European Commission

I3
Interregional
Innovation
Investments
Instrument

Informative session

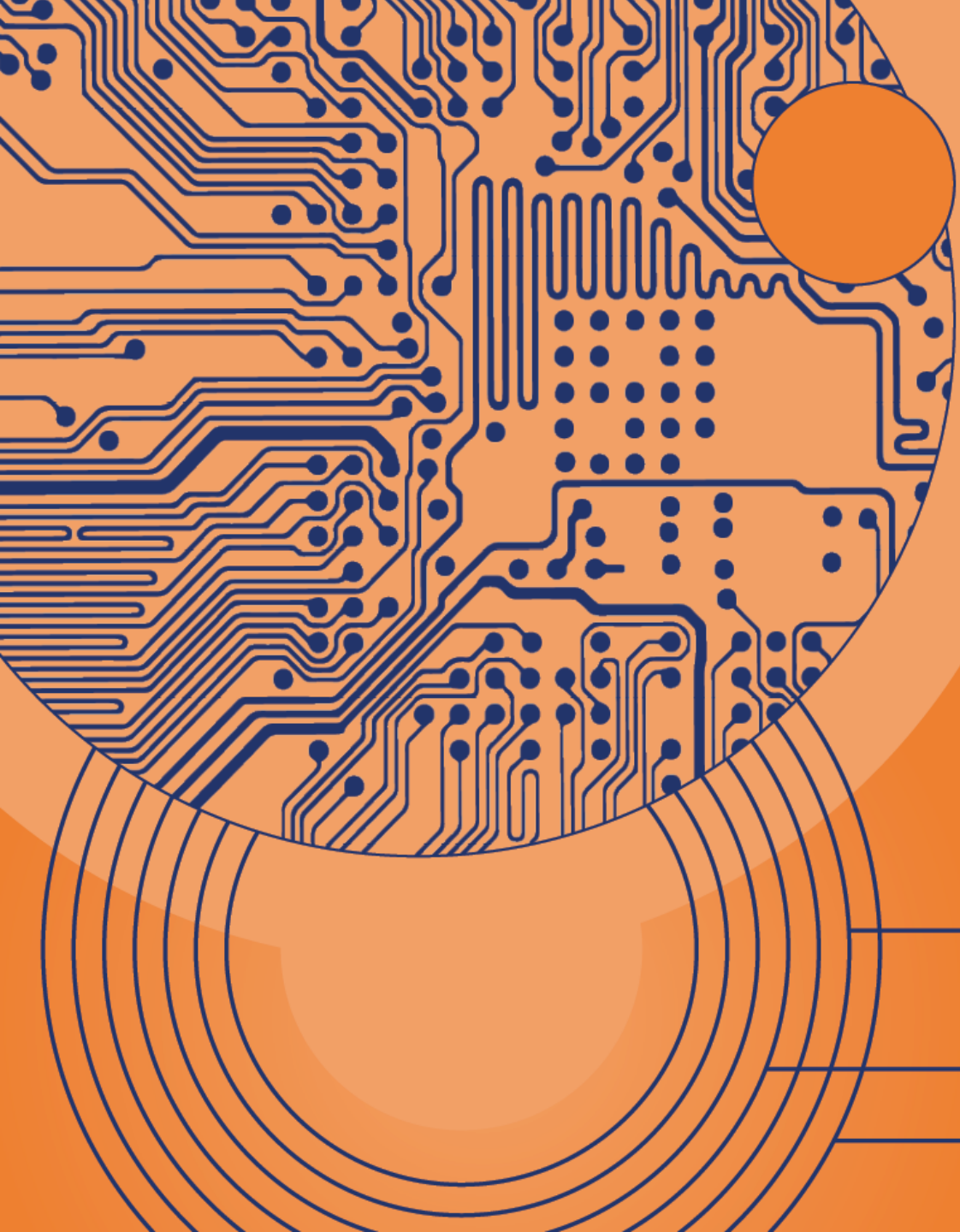*23 November 2023*

moderated by

Denisa **PERRIN**, EISMEA

Agenda:

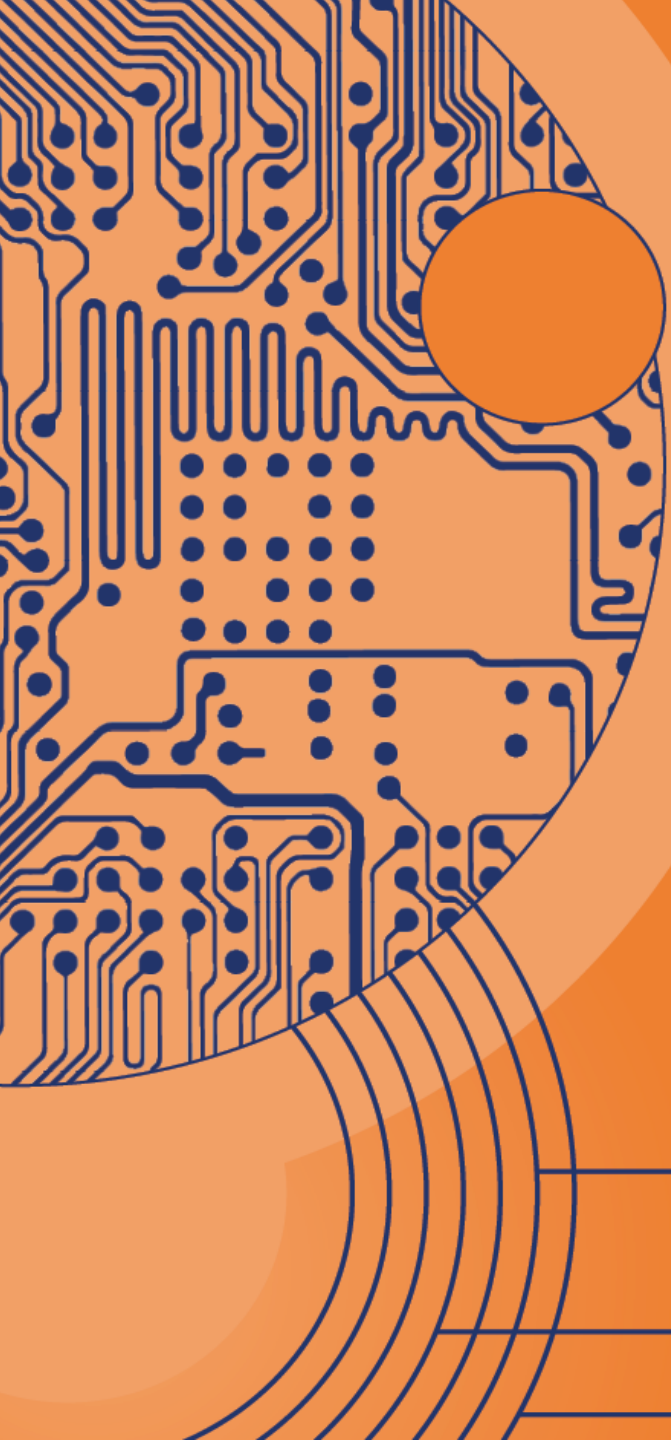|		
09:00	Welcome	
09:30	Policy background	
09:40	Strand 2b	
	Capacity Building in Less Developed Regions	
10:20	Detailed budget table	
10:35	Legal/financial validation of applicants	
10:50	Submitting a good proposal	
	and testimonial from GREET project	
11:20	Q&A	
11:50	Conclusions	

WELCOME

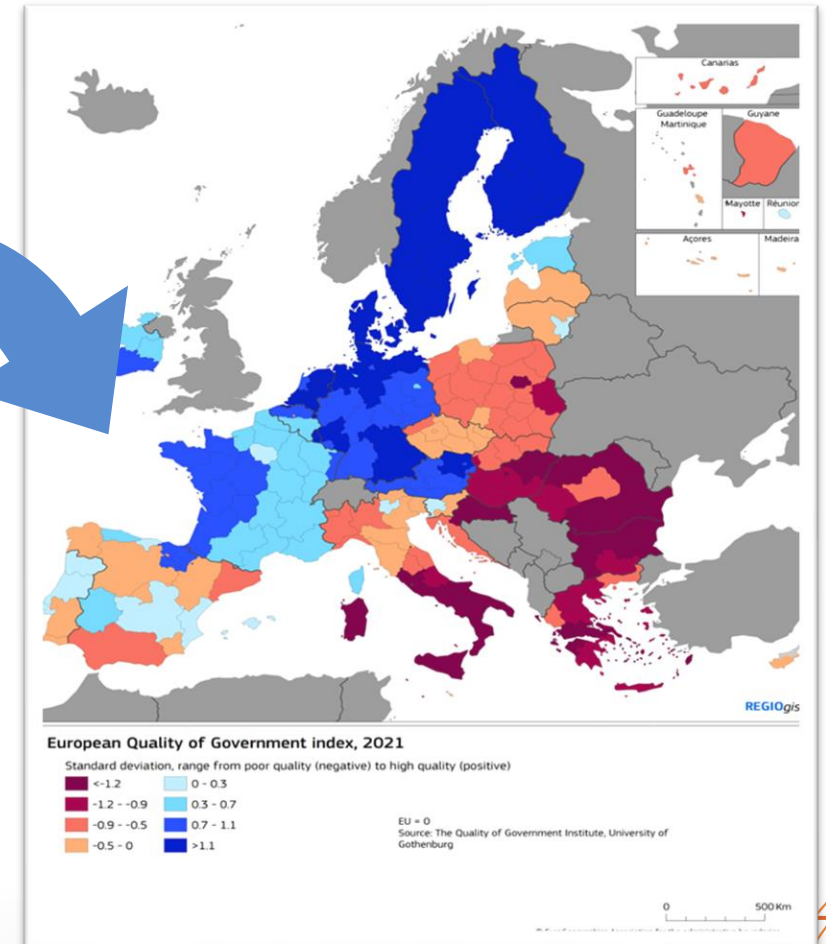Catherine **WENDT**, DG REGIO

Birgit **WEIDEL**, EISMEA

Policy background

Tomislav PINTER

DG REGIO, Unit G.1

Cohesion Policy's and R&I support – challenges and focus

- Enhance capabilities in all regions to advance their innovation performance, focusing on economic transformation and improving their **R&I systems and governance.**

- **Collaboration** across SMEs, industries, universities, and public administrations is crucial for a strong innovation process, with a special focus on university–industry collaboration and interregional aspect.

- **SMEs,** making up 99% of EU businesses, need to improve productivity and growth via **value chain participation.**

- **Smart specialisation strategies** are essential and central to R&I related investments.

European Quality of Government index, 2021
Standard deviation, range from poor quality (negative) to high quality (positive)

<-1.2	0 - 0.3
-1.2 - -0.9	0.3 - 0.7
-0.9 - -0.5	0.7 - 1.1
-0.5 - 0	>1.1

EU = 0
Source: The Quality of Government Institute, University of Gothenburg

0   500 Km

Capacity building for interregional innovation

- **Improving Capacity for Interregional Innovation Investments**: Supporting public authorities and intermediaries in guiding companies towards interregional investment portfolios.

- **Addressing the challenges and obstacles** in innovation building and diffusion in less developed and other categories of regions (such as EU outermost regions or regions with specific challenges).

- **Developing tailored policies and regulations** to foster an enabling environment for innovation and interregional cooperation.

- **Dissemination** (beyond projects) and **exploitation** (next steps in project).

