Some housekeeping rules for the Info day:

- This event **is recorded**: your camera and microphone are off by default. Please make sure to submit your question as "Anonymous" in Sli.do if you do not want your name to appear.

- Make sure to ask your question to our speakers browsing **slido** or using the Sli.do app.

  The event code to insert is **#I3-InfoDay2021**

European Commission

I3 Call - Strand 1

I3 Call - Strand 2a

Financial and general Q&A

Make sure to ask your question to our speakers on **www.slido.com** or using the Sli.do app
The event code is **#I3-InfoDay2021**

European Commission

Agenda of the event

09:30	**Smart specialisation strategy as the cornerstone of cohesion policy to support innovation**
09:45	**I3 Work Programme**
09:50	**I3 Implementation**
10:00	**Call under strand 1 -** Financial and advisory support for investments in interregional innovation projects
10:30	**Call under strand 2a -** Financial and advisory support to the development of value chains in less developed regions
11:00	**How to fill in the budget table**
11:15	**Financial support to third parties scheme**
11:30	**How to present a good proposal**
11:45	**Q&A**
12:15	**Closing session**

European Commission

Smart specialisation strategy: the cornerstone of cohesion policy to support innovation

09:30 – 09:45

Nicola De Michelis, DG REGIO Director (REGIO.G)

Jean David Malo, EISMEA Director

European Commission

Interregional Innovation Investment (I3) Instrument

Work Programme

09:45 – 09:50

Monika Zsigri, DG REGIO Deputy Head of Unit G.1

European Commission

Principles behind the work programme 2021/22

- **Biannual work programme**

- **Implementation delegated to EISMEA**

- **Simplicity – it is a learning process**

  - Widely defined thematic areas

  - Calls limited to 2 main strands

  - Capacity building and support to thematic networks organised will be launched later

  - Limited third country participation

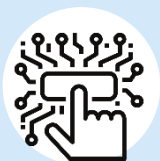 - Policy feedback loop every 2 years, I3 Expert Group

General policy objective

- **Supporting the demonstration, commercialization and scale-up of interregional investments**

- **Interconnecting regional innovation ecosystems along S3 priorities**

- **Combining bottom-up S3 priorities with EU strategic priorities**

- **Create synergies and complementarities with EU Programmes**

Increase the competitiveness and resilience of EU value chains.

I3: Budget Allocation per Strand 2021 - 2022

THEMATIC AREAS:

Digital Transition

Green Transition

Smart Manufacturing

STRANDS:

Strand 1: **Focus on developed regions**
EUR 39,8 M in 2021 and 36,7 M in 2022.
Average project size EUR 4–10 M;

Strand 2a **Focus on less developed regions**
EUR 36 M in 2021 and 32,9 M in 2022
Average project size: EUR 2-3 M;

Strand 2b Capacity building for less developed regions, EUR 28,5 M total budget (for the 7y period);

Strand 3 Technical assistance & experimentation EUR 11,4 M total budget (for the 7y period)

TOTAL BUDGET

EUR 570 M
(7 years)

European Commission

Coordination and synergies

The Commission shall ensure coordination and synergy with **other EU funding programmes and instruments** in particular with **strand 'Interreg C'** as defined in Article 3 of ETC [Interreg Regulation].

Building on the opportunities provided by the delegation to EISMEA

Interregional Innovation Investment (I3) Instrument

Implementation

09:50 – 10:00

Fabienne Gautier, EISMEA Head of Unit I.01

European Commission

The European Innovation Council and SME Executive Agency (EISMEA)

➢ responsible for developing and implementing the **European Innovation Council** under the guidance of an independent EIC Board and in cooperation with investments made by the EIC Fund.

➢ managing other EU programmes in the fields of **SME support, innovation ecosystems, single market, consumer policy and interregional innovation investments**

Implementation of the Interregional Innovation Investment instrument (I3)

➢ The Interregional innovation investments instrument as part of the European Regional and Development Fund (ERDF) aims at **supporting interregional innovation projects in their commercialization and scale-up phases.**

➢ The agency will implement two strands of the programme in 2021:

- Financial and advisory support for investments in interregional innovation projects;

- Financial and advisory support to the development of value chains in less developed regions.

European Commission

I3: Structure of the Instrument

2 STRANDS

STRAND 1: Financial and Advisory Support for Investments in Interregional Innovation projects

- Partnerships for market uptake and scale-up of innovative solutions in S3 priority areas

- Portfolio of investment projects

STRAND 2a: Financial and Advisory Support for the development of value chains in less developed regions

- Capacity of regional innovation ecosystems in less developed regions to participate in global value chains

- Capacity to participate in partnerships with other regions

I3: When can you submit your application?

Calls open (strand 1 & 2a):

23 November 2021

1st Cut-off date: **1 February 2022**

2nd Cut-off date: **18 October 2022**

European Commission

Strand 1
Financial and advisory support for investments in interregional innovation projects

10:00 – 10:30

Valentina Pinna and Christina Nanou, EISMEA Project Advisers Unit I.01

European Commission

Strand 1: Call objective

- Mobilise **Interregional innovation investments - partnerships around S3 priorities** (regional innovation ecosystems)

- Mobilise **business investments** to **accelerate market uptake and scale-up innovation solutions**

- **Address barriers** faced by innovators moving to market.

- Encourage the **development of EU value chains**

Strand 1: Call Specific Objectives

Helping ecosystems to connect demand and supply side

Supporting companies investments in shared S3 priority areas

Accelerating innovation

Increasing competitiveness of EU value chains,

Strand 1: Beneficiaries

Companies (mainly SMEs) = the main target group of I3 calls
(partners or via cascade funding)

- **Large companies:** can participate only in well justified **specific cases**
  e.g. when SME investments are connected to their value chain
  *Productive investments in enterprises other than SMEs may be supported under **specific conditions** (ERDF Regulation, Art. 5 (2)) .*

- **Regional innovation ecosystems:** facilitators

Strand 1: Eligible activities

Financial and advisory support to **mature joint innovation projects** in shared S3 areas**.**

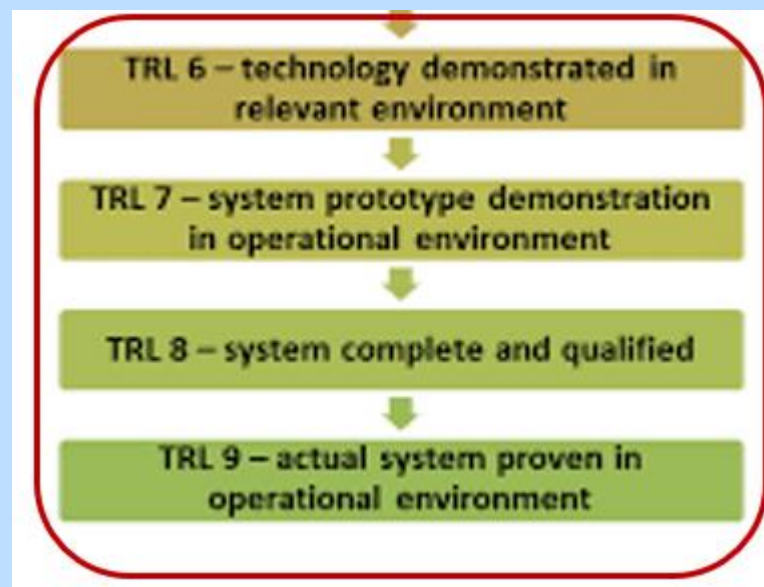**Activities <u>instrumental to bring innovative solutions</u>** and **<u>new products</u>** to the market.

"Activities directly aiming at producing plans, arrangements or designs for new, altered or improved products, processes or services.

e.g. testing, demonstration, piloting, large-scale product validation and market replication"

Value-chain investment portfolios=

= investment-ready <u>sub-projects</u> (in S3 areas)

to address different identified bottlenecks

Strand 1: Maturity of Innovation Project

I3

TRL 6 – technology demonstrated in relevant environment

TRL 7 – system prototype demonstration in operational environment

TRL 8 – system complete and qualified

TRL 9 – actual system proven in operational environment

Technology readiness levels

shutterstock.com · 1215069538

Technology development & demonstration

Business & Investment Development

Min TRL (Technology Readiness Level) = 6

https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/science-and-technology/oslo-manual-2018_9789264304604-en

European Commission

# Strand 1: Target Investments (tangible, intangible*)

- Advisory support for investment : **_"go to market"_ business & investment plans** in Value Chains

- Financial support for **plans/designs for new / altered / improved products / processes / services**

- **Testing, demonstration, piloting, large-scale product validation and market replication** (connecting or making complementary use)

- Adaptation of **existing prototypes** (i.e. by combining two or more key enabling technologies)

New prototypes = not eligible !

Strand 1: Example of Investments in value chains

Autonomous Vehicles
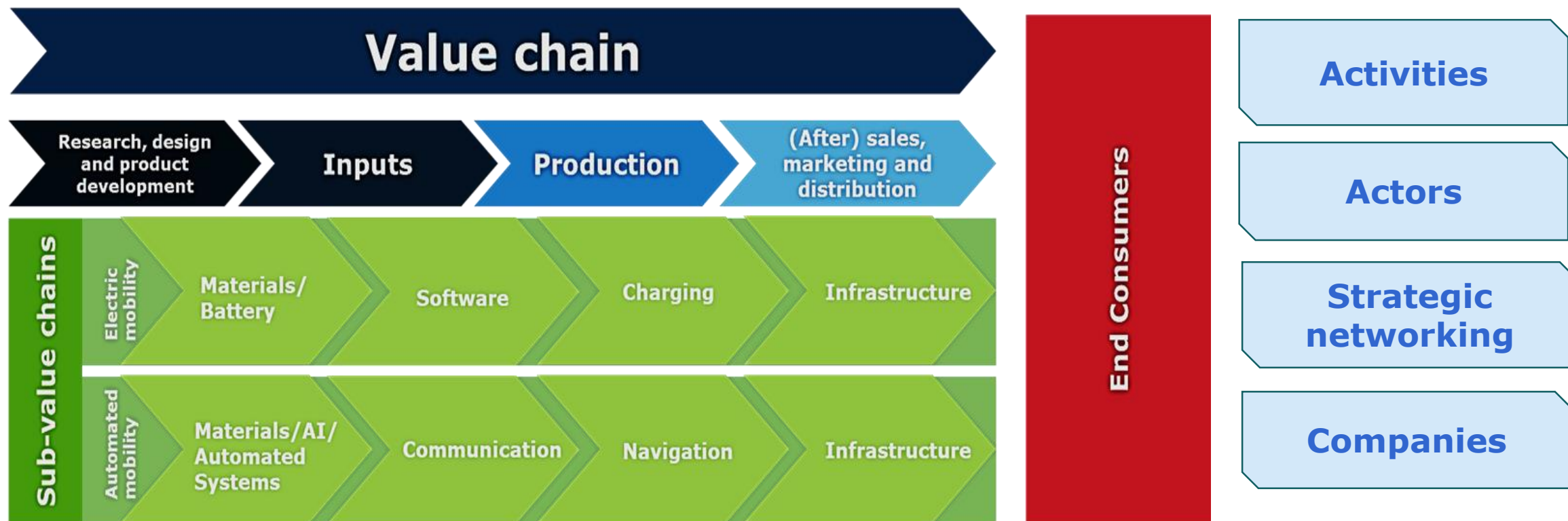
During project:
- Validation of innovative technology in the main (and other Value Chains)

Strand 1: Key Performance Indicators

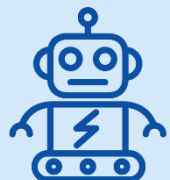**Need to describe the <u>progress</u> towards commercialization of innovative solutions**

Interregional dimension

Investment dimension
(+ time to market)

Innovation dimension
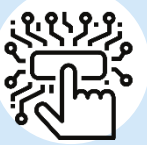(progress from TRL of departure)

Value chain dimension

Gender balance dimension

IPR dimension

European Commission

Strand 1: Topics

DIGITAL TRANSITION

Topic 1 - I3-2021-INV1-DIGIT: Innovation investments Strand 1 – DIGIT

GREEN TRANSITION

Topic 2 - I3-2021-INV1-GREEN: Innovation investments Strand 1 – GREEN

SMART MANUFACTURING

Topic 3 - I3-2021-INV1-MANU: Innovation investments Strand 1 – MANU

- **Applicants must submit their proposal in <u>only one of these topics</u>.**

- Applicants may wish to apply in different topics by submitting <u>different proposals</u>.

- If identical or similar proposals submitted in different topics → **only the <u>last submitted</u> will be eligible**

Strand 1: Digital Transition – Objectives

Support interregional investments to:

- **unlock digital growth potential & deploy innovative solutions**

- **improve the accessibility & efficiency of services** & **bridge the persisting digital divide**

- **support interregional investments** in the following <u>**areas**</u>:

  - Digital economy & innovation
  - Digitalisation of the public administration
  - Digitalisation of healthcare

At least 70% of the grant must be allocated to investments in companies.

