



EUROPEAN UNION



#HorizonEU

EUROPEAN INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS

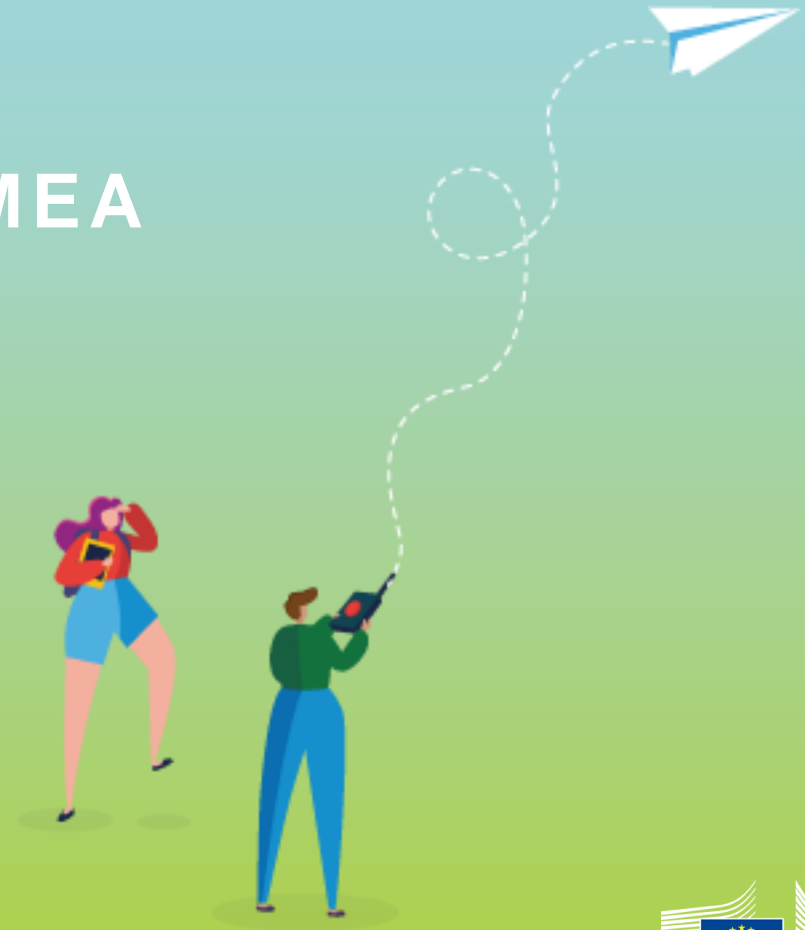
Informative session
29 February 2024



THE EU RESEARCH & INNOVATION PROGRAMME 2021 - 2027

MODERATED BY

Gerald Cultot
Deputy Head of Unit I1, EISMEA



AGENDA



Time	Topic
10:05 AM	Introduction and Opening
10:15 AM	Policy Context of the European Innovation Ecosystems (EIE) 2023-2024 Work Programme
10:30 AM	Call “HORIZON-EIE-2024-CONNECT-01-01 - The African Union-European Union Innovation Platform”
11:00 AM	Q&A via Sli.do
11:20 AM	Call “HORIZON-EIE-2024-CONNECT-01-02 – Startup Europe”
11:50 AM	Q&A via Sli.do
12:10 PM	Conclusions