Capacity building for interregional innovation – next steps

- **2024: Targeted Support → I3 Support Facility**

- **2024: Innovation Support → New calls for Strands 1&2a**

- **2025 – 2027 → New I3 Work Programme**

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. I3 projects)

Follow and join **S3 COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE** – flagship initiative of DG REGIO strategic services to S3 practitioners: →
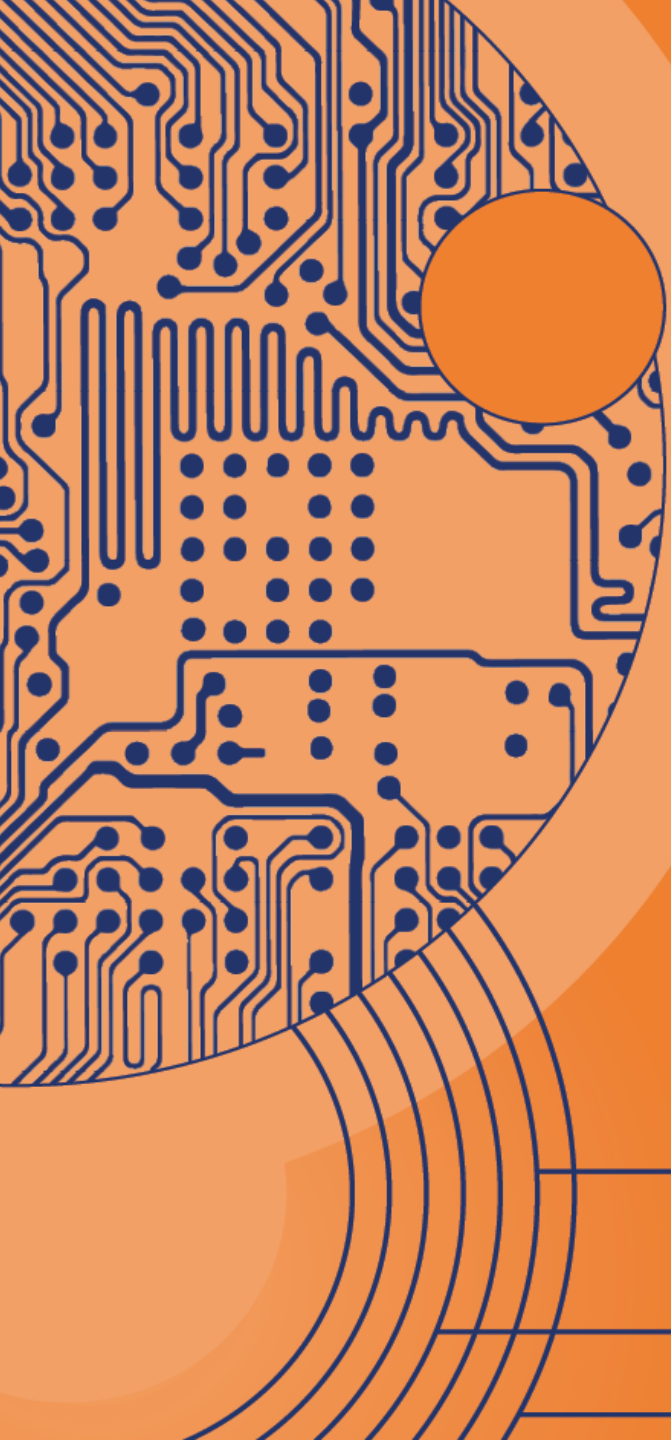
Strand 2b Capacity Building in Less Developed Regions

Michael BERZ

EISMEA, Unit I.01

Erik HENGMITH

EISMEA, Unit I.01

Capacity Building – Strand 2b call I3 2023-2024 WP

What	For whom	How	How much
Increase the capacity of regional innovation ecosystems in less developed regions to collaborate in EU value chains	**Innovation actors** such as public administrations, research and academia, industry, end users	Implemented under direct management. DG REGIO supported by EISMEA	Available call budget € 26,000,000

Challenge & Expected Impact

Challenge:
Less developed regions are facing different challenges and obstacles linked to innovation building & diffusion.

Expected Impact:
Increase of the capacities of less developed regions to deliver concrete interregional innovation investments within EU value chains.

General Objectives

Support in building & reinforcing innovative and resilient ecosystems

Connecting the regional innovation ecosystems externally

Optimisation of the relevant local administrative structures and processes

Strengthening links and structures among the stakeholders of quadruple-helix ecosystems

Capacity building of less developed regions to enable interregional ecosystems to define areas for co-investment along interregional value chains along the S3 priorities.
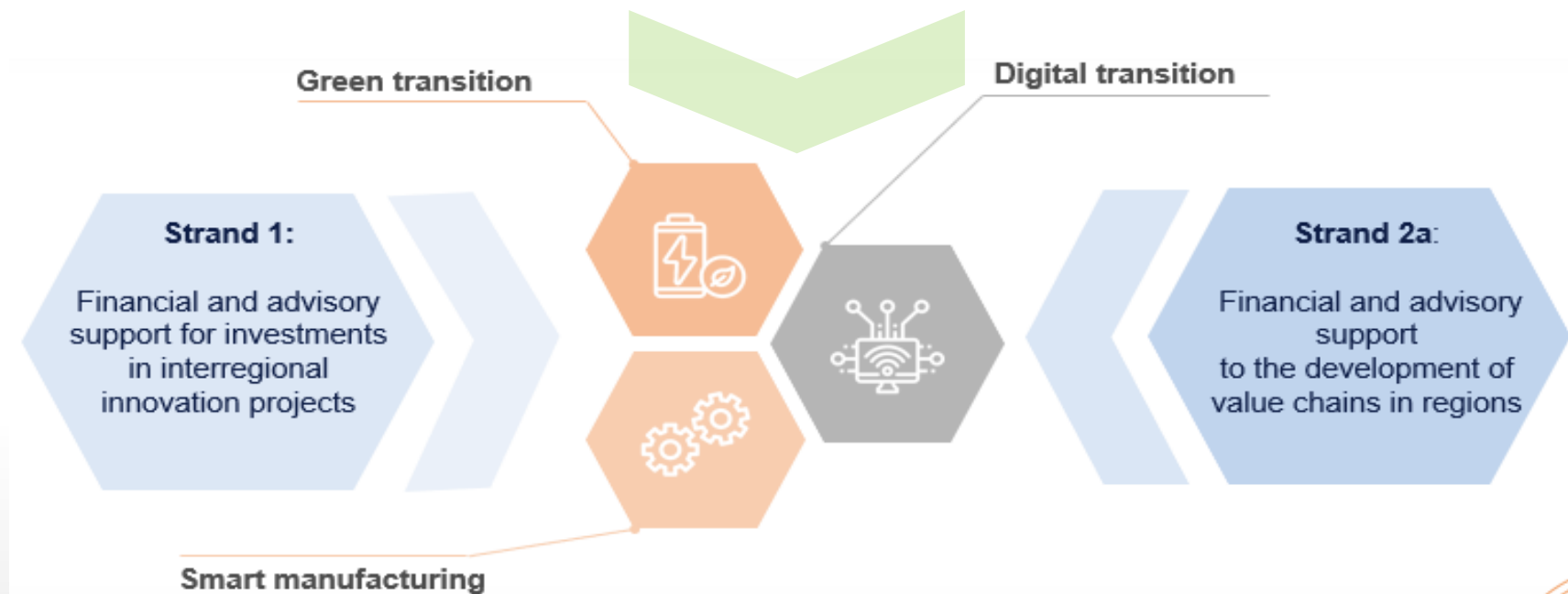
General Objectives

- Strong cohesion dimension

- Linkages between EU regions

Strand 2b

Capacity building in less developed regions

- Capacities for Strand 1 & 2a participation

- Interregional cooperation to share good practices, experiment new approaches

Green transition

Digital transition

Strand 1:

Financial and advisory support for investments in interregional innovation projects

Strand 2a:

Financial and advisory support to the development of value chains in regions

Smart manufacturing

Project results: Funding & tenders (europa.eu)

Specific Objectives

Preconditions for interregional cooperation and investments in S3

Experiment new approaches and deliver validated solutions & good practices

Increase the capacity to engage in interregional innovation processes

Facilitation of the validation process of investment ideas through improved knowledge

Involve actors of the quadruple-helix ecosystem, in particular SMEs

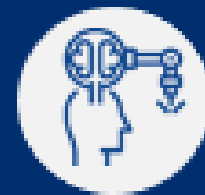Impact of the project on less developed regions

Themes and Priorities

DIGITAL TRANSITION

GREEN TRANSITION

SMART MANUFACTURING

Deep tech innovation

Creation & reinforcement of an interregional innovative and resilient ecosystem

Company engagement & identification of a pipeline of investment projects

Investment readiness & capacity to build interregional business
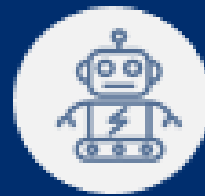
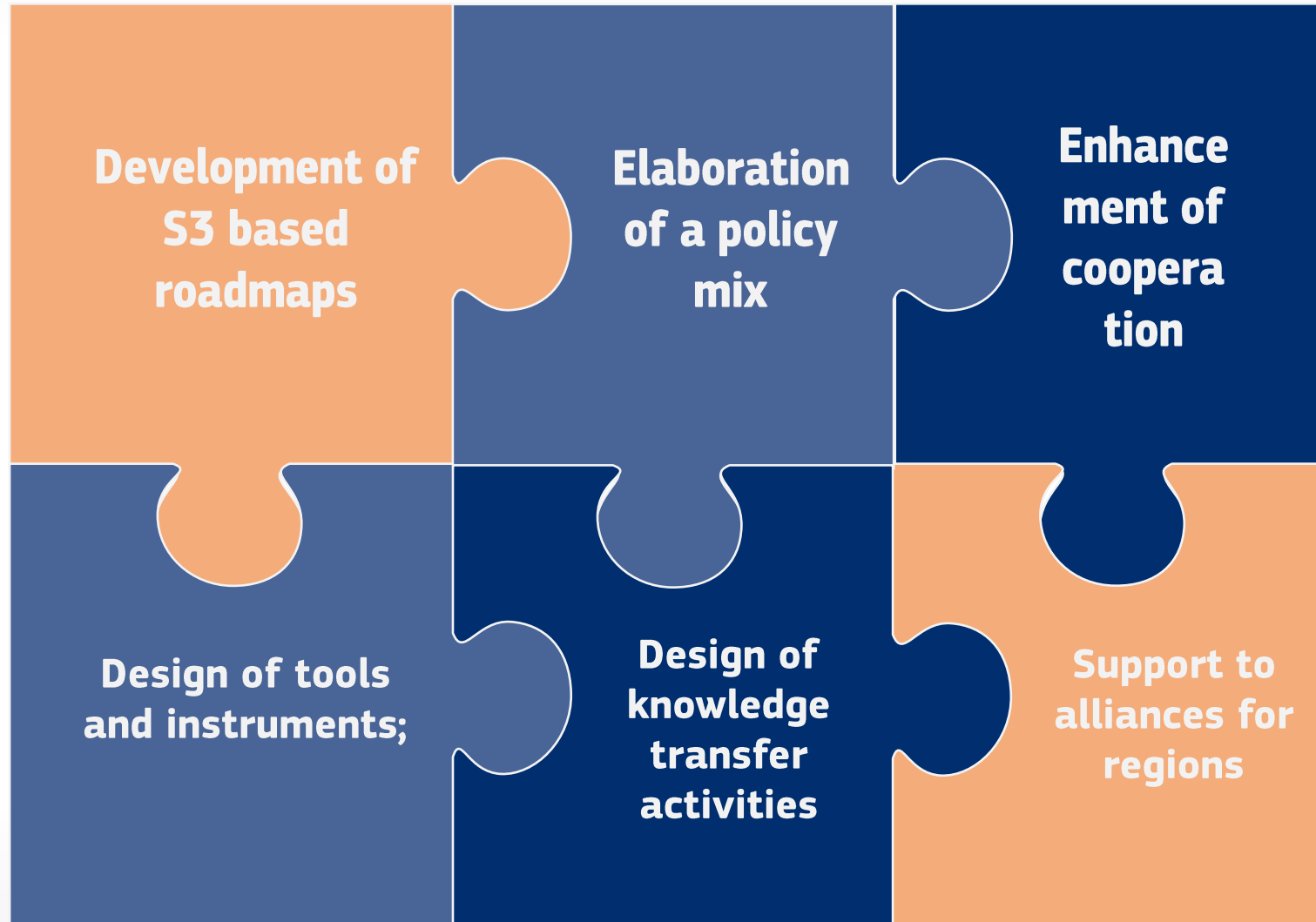Technical assistance from mainstream programs