**Proposals related to digital transition in the <u>manufacturing</u> →
to be submitted under the smart manufacturing topic 3.**

Strand 1: Digital Transition – Themes and priorities

Digital economy innovation

- Deployment of innovative solutions

- ICT up-take in SMEs including infrastructures and services

- Demonstration of innovative digital technologies

- User driven innovation

- Reinforcement of EU cybersecurity value chain

- "Digital based" open innovation

- Digital skills

Strand 1: Digital Transition – Themes and priorities

Digital transformation of the public administration

- **Services for e-government**, including the take-up of Europe wide interoperable services by using digital technologies such as artificial intelligence and cybersecurity

- **Investments** in innovative solutions helping administrations **to make services user-friendly, accessible and more interoperable**
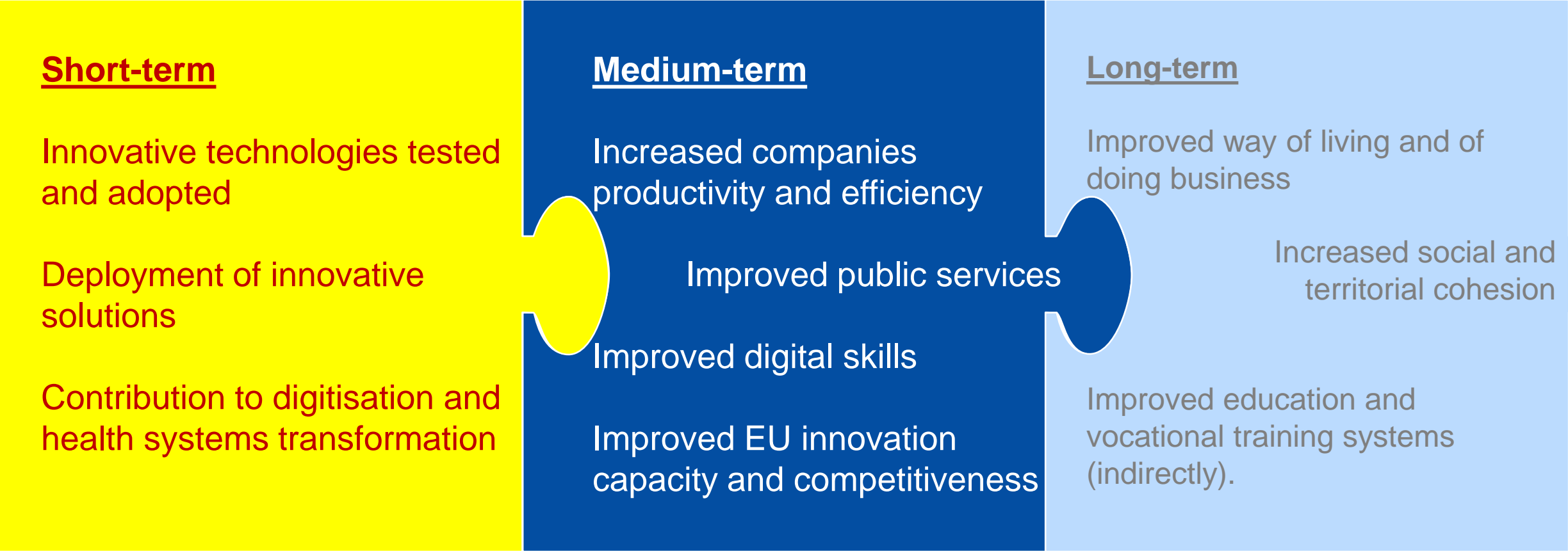
  Those investments might include the **demonstration of the validity** of new digital technologies in view of the large-scale adoption of new IT systems.

Strand 1: Digital Transition – Themes and priorities

Digitalisation of healthcare

- Innovative investments in security of health data

- Investments in digital tools to stimulate prevention, enable feedback and interaction with healthcare providers

- Investments for the digitisation of healthcare systems in interoperability

- Investments in digital health infrastructure (needed for demonstration processes), telemedicine, m-health and other innovative solutions for personalised medicine

- Investments related to the acquisition of digital skills needed in healthcare

Strand 1: Digital Transition – Expected impact

I3

Short-term

Innovative technologies tested and adopted

Deployment of innovative solutions

Contribution to digitisation and health systems transformation

Medium-term

Increased companies productivity and efficiency

Improved public services

Improved digital skills

Improved EU innovation capacity and competitiveness

Long-term

Improved way of living and of doing business

Increased social and territorial cohesion

Improved education and vocational training systems (indirectly).

European Commission

Strand 1: Green Transition – Objectives

Support interregional investments in:

- **green technology** and create **sustainable industry/transport**.

- **sustainable food systems**, sustainable **agriculture**, clean and efficient **energy**, **building and renovating**, sustainable **mobility**, **eliminating pollution and climate action**.

At least 70% of the grant must be allocated to investments in companies.

Proposals related to green transition in the <u>manufacturing</u> →
to be submitted under the smart manufacturing topic 3.

European Commission

Strand 1: Green Transition – Themes and priorities

- Innovative investments:
  - decarbonisation, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and contributing to improve air quality, health and wellbeing;
  - SMART cities;
  - smart, sustainable/efficient transport solutions and/or alternative fuels;
  - climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials;
  - management of natural resources
  .
- Business investments:
  - renewable energy and energy efficiency to make industry more sustainable;
  - energy efficiency in buildings;
  - sustainable blue economy, contributing to the coastal protection;
  - circular economy to replicate and scale up successful circular economy solutions, which can generate EU added value;
  - bioeconomy, efficient and sustainable agriculture and forestry, innovation in marine/ maritime and inland water sustainable solutions.

European Commission

Strand 1: Green Transition – Expected impact

Short-term

Deployment of innovative solutions

Uptake of technologically/ economically reliable and viable solutions

Medium-term

Creating new market opportunities for EU companies

Reinforcing the capacity of regions to invest, joining forces around shared S3 investment priorities

Innovation diffusion

Long-term

Reinforcing/reshaping EU value chains

Unlocking the innovation potential of EU regions/ countries;

- Contributing to the European Green Deal

Positive impact on environment, health, climate, social and economy

Economic growth and job creation.

European Commission

Strand 1: SMART Manufacturing – Objectives

Support interregional investments to:

- improve the **delivery** of **new/improved products/processes/services** in manufacturing industry

- **develop products** and **improve processes** to lower waste, pollution, material consumption and energy use (sustainability);

- **uptake of new/improved manufacturing solutions** to face the challenge of **digitalisation** and to promote the shift towards more **environmental sustainability**.

At least 70% of the grant must be allocated to investments in companies.

Proposals related to digital or green transition in the <u>manufacturing</u> → to be submitted under the smart manufacturing.

Strand 1: SMART Manufacturing – Themes and priorities

- Demonstration processes, i.e. helping new products to reach the market faster or having more efficient and sustainable processes adopted by the industry.

- Valorisation of research results and practical applications

- Connecting or making complementary use of testing and demonstration facilities at interregional level.

- Improving the use of natural resources and in the reuse of materials, promoting circularity models (de- and remanufacturing) and investments in carbon neutrality.

- Implementation of interregional demonstration cases to test and replicate the results.

- Innovation diffusion and involvement of SMEs in EU value chains.

European Commission

Strand 1: SMART Manufacturing – Expected impact

Short-term

Deploying new green and digital technologies fostering the growth of Europe's manufacturing sector

Innovative technologies adopted by SMEs

Medium-term

Making the EU industry more efficient and sustainable

Reinforcing the capacity of regions to co-invest together, joining forces on common S3 investment priorities

Innovation diffusion

Lngo-term

Reinforcing/reshaping EU value chains whilst increasing the competitiveness of the EU in global markets

Unlocking the innovation potential of EU regions/countries.

European Commission

Strand 1: Example: Advanced Manufacturing & 3D Printing

I3

3DP case: Reducing weight in automotive, machinery and aerospace applications via 3DP hybrid components

S U P P L Y ⟵⟶ **D E M A N D**

SMEs completing the value chain of larger companies

> **REGIONAL ECOSYSTEM 2:**
> **More Developed Region**
> **SMEs producing 3D components**

Competence centers - experts
in product and design specification

> **REGIONAL ECOSYSTEM 3:**
> **Transition Region**
> **Technology center: product specification**
> **(TEST 1: fatigue, durability)**

> **REGIONAL ECOSYSTEM 4:**
> **Less Developed Region**
> **Competence center: product specification**
> **(TEST 2: crash)**

> **REGIONAL ECOSYSTEM 5:**
> **More Developed Region**
> **Cluster: design specification**
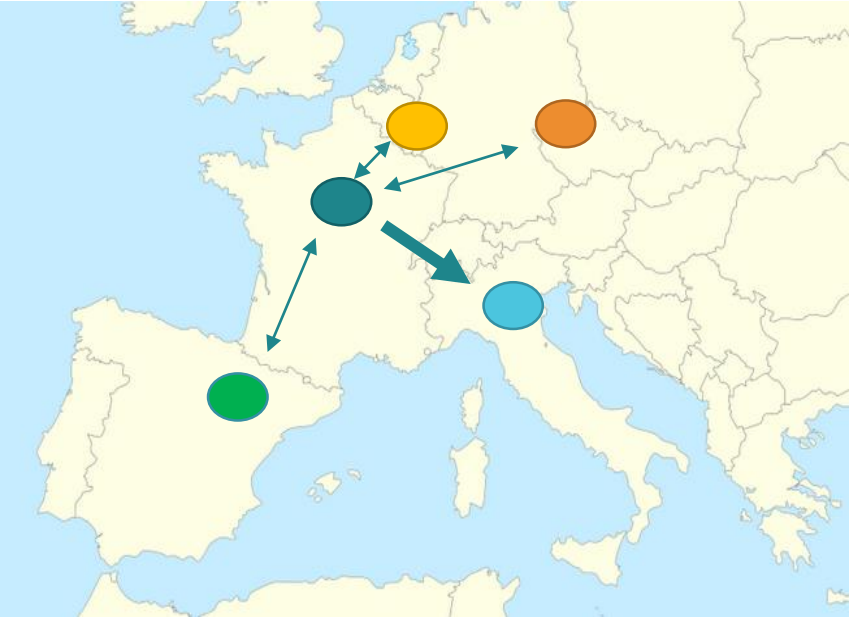
Companies
with innovation needs

> **REGIONAL ECOSYSTEM 1:**
> **More Developed Region**
>
> **COORDINATOR:**
> **no profit organisation**
>
> e.g. Regional Development Agencies, Technology Centers, Universities, chambers of commerce & industry, business associations

End Users:

EU association
Machinery and automotive companies

European Commission

Strand 1: Budget & average grant size

TOTAL:

EUR 76,6 m

EUR ~**39,8 m** (2021)

EUR ~**36,8 m** (2022)
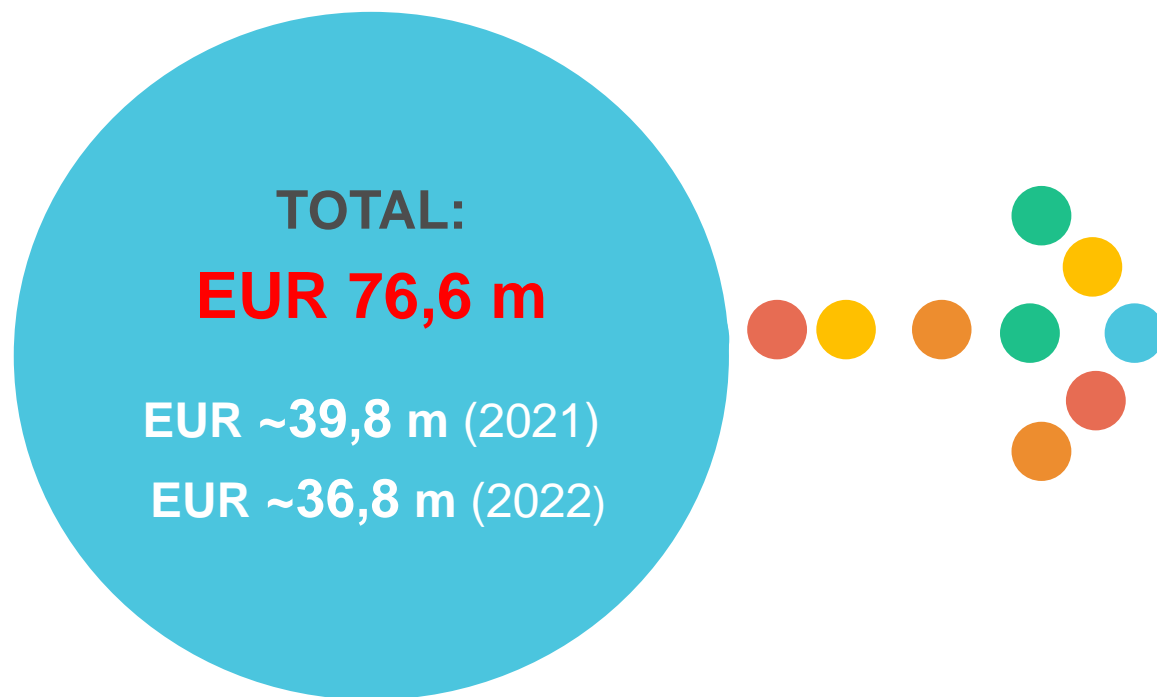
- **Max grant amount** *(indicative range):*