DISCLAIMER

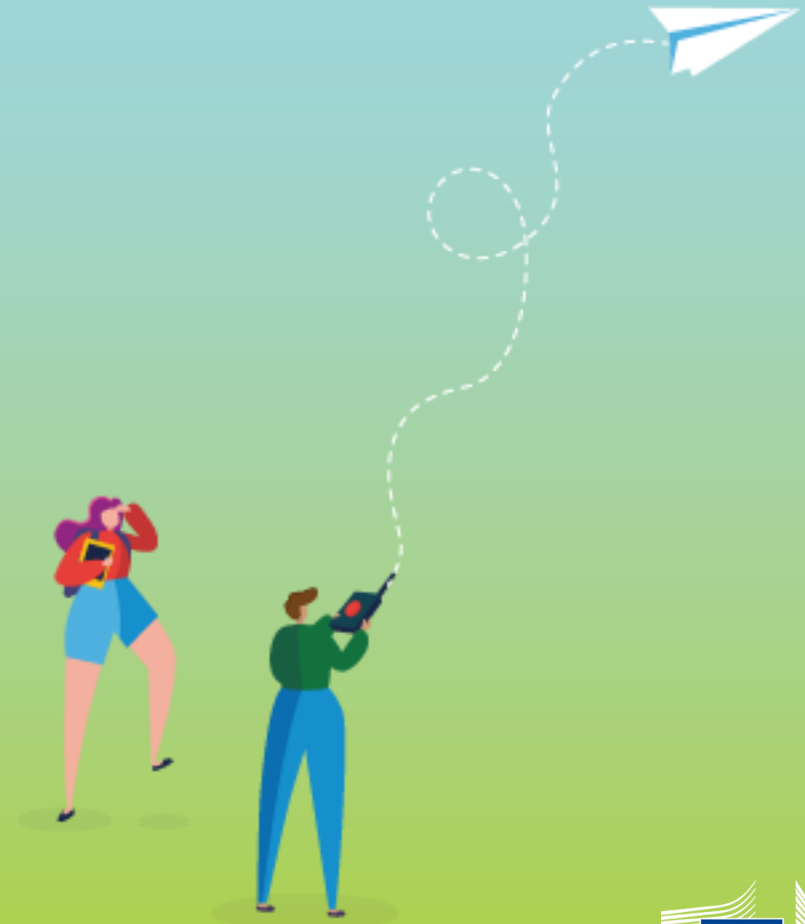
Call text prevails over
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Opening

Birgit Weidel

Head of Department I, EISMEA



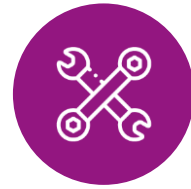
Policy context of the EIE Work Programme

Jekaterina Novikova

Deputy Head of Unit A5, DG RTD



Horizon Europe



Horizon Europe is implemented through **work programmes** which set out funding opportunities.

European Innovation Council

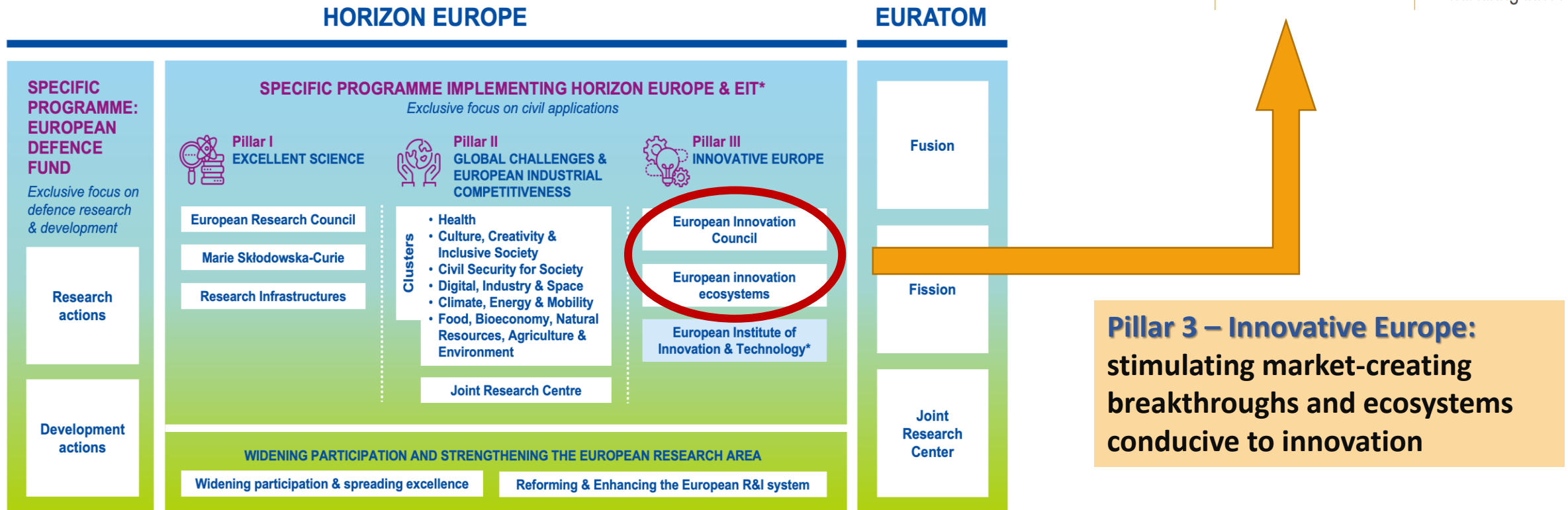
- Support to innovations with breakthrough and market creating potential

European innovation ecosystems

- Connecting with regional and national innovation actors

European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)