Connecting less developed regions with other ecosystems

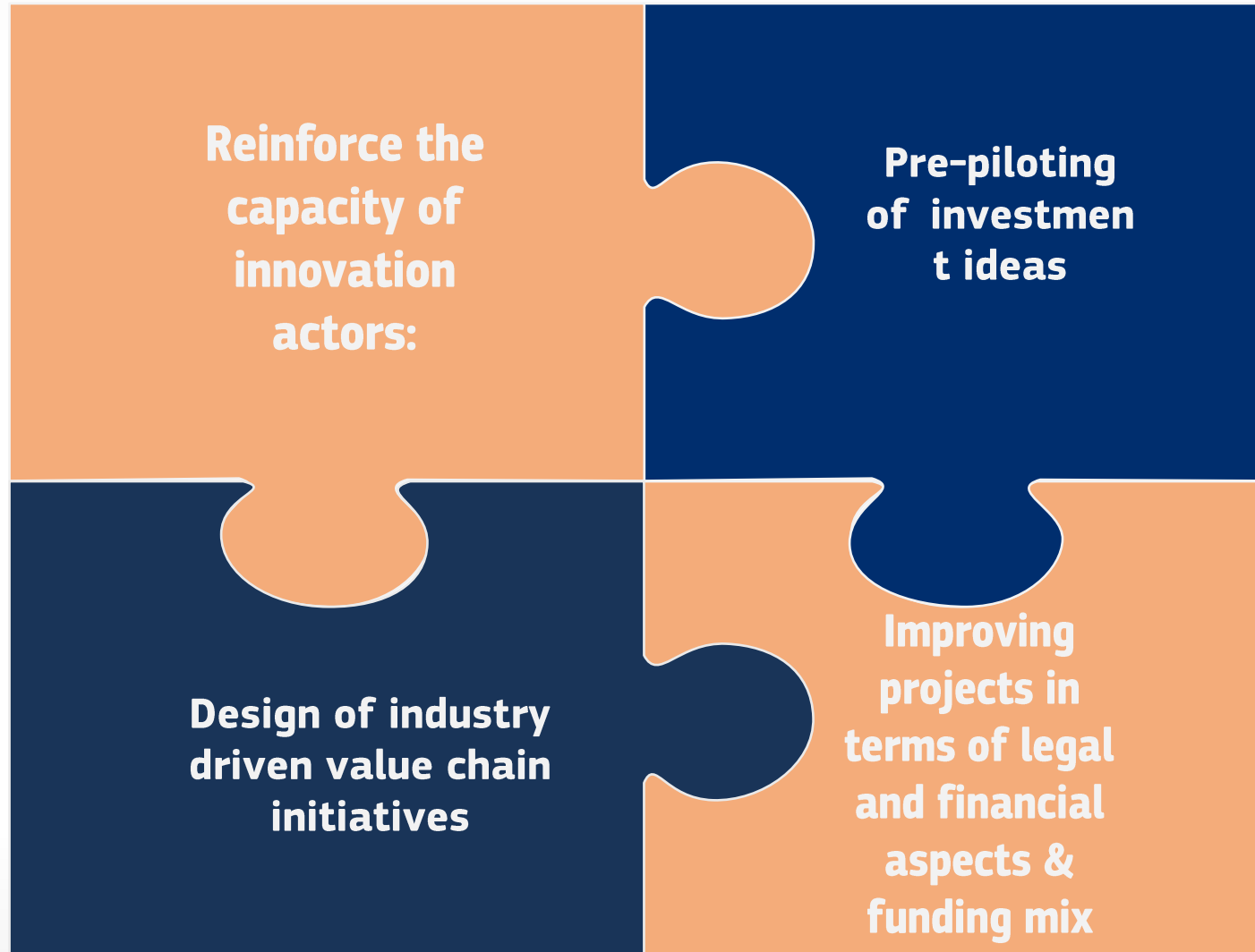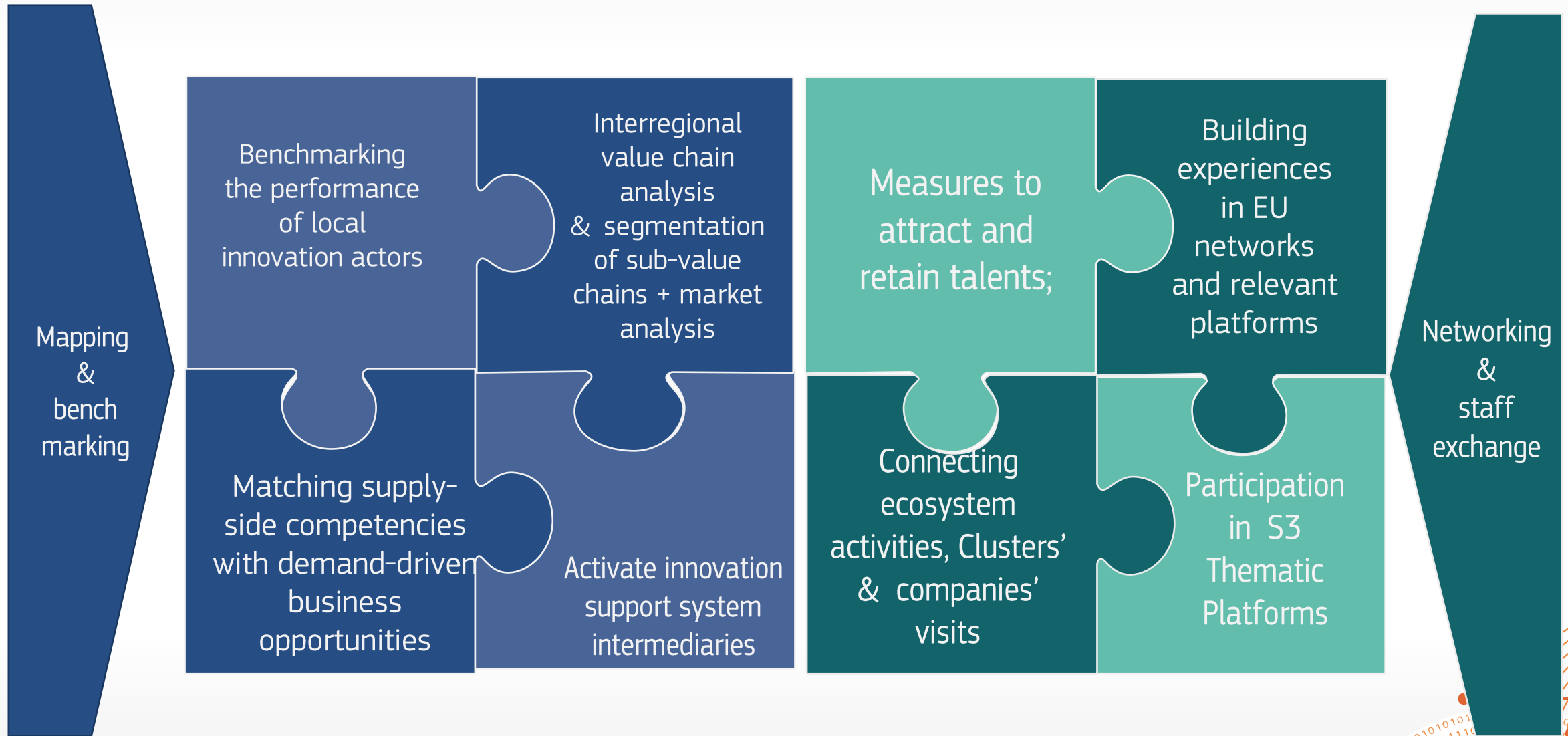Building capacities to understand value chains articulation and implementation

Core Actions: Ecosystem Building and Connection

Development of S3 based roadmaps

Elaboration of a policy mix

Enhancement of cooperation

Design of tools and instruments;

Design of knowledge transfer activities

Support to alliances for regions

Core Actions: Support of investment project identification

Reinforce the capacity of innovation actors:

Pre-piloting of investment ideas

Design of industry driven value chain initiatives

Improving projects in terms of legal and financial aspects & funding mix

Support activities

Mapping
&
bench
marking

Benchmarking
the performance
of local
innovation actors

Interregional
value chain
analysis
& segmentation
of sub-value
chains + market
analysis

Measures to
attract and
retain talents;

Building
experiences
in EU
networks
and relevant
platforms

Matching supply-
side competencies
with demand-driven
business
opportunities

Activate innovation
support system
intermediaries

Connecting
ecosystem
activities, Clusters'
& companies'
visits

Participation
in S3
Thematic
Platforms

Networking
&
staff
exchange

What do we expect?

- **Policy measures** & **action plans**, based on S3 strategies
- **Improved innovation** environment & infrastructure
- **Dissemination** of best practice examples, showcases, up taking, replication
- Identified **I3 Instrument related value chains & investment, competitive regional products & services, companies**

- **Reinforced capacity** of quadruple-helix innovation ecosystem actors
- **Implemented support measures** for innovation diffusion and investment identification, value chain participation
- **Increased maturity** of I3 Instrument projects consortia
- **S3 based roadmaps** contributing to the New European Innovation Agenda's flagship nº3 objective.

Key Performance Indicators

Interregional dimension

Socio-economic benefits
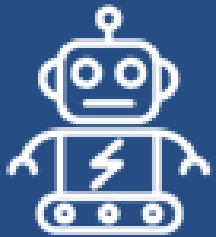
Policy dimension

Gender dimension/ persons reached

Consortium composition

Innovation Actors & Q-helix partnerships
on behalf of regional ecosystems

Public authorities

Universities RTOs

Industry, business associations, clusters, SMEs, startups,

End-users, citizens
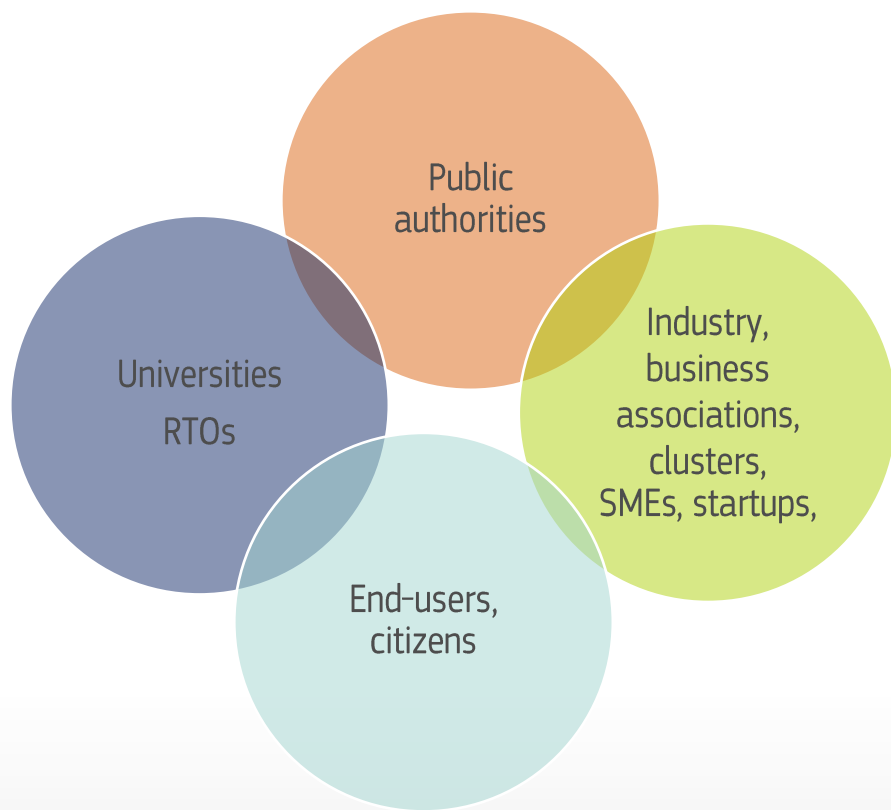
The coordinator must be:

- established in an EU Member State from a "less developed region"
- a public body, private non-profit organisation, or international organisation."

Minimum 2 independent legal entities representing 2 different regional ecosystems from 2 different EU Member States.

At least 1 "more developed region" of an EU Member State.

Endorsed by competent bodies for Smart Specialisation

S3 COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Geographic location – Duration – Budget – Funding Rate

Proposals must relate to activities taking place in the eligible countries and S3 participating regions covered by the consortium.

S3 COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Projects are expected to range between 18 and 24 months.

Project budgets (maximum grant amount) are expected to be around EUR 500 000 – EUR 1 500 000 per project.

The costs will be reimbursed at the funding rate fixed in the Grant Agreement (up to 100%).

To visually check categories of regions, please check: Inforegio – Is my region covered? (europa.eu)

Cohesion policy eligibility 2021-2027

- Please check the following page to visually check categories of regions.