  EUR 4 – 10 million

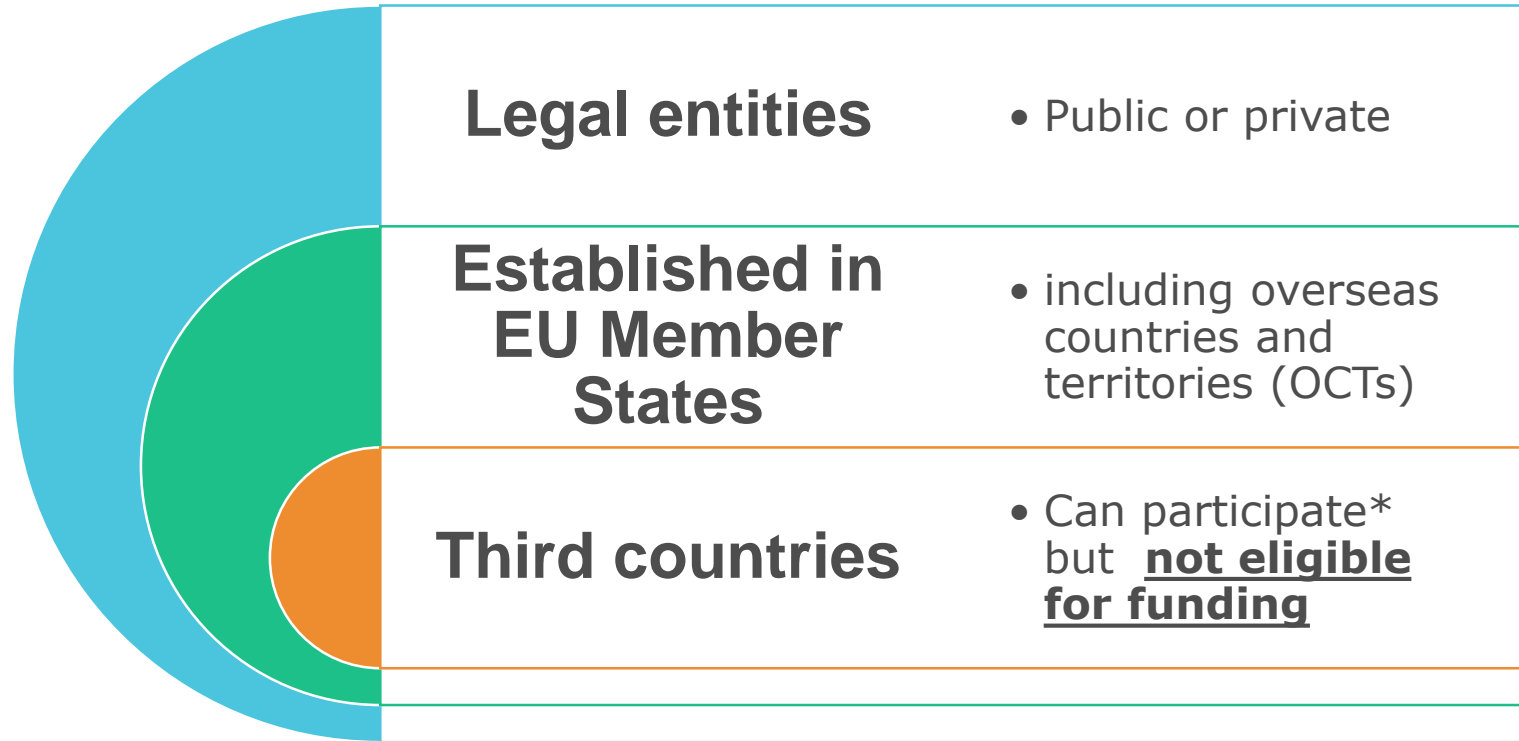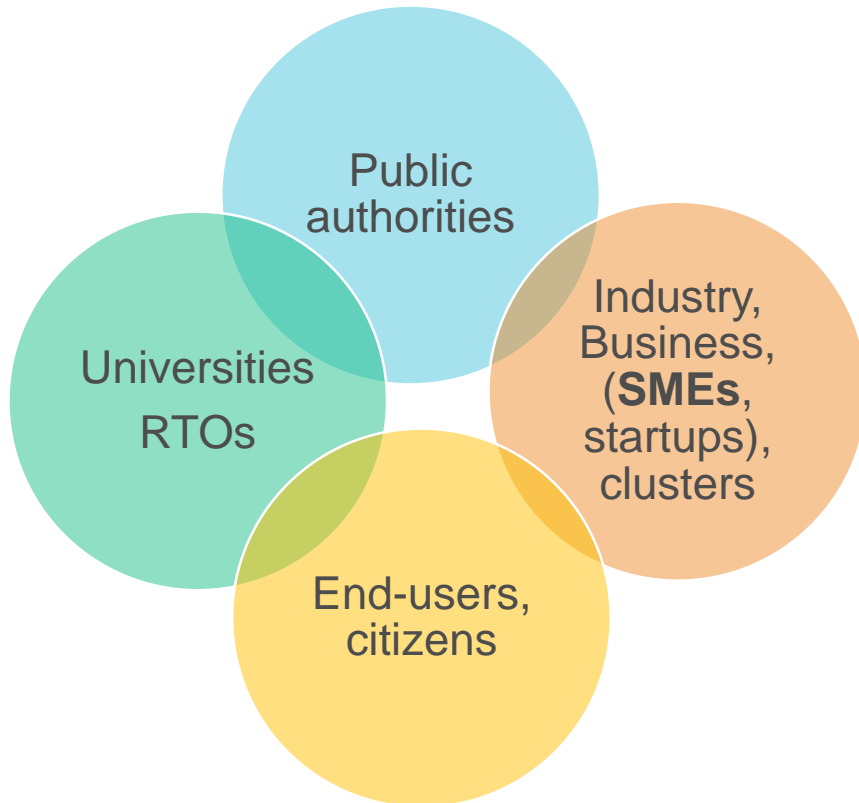- **Nr of projects to be funded** *(indicative):*

  4 - 5 per cut-off

Funding rate: 70% of the total eligible costs

European Commission

Strand 1: Eligible participants / countries

Applicants:

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

Public authorities

Industry, Business, (**SMEs**, startups), clusters

Universities RTOs

End-users, citizens

Legal entities
- Public or private

Established in EU Member States
- including overseas countries and territories (OCTs)

Third countries
- Can participate* but **not eligible for funding**

* in accordance with the arrangements laid down in Articles 16 and 23 of Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council (25) (the 'Horizon Europe Regulation').

European Commission

Strand 1: Eligible consortia

13

Geographical Composition:

Minimum 5 partners
from 5 different regions
from 3 different eligible countries

Coordinator:

Must be established in a **more developed** EU region/country

Must be a <u>non-profit organisation</u>

Partner 3

Country 3
region 3

Partner 4

Country 3
region 4

Partner 5

Country 3
region 5

Coordinator
Partner 1

Country 1
region 1
<u>More developed</u>

Partner 2

Country 2
region 2
<u>Less developed</u>
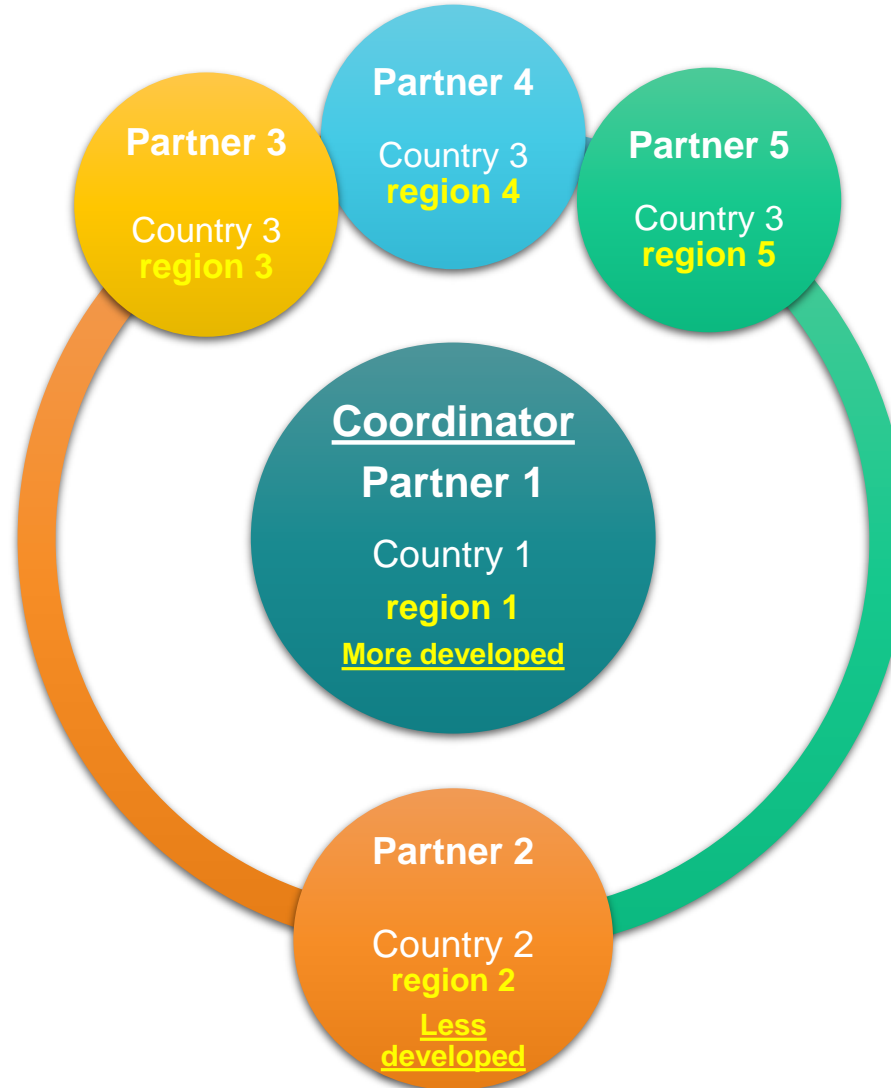
Example (min requirements)

Type of Partners:

The consortium must :
- cover **demand & supply side**
- involve various **Q-helix components**
        (suggested: at least 3)

At least 1 partner must be established in a **less developed, transition or outermost region/country.**

European Commission

Strand 1: Eligible participants / countries

Check the category of your region/country [here](#)

Cohesion Policy eligibility 2021-2027*

Investment for jobs and growth goal (ERDF and ESF+) eligibility, 2021-2027

Categories of regions
- Less developed regions (GDP/head (PPS) less than 75% of the EU-27 average)
- Transition regions (GDP/head (PPS) between 75% and 100% of the EU-27 average)
- More developed regions (GDP/head (PPS) above 100% of the EU-27 average)
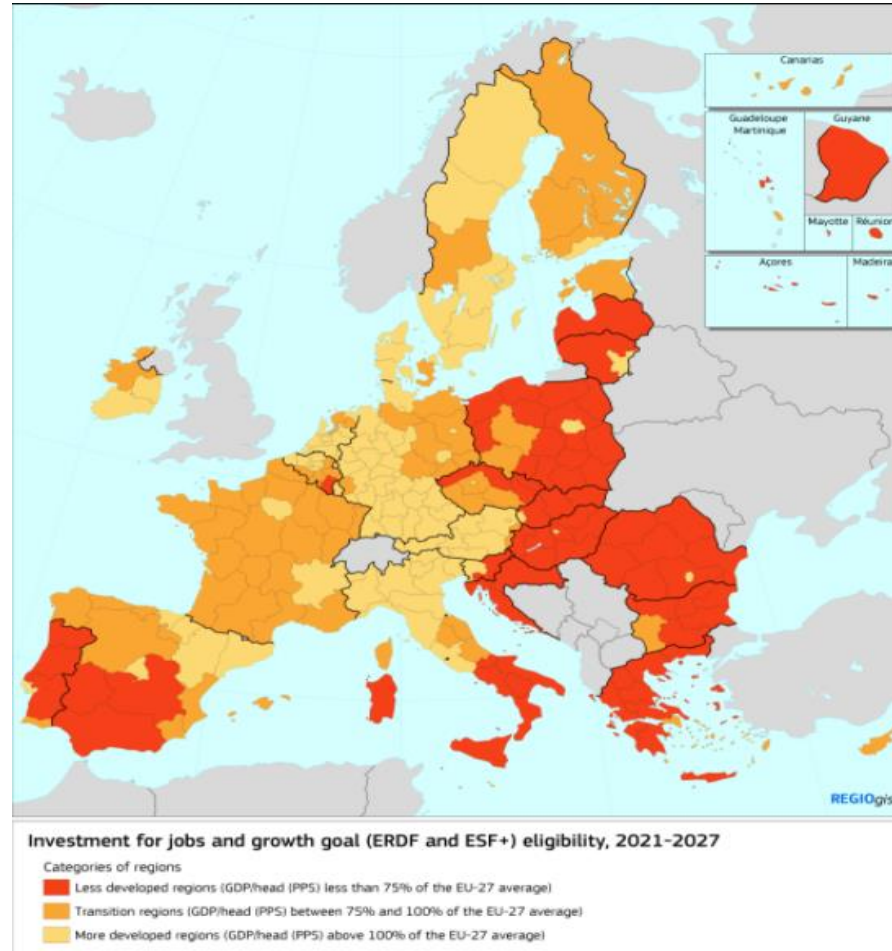
*[Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/1130 of 5 July 2021 setting out the list of regions eligible for funding from the ERDF](#)

Strand 1: Admissibility – required documents

Proposals must be submitted:
- Before **call deadline** (cut-off dates)
- **Electronically**

Required documents & annexes:

Application Form Part A: *(to be filled in directly online)*
administrative information about the participants + summarised budget

Application Form Part B: (*to be downloaded, completed and then re-uploaded)*
technical description of the project

Part C: *(to be filled in directly online)* only 1 per proposal; (available soon!)
additional project data – *e.g. type of innovation, NUTS, TRL (start – end of project)*

Mandatory annexes and supporting documents
- detailed budget table *(template available)*
- CVs of core project team
- **letter of support (endorsement letter from Authorities in charge of S3)**

Strand 1: Admissibility – required documents

CONFIRMATION OF SUPPORT		
Name of the project we support:	[project title] — [acronym]	
Coordinator:	[PCoCo name NAME], [organisation]	
We hereby confirm that:		
1) we support the application		Yes / No
2) it is consistent and addresses the national/regional S3 policies, strategies and priorities as identified by this authority		Yes / No

Letter of endorsement

- **1 per participating regional ecosystem**
- **covering all partners of the same region**
- **@ appropriate (closest) NUTS level** depending on the country's S3 organisation

Here introduce the coordinator's name (consortium leader)

Strand 1: Timeline - 1st cut-off 2022

I3

23/11/2021
Call Opening

01/02/2022
1st cut-off date (deadline)
17:00 CET (Brussels)

February 2022
Step 1:
evaluation start

March 2022
Step 1:
evaluation finish

March 2022
Step 1:
Info on evaluation results

April 2022
Step 2:
evaluation start

June 2022
Step 2:
evaluation finish

July 2022
Step 2:
Info on evaluation results

October – November 2022
Grant Agreement (GA) signature

November – December 2022
Start of projects implementation

I3 outcomes

European Commission

Strand 1: Timeline - 2nd cut-off 2022

23/11/2021
Call Opening

18/10/2022
2nd cut-off date (deadline)
17:00 CET (Brussels)

November 2022
Step 1:
evaluation start

December 2022
Step 1:
evaluation finish

December 2022
Step 1:
Info on evaluation results

January 2023
Step 2:
evaluation start

March 2023
Step 2:
evaluation finish

April 2023
Step 2:
Info on evaluation results

June – July 2023
Grant Agreement
(GA) signature

August – September 2023
Start of projects
implementation

I3 outcomes

European Commission

Strand 1: Useful

We invite you to read:

- the [call documentation](call%20documentation) carefully

- the I3 [reference documents](reference%20documents) including the [I3 Model Grant Agreement](I3%20Model%20Grant%20Agreement)

- the [EU Grants AGA – Annotated Grant Agreement](EU%20Grants%20AGA)

- the [EU Funding & Tenders Portal Online Manual](EU%20Funding%20Tenders%20Portal%20Online%20Manual)

For individual questions on the Portal Submission System, please contact the [IT Helpdesk](IT%20Helpdesk).