- Bringing key actors (research, education and business) together around a common goal for nurturing innovation



* The European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) is not part of the Specific Programme

EIE WP 23-24: Overview



Objective

Connected & efficient innovation ecosystems

- Support the scaling of companies
- Encourage innovation
- Stimulate cooperation among national, regional & local innovation actors



Expected impacts

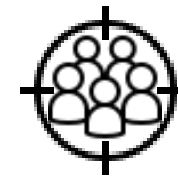
- ✓ **Interconnected, inclusive & efficient** innovation ecosystems across Europe
- ✓ Elevated **scalability potential** of business
- ✓ Innovative **SMEs growth** accessing markets & embedding in global value chains



Mostly **CSAs and Co-fund actions**, biannual WPs



EUR 527 million (2021-2027)



All ecosystem actors



EIE WP 2023-2024: Two Destinations

CONNECT

Building interconnected & inclusive innovation ecosystems

Reinforcing network connectivity for sustainable business growth

Setting, undertaking & achieving collective ambitions towards challenges for the benefit of society

INNOVSMEs

This destination will support the continuation of the European Partnership on Innovative SMEs

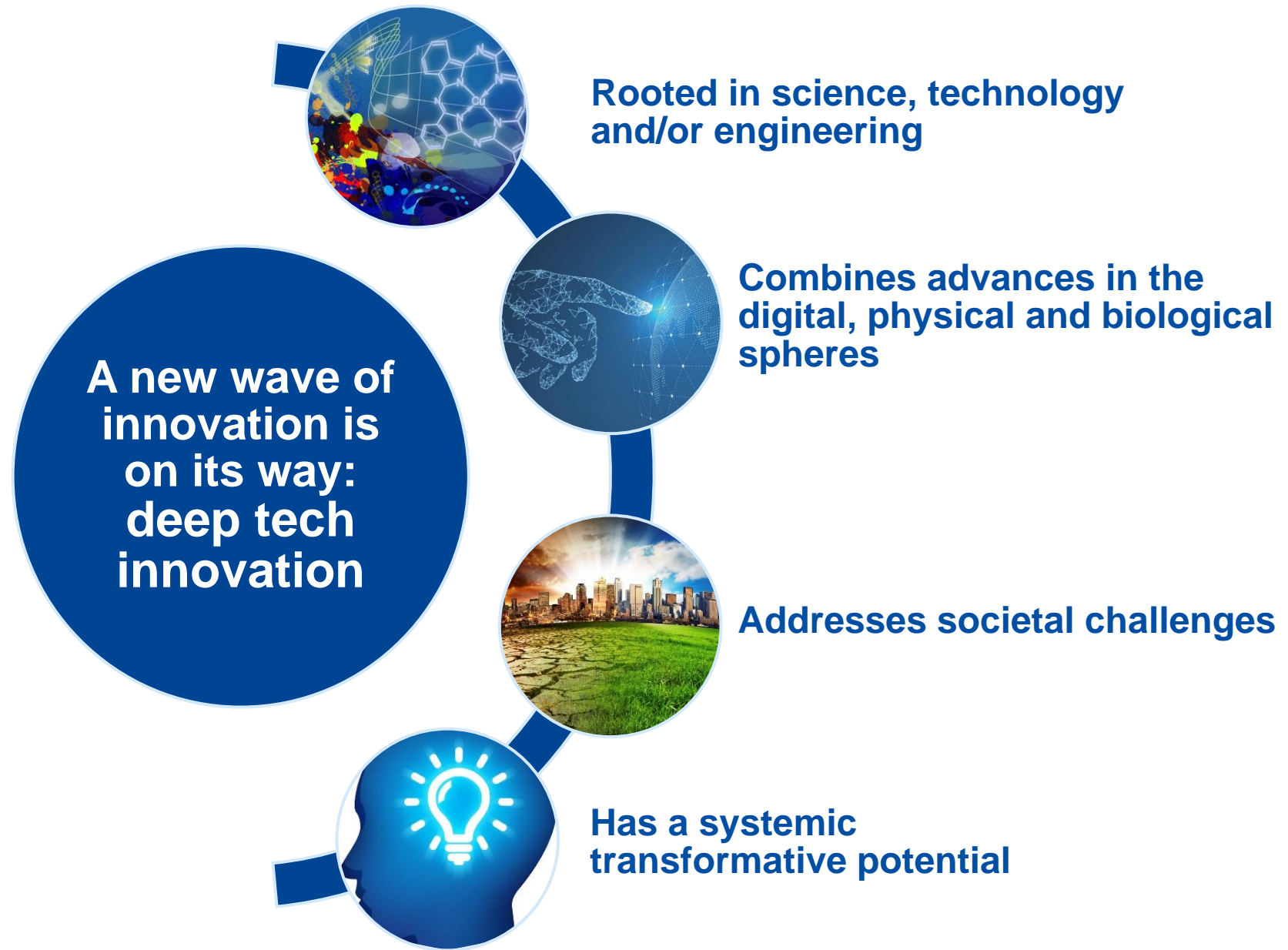
Destination CONNECT: Objectives

- Strengthen innovation ecosystems across the EU through fostering **more efficient, inclusive, gender diverse, and connected innovation ecosystems**, by **accelerating the development and deployment of innovation**, including deep tech innovation and encouraging co-planning, co-implementation, and co-investments around European strategic priority areas;
- Ensure the **inclusion of all key innovation players from across the quadruple helix**, and all EU territories, including rural areas;
- Mobilise policies, funding instruments (EU, national, regional) and **fostering synergies** between them;