  Inforegio – Is my region covered? (europa.eu)

Award Criteria

Relevance
- Extent to which the project matches the themes, priorities, objectives of the call
- Involvement of stakeholders from the relevant innovation ecosystems
- Relevance & effectiveness – Addressing needs of target groups
- European/ interregional dimension

Quality
- Technical quality & quality of the consortium and the project teams
- Methodology for implementing the project
- Procedures and problem-solving mechanisms
- Risk management & risk mitigation

Award Criteria

Cost effectiveness

- Sufficient resources/ budget for proper implementation
- Appropriate distribution of resources among the consortium
- Best value for money
- Sound financial management
- Appropriate tools for financial and budgetary control

Impact

- Fostering organisational capacity to participate in future interregional innovation investment projects (Strands 1 and 2a)
- Dissemination strategy and scaleup or exploitation activities for sustainability and long-term impact
- Impact for ecosystem and target groups
- Policy recommendations

Indicative timeline

15/11/2023
CALL OPENS

15/02/2024
1st Cut Off

Feb – May 2024
EVALUATION

September 2024
Grant agreement
signature

July 2024 Evaluation
results

October 2024
Projects
implementation start

14/11/2024
2nd Cut Off

Project Duration
18 – 24 months

**I3 Instrument
outcomes**
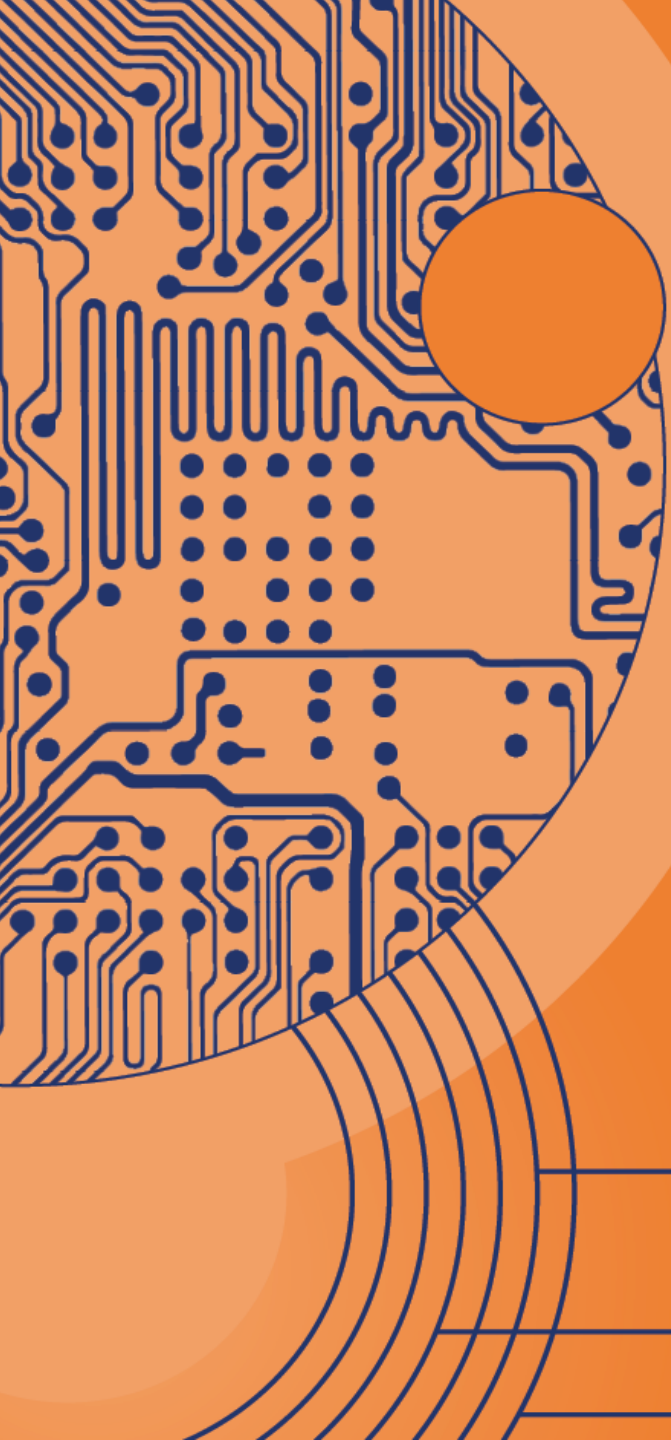
Detailed budget table

Jana **DOBIASOVA**

EISMEA, Unit C.01

Anna **KONTAROVA**

EISMEA, Unit C.01

Financial documents for submission

- **Summarised budget table** (Application Form Part A – manually filled online)

- **Detailed budget table** (Annex to Application Form Part B – template to be uploaded in allowed format)

  - financial data in both tables need to match – if not, Summarized budget table takes precedence

  - no paper (hard copy) submission – all submission is online!
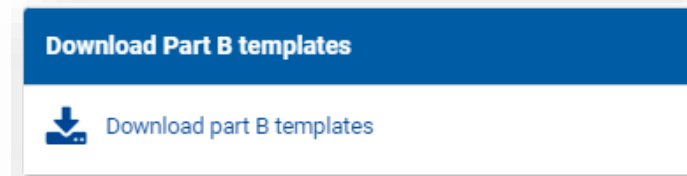
Download Part B templates

Download part B templates

Part B and Annexes

In this section you may upload the technical annex of the proposal (in PDF format only) and any other requested attachments. ❓

Part B

Upload ☁

Detailed Budget Table

Upload ☁

Detailed budget template

- Introductory pages (not to be submitted)

- **Sheet 2. Start** – fill in the project data and add the WPs -> update table

- Submit only sheets 3, 4 & 5

Detailed budget template

Sheet 3. Detailed table

- **Complete 1 Detailed budget table per each member or affiliated entity! HOW?**

- If no cost in a certain category – box to be left empty

- Eligible costs only

- List each item only once

- List each costs in its main WP section

- Use your (best) estimates

- White cells: data to enter / Blue cells: auto-calculated

Detailed budget template

Sheet 4. Consolidated table per participant

- Shows different cost heading per work package

- Upon correct entry of data in the Detailed table this table is automatically calculated by the system

Sheet 5. Consolidated table per project

- Shows costs per work package/ per participant

- To be manually filled in by the Coordinator

- Must match financial data entered and automatically calculated in other tables and budget in Part A

A. Personnel costs

A.1 Employees (or equivalent)

- **Eligible personnel**: employment contract (or equivalent) with the beneficiary + assigned to the action;

- **Eligible costs**: salaries, social security contributions, taxes and other costs linked to the remuneration (if arise from national law or the employment contract + **actually incurred**).

- **Calculation**: daily rate for the person x number of day-equivalents worked on the action

  - **Daily rate**: annual personnel costs for the person / 215 days

- Monthly rates for each person who will work on the action to be presented in the Detailed budget table.

A.2 Natural persons under a direct contract and A.3 Seconded persons

- **Natural persons under direct contract** (not employment): civil, free-lance or expert, eligible if:

  - Works under similar conditions as employees (supervision, office presence, etc)

  - Costs are not significantly different from those for personnel performing similar tasks

  - Work results belong to the beneficiary

  - Costs declared amount solely to remuneration + taxation costs for the person in question

- **Seconded persons** by a third party against payment

Detailed budget table – per beneficiary

Project costs

- A. Personnel costs

- B. Subcontracting

- C. Purchase costs

- E. Indirect costs

Project income

- EU contribution

- Revenues and contributions by third parties

- Own resources

A. Personnel costs

A.4 SME owners and natural persons without salary

- **SME owners** are **eligible** if:

  - Owner/co-owner + beneficiary of the action + SME + not receiving a salary;

  - SME status declared in the Portal

- **Natural person beneficiaries**: beneficiaries that are natural persons not receiving a salary

- **Cost calculation method:**

  - Unit cost (daily rate)   x   number of day-equivalents worked on the action

  - Unit cost (daily rate) to be used: Commission Decision C(2020)7715* or Annex 2a

ANNEX 2a

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON UNIT COSTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

SME owners/natural person beneficiaries without salary (Decision C(2020) 7115[1])

Type: unit costs

Units: days spent working on the action (rounded up or down to the nearest half-day)

Amount per unit (daily rate): calculated according to the following formula:

{EUR 5 080 / 18 days = **282,22**}
multiplied by
{country-specific correction coefficient of the country where the beneficiary is established}

The country-specific correction coefficients used are those set out in the Horizon Europe Work Programme (section Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions) in force at the time of the call (see Portal Reference Documents).

*Commission Decision of 20 October 2020 authorising the use of unit costs for the personnel costs of the owners of small and medium-sized enterprises and beneficiaries that are natural persons not receiving a salary for the work carried out by themselves under an action or work programme (C(2020)7715)

The country-specific correction coefficients

A. Personnel costs

		PROJECT COSTS					
A. Personnel costs							
			Costs (actual costs)				
		Type of rate (monthly/other)	Rate (amount)	Time (months/other of work on the action)	Total (EUR)	Also working for other work packages? YES/NO and which WP	Description of project role/activities/responsibilities
			a	b	c = a * b		
WORK PACKAGE 1	0						
	A.1 Employees (or equivalent)						
	Senior experts/advisors/researchers	monthly	0,00	0,00	0,00		
	Administrative personnel	monthly	0,00	0,00	0,00		
	Senior experts/advisors/researchers	monthly	0,00	0,00	0,00		
	Other						
	[category 1]	monthly	0,00	0,00	0,00		
	[category 2]	monthly	0,00	0,00	0,00		
	Total employees (or equivalent)				0,00		
	A.2 + A.3 Natural persons under direct contract and seconded persons						
	Select a staff category	monthly	0,00	0,00	0,00		
	Select a staff category	monthly	0,00	0,00	0,00		
	Other						
	[category 1]	monthly	0,00	0,00	0,00		
	[category 2]	monthly	0,00	0,00	0,00		
	Total natural persons under direct contract and seconded persons				0,00		
	A.4 SME owners and natural person beneficiaries without salary						
	SME owners/natural person beneficiaries without salary	daily	0,00	0,00	0,00		
	Total SME owners and natural person beneficiaries without salary				0,00		
	Total personnel for this WP				0,00		

B. Subcontracting

- **Purchase of goods, works or services** related to the implementation of specific tasks which are part of the action

- Autonomous – no direct supervision by the beneficiary (as opposed to in-house consultants)

- Allowed, under following conditions:

  - Described in Annex 1

  - Budgeted in Annex 2 or ex post approved

  - If above 30% of total eligible costs – must be justified in the application

  - Can be declared only as actual costs incurred

  - Best value for money or lowest price

  - No conflict of interest

B. Subcontracting costs

B. Subcontracting costs		Costs (actual costs)		Also used for other work packages? YES/NO and which WP	Description of subcontracted project tasks/activities
WORK PACKAGE 1	0				
	1 [Subcontract short name]	0,00			
	2 [Subcontract short name]	0,00			
	Total subcontracting for this WP	0,00			

Subcontracting

Subcontracting

Give details on subcontracted project tasks (if any) and explain the reasons why (as opposed to direct implementation by the Beneficiaries/Affiliated Entities).

Subcontracting — Subcontracting means the implementation of 'action tasks', *i.e.* specific tasks which are part of the EU grant and are described in Annex 1 of the Grant Agreement.

Note: Subcontracting concerns the outsourcing of a part of the project to a party outside the consortium. It is not simply about purchasing goods or services. We normally expect that the participants have sufficient operational capacity to implement the project activities themselves. Subcontracting should therefore be exceptional.

Include only subcontracts that comply with the rules (*i.e.* best value for money and no conflict of interest; no subcontracting of coordinator tasks).

