projects or leading to I3 projects!)
- **Partnerships (TSSPs):** Initiate and explore new value chains in specific priority areas



**COMMUNITY  
OF PRACTICE**

Follow and join Smart Specialisation Community of Practice, flagship initiative of DG REGIO strategic services to S3 practitioners





# Thank you!



[https://eisma.ec.europa.eu/programmes/interregional-innovation-investments-i3-instrument\\_en](https://eisma.ec.europa.eu/programmes/interregional-innovation-investments-i3-instrument_en)

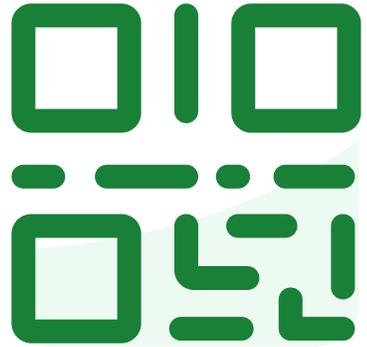


[EISMEA-I3-INSTRUMENT@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EISMEA-I3-INSTRUMENT@ec.europa.eu)



#I3Instrument

# slido



Join at [slido.com](https://slido.com)  
#MetaClustering

 Start presenting to display the joining instructions on this slide.

slido



**Are you involved in a meta-cluster?**

ⓘ Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

slido



**What are for you the main benefits of meta-clustering?**

ⓘ Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

**slido**



**What are challenges to meta-clustering activities?**

ⓘ Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

# Panel debate

**Erasmia Dupenloup**, Chairwomen, Silicon Europe

**Giovanni Scaramuzzo**, Project Manager, EXO Ricerca

**Maurizio Malè**, Project Manager, Venetian Cluster

**Montse Daban**, President, Council of European BioRegions (CEBR)

**Thomas Röhr**, Secretary General, European Automotive Cluster Network (EACN)

# Register for the next Talks

**15 May**

Takeaways from the European Cluster Conference

**And more to come...**

# Continue the discussion



<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/9503062/>

# Visit the ECCP website and follow us on social media



[www.clustercollaboration.eu](http://www.clustercollaboration.eu)



@Clusters\_EU



European Cluster Collaboration Platform

#EUClustersTalks

#ECCP

EUCLUSTERS

THANK YOU