- Improve **public and private buyers' capacity to procure innovative solutions** and enhance coordination on innovation procurement initiatives within Member States and Associated Countries;
- Improve the **connection of individual innovators with other ecosystem** actors and innovation support providers;
- Ensure **openness and cross-fertilisation of the innovation ecosystem** within and beyond the EU's borders.

EIE WP 2023-2024

- **Policy context/political priorities:**
 - **New European Innovation Agenda Communication**
 - Stakeholder inputs
- **Lessons learned** from the implementation of the 2021-2022 WP
- **Continuity** between the EIE WP 2021-2022 and 2023-2024
- Compliance with the **legal base** and **Horizon Europe Strategic Plan 2021-2024**
- **Synergies** with other relevant programmes

New European Innovation Agenda - context



The NEW European Innovation Agenda: Leading the new wave of deep tech innovation

Innovation and particularly deep tech innovation
is an answer to:



Improve **Europe's competitiveness**



Contribute to the **green and digital transition**



Narrow the **innovation divide**



Reinforce **Europe's open strategic autonomy**

New European Innovation Agenda - context

Europe can lead the new wave of deep tech innovation based on its assets

1. Leadership in science
2. Strong industrial base
3. Increasingly vibrant startup ecosystem
4. Ambitious framework conditions conducive to innovation in the internal market
5. Talent base
6. Stable institutions and democratic societies

Europe's assets:

Strong industrial base

83% of deep tech ventures are engaged in building a physical product (Source: Boston Consulting Group) and therefore often benefit from strong partnerships with leading industries

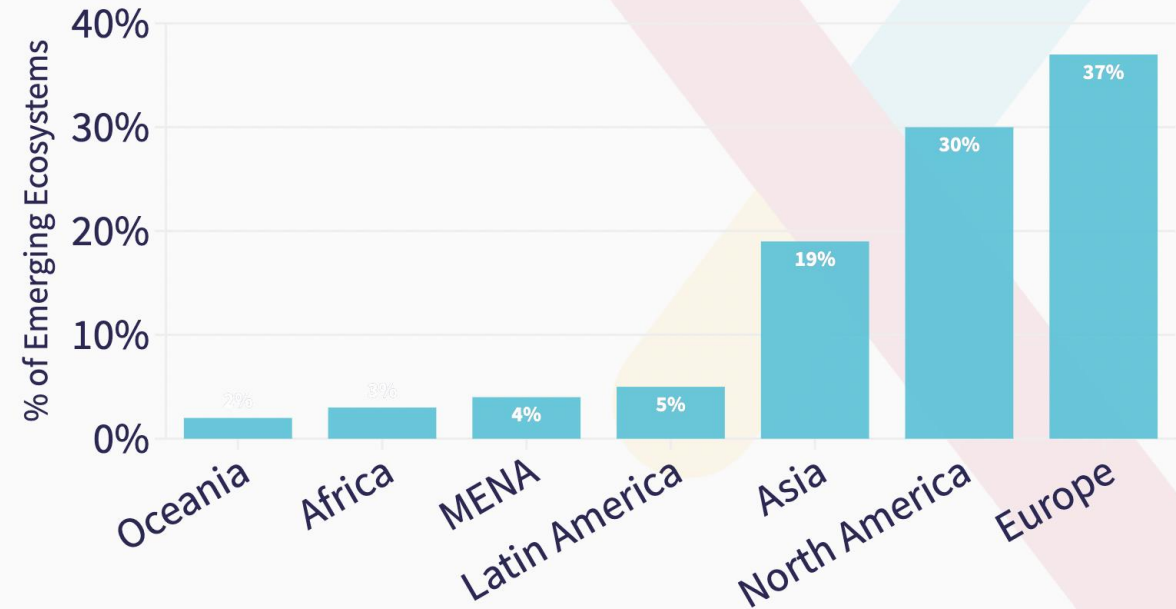
Increasingly vibrant startup ecosystem →