Work Package No	Subcontract No (continuous numbering linked to WP)	Subcontract Name (subcontracted action tasks)	Description (including task number and BEN/AE to which it is linked)	Estimated Costs (EUR)	Justification (why is subcontracting necessary?)	Best-Value-for-Money (how do you intend to ensure it?)
	S1.1					
	S1.2					

Other issues: If subcontracting for the project goes beyond 30% of the total eligible costs, give specific reasons.	Insert text

C. Purchase costs

Purchase contracts:

Ordinary contract for services, works (i.e. buildings) or goods (e.g. equipment), needed to carry out the action, including the purchase of consumables and supplies

- The contracts DO NOT cover the implementation of action tasks, but they are necessary to implement action tasks by beneficiaries

- Do not have to be indicated in Annex 1

Sub-categories:

C.1 Travel costs and related subsistence allowances

C.2 Equipment

C.3 Costs of other goods and services

C.1 Travel, accommodation and subsistence

Eligibility rules:

- Budgeted only for the personnel working on the action

- Be justified: necessary under the action, planned in the description of the action, supported by the relevant documents, made following the usual practice of the beneficiary

- Must be budgeted as **UNIT costs** using the values from the Commission Decision C(2021)35, as amended by Commission Decision C(2023)4928

    → Calculations for travel costs are made on the basis of the distance between the departure and arrival point → Flight and rail calculator to be used

    →Accommodation and subsistence rates are fixed per each country

    →Actual (incurred) costs only if the particular instance of travel is not covered in the EC Decision

C.1 Travel, accommodation and subsistence costs

C. Purchase costs

C.1 Travel and subsistence

		Costs (actual costs)	Costs (unit cost)			Also part of other work packages? YES/NO and which WP	Description (e.g. international/not international; place of activity/destination; number of days; number of persons (speakers, personnel and participants whose costs will be covered); transport means; average price per person; subsistence costs/daily allowances)
			Amount per unit	Number of units	Total (EUR)		
WORK PACKAGE 1	0						
	Example: Consortium meetings						
	Speakers						
	Travel costs	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00		
	Accomodation costs	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00		
	Subsistence costs	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00		
	Personnel						
	Travel costs	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00		
	Accomodation costs	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00		
	Subsistence costs	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00		
	Participants						
	Travel costs	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00		
	Accomodation costs	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00		
	Subsistence costs	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00		
	Total travel costs for this travel	0,00					
	Total accomodation costs for this travel	0,00					
	Total subsistence costs for this travel	0,00					
	Total travel	0,00					
	Total travel costs for this WP	0,00					
	Total accomodation costs for this WP	0,00					
	Total subsistence costs for this WP	0,00					
	Total travel for this WP	0,00					
WORK PACKAGE 2	0						

C.2 Equipment

- New or second-hand
- Renting and leasing

→ Basic rule: **Depreciation**

- Eligibility: Corresponds to DURATION of the action + RATE of actual use for the action;
- Recorded in the assets register (acc. to international accounting standards or usual practice of the beneficiary)

C.2 Equipment								
WORK PACKAGE 1	0							
	C.2.1 Purchase (depreciation/full cost)							
			Costs (actual costs)				Also part of other work packages? YES/NO and which WP	Description of tasks/activities for which the equipment is needed
		Price	Depreciation method (e.g. 36 month or 60 month)	Number of months allocated to the action	Rate of use for the action (100% or less if used also for other purposes)	Total (EUR)		
		a	b	c	d	e =(c/b *d) * a		
	1 [Equipment short name]	0,00	0	0,00	0%	0,00		
	2 [Equipment short name]	0,00	0	0,00	0%	0,00		
	3 [Equipment short name]	0,00	ATTENTION! Can be used only if full cost option in the grant agreement			0,00		
					Total depreciation	0,00		
	C.2.2 Rental and leasing (rate of use/full cost)							
			Costs (actual costs)				Also part of other work packages? YES/NO and which WP	Description of tasks/activities for which the equipment is needed
		Monthly rent/fee	Number of months of use for the action	Rate of use for the action (100% or less if used also for other purposes)		Total (EUR)		
		a	b	c		d= a*b*c		
	1 [Equipment short name]	0,00	0,00	0%		0,00		

C.3 Other costs

Examples: catering, meeting room rent, leaflets printing, consumables and supplies, dissemination, translations, publications, financial statements certificates, financial guarantees, etc.

- Purchased specifically for the implementation of the action
- Best value for money or the lowest price
- Declared costs actually incurred

E. Indirect costs

Running or operating costs (overheads)

- Not directly linked to the action implementation and not to be attributed directly to it

- Example: stationery, rent of the office, utilities etc.

- No breakdown of these costs is required

- **7% flat rate of Σ A. Personnel costs + B. Subcontracting + C. Purchase costs**

E. Indirect costs		Costs (flat-rate)	
ALL WORK PACKAGES	Total estimated direct costs (on which indirect cost flat-rate is based, see GA eligibility article)	0,00	
	Flat-rate (%)	7%	ATTENTION! Check that the rate is in line with the call conditions. Put 0% if you receive an EU Operating Grant and are not eligible to charge indirect costs*
	Total indirect costs	0,00	
	Total indirect costs	0,00	
	TOTAL COSTS PARTICIPANT	0,00	

Project income

PROJECT INCOME

EU CONTRIBUTION (GRANT)

		Amount (EUR)	
	Total costs	0,00	
	Multiple funding rates (%) = (a1 + a2 + a3 + a4 + a5) * 90% + b * 90% + (c1+ c2 + c3) * 90% + (d1) * 100% + (e) * 90%		
	Maximum EU contribution	0,00	
	Requested EU contribution	0,00	ATTENTION! In order to avoid rounding issues, please request 1 cent less than the maximum EU contribution.
EU CONTRIBUTION		**0,00**	

REVENUES AND CONTRIBUTIONS BY THIRD PARTIES

Revenues

Income generated by the action

		Amount (EUR)	Description of the income (type of generated income and number of users, etc)
ALL WORK PACKAGES	Estimated income generated by the action	0,00	
	Total income generated by the action	0,00	
	Revenues	0,00	

In-kind contributions by third parties

In-kind contributions by third parties

		Amount (EUR)	Description of the contribution (type of contribution, donor, purpose etc)
ALL WORK PACKAGES	Estimated in-kind contributions by third parties	0,00	
	Total in-kind contributions	0,00	
	In-kind contributions	0,00	

Financial contributions by third parties

Financial contributions by third parties

		Amount (EUR)	Description of the contribution (type of contribution, donor, purpose, etc)
ALL WORK PACKAGES	Estimated financial contributions by third parties	0,00	
	Total financial contributions	0,00	
	Financial contributions	0,00	
TOTAL REVENUES AND CONTRIBUTIONS BY THIRD PARTIES		**0,00**	

OWN RESOURCES

|		Amount (EUR)	
	Own resources	0,00	
OWN RESOURCES		**0,00**	
TOTAL INCOME PARTICIPANT		**0,00**	

EU contribution (grant): 100% for all cost categories.

Revenues and contributions by third parties:

- **income generated by the action** such as direct revenues or receipts (e.g. conference participants fees, sales of books)

- **financial contributions FROM third parties**

Own resources or the own contribution of the beneficiary
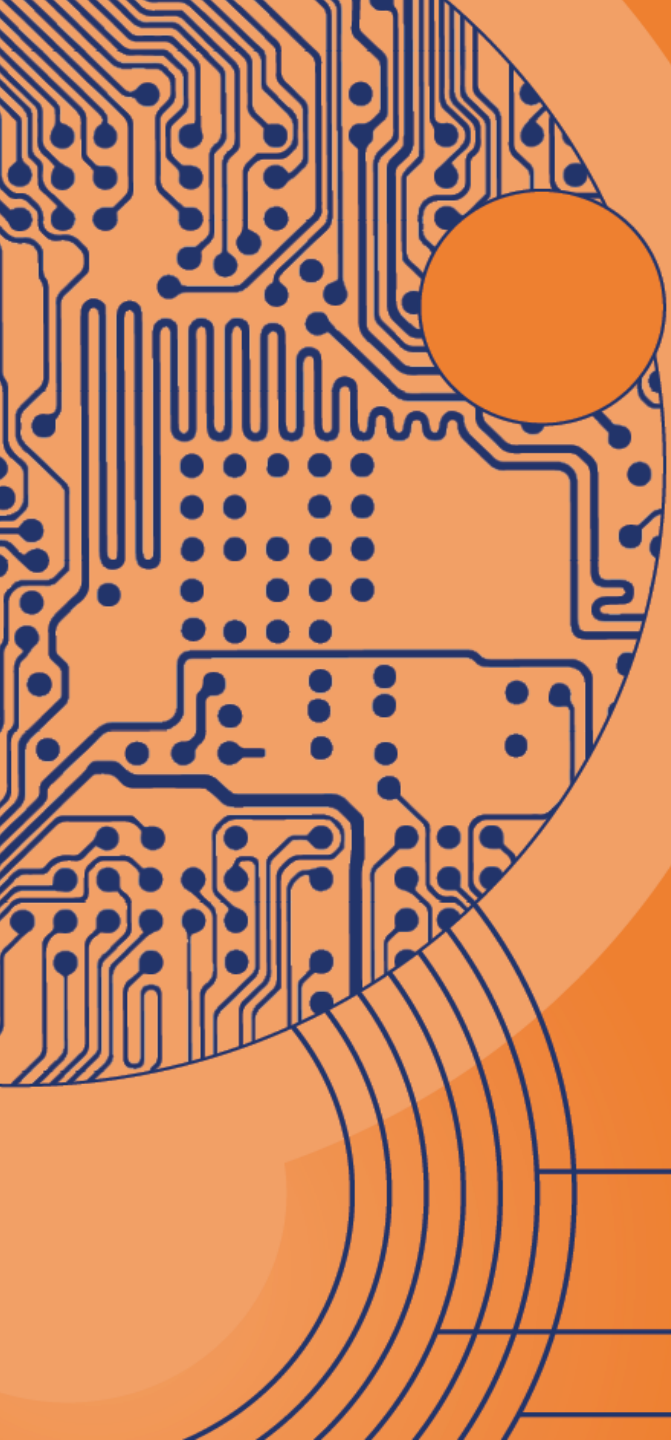
Legal/financial validation of applicants

Radu SORA

REA, Unit D.04

Maryam GHANDI

REA, Unit D.04

Presentation Outline

1. REA Central Validation Service

2. Registration of participants

3. Communication

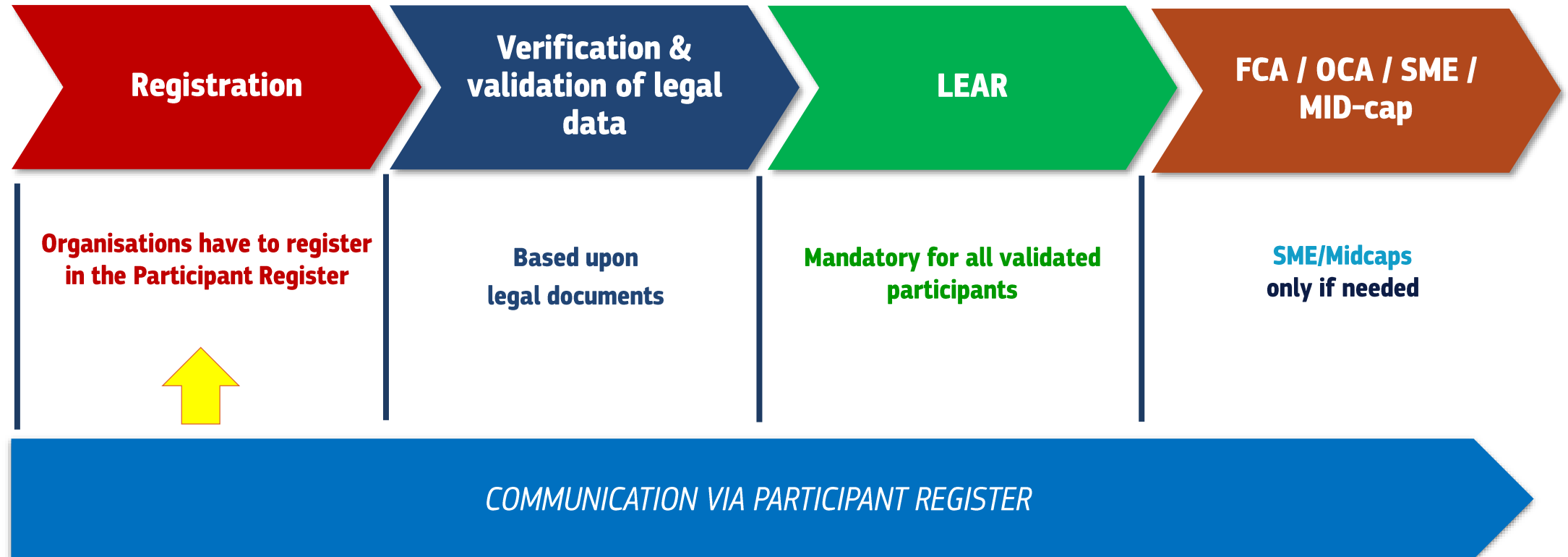4. Guidance documents

REA Central Validation Service (REA CVS)

- Verifies **legal existence and legal statuses** of entities

- Validates the appointment of **Legal Entity Appointed Representatives (LEARs)**

- Validates **legal changes** of validated entities

- Assesses **universal takeovers (UTROs)** of validated entities

- Creates **Legal Entities and Bank Account Files**

- Prepares the **Financial Capacity Assessment** for RAO

- Performs **ownership control analyses** for specific programmes

- Performs ex-post status verifications (e.g. **SME & MID cap status checks**)

Registration of an organisation (at proposal stage)

Participant Register

If you want to participate in a call for proposals or in a call for tenders with eSubmission, your organisation needs to be registered and have a 9-digit Participant Identification Code (PIC). Please quote your PIC in all correspondence with the Commission.