Non-IT related questions should be sent 3 working days before the submission deadline to :

EISMEA-I3-INSTRUMENT@ec.europa.eu.

Strand 1: How to find info on the call and topics 1

(1) Use link here or Google: "Funding portal" → In F&T portal search: "innovation investments strand 1"

Strand 1: How to find info on the call and topics 2

(3) Go to "topic conditions and documents"
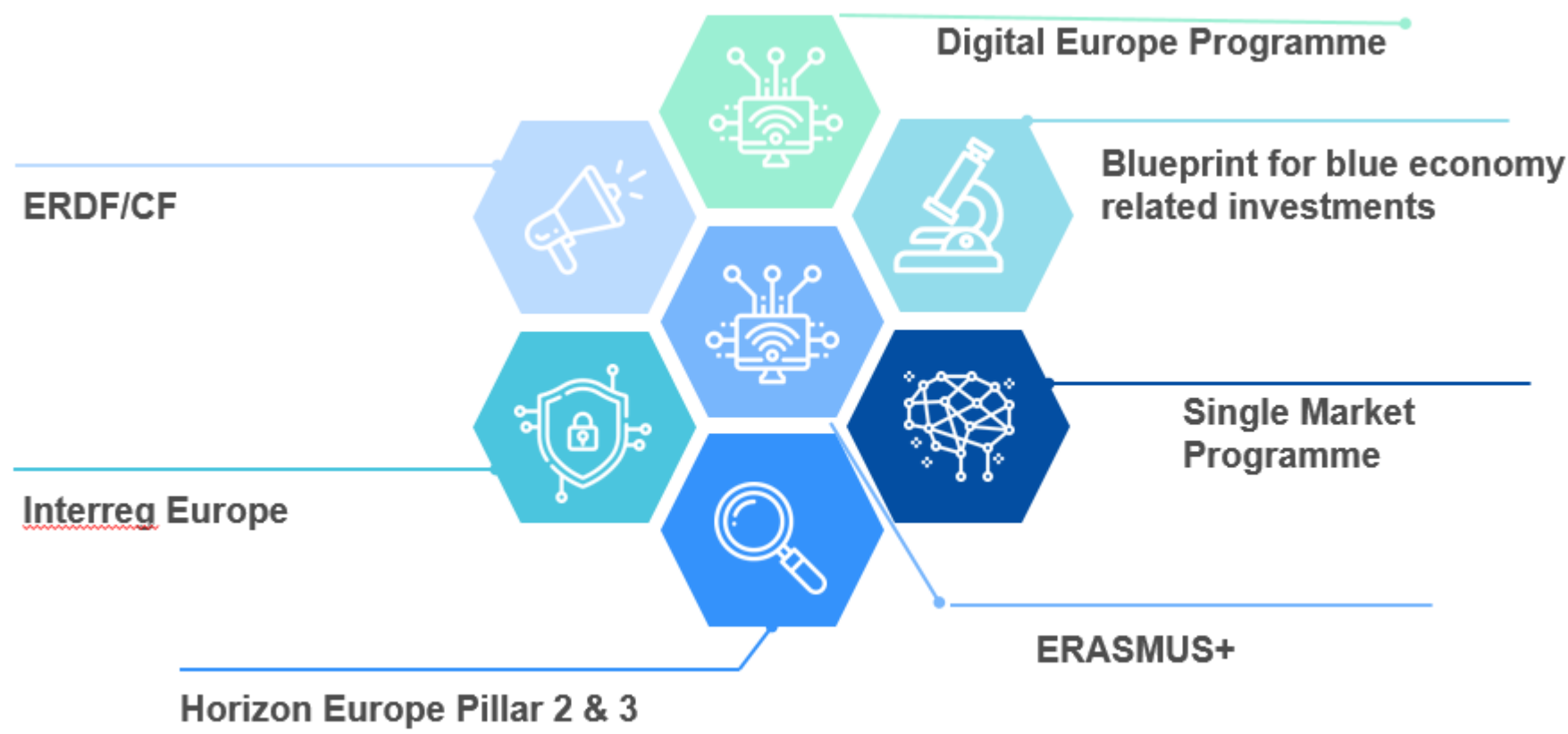
Topic conditions and documents

Conditions

1. Admissibility conditions: described in section 5 of the call document

Proposal page limits and layout: described in Part B of the Application Form available in the Submission System

2. Eligible countries: described in section 6 of the call document

3. Other eligibility conditions: described in section 6 of the call document

4. Financial and operational capacity and exclusion: described in section 7 of the call document

5. Evaluation and award:

- **Submission and evaluation processes:** described section 8 of the call document and the Online Manual
- **Award criteria, scoring and thresholds:** described in section 9 of the call document
- **Indicative timeline for evaluation and grant agreement:** described in section 4 of the call document

6. Legal and financial set-up of the grants: described in section 10 of the call document

Call documents:

Call document - strand 1

Standard application form ([ToA]) — call-specific application form is available in the Submission System

Detailed budget table ([ToA])

Letter of Support (MS S3 Endorsement)

I3 MGA - Multi & Mono V1.0

Strand 1: Synergies with other EU programmes

- Digital Europe Programme
- Blueprint for blue economy related investments
- ERDF/CF
- Single Market Programme
- Interreg Europe
- ERASMUS+
- Horizon Europe Pillar 2 & 3

European Commission

I3 - European Innovation Ecosystems (EIE WP)

EIE WP (Horizon Europe)	I3 (ERDF)

Enabling conditions (CSAs + COFUND)
Networking / inclusiveness / business intermediaries

No Financial Support to third parties (FSTP)

Lower-budget projects (average EU funding):
EUR 0,5 - 2 million

Business Investments / Competitiveness (strand 1)
Reshaping/creating new EU Value chains (2a)

70% of budget to companies (+ optional FSTD)

Strand 1: EUR 4-10 million
Strand 2a: EUR 2-3 million

- COMPLEMENTARY -

European Commission

Strand 2a
Financial and advisory support
to the development of value chains
in less developed regions

10:30 – 11:00

Michael Berz and Silvi Serreqi, EISMEA Project Advisers Unit I.01

European Commission

Strand 2a: Call objective

- Strand 2a focuses on **increasing the capacity of less developed regional innovation ecosystems** to participate in global value chains, as well **as increasing their capacity to cooperate in partnerships with other regions.**
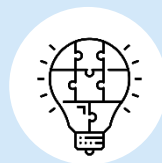
Interregional Innovation Investments to encourage the **development of value chains in less developed regions**

Strand 2a: Call Specific Objectives

Helping ecosystems to overcome market failures

Increasing the capacities of less developed regions

Supporting companies in shared S3 priority areas

Accelerating innovation

Strand 2a: Call specific objectives

Strong **cohesion dimension** by creating links between **less developed/transition or outermost regions** and more developed ecosystem actors.

Strand 2a: Final beneficiaries

Companies (mainly SMEs) = the main target of I3 calls
(partners of via cascade funding)

- **Large companies:** can participate only in well justified **specific cases**
  e.g. when SME investments are connected to their value chain
  Productive investments in enterprises other than SMEs may be supported under **specific conditions** *(ERDF Regulation, Art. 5 (2)) .*

- **Regional innovation ecosystems:** facilitators

Strand 2a: Eligible activities

Financial and advisory support to the development of value chains **in less developed regions.**

Innovative ideas and **new products** to the market.

"Activities directly aiming at producing plans, arrangements or designs for new, altered or improved products, processes or services.

This can include testing, demonstration, piloting, large-scale product validation and market replication"

Portfolio of sub-projects can foresee the distribution of funding by the project coordinator to the members of the consortium or in a form of financial support to third parties.

European Commission

Strand 2a: Eligible activities

Funded activities shall not only cover investments that are "new to Europe" or "new to the application sector".

They should also **strengthen innovation diffusion channels in less developed regions** and lead to multiple market applications of an innovation that has already been applied elsewhere.

European Commission

Strand 2a: Target Investments (tangible, intangible*)

- Advisory support for investment : **_"go to market"_ business & investment plans** in Value Chains

- Financial support for **plans/designs for new / altered / improved products / processes / services**

- **Testing, demonstration, piloting, large-scale product validation and market replication** (connecting or making complementary use)

- Adaptation of **existing prototypes** (i.e. by combining two or more key enabling technologies)

New prototypes = not eligible !

*IPR, know-how, licensing

Strand 2a: Key Performance Indicators

Interregional dimension

Investment dimension:
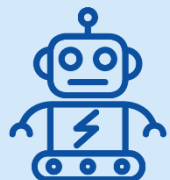
Innovation dimension

Value chain dimension

Gender balance dimension

IPR dimension

European Commission

Strand 2a: Topics

DIGITAL TRANSITION

Topic 1 - I3-2021-INV2a-DIGIT: Innovation investments Strand 2a – DIGIT

GREEN TRANSITION

Topic 2 - I3-2021-INV2a-GREEN: Innovation investments Strand 2a – GREEN

SMART MANUFACTURING

Topic 3 - I3-2021-INV2a-MANU: Innovation investments Strand 2a – MANU

Each application under the call must address only one of these topics.

Applicants wishing to apply for more than one topic, must submit a separate proposal under each topic.

Strand 2a: Digital Transition – Objectives

Investments in businesses & administration:

- To **unlock digital growth potential & deploy innovative solutions**

- To **improve the accessibility & the efficiency of services** and **bridge the persisting digital divide**

- To **support interregional investments** projects in the following areas:

  ➢ Digital economy & innovation
  ➢ Digitalisation of the public administration
  ➢ Digitalisation of healthcare

Proposals related to digital transition in the manufacturing => to be submitted under the smart manufacturing topic 3.

European Commission

Strand 2a: Digital Transition – Themes and priorities

Digital economy innovation

- Deployment of innovative solutions

- ICT up-take in SMEs including infrastructures and services

- Demonstration of innovative digital technologies

- User driven innovation

- Reinforcement of EU cybersecurity value chain

- "Digital based" open innovation

- Digital skills

European Commission

Strand 2a: Digital Transition – Themes and priorities

Digital transformation of the public administration

- **Services for e-government**, including the take-up of Europe wide interoperable services by using digital technologies such as artificial intelligence and cybersecurity

- **Investments** in innovative solutions helping administrations **to make services user-friendly, accessible and more interoperable**

  Those investments might include the **demonstration of the validity** of new digital technologies in view of the large-scale adoption of new IT systems.

European Commission

Strand 2a: Digital Transition – Themes and priorities

Digitalisation of healthcare

- Innovative investments in security of health data

- Investments in digital tools to stimulate prevention, enable feedback and interaction with healthcare providers

- Investments for the digitisation of healthcare systems in interoperability

- Investments in digital health infrastructure (needed for demonstration processes), telemedicine, m-health and other innovative solutions for personalised medicine

- Investments related to the acquisition of digital skills needed in healthcare

Strand 2a: Digital Transition – Expected impact

Short-term

Innovative technologies tested and adopted

Deployment of innovative solutions

Contribution to digitisation and health systems transformation

Medium-term

Increased companies productivity and efficiency

Improved public services

Improved digital skills

Improved EU innovation capacity and competitiveness

Long-term

Improved way of living and of doing business

Increased social and territorial cohesion

Improved education and vocational training systems (indirectly).

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Strand 2a: Green Transition – Objectives

- Support innovative value chain investments

- Boost the economy through green technology and create sustainable industry/transport.

- Support to interregional investments in sustainable food systems, sustainable agriculture, clean and efficient energy, sustainable industry, building and renovating, sustainable mobility, eliminating pollution and climate action.

At least 70% of the grant must be allocated to investments in companies.

Proposals related to green transition in the manufacturing => to be submitted under the smart manufacturing topic 3.

Strand 2a: Green Transition – Themes and priorities

- Innovative investments:
  - ➢ decarbonisation, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and contributing to improve air quality, health and wellbeing;
  - ➢ SMART cities;
  - ➢ smart, sustainable/efficient transport solutions and/or alternative fuels;
  - ➢ climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials;
  - ➢ management of natural resources
  .
- Business investments:
  - ➢ renewable energy and energy efficiency to make industry more sustainable;
  - ➢ energy efficiency in buildings;
  - ➢ sustainable blue economy, contributing to the coastal protection;
  - ➢ circular economy to replicate and scale up successful circular economy solutions, which can generate EU added value;
  - ➢ bioeconomy, efficient and sustainable agriculture and forestry, innovation in marine/ maritime and inland water sustainable solutions.

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Strand 2a: Green Transition – Expected impact

Short-term

Deployment of innovative solutions

Uptake of technologically/ economically reliable and viable solutions

Medium-term

Creating new market opportunities for EU companies

Reinforcing the capacity of regions to invest, joining forces around shared S3 investment priorities

Innovation diffusion

Long-term

Reinforcing/reshaping EU value chains

Unlocking the innovation potential of EU regions/ countries;

- Contributing to the European Green Deal

Positive impact on environment, health, climate, social and economy

Economic growth and job creation.

European Commission

Strand 2a: SMART Manufacturing – Objectives

- Improve the delivery of new or improved products, processes or services in the manufacturing industry

- Development of complex products and improvement of processes to lower waste, pollution, material consumption and energy use

- Uptake of new or improved manufacturing solutions to face the challenge of digitalisation and to promote the shift towards a more environmentally sustainable.

At least 70% of the grant must be allocated to investments in companies.

Proposals related to digital or green transition in the manufacturing => to be submitted under the smart manufacturing.

European Commission

I3 | Strand 2a: SMART Manufacturing – Themes & priorities

- Demonstration processes, i.e. helping new products to reach the market faster or having more efficient and sustainable processes adopted by the industry.

- Valorisation of research results and practical applications

- Connecting or making complementary use of testing and demonstration facilities at interregional level.

- Improving the use of natural resources and in the reuse of materials, promoting circularity models (de- and remanufacturing) and investments in carbon neutrality.

- Implementation of interregional demonstration cases to test and replicate the results.

- Innovation diffusion and involvement of SMEs in EU value chains.