The register contains all participants of EU programmes.

Is your organisation already registered? PIC search

Please check whether your organisation has already been registered. If so, no need to register it again.

Search for a registered organisation

Register your organisation

To register your organisation or as a natural person, you need to login into the Portal or, if you are a new user, create your account.

Check what information you need to register in the Online Manual - and keep it to hand during the registration procedure. To start registration, click on the button below.

New registration

How to register in the Participant Register

Participant 's Register

Need help?

① Identification ② Organisation Data ③ Legal Information ④ Authorised Users ⑤ Summary ⑥ Success

Identification

Legal name * — 240 — Legal name

Registration country * — Registration country

Registration number — 50 — Registration number

VAT number * — 20 — VAT number — ○ not applicable

500

Review the Form   Next

Identification (duplicate check)

(e.g. Legal name, VAT number)

↓

Organisation data

↓

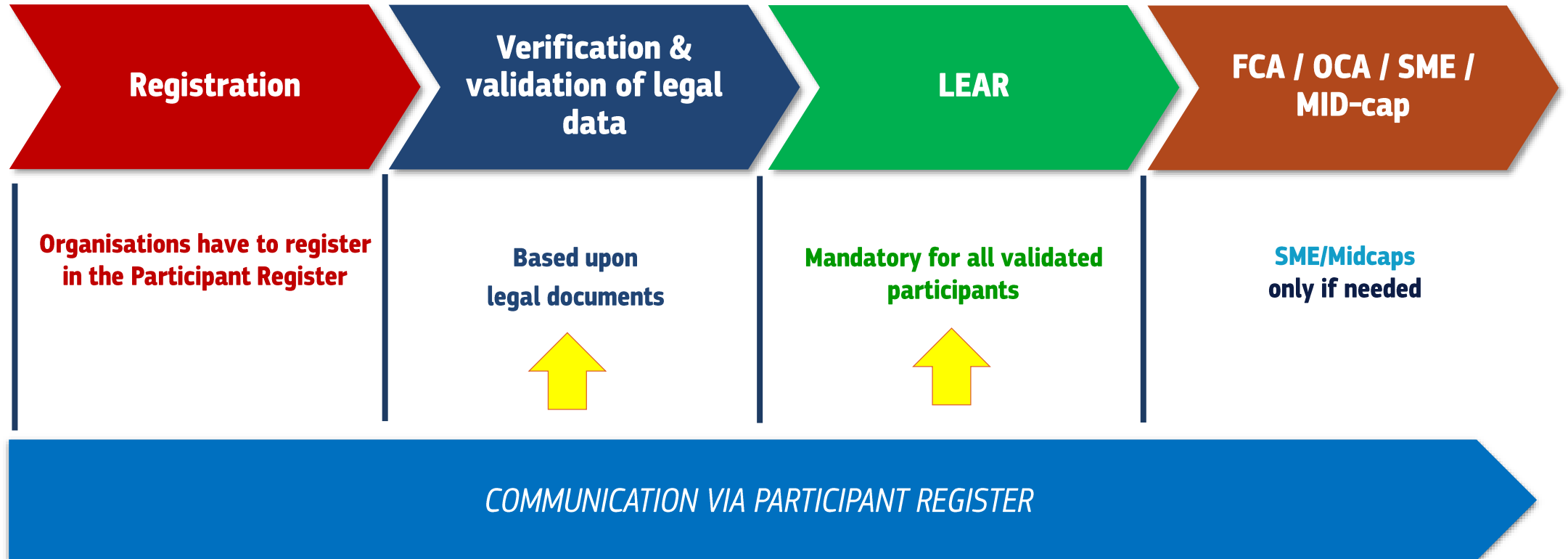**Legal information**

↓

Authorised users

(e.g. Name, e-mail address of the self-registrant and the back-up)

←

Registration completed

↓

New **Participant Identification Code (PIC)** in a "declared" status

Validation Process Overview

Registration

Verification & validation of legal data

LEAR

FCA / OCA / SME / MID-cap

Organisations have to register in the Participant Register

Based upon legal documents

Mandatory for all validated participants

SME/Midcaps only if needed

COMMUNICATION VIA PARTICIPANT REGISTER

Legal validation

- Registration data is verified by REA Central Validation Service before the signature of the Grant Agreement or Contract

- The legal validation of a participant in the Single Electronic Data Interchange Area (SEDIA) is done once, when the entity has to sign its first Grant Agreement or Contract

- It is reused for future participations in EU grant and procurement actions

Validation Rules

- Validation is always performed on the basis of supporting documents, in accordance to EU Financial Regulation and the <u>Rules on Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial Capacity Assessment</u> for EU Grants and Tenders

- Validation is required for all beneficiaries and affiliated entities

- PICs of affiliated entities, frequently included in the consortium during the GAP, must be introduced in the Funding & Tenders Portal's Grant Management Service System

Financial Capacity Assessment (FCA)

Legal basis

- **Financial Regulation (2018/1046)** articles 196 and 198

- **Rules on Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial Capacity Assessment for EU Grants and Tenders.**

- **The Interregional Innovation Investments (I3) Instrument call document (financial and operational capacity and exclusion).**

When is the FCA needed?

- ✓ **ALL beneficiaries,** except for:

  - ➢ **Public bodies** *(entities established as public body under national law, including local, regional or national authorities)* or **international organisations**

  - ➢ if **the individual** requested grant amount **is not more than EUR 60 000.**

If FCA must be checked, you will be contacted by the Central Validation Service via Participant Register in the F&T Portal.

Financial Capacity Assessment:
Requests in Participant Register

PIC 890116427

| Organisation Data | Legal Information | Authorised users / LEAR | Bank Accounts | Financial capacity 🚩 | Messages 1 | Documents | SME |

① Financial capacity — ② Closing date — ③ Upload documents — ④ Confirm/Submit

You might be requested to provide additional financial information. In this case you are asked to upload your financial statements containing the balance sheet, the profit & loss account, the corresponding explanatory notes and, under certain conditions, an audit report issued by a certified external auditor or a self-declaration on the validity of the accounts, signed by your legal representative, the template for which is available here.

The financial statements must cover the last two most recent closed years. Note that, once uploaded, the financial statements for an accounting year with a closure date on or before 30 June will be displayed by the IT systems as related to the prior calendar year. Find out more.

Closing date	Status	Actions
	Data Required	Provide necessary financial information

FCA supporting documents
(via Participant Register)

✓ Balance sheet

✓ Profit and loss account

For the 2 most recent closed and approved financial years
(in official language, dated and signed)

✓ New established entities: Business Plan.

✓ External audit report (or signed self-declaration) if requested EU-contribution exceeds €750.000 (art. 196 FR).

✓ Explanatory notes and/or annexes that form part of the above financial statements (if available).

✓ Prudent approach if missing information.

Once completed, the assessment is valid for 18 months from the closing date

Communication

(e.g. request to submit legal documents or to appoint a LEAR)

All communication to -and from- participants is exclusively managed **through the Participant Register**

European Commission <EC-NO-REPLY-GRANT-MANAGEMENT@nomail.ec.europa.eu>
to me

Europa / Funding & Tenders Portal notification

Dear User,

You have been granted the role of **Self Registrant** for the organisation arquicios.

In order to access your organisation data on the Funding & Tenders Portal/Supplier portal, you need to log in on the F&T Portal/Supplier Portal. If you did not have an EU Login yet, it was launched automatically for a separate e-mail with a hyperlink to finalise your account.

For more information on the Funding & Tenders Portal roles, please refer to the Online Manual if you participate in the programmes managed on the Funding & Tenders Portal.
For more information on the roles for e-Procurement, please refer to the e-Procurement wiki page, if you participate in a tender call.

With kind regards,
EU Single Electronic Data Interchange Area - F&T Portal team

This email has been auto-generated. Please do not reply to this account. Your email will not be read. For any inquiries please contact the Grants Procurement Systems Support +32 (2) 29 71063 or EC-FUNDING-TENDER-SERVICE-DESK@ec.europa.eu.

Messages are notified via e-mail to the contact person

(i.e. self-registrant or the appointed LEAR)

Access lost to non-valid/valid PICs

- In case the self-registrant left the organisation and no one has access to a non-valid PIC – a new PIC needs to be created and REA CVS informed

- If the LEAR is not available anymore and there are no Account Administrators, a new LEAR needs to be appointed – LEAR recovery procedure
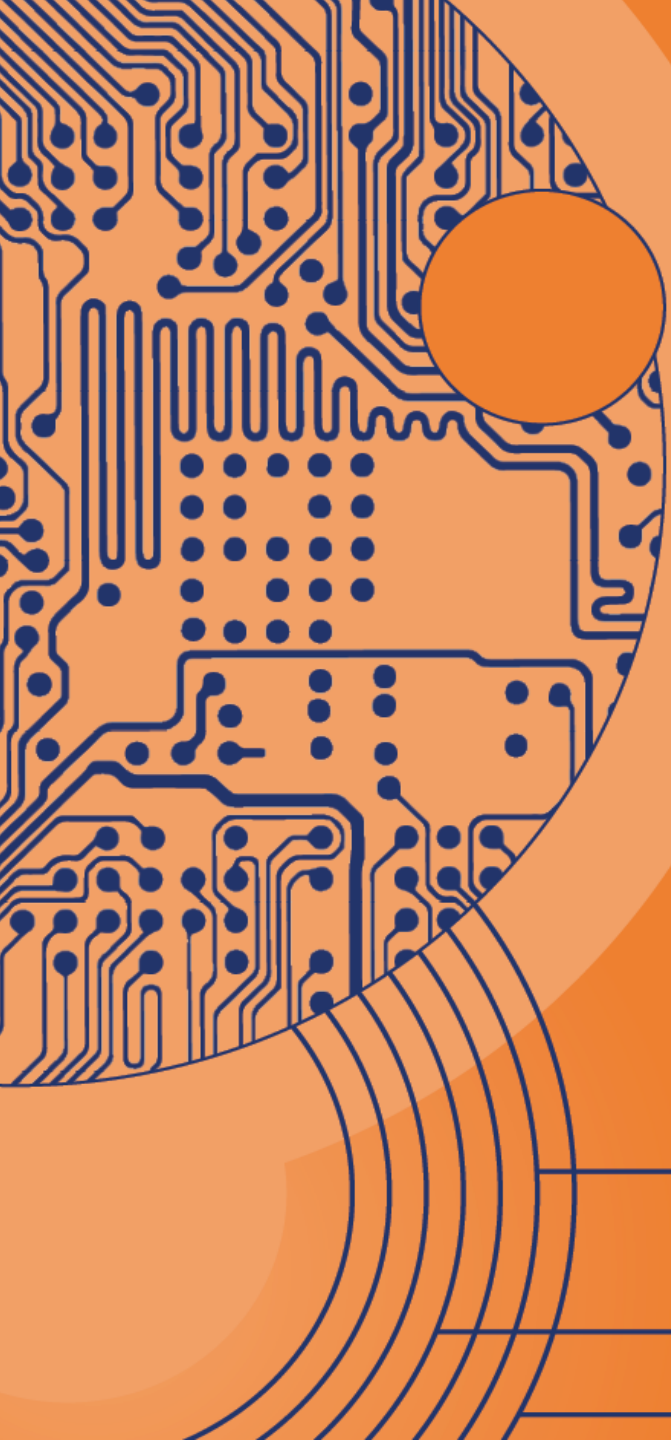
https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/urf/lear-recovery/request/

Guidance documents

- Rules on Legal validation, LEAR appointment and financial capacity assessment:

  https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/rules-lev-lear-fca_en.pdf

- How to register in the Participant Register:

  https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/funding-tenders-opportunities/display/OM/Online+Manual

- Online Manual, IT How to, IT and RES Helpdesk and specific FAQs on the Funding and Tenders Portal:
  https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/support