European Commission

Strand 2a: Budget & average grant size

TOTAL:

EUR 68,8 m

EUR **~36 m** (2021)

EUR **~32,8 m** (2022)

- **Max grant amount** *(indicative range):*

  EUR 2 – 3 million

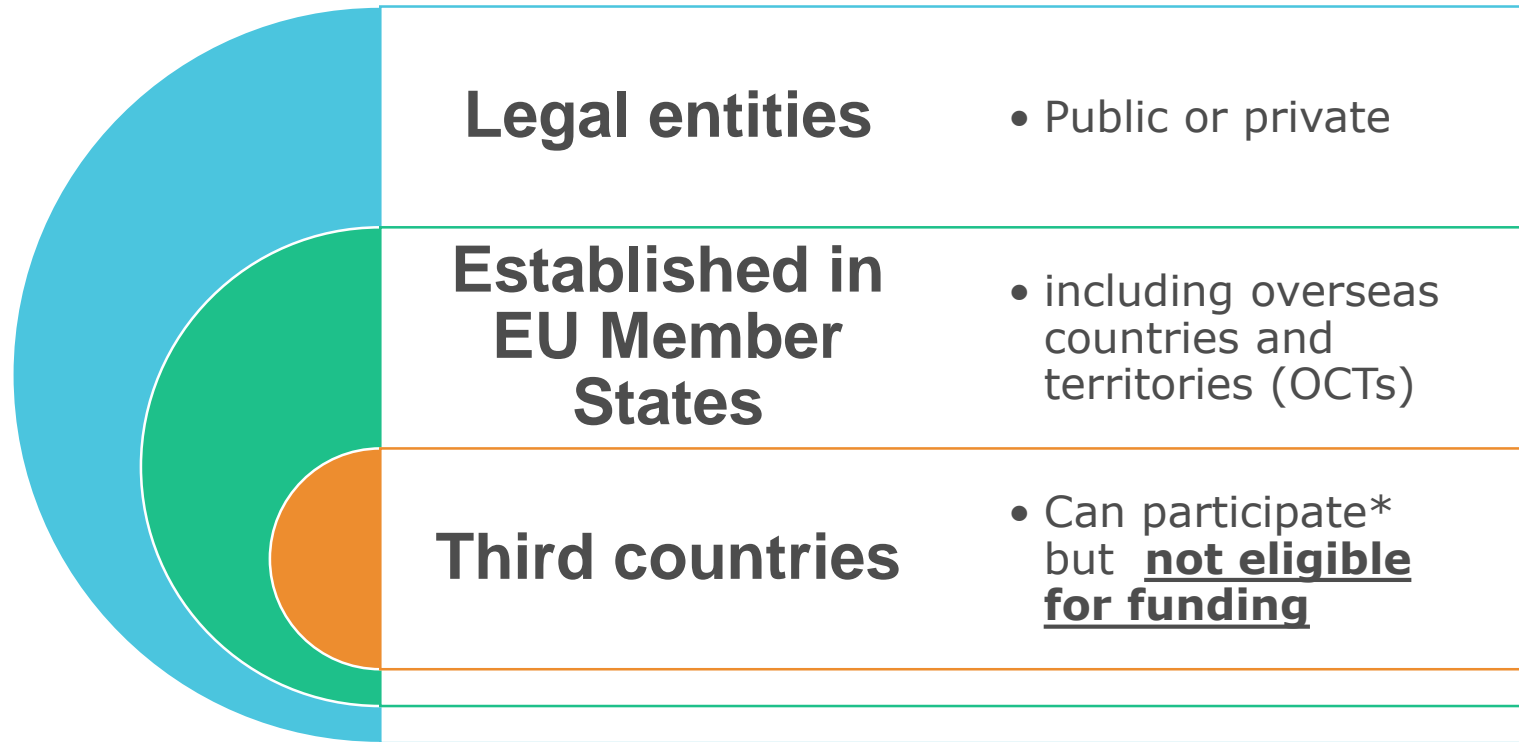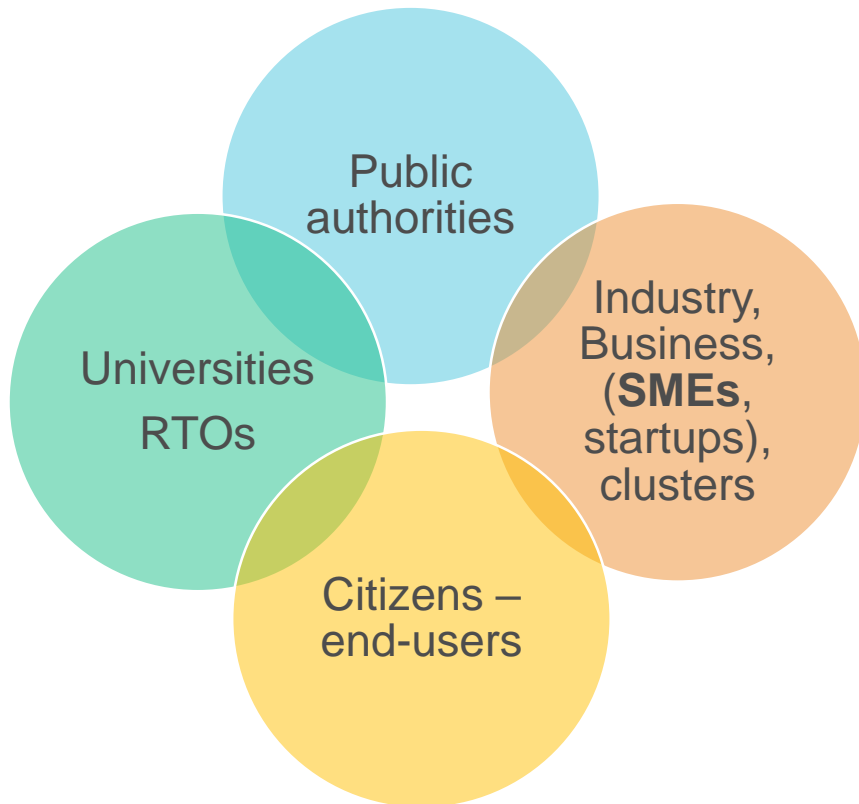- **Nr of projects to be funded** *(indicative):*

  10 - 15 per cut-off

Funding rate: 70% of the total eligible costs

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Strand 2a: Eligible consortia
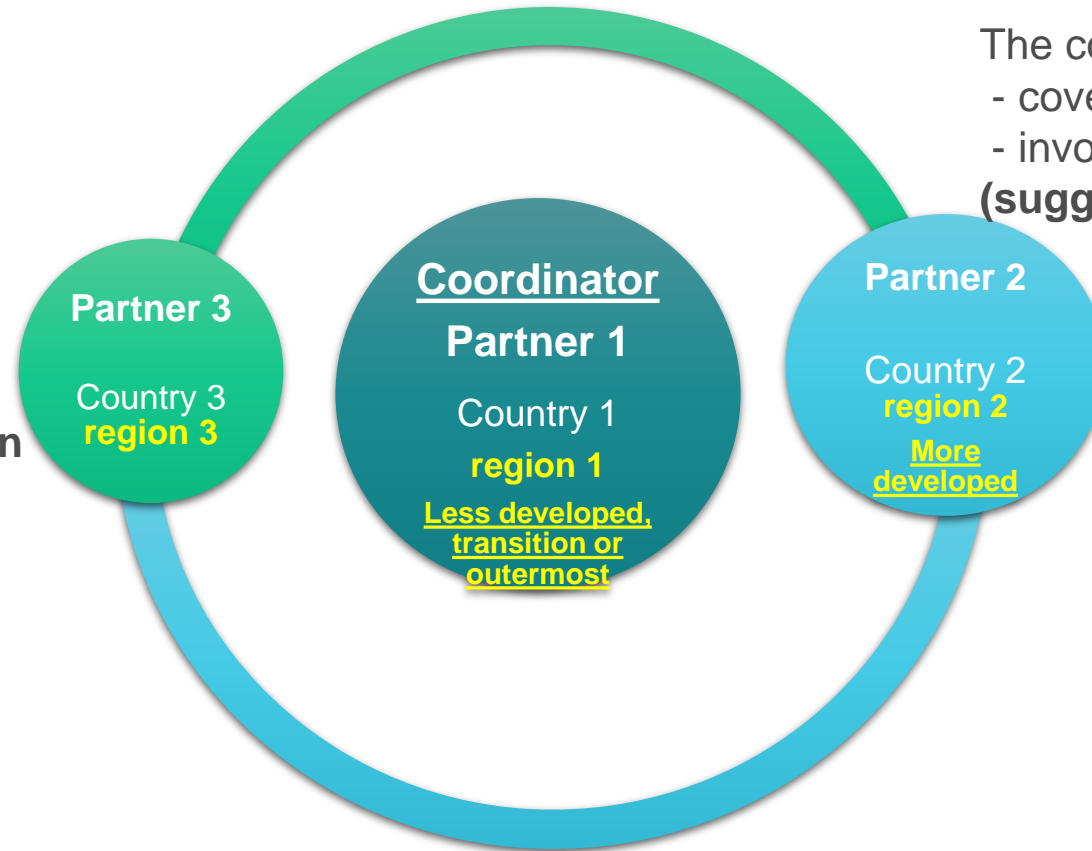
13

Geographical Composition:

Minimum 3 partners
from 3 different regions
from 2 different eligible countries

Coordinator:

Must be established in
a **less developed**,
transition or
outermost EU
region/country

Must be a **non-profit**
organisation

Type of Partners:

The consortium must :
- cover **demand & supply side**
- involve various **Q-helix components**
(suggested minimum 2)

At least 1 partner must be
established in a **more**
developed region/country.

Partner 3

Country 3
region 3

Coordinator
Partner 1

Country 1
region 1
Less developed,
transition or
outermost

Partner 2

Country 2
region 2
More
developed

Example (min requirements)

European Commission

Strand 2a: Eligible participants / countries

Check the category

of your

region/country [here](#)

Cohesion Policy eligibility 2021-2027*

*[Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/1130 of 5 July 2021 setting out the list of regions eligible for funding from the ERDF](#)

Strand 2a: Admissibility – required documents

Proposals must be submitted:
- Before **call deadline** (cut-off dates)
- **Electronically**

Required documents & annexes:

Application Form Part A: *(to be filled in directly online)* administrative information about the participants + summarised budget

Application Form Part B: *(to be downloaded, completed and then re-uploaded)* technical description of the project

Part C: *(to be filled in directly online)* only 1 per proposal; (available soon!) additional project data – *e.g. type of innovation, NUTS, TRL (start – end of project)*

Mandatory annexes and supporting documents
- detailed budget table *(template available)*
- CVs of core project team
- **letter of support (endorsement letter from Authorities in charge of S3)**

European Commission

Strand 2a: Admissibility – required documents

13

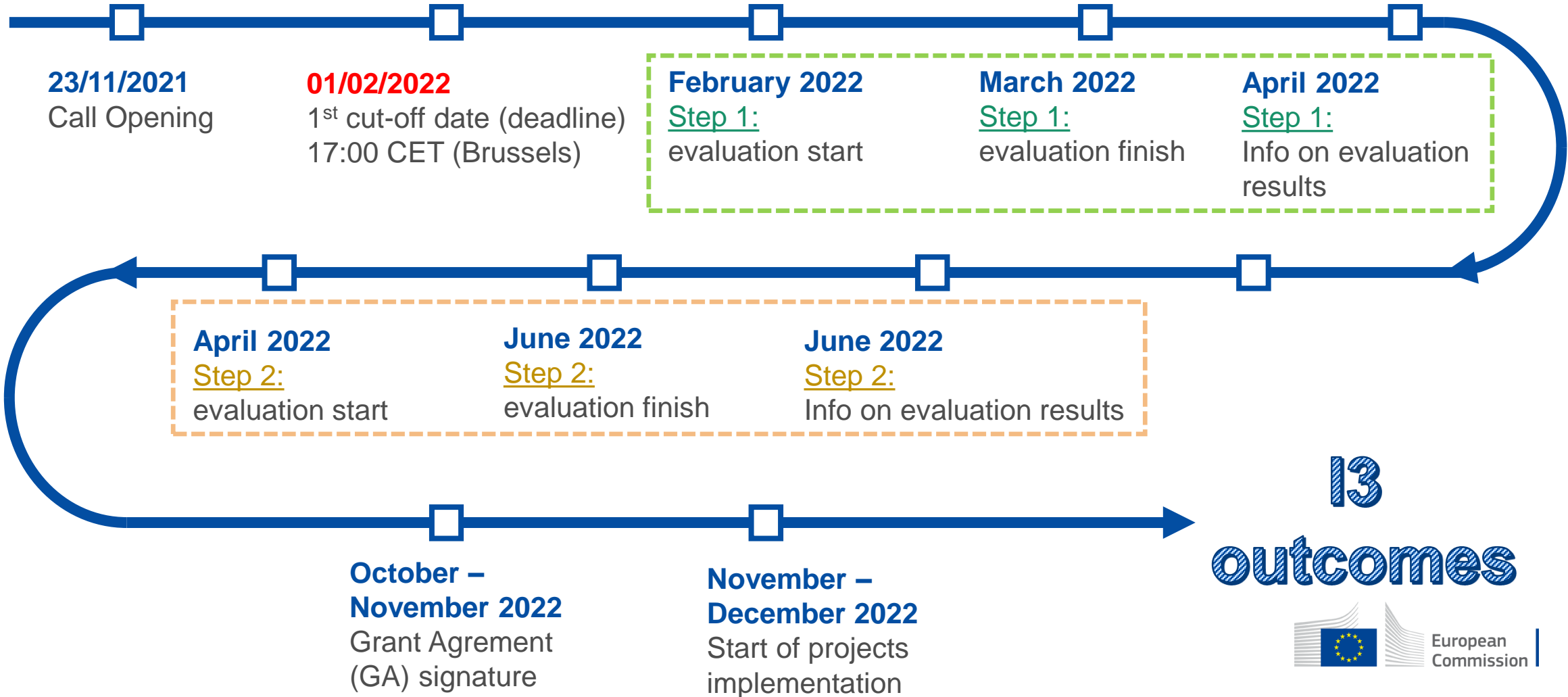| CONFIRMATION OF SUPPORT	
Name of the project we support:	[project title] — [acronym]
Coordinator:	[PCoCo name NAME], [organisation]