- Legal notice on the Funding and Tenders Portal (terms and conditions, data protection):

  https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/legalnotice

Submitting a good proposal

Eric KOCH

EISMEA, Unit I.01

Basics: Is my organisation/proposal admissible/eligible?
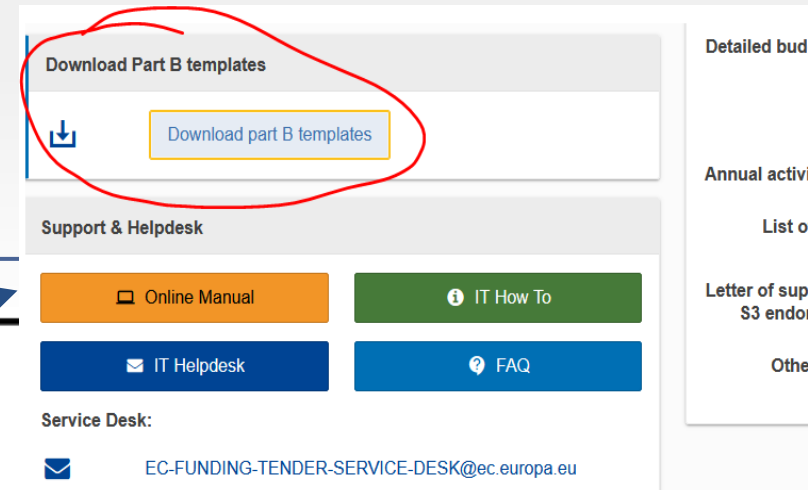
Non-exhaustive list

- **Number + type** of entities (quadruple helix)
- Number of **countries/regions**
- Development **status** of regions
- **Status** of coordinator (e.g. no profit, public, Member State Organisation)
- **Existing** smart specialisation strategy for the topic (upload also the support letters per region)
- No environmentally **harmful** proposals
- **No** double funding

Get familiar with the main steps

Download Part B templates

Download part B templates

Support & Helpdesk

Online Manual | IT How To
IT Helpdesk | FAQ

Service Desk:

EC-FUNDING-TENDER-SERVICE-DESK@ec.europa.eu

Detailed bud

Annual activi

List o

Letter of sup
S3 endo

Othe

Structure of the Proposal

The proposal contains two parts:

- **Part A** of the proposal **is generated by the IT system. It is based on the information entered by the participants through the submission system in the Funding & Tenders Portal.** The participants can update the information in the submission system at any time before final submission.

- **Part B** of the proposal is the narrative part that includes three sections that each correspond to an evaluation criterion. Part B needs to be uploaded as a PDF document following the templates downloaded by the applicants in the submission system for the specific call or topic. The templates for a specific call may slightly differ from the example provided in this document.

Part C - obligatory: NUTS participants data, non-obligatory: innovation type, TRL levels, time to market.

The electronic submission system is an online wizard that guides you step-by-step through the preparation of your proposal. The submission process consists of 6 steps:

- Step 1: Logging in the Portal
- Step 2: Select the call, topic and type of action in the Portal
- Step 3: Create a draft proposal: Title, acronym, summary, main organisation and contact details
- Step 4: Manage your parties and contact details: add your partner organisations and contact details.
- Step 5: Edit and complete web forms for proposal part A and upload proposal part B
- Step 6: Submit the proposal

Administrative forms (Part A)

[Edit forms ✏] [Edit Part C (KPI)] [View history] [Print preview] ℹ

Part B and Annexes

In this section you may upload the technical annex of the proposal (in PDF format only) and any other requested attachments. ℹ

Part B *	ℹ	[Upload ☁]
Detailed budget table *	ℹ	[Upload ☁]
CVs *	ℹ	[Upload ☁]
Annual activity reports	ℹ	[Upload ☁]
List of previous projects	ℹ	[Upload ☁]
Letter of support (MS S3 endorsement) *	ℹ	[Upload ☁]
Other annexes	ℹ	[Upload ☁]

[‹ BACK TO PARTICIPANTS LIST]   [VALIDATE]   [SUBMIT]

Be prepared

- Cap2b calls highly competitive – Strive for **perfectionism** – Go for Gold!

- **Not enough to pass the minimum** (2.5/5 or 5/10) + (7/10 or 17,5/25). You have only one shot (<u>One</u> stage)

- Ask **experienced** former applicants from former or similar calls (e.g. Cap2b 2022 and Strand 1/2a).

- Don't repeat the WP/call text. → Your proposal's **specific contribution and impact on involved regions**!
  - Objectives, activities and expected impacts/KPIs at start/end (indicated in call text and possibly own KPIs)
  - Focus on less developed regions and outermost regions
  - Core actions (at least one): Ecosystem building, support development of interregional investment projects (Strands 1/2a)!
  - Support actions (at least one): Mapping/benchmarking, networking/staff Exchange

- Look for the **right partners in the consortium** (early stage of proposal process)
  - F&T Portal partner search database, S3 Community of Practice or Enterprise Europe Network (**EEN**). Only add partners if they agree!

- **Ask/consult call specific questions**. Answers posted a few days later (max 5 work days before cut off date). Topic call related FAQs mirrored on the call page under "Topic related FAQ".

- Consider the **different weighting of the 4 award criteria**. Although you have to be as good as possible in all of them...

Award criterion 1: Relevance

- Contribution to strategic **EU goals** (digital, green, manufacturing...)

- **Match/contribution** with/to the WP/call topic priorities

- Involvement of **relevant stakeholders**

- Addressing **needs of target groups**

- **European/interregional** dimension

Award criterion 2: Quality

- What makes your proposal better than others? Your specific **value proposition**.
- **Quality of project methodologies** and match with objectives
- How the solutions shall **address the identified issues**
- **Consortium/beneficiaries** quality
- Each beneficiary's **contribution**
- **Project management** and monitoring (of methods and KPIs) + risk management/mitigation

Award criterion 3: Cost effectiveness

- Sufficient **resources**/budget for planned activities

- **Distribution of resources** amongst the consortium

- Proper **financial management**

- Best **value for money**

- Take your **budget planning** seriously: <u>Detailed</u> budget table to fill in. It takes time to go through all budget categories, work packages and participants – especially the staff costs! Often the source of financial errors. Check out the <u>guidance</u> for staff costs/daily rates calculation (in the annotated grant agreement, Article 6)

Award criterion 4: Impact

- Extent to which project shows how to **enable a participation** in future Strand 1/2a projects

- Impact on **ecosystems and target groups** and how will they benefit?

- Address issues from **outermost regions** or regions with **specific** challenges

- **Sustainability** of the project (follow-up, dissemination, exploitation, etc.)

- **Policy learnings** for involved regions

Think about the evaluation…

- Put yourself **in the evaluators' shoes**. Be to the point.

- **Max 60 pages, min Arial 9, min 15 mm margin, A4(Part B).**

    - Don't delete parts of template/any instructions to win space
    - Don't change the format to win space
    - Excess pages watermarked/disregarded by evaluators

- Write **reader friendly:** No endless sentences + Limit abbreviations + Use a glossary.

- Be complete. Do not forget **any document** (Part A+B+C, detailed budget table, CVs, support letter).

- Budget entered twice (Part A + uploaded detailed table). Numbers must match. Uploading a given document twice = overwriting the older version!

- Use (Gantt) **charts and images** if they make things more readable.

- Do **not** put images just for the sake of them or to fill the pages!

Consult the available information in detail

- Read and re-read the EU Funding and tenders (F&T Portal) Call page

- The Call document is the main reference

- Running I3 Instrument projects on the F&T portal

- Check out the I3 model grant agreement (MGA) and general annotated MGA

- Policy/regulatory background docs (Call doc sections 1+2)

- Application form → Use sub questions/criteria as red thread (part B).

- Online Manual, How to section

- IT questions: EC-FUNDING-TENDER-SERVICE-DESK@ec.europa.eu / +32 229 92222

- Non-IT questions: eismea-i3-instrument@ec.europa.eu

- I3 Instrument website

- Smart Specialisation Platform

Final three tips

- Proposal evaluation as it is. **Write as if no improvements should be made** in the grant preparation.

- **Do not overshoot**: be ambitious but stay realistic

- **Submit soon**. You can resubmit before the deadline.
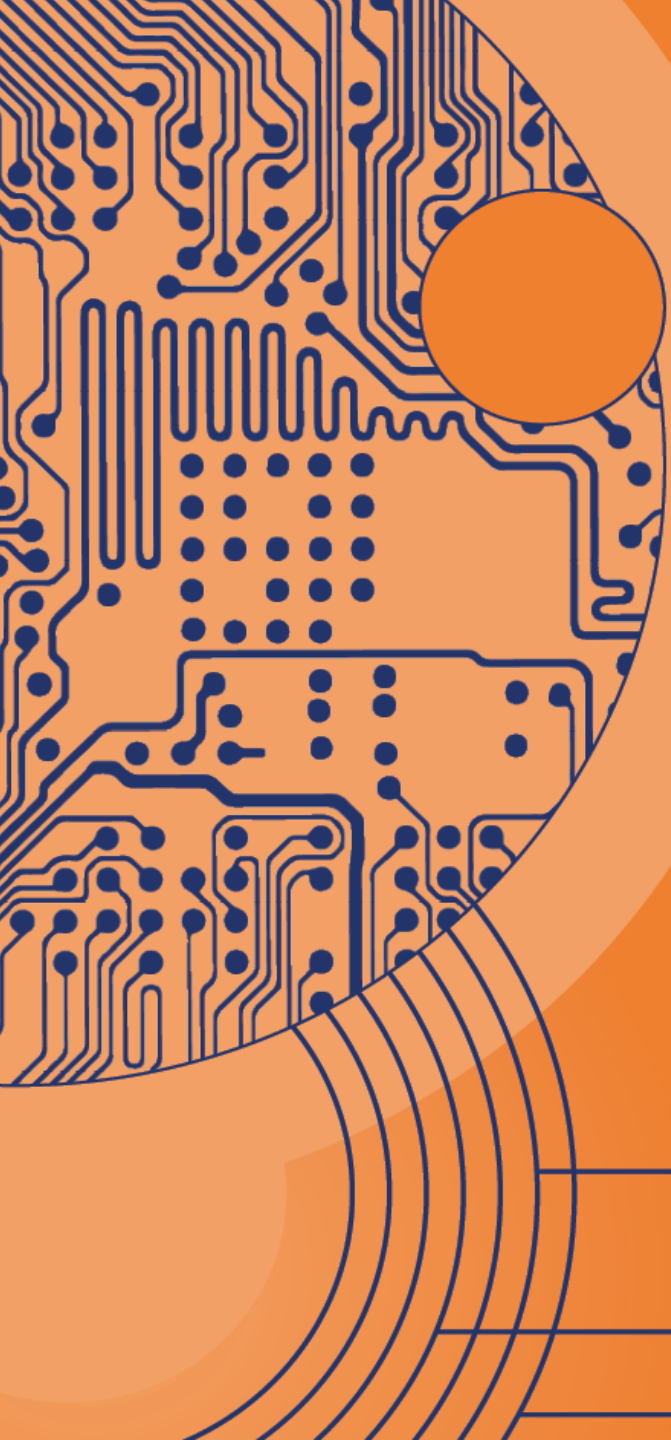
Testimonial from GREET project

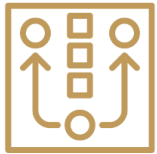## Niko NATEK

Project Coordinator

Presentation overview

KSSENA (*The organisation and journey as a beneficiary*)

Why we engage (*Challenges of the EU within I3 context*)

Greet CE (*What is it and why is it relevant?*)

Conclusions

The
organisation

Energy agency of Savinjska, Šaleška and Koroška

Established: In 2006 within the framework of Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE)

Founders:

City municipality of Velenje	City municipality of Celje	City municipality of Slovenj Gradec	Public utility company Velenje

Working fields:

Energy management and analysis	Energy renovation	Project development	Training and education
Policy development	Research and innovation	RES investment	Stakeholder engagement

Energy agency of Savinjska, Šaleška and Koroška

Number of employees: **13**

Networks:

Projects:

Over 40 transnational projects successfully implemented

Gained experience in several national and transnational programmes: IEE, SEE, Interreg (Europe, AS, DTP, CE, ADRION, MED), Horizon (2020, Europe), LIFE, EUKI, ESPON, cross-border cooperation (SI-AT, SI-IT,SI-HU,SI-HR), CF,...**13**.