We hereby confirm that:

1)	we support the application	Yes / No
2)	it is consistent and addresses the national/regional S3 policies, strategies and priorities as identified by this authority	Yes / No

Here introduce the coordinator's name (consortium leader)
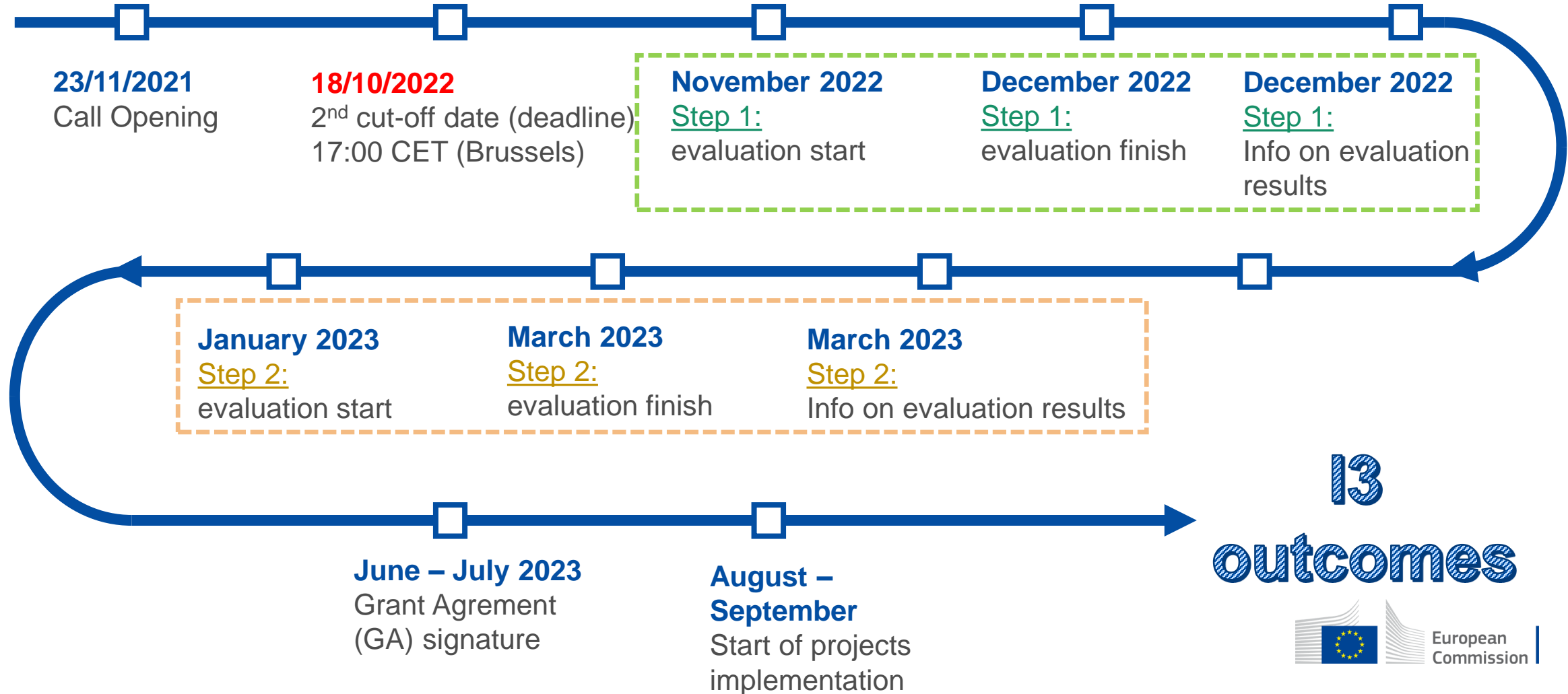
Letter of endorsement

- **1 per participating regional ecosystem**
- **covering all partners of the same region**
- **@ appropriate (closest) NUTS level** depending on the country's S3 organisation

European Commission

Strand 2a: Timeline - 2nd cut-off 2022

23/11/2021
Call Opening

18/10/2022
2nd cut-off date (deadline)
17:00 CET (Brussels)

November 2022
Step 1:
evaluation start

December 2022
Step 1:
evaluation finish

December 2022
Step 1:
Info on evaluation results

January 2023
Step 2:
evaluation start

March 2023
Step 2:
evaluation finish

March 2023
Step 2:
Info on evaluation results

June – July 2023
Grant Agrement (GA) signature

August – September
Start of projects implementation

I3
outcomes

European Commission

Strand 2a: Useful

We invite you to read:

- the call documentation carefully

- the I3 reference documents including the I3 Model Grant Agreement

- the EU Grants AGA – Annotated Grant Agreement

- the EU Funding & Tenders Portal Online Manual

For individual questions on the Portal Submission System, please contact the IT Helpdesk.

Non-IT related questions should be sent 3 working days before the submission deadline to :

EISMEA-I3-INSTRUMENT@ec.europa.eu.

Strand 2a: How to find info on the call & topics 1

(1) Use link here or Google: "Funding portal" → In F&T portal search: "innovation investments strand 2a"

(2) Click on topic

(3) Go to "topic conditions and documents"

Topic conditions and documents

Conditions

1. Admissibility conditions: described in section 5 of the call document

Proposal page limits and layout: described in Part B of the Application Form available in the Submission System

2. Eligible countries: described in section 6 of the call document

3. Other eligibility conditions: described in section 6 of the call document

4. Financial and operational capacity and exclusion: described in section 7 of the call document

5. Evaluation and award:

- **Submission and evaluation processes:** described section 8 of the call document and the Online Manual
- **Award criteria, scoring and thresholds:** described in section 9 of the call document
- **Indicative timeline for evaluation and grant agreement:** described in section 4 of the call document

6. Legal and financial set-up of the grants: described in section 10 of the call document

Call documents:

Call document - strand 2a

Standard application form ([ToA]) — call-specific application form is available in the Submission System

Detailed budget table ([ToA])

Letter of Support (MS S3 Endorsement)

I3 MGA - Multi & Mono V1.0

Additional documents:

I3 general website

Smart Specialisation Platform (S3)

Oslo manual

Commission Decision C(2021) 6152 final - approving the I3 Work Programme

European Commission

How to fill in the budget table

11:00 – 11:15

Simona da Corta Fumei and Alessandra Pace
EISMEA Financial Officers Unit C.01.2

1. Instructions

INSTRUCTIONS (DETAILED BUDGET TABLE ACTION GRANTS — PROPOSAL/GRANT PREPARATION)
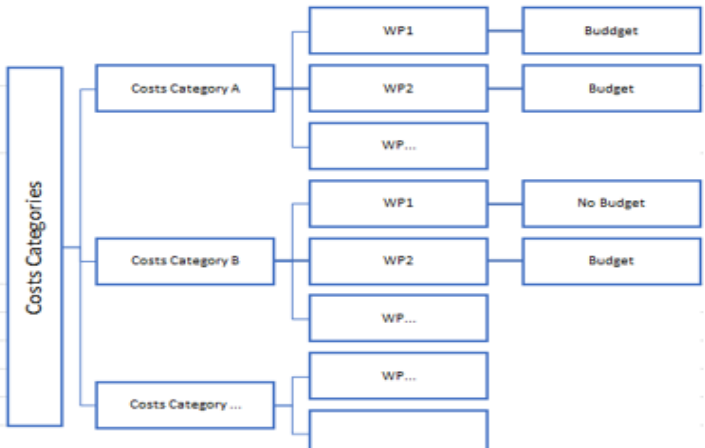
General

The file is composed of **5 sheets** (Instructions, Start, Detailed table, Consolidated table (participants) and Consolidated table (project)) which must be used to create your detailed budget table.

Depending on the instructions in the call document, you should submit the budget table either as part of your **proposal** and/or during grant preparation:
- for proposal: merge, scan and attach it as a **single PDF** to your Application Form Part B (Funding & Tenders Portal Submission System; only sheets 3, 4, and 5 needed; for sheets 3 and 4: **one per beneficiary/affiliated entity**; more details on technical instructions are in the Online Manual)
- for grant preparation (if needed, after changes requested by the EU): merge, scan and attach it as a single PDF to your Desription of the Action (DoA) Part B (Funding & Tenders Portal Grant Preparation tool).

ATTENTION! You may be asked to provide an Excel file by email during evaluation and grant preparation, if needed.

The budget table is broken down by cost category and work packages. For technical reasons the number of work packages has to be the same in all categories. Please leave them empty, if there are no costs.

2. Start

START (DETAILED BUDGET TABLE — PROPOSAL/GRANT PREPARATION)

PROJECT DATA

Project number:	
Project acronym:	
Participant short name:	
Participant PIC:	

WORK PACKAGES & TRAVELS

Index	Name	Description	Number of travels	Delete

1. Instructions   2. Start   3. Detailed table   4. Consolid table (participant)   5. Consolid table (project)

3. Detailed table

EU GRANTS DETAILED BUDGET TABLE (ACTION GRANTS)

Project number:		15-11-2021 16:38
Project acronym:		
Participant short name:		
Participant PIC:		

ATTENTION: This table should be filled out one per participant (beneficiary, affiliated entity)

ATTENTION: This table may ONLY contain eligible costs (i.e. costs that comply with the eligibility rules of the grant agreement that is part of your call documents). At proposal stage and during grant preparation, it should contain estimated costs/income. Costs must be estimated in EUR.

ATTENTION! List each budgeted cost item ONLY once in this table, for the main WP.

ATTENTION! White cells mean that you are required to enter data. Blue cells are calculated automatically.

EU PROJECT BUDGET TABLE (PER PARTICIPANT)

PROJECT COSTS

A. Personnel costs

	Costs (actual costs)				Also working for other work packages? YES/NO and which WP	Description of project role/activities/responsibilities
	Type of rate (monthly/other)	Rate (amount)	Time (months/other of work on the action)	Total (EUR)		
		a	b	c = a * b		
Total personnel (all WPs)				0.00		

1. Instructions   2. Start   **3. Detailed table**   4. Consolid table (participant)   5. Consolid table (project)

4. Consolidated table per participant

EU GRANTS DETAILED BUDGET TABLE (ACTION GRANTS)

Project number:	
Project acronym:	
Participant short name:	
Participant PIC:	

CONSOLIDATED COSTS PER WORK PACKAGE (PER PARTICIPANT)

COSTS PER WORK PACKAGE

	A.1 Employees A.2 + A.3 Natural persons under direct contract and seconded persons	A.4 SME owners	B. Subcontracting costs	C. Purchase costs						D. Other cost categories	E. Indirect costs	Total
				C.1 Travel and subsistence	C.1 Travel	C.1 Accomodation	C.1 Subsistence	C.2 Equipment	C.3 Other goods, work and services	D.1 Financial support to third parties		
	a1 - a2	a3	b	c1	c1a	c1b	c1c	c2	c3	d1	e = flat-rate * (a1 + a2 + a3 + a5 + b + [c1a + c1b + c1c] + c2 + c3 + d1 + d2 + d3 + d4 + d5 + d6)	
TOTAL COSTS PARTICIPANT	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0

5. Consolidated table per project

13

EU GRANTS DETAILED BUDGET TABLE (ACTION GRANTS)

Project number:

Project acronym:

ATTENTION! Delete columns that do not apply for your grant.

CONSOLIDATED COSTS PER WORK PACKAGE (PROJECT)

PROJECT COSTS PER WORK PACKAGE

| | A.1 Employees A.2 + A.3 Natural persons under direct contract and seconded persons | A.4 SME owners | B. Subcontracting costs | C. Purchase costs | | | | | | D. Other cost categories | E. Indirect costs | Total |
| | | | | C.1 Travel and subsistence | C.1 Travel | C.1 Accomodation | C.1 Subsistence | C.2 Equipment | C.3 Other goods, works and services | D.1 Financial support to third parties | e = flat-rate * (a1 + a2 + a3 + a5 + b + [c1a + c1b + c1c] + c2 + c3 + d1 + d2 + d3 + d4 + d5 + d6) | |
	a1 - a2	a3	b	c1	c1a	c1b	c1c	c2	c3	d1		
PARTICIPANT [name]												
TOTAL COSTS PARTICIPANT (Proposal Step)												0,00
TOTAL COSTS PARTICIPANT (Grant Preparation Step)												0,00
PARTICIPANT [name]												
TOTAL COSTS PARTICIPANT (Proposal Step)												0,00

1. Instructions | 2. Start | 3. Detailed table | 4. Consolid table (participant) | **5. Consolid table (project)**

6. Detailed budget table

Per participant!

EU GRANTS DETAILED BUDGET TABLE (ACTION GRANTS)

		15-11-2021 16:38
Project number:		
Project acronym:		
Participant short name:		
Participant PIC:		

ATTENTION: This table should be filled out one per participant (beneficiary, affiliated entity)

ATTENTION: This table may ONLY contain eligible costs (i.e. costs that comply with the eligibility rules of the grant agreement that is part of your call documents). At proposal stage and during grant preparation, it should contain estimated costs/income. Costs must be estimated in EUR.

ATTENTION! List each budgeted cost item ONLY once in this table, for the main WP.

ATTENTION! White cells mean that you are required to enter data. Blue cells are calculated automatically.

EU PROJECT BUDGET TABLE (PER PARTICIPANT)

PROJECT COSTS

A. Personnel costs

	Costs (actual costs)				Also working for other work packages? YES/NO and which WP	Description of project role/activities/responsibilities
	Type of rate (monthly/other)	Rate (amount)	Time (months/other of work on the action)	Total (EUR)		
		a	b	c = a * b		
Total personnel (all WPs)				0,00		

B. Subcontracting costs

	Costs (actual costs)		Also used for other work packages? YES/NO and which WP	Description of subcontracted project tasks/activities
Total subcontracting (all WPs)		0,00		

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)		

| 1. Instructions | 2. Start | **3. Detailed table** | 4. Consolid table (participant) | 5. Consolid table (project) | ⊕ |

Detailed budget table

Per participant!