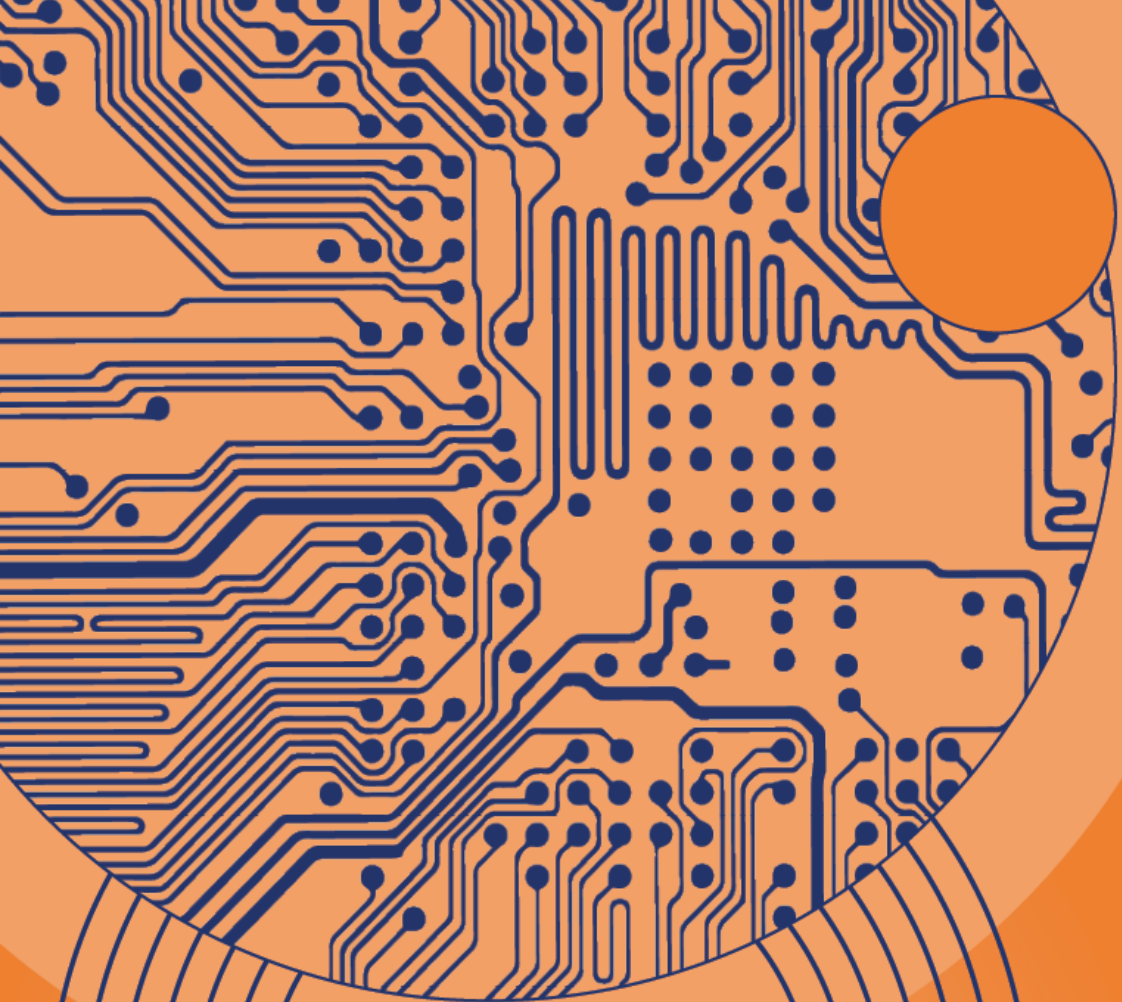Types: CSA; RIA; PDA; Innovation procurement, Investment and deployment, etc.
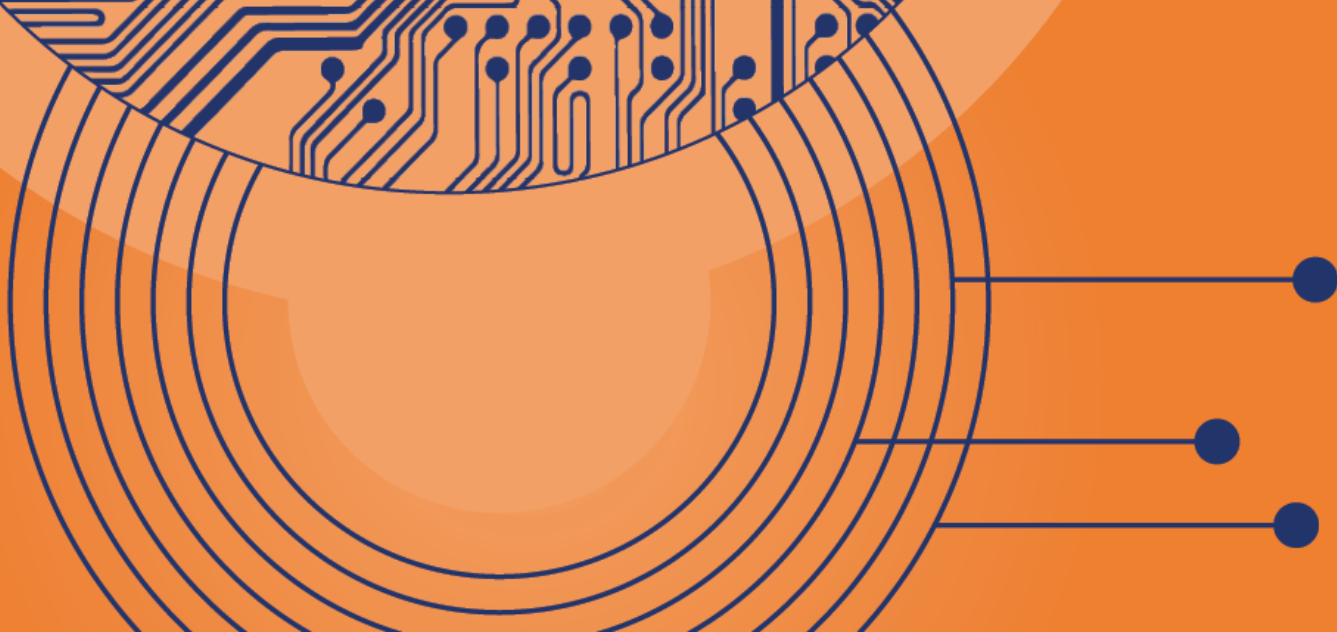
Energy agency of Savinjska, Šaleška and Koroška

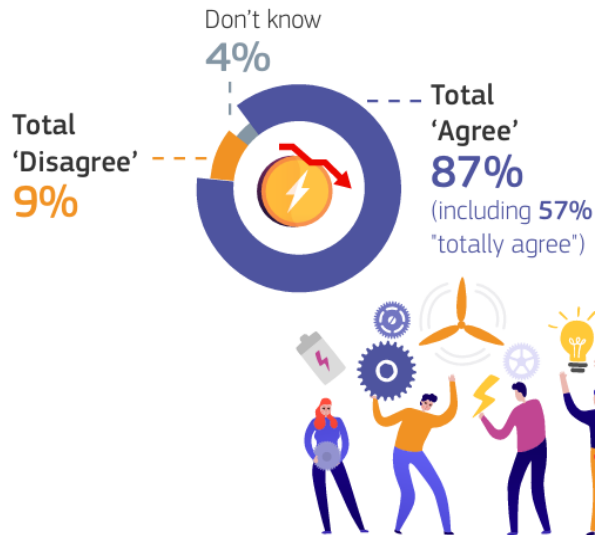Energy focus: **Coal intensive region in transition (SAŠA) !**

Challenges on the Horizon

Challenges ahead

More than half of Europeans "totally agree" that **the EU should reduce its dependency on Russian sources of energy as soon as possible...**
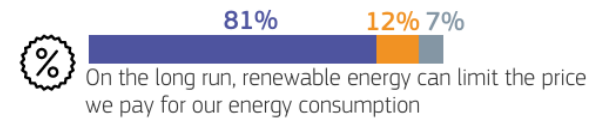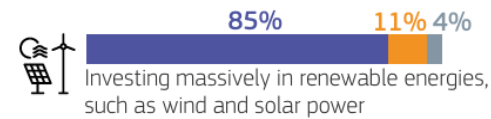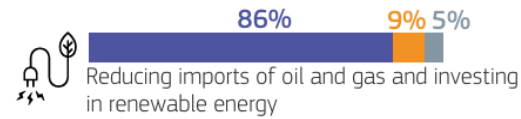
Don't know
4%

Total 'Disagree'
9%

Total 'Agree'
87%
(including **57%** "totally agree")

Catalogue number
NA-07-22-483-EN-N
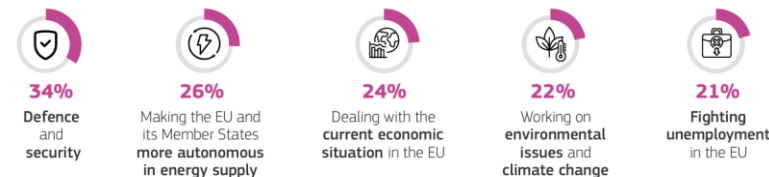
ISBN
978-92-76-53427-3

DOI
10.2775/003857

...taking the following actions to do so:

■ Total 'Agree' ■ Total 'Disagree' ■ Don't know

87% **8%** **5%**
Increasing energy efficiency of buildings, transport, and goods

86% **9%** **5%**
Reducing imports of oil and gas and investing in renewable energy

85% **11%** **4%**
Investing massively in renewable energies, such as wind and solar power

81% **12%** **7%**
On the long run, renewable energy can limit the price we pay for our energy consumption

80% **11%** **9%**
The EU's energy policy can contribute to defending the EU's strategic interests

Europeans consider the **EU's top 5 priorities for 2022** to be:

34%
Defence and security

26%
Making the EU and its Member States **more autonomous in energy supply**

24%
Dealing with the **current economic situation** in the EU

22%
Working on **environmental issues** and climate change

21%
Fighting unemployment in the EU

Technical Chart »

Dutch TTF Natural Gas Futures ⬆ **50.360** +1.095 (+2.22%)

| 1 Day | 1 Week | 1 Month | 3 Months | 6 Months | 1 Year | 5 years | Max |

The IEA Reiterates Its Peak Oil Demand Prediction

By Irina Slav - Oct 24, 2023, 2:25 AM CDT

▶ In its latest World Energy Outlook, the International Energy Agency has reiterated its claim that crude oil, natural gas, and coal will peak before 2030.

▶ The agency sees the emergence of a new clean energy economy as providing hope for the way forward, emphasizing the economic case for clean energy technologies.

▶ The report focuses on the importance of resilience and energy security, particularly due to the geopolitical developments currently disrupting energy markets.

Sources: Eurobarometer, CME, Oilprice.com

Challenges ahead (is it bad?)

Source: Accuweather

The project

Greet CE (About the project)

Project title: **Green transition in Central Europe**

Type: Capacity Building – Strand 2b (I3–2022–CAP2b)

Duration: 24 months (20 November 2023 – 19 November 2025)

Budget: EUR 1,398 million

Project coordinator (LP): KSSENA

Greet CE (Participating expertise)

Project consortium:

Project beneficiaries from 7 regions of 6 Central European countries –

(HR, HU, PL, RO, SI, SK) including 4 less developed regions (from HR, RO, SI, SK)

Associated project partners (21 organizations and clusters from 6 countries)

Greet CE (Participating expertise)

Project consortium:

Experience and skill: proven track record in business, social, technology innovation, EU projects and financing, sustainability policy innovation

Associated partners: Altogether 21 Letters of Support received from 5 universities (from 4 countries), 9 industry associations / clusters, 2 public bodies, 1 research institute and 4 SMEs from 6 countries

Greet CE (Project in a nutshell)

Project focus: To **increase the capacity of regional innovation ecosystems**, especially SMEs in less developed Central European regions to connect and interoperate in EU value chains, participate in partnerships with other regions.

The goal is to **unlock the innovation potential, facilitating the subsequent participation of SMEs in calls for proposals under I3 Strand 1 and Strand 2a**. The project will also assist in creating other ERDF, Interreg & crowdfunding opportunities.

Greet CE aims to create the preconditions for **successful interregional cooperation** and investments in shared **smart specialization areas**, especially in **Green Transition** having a specific focus on the energy and bioeconomy sector.

Conclusions

Efficient and tailor-made measures for relevant target groups

Capacity and references relevant to long-term ambitions and goals

1. **Project relevance**

2. **Partner consortium**

3. **Wide stakeholder outreach**

4. **Ambitious scope of intervention**

Efficient, tailor-made measures for relevant target groups

Number of S3 Partnerships in which regions actively participating, number of companies involved, number of engaged intermediaries, etc.)

European Commission

Greet CE

THANK YOU !

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European Commission

Greet CE

Thank you!

https://eismea.ec.europa.eu

EISMEA-I3-INSTRUMENT@ec.europa.eu

#I3Instrument