PROJECT COSTS

A. Personnel costs

B. Subcontracting

C. Purchase costs

D. Other cost categories

E. Indirect costs

PROJECT INCOME

EU contribution

Revenues and contribution by Third parties

Own contribution

European Commission

PROJECT COSTS

A. Personnel costs

		Costs (actual costs)				Also working for other work packages? YES/NO and which WP	Description of project role/activities/responsibilities
		Type of rate (monthly/other)	Rate (amount)	Time (months/other of work on the action)	Total (EUR)		
			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		
WORK PACKAGE 2	0						
	A.1 Employees (or equivalent)						
		Total personnel (all WPs)			0,00		

Costs for employees or equivalent

Eligible if:

➢ related to personnel working for the beneficiary under an employment contract (or equivalent appointing act) and assigned to the action;

➢ limited to: salaries, social security contributions, taxes and other costs linked to the remuneration (if they arise from national law or the employment contract - or equivalent appointing act.

➡️ Estimation of monthly rate

Costs for natural and seconded persons

❖**Natural persons** working under a direct contract other than an employment

contract and

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

eligible if:

→they are assigned to the action,

→fulfil the general eligibility conditions,

→work under conditions similar to those of an employee (how, what, where)

→the result of the work belongs to the beneficiary

Costs for SME owners and natural person beneficiaries

❖ SME owners for the action: owners of beneficiaries that are small and medium-sized enterprises not receiving a salary;

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

Calculation method (Annex 2a MGA):

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

European Commission

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			
WORK PACKAGE 2	0				
	1 [Subcontract short name]	0,00			
	2 [Subcontract short name]	0,00			
	Total subcontracting for this WP	0,00			
WORK PACKAGE 3	0				
	1[Subcontract short name]	0,00			
	2 [Subcontract short name]	0,00			
	Total subcontracting for this WP	0,00			
WORK PACKAGE 4	0				
	1[Subcontract short name]	0,00			
	2 [Subcontract short name]	0,00			
	Total subcontracting for this WP	0,00			
WORK PACKAGE 5	0				
	1[Subcontract short name]	0,00			
	2 [Subcontract short name]	0,00			
	Total subcontracting for this WP	0,00			
	Total subcontracting (all WPs)	0,00			

B. Subcontracting costs / 1

Purchase of goods, works or services
related to the implementation of specific tasks which are part of the action and are described in Annex 1

❖ *Justified because of the nature of the action and what is necessary for its implementation*

❖ *Only a limited part of action can be subcontracted -> NO core tasks*

❖ *Subcontractor works without the direct supervision of the beneficiary (as opposed to in-house consultants)*

European Commission

B. Subcontracting costs / 2

Purchase of goods, works or services
related to the implementation of specific tasks which are part of the action and are described in Annex 1.

- ❖ *Responsibility towards the EU for the subcontracted work lies fully with the beneficiary*

- ❖ *Ensure the best value for money or, if appropriate, the lowest price*

- ❖ *Based on 'business conditions': the subcontractor charges a price, which usually includes a profit*

- ❖ *Avoid any conflict of interests (Article 12 MGA)*

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					
Total travel costs (all WPs)				**0,00**		
Total accomodation (all WPs)				**0,00**		
Total subsistence (all WPs)				**0,00**		
Total travel and subsistence (all WPs)				**0,00**		

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*

Travel, accommodation and subsistence

Costs have to:

→Be budgeted only for the personnel working on the action;

→Be justified: the travel has to be justified to the participation of meetings planned in the description of the action, supported by the relevant documents, made following the usual practice of the beneficiary;

→Be budgeted as actual or unit costs

(Commission Decision of 12 January 2021 authorising the use of unit costs for travel, accommodation and subsistence costs under an action or work programme under the 2021-2027 multi-annual financial framework (C(2021)35))

C.2 Equipment

WORK PACKAGE 1	0

C.2.1 Purchase (depreciation/full cost)

	Costs (actual costs)				Total (EUR)	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)			
	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)			Total (EUR)	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)			
	a	b	c	d= a*b*c		
1 [Equipment short name]	0,00	0,00	0%	0,00		
2 [Equipment short name]	0,00	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 rental and leasing			0,00		
	Total equipment for this WP			0,00		

WORK PACKAGE 2	0

C.2.1 Purchase (depreciation/full cost)

	Total rental and leasing	0,00		
	Total equipment for this WP	0,00		
	Total equipment (all WPs)	0,00		

Equipment

Depreciation of equipment and infrastructure:

- New or second-hand

- Renting and the leasing

Costs have to be recorded in the assets following the rules of the international Accounting System and the usual practice of the beneficiary

The only PORTION of the costs that will be taken into account is that which corresponds

to the DURATION of the action and RATE OF ACTUAL USE for the purposes of the action

13

C.3 Other goods, works and services					
WORK PACKAGE 1	0				
		Costs (actual costs)		Also part of other work packages? YES/NO and which WP	Description of tasks/activities for which the goods/services are needed; types of goods services needed; how much
	Consumables	0,00			
	Conferences, seminars, workshops, trainings & events	0,00			
	Information & publications				
	Other expenses				
	1 IPR costs	0,00			
	2 Bank fees (pre-financing guarantee)	0,00			
	3 Audit fees (CFS)	0,00			
	4 Project evaluation	0,00			
	[5 short name other]	0,00			
	[6 short name other]	0,00			
	Total goods, works and services for this WP	0,00			
WORK PACKAGE 2	0				
	Total goods, works and services for this WP	0,00			
	Total goods, works and services (all WPs)	0,00			
	Total purchase costs (all WPs)	0,00			

Other goods and services

Other goods and services

purchased specifically for the implementation of the action

➢To be made always ensuring the principle of the best value for money or the lowest price.

➢To be calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred.

Examples: catering costs, renting of a meeting room, construction of a website, printing of leaflets, consumables and supplies, promotion, dissemination, protection of results, translations, publications, certificates and financial guarantees.

European Commission

D. Other cost categories

D. Other cost categories		
D.1. Financial support to third parties		
Total D.1 (all WPs)	0,00	
Total other cost categories (all WPs)	0,00	

E. Indirect 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%	
	Total indirect costs	0,00	
	Total indirect costs	0,00	
		TOTAL COSTS PARTICIPANT	0,00

7% flat rate of Σ A. Personnel costs + B. Subcontracting + C. Purchase costs + D. Other costs (FSTP)

European Commission

E. Indirect costs

Running or operating costs (overhead)

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

(Vs 'direct costs', that are directly linked to the action implementation and can therefore be attributed to it directly)

→Reimbursed at the flat-rate of 7% of the eligible direct costs

→Automatically calculated by the IT system applying the rate of 7% to the sum of the eligible costs

Example: rent of the office, utilities.

Detailed budget table

Per participant!

| PROJECT COSTS | = | PROJECT INCOME |

A. Personnel costs

B. Subcontracting

C. Purchase costs

D. Other cost categories

E. Indirect costs

EU contribution

Revenues and contribution by Third parties

Own contribution

European Commission
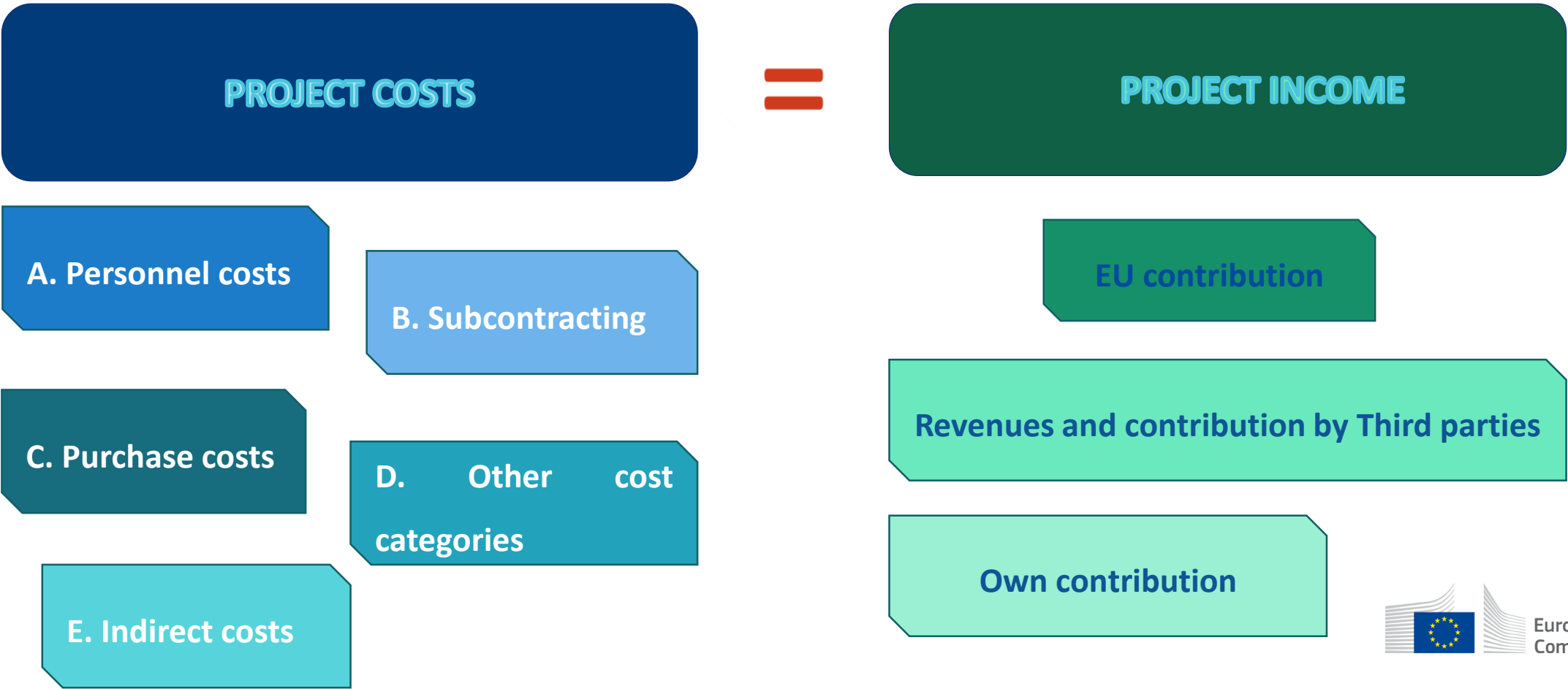
Project income

PROJECT INCOME		
EU CONTRIBUTION (GRANT)		
	Amount (EUR)	
Total costs	0,00	
Single Funding rate (%)	70%	
Maximum EU contribution	0,00	
Requested EU contribution	0,00	
EU CONTRIBUTION	**0,00**	

European Commission

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	

Project income

Revenue sources

- EU contribution ➡ **70% total project costs**

- Income generated by the action: direct revenues/receipts of the projects (e.g. conference participants fees, sales of books)

- Other sources of funding:

    √ In-kind contributions and/or financial contributions from third parties

- The own contribution of the beneficiary

Financial support to third parties scheme

11:15 – 11:30

Milena Stoyanova, EISMEA Project Adviser Unit I.01.1

'FSTP' or 'Cascade funding' – What it is?

- Financial support to third parties is a funding by a grant beneficiary of (one or more) recipients that are not party to the GA. It is also called 'cascade funding'.

- A mechanism to distribute public funding in an efficient way
  - ✓ Simplified administrative procedures & SME-friendly application schemes -> Less formalities / administrative burden
  - ✓ Time to grant is shorter than the TTG for EU projects -> Faster access to financial support
  - ✓ Less competition than direct funding

- Actions may involve financial support to third parties ONLY where this is explicitly allowed in the work programme/call (i.e. not all EU projects can provide FSTP)

European Commission

FSTP – Legal Basis : Financial Regulation introduces the notion & main conditions

Financial Regulation applicable to the General Budget of the Union and its rules of application (Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018) **is also part of the regulatory framework for I3**

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32018R1046

-> Art. 204:

Article 204

Financial support to third parties

Where implementation of an action or a work programme requires the provision of financial support to third parties, the beneficiary may provide such financial support if the conditions for such provision are defined in the grant agreement between the beneficiary and the Commission, with no margin for discretion by the beneficiary.

No margin for discretion shall be considered to exist if the grant agreement specifies the following:

(a) the maximum amount of financial support that can be paid to a third party which shall not exceed EUR 60 000 and the criteria for determining the exact amount;

(b) the different types of activities that may receive such financial support, on the basis of a fixed list;

(c) the definition of the persons or categories of persons which may receive such financial support and the criteria for providing it.

The threshold referred to in point (a) of the second paragraph may be exceeded where achieving the objectives of the actions would otherwise be impossible or overly difficult.

European Commission

FSTP in I3 calls : FSTP <u>may</u> be provided in the context all topics of Strand 1 and Strand 2a

*"… A project implemented under the I3 Instrument **<u>can be composed of a portfolio of sub-projects</u>** (portfolios of interregional investments activities – e.g. through distribution of funding by the consortium coordinator to the members of the consortium **<u>or in a form of financial support to third parties</u>**)"*

*"…The action is aiming at generating and developing **<u>a portfolio of individual sub-projects</u>** to be implemented by third parties, namely the end-beneficiaries"*

"…Target investments can be both tangible and intangible investments and must be related to the following:

- *…*
- ***<u>Financial support</u>** for producing plans and arrangements or designs for new, altered or improved products, processes or services such as demonstrating, testing and piloting activities by companies, large-scale product validation and market replication (new to Europe and new to the application sector)"*

One of the <u>options</u> (to achieve the objectives) = FSTP

! FSTP is not compulsary !

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FSTP– What are the rules for I3 calls? (1)

For both strands (all topics) :

Financial support to third parties is allowed in all topics **under certain conditions**!

-> you will find the conditions call text < section 6 "Eligibility" <
"Eligible activities"

FSTP– What are the rules for I3 calls? (2)

What are the conditions (1)?

- Costs for providing **FSTP cannot exceed 30% of the total grant amount**

- **Max amount of FS for each third party ('recipient') may not exceed EUR 60 000**, unless a higher amount is required because the objective of the action would otherwise be impossible or overly difficult to achieve -> duly justified in the Application Form;

- Costs for providing FSTP will be reimbursed at 100% within the limits of the overall co-funding rate fixed in the Grant Agreement

! Funding rate for direct I3 beneficiaries remains = 70% for FSTP (if you provide 60k to an SME, EU would reimbourse 42k to you as direct beneficiary); funding rate for recipients of FSTP (FSTP distributed in form of lump sum or as reimb. actual costs) = 100%

- The recipients of FSTP **must be SMEs[1] established in the S3 participating regions covered by the consortium**

1. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are defined in the EU recommendation 2003/361 : https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32003H0361

FSTP– What are the rules for I3 calls? (3)

What are the conditions (2)?

- **Calls for FSTP the must be open, published widely** and conform to EU standards concerning transparency, equal treatment, conflict of interest and confidentiality

- **Calls** must remain **open for at least 2 months**

- **Outcome of calls -> to be published on participants' websites**, incl. a description of the selected projects, award dates, project durations, and final recipient legal names and countries,

- **Calls must have a clear European dimension** and need to contribute to the objectives of the project.

> **Applications must, in addition, clearly specify why financial support to third parties is needed, how it will be managed and provide a list of the different types of activities for which a third party may receive financial support. The proposal must also clearly describe the results to be obtained.**

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FSTP– What are the rules for I3 calls? (4)

- Call text Strand 1 and Strand 2a < **section 10 "Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements" < Budget categories and cost eligibility rules:**

*"**costs for financial support to third parties: allowed for grants**; maximum amount per third party EUR 60 000, unless a higher amount is required because the objective of the action would otherwise be impossible or overly difficult to achieve and this is duly justified in the Application Form"*

-> ! The call does not foresee distribution of FSTP in form of prizes!

- ARTICLE 6 — ELIGIBLE AND INELIGIBLE COSTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

D. Other cost categories

D.1 Financial support to third parties

Costs for providing financial support to third parties (in the form of **grants, prizes** or similar forms of support; if any) are eligible, if and as declared eligible in the call conditions, if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions, are calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred and the support is implemented in accordance with the conditions set out in Annex 1.

These conditions must ensure objective and transparent selection procedures and include at least the following:

(a) for grants (or similar):

(i) the maximum amount of financial support for each third party ('recipient'); this amount may not exceed the amount set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 3)[21] or otherwise agreed with the granting authority

(ii) the criteria for calculating the exact amount of the financial support

(iii) the different types of activity that qualify for financial support, on the basis of a closed list

(iv) the persons or categories of persons that will be supported and

(v) the criteria and procedures for giving financial support

60k per SME (or more if justified)

Lumps sums or Reimbursement of actual costs?

Examples of activities mentioned in the call: testing and piloting activities by companies, large-scale product validation and market replication ; could be further explained in the context of your project

SMEs established in the S3 participating regions covered by the consortium

For each evaluation criterion (e.g .Excellence, Impact, Implementation) – description + you may define sub-criteria, weighting, scores (e.g. between 0 and 5, with or without half points); Technical and financial capacity check, In case of ex-aequo, the procedure you will apply etc..

FSTP – A quick look at the I3 General Model Grant Agreement : Important articles (2)

- ARTICLE 9.4 — Recipients of financial support to third parties

9.4 Recipients of financial support to third parties

If the action includes providing financial support to third parties (e.g. grants, prizes or similar forms of support), the beneficiaries must ensure that their contractual obligations under Articles 12 (conflict of interest), 13 (confidentiality and security), 14 (ethics), 17.2 (visibility), 18 (specific rules for carrying out action), 19 (information) and 20 (record-keeping) also apply to the third parties receiving the support (recipients).

The beneficiaries must also ensure that the bodies mentioned in Article 25 (e.g. granting authority, OLAF, Court of Auditors (ECA), etc.) can exercise their rights also towards the recipients.

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FSTP & inspiring examples:

13

e.g. Cascade funding in H2020 INNOSUP-01 Cluster facilitated projects for new industrial value chains :

- All FSTP call announcements were published by INNOSUP-01 projects on the F&T Portal together with many other calls for FSTP

Have a look at : https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/competitive-calls

Direct links to the calls applications pages are available in each individual announcement!

13 H2020 INNOSUP-01 Cluster facilitated projects for new industrial value chains that have already published calls for FSTP

http://katanaproject.eu
http://www.neptune-project.eu
http://www.h2020-superbio.eu
http://permides.eu/
http://acttivate.eu
https://www.innolabs.io
http://www.impact-accelerator.com/connected-car/
http://www.inclusilver.eu
http://www.cross4health.eu/
https://www.projectdiva.eu/
https://www.iot4industry.eu/
http://vidaproject.eu/
https://c-voucher.fundingbox.com/
http://s3food.eu/
https://www.smartx-europe.eu/
https://www.digibcube.com/
https://parsec-accelerator.eu/
https://blockis.eu/
https://digicirc.eu/
https://galateaproject.eu/
https://www.metabuilding.eu/
https://www.ufoproject.eu/
https://h2020-minethegap.eu/
https://galacticaproject.eu/

Tips & lessons learnt from H2020 INNOSUP-01 projects (1)

- When drafting the proposal/call, be **extremely clear** with the mandatory elements/conditions.

- "**Lump sums**" or "**Reimbursement of Actual Costs**" ? No magic recipe ! BUT "Lump sums" prove to be easier to manage

  Depending on what has been foreseen in Annex 1, the beneficiaries will award the financial support on:

  - an output based scheme — upon delivery of the expected output -> lump sum (Payments against deliverables, no financial report, "what the third parties are doing" (output) prevails over the "how the third parties are doing".
  - an input based scheme — upon fulfilment of eligibility conditions -> reimbursement of actual costs (! the beneficiary must ensure that the third party has fulfilled the eligibility conditions for the costs being reimbursed (checking invoices, requesting technical and financial reports)

- Open calls are **very time demanding to manage** (preparation, evaluation, contracting and monitoring): enough resources to be planned.

- **Simplify administrative procedures** to optimize the time of the contracting and the administrative follow-up of the projects

Tips & lessons learnt from H2020 INNOSUP-01 projects (2)

- Involve your **legal and financial departments** when drafting calls for FSTP & relevant templates .

- **Platforms** for call management do already exist: no need to reinvent the wheel (search for suitable partners!)

- **Prioritize the quality of projects over quantity**: sometimes it is more valuable to fund fewer projects with many SMEs and to provide sub-grants with higher amounts (it depends on the expected results!)

- Avoid submission **deadlines** in summer / Christmas period.

- **Number of payments to SMEs** to be made in accordance with amount to be granted (proportional!).

- **Partners in the consortium cannot be the beneficiaries of the grants** given to the SMEs as FTSP. If they provide advisory innovation services directly to SME, those are to be funded by "staff costs"; their value is then outside the 60k limit.

Tips & lessons learnt from H2020 INNOSUP-01 projects (3)

- Ensure **common understanding** within the consortium of call expectations

- Evaluation:
  - External experts ensure neutrality
  - Organise clear and concrete training for evaluators (internal and/or external)

- (Excel) table to monitor the 60,000 € limit in case 1 SME can participate in different grants.

- Pay attention to **data protection and IPR issues**.

- Keep **good communication** with the **awarded SMEs** and accompany them throughout project implementation; you can already think about that when drafting your proposal

European Commission

Submitting a good proposal

11:30 – 11:45

Eric Koch, EISMEA Project Adviser Unit I.01.1

European Commission

Think about the basics

- Is my organisation **eligible**? E.g.
  - ➢ **#+type** of entities (quadruple helix!), **#countries** (difference between Strand 1 and 2a!!)
    NB: affiliated entities do not count towards the #entities minimum!
  - ➢ **statute** of coordinator (no profit!),
  - ➢ **developed/less** developed country/region,
  - ➢ the same project only for **one** **topic (the last submitted counts)**,
  - ➢ **existing** smart specialisation strategy for the topic,
  - ➢ no environmentally **harmful** proposals,
  - ➢ minimum **TRL** level 6,
  - ➢ **no** double funding,
  - ➢ Etc.! → "**Topic conditions and documents**".

- Do I have a **realistic chance (**main/reserve list)? If not, get trained/ready and come back for a future/another call!

- Submit early enough, not at the last minute. No EU responsibility for your own connection issues: 17h00 sharp **Central European Time…**

- After submission: **modify your proposal** as often as you wish until the deadline!

Get familiar with the main steps

13

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: innovation type, NUTS participants data, pre/post project-TRL levels.

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 0: Create user account / Personnel identification code (PIC) for beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners)
- 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

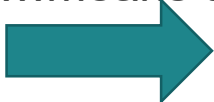# Consult the call text/page in detail

- Read and re-read ➤ **relevance** for the [i3 Work programme (WP)](#) and financing [decision](#).

- Don't repeat the WP/call text. ➤ Your proposal's **specific contribution**! Different logic for two Strands (2a: focus on less developed regions). Check out your region's status [here](#).

- "Topic description" + "**Topic conditions and documents**" (Strand 1 or 2a). The topics (digital, green and manufacturing) have different objectives, activity scopes and expected impacts/KPIs! ➤ Check out the model grant agreement (MGA) and [annotated MGA](#).

- **Proposal template** ➤ **Sub questions/criteria** as red thread (part B).

- **Award criteria** ➤ Relevance/Quality Step 2 criteria with more detailed (!) description.

- One submission for you but two evaluations for us (two step call). ➤ Write your application to pass step 2 to get the funding (not only step 1)

- **Policy/regulatory background docs** ➤ i3, smart specialisation, European Regional Development Funding, the Financial regulation on call page.

Be prepared

- **Not enough to pass the minimum** for each step criterion (2.5/5 or 5/10)
      minimum overall step threshold (7/10 or 17,5/25)!

- Consider the **different weighting of the 4 award criteria**. Although you have to be excellent in all of them…

- EU calls highly competitive.   Strive for **perfectionism**.

- Ask **experienced** former applicants from similar calls (e.g. H2020 INNOSUP 1 cluster calls, Single market programme/COSME calls, etc.).

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

- **Generic/call specific questions:** through the portal. Answers posted a few days later (max 3 days before call deadline). Topic call related FAQs mirrored on the call page under "Topic related FAQ".

- Submit proposal in any official language but **English preferred** to avoid translation issues/misunderstandings

Think about the evaluators and EU colleagues…

- …does **NOT** mean that you can be in touch with them but…

- …means that you put yourself **in their shoes**. Dozens of pages to read.

  ➡ Be to the point. More WPs/milestones/text is/are <u>not necessarily</u> better.

- **Max #pages: 60, Arial 9, 15 mm margin, A4(Part B).** Excess pages watermarked/disregarded by evaluator
  - ➢ Don't delete parts of template/any instructions to win space!
  - ➢ Don't change the format (otherwise we will it change back to check the limits)

- Write **reader friendly**.
  - ➢ No endless sentences
  - ➢ Limit abbreviations and use a glossary.

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

  ➡ 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!

Evaluation and award procedure

One-stage submission + a two-step evaluation procedure

1st step: pre-selection on the basis of 2 award criteria:

➢ Relevance in view of the overall objectives of the call

➢ Quality of the Project team and cooperation arrangements

2nd step:

➢ Relevance in view of the specific objectives of the call

➢ Quality of the Project design and implementation

➢ Cost Effectiveness

➢ Impact

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Criterion 1: Relevance (steps 1+2)

- The **relation/match** with the WP/call topic priorities

- Soundness of **needs** analysis

- **"SMART"** objectives

- **Synergies** with other related projects

- **European** dimension

European Commission

Criterion 2: Quality (steps 1+2)

- What makes your proposal "more excellent" than others? Your specific **value proposition**.

- **Outline** and approach

- Team quality / sound **distribution of resources** in consortium
  - support on action tasks from subcontractors (Part B.5.4: limited - <30%/best value for money)
  - in kind contributors (not budgeted but can be explained in Part B.1-5)

- Each beneficiary's **contribution**

- **Precise staff list** with function/profile/CVs for beneficiaries + affiliated/associate partners

- **Consortium** management and decision-making

- **Project management** and monitoring (of methods and KPIs) + risk management/mitigation

Criterion 3: Cost effectiveness (Step 2)

- **Quality** of measures to reach objectives/results efficiently

- Efficiency of the **financial management**

- Distribution of consortium financial resources
    - No detailed WP cost description but why budget table is considered as effective.
    - Badly balanced/excessive cost estimates risk to be downgraded during evaluation

- Take your **budget planning** seriously: <u>Detailed</u> budget table to fill in. It takes time to go through all budget categories – especially the staff costs! Often the source of financial errors. Check out the <u>guidance</u> for staff costs/daily rates calculation (derived from Horizon Europe)

- A **consortium agreement** is highly recommended. Can also be signed at a later stage during grant agreement preparation

Criterion 4: Impact (Step 2)

- Check Key performance indicators (**KPIs)** mentioned in call text

- Define **desired effects** of project (portfolio) – short and long term (e.g. define time to impact).

- **Target groups** and how will they benefit?

- Describe the **innovation** to be triggered and how

- Environmental, territorial, social **impact**

- **Communication** (during) and **dissemination** (after) the project to the public/private stakeholders

- **Sustainability** of the project (follow-up, business plans, synergies)

Final tips

- Experts / EU take and evaluate the proposal as it is. In principle no detailed negotiation (do not assume the EU will improve your proposal..). **Write as if no improvements should be made** in the grant preparation; even if for awarded proposals adaptions can be made during grant preparation

- **Do not overshoot**: be ambitious but stay realistic about what you can achieve with your project

- **Consult** the
  - ➤ Call page "topic updates"
  - ➤ Online Manual, How to section
  - ➤ Non-IT questions: eismea-i3-instrument@ec.europa.eu
  - ➤ I3 website
  - ➤ Smart Specialisation Platform

Support & Helpdesk

Online Manual | IT How To
IT Helpdesk | FAQ

Service Desk:

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

📞 +32 2 29 92222

Closing session

12:15 – 12:30

Luisa Prista, EISMEA Head of Department I

Thank you

This Power Point Presentation and the recording of the Webex/slido session will be uploaded very soon on the I3 webpage.

Contact: EISMEA-I3-INSTRUMENT@ec.europa.eu

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