Ambitious framework conducive to innovation in internal market

E.g. Half of active wind energy companies are headquartered in the EU, and European Original Equipment Manufacturers also hold a globally leading position

Share Of Emerging Ecosystems By Region

Europe And North America Constitute Almost Two-Thirds Of Emerging Ecosystems



Today's challenges

Main challenges include:

- A persistent **innovation divide** between and within Member States
- Insufficient **transfer of new technologies** from research to market
- **Lack of risk finance** for companies to scale up fast
- **Fragmentation** of the internal market and regulatory burden
- A **business environment** and culture that is more **risk-averse and less conducive to innovation**

EIE actions in support of the New European Innovation Agenda

Funding for deep tech scale-ups

- *Startup Europe*

Improving policy making tools

- *The EIC Forum*

Fostering, attracting and retaining deep tech talent

- *Organisation of the Women TechEU Scheme*

Enabling deep tech innovation through experimentation spaces and public procurement

- *Stimulating Experimentation Practices*
- *Specialist Advisory Services to build capacities on innovation procurement*

Accelerating and strengthening innovation in European Innovation Ecosystems across the EU and addressing the innovation divide

- *Preparatory action for setting up joint programmes among innovation ecosystems actors*
- *Regional Innovation Valleys initiative*
- *The AU-EU Innovation Platform*

Thank you



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HORIZON-EIE-2024-CONNECT-01-01 - The African Union-European Union Innovation Platform

Fadila Boughanemi
Deputy Head of Unit F2, DG RTD





EU-Africa cooperation on Research & Innovation (R&I)

As a strategic partner, the EU seeks to **enhance cooperation with Africa** to promote actions targeted to finding locally adapted solutions to global challenges, that often hit Africa hardest.

The [Comprehensive EU strategy with Africa](#) and the [Global Approach to Research & Innovation \(R&I\)](#) are the EU's most recent policy initiatives that **prioritise R&I** as a key dimension of **sustainable development**.

- ✓ The *Comprehensive EU Strategy with Africa* proposes to **scale up the EU's academic and scientific cooperation with Africa**, with a view to creating **prosperous knowledge societies** in both continents.
- ✓ The *EU Global Approach to R&I* foresees **special openness vis-à-vis African countries** that wish to thrive as knowledge-based economies and accelerate their **sustainable and inclusive development**.



EU-Africa cooperation on Research & Innovation (R&I)

- The [AU-EU High Level Policy Dialogue \(HLPD\) on Science, Technology and Innovation \(STI\)](#) (est. 2010) is the **policy forum** where regular exchanges on R&I policy take place and where **long-term priorities** to strengthen cooperation are established. Under its aegis, the **first ever AU-EU R&I Ministerial Meeting** took place in **July 2020**, establishing the **4 joint priorities** of the AU-EU cooperation in R&I.



Public Health



Green Transition



Innovation & Technology



Capacities for Science

The Joint AU-EU Innovation Agenda



Aiming to foster the translation of R&I into tangible products, services, businesses and jobs in both Africa and Europe. For building stronger value chains for sustainable growth and decent jobs

- Drafted through a comprehensive concerted “**Team Africa-Europe**” work, involving AU and the EU Member States and Commissions, under the **AU-EU High-Level Policy Dialogue (HLPD) on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)**.
- Working document published in **February 2022**, discussed with Stakeholders over a ‘**Stakeholder Dialogue Process**’ throughout 2022, culminated in the **AU-EU Innovation Agenda Stakeholder Event** in Nov. 2022 in Nairobi.
- **Final version** of the Agenda **adopted on 19 July 2023**. Prepared building on the feedback and input received from Stakeholders in 2022.

The Joint AU-EU Innovation Agenda



4 objectives:



Make it real

- Translate innovative capacities and achievements into **tangible outputs**, supporting sustainable growth and jobs, in particular for the youth



Generate impact by design

- **Foster - strengthen innovation ecosystems** to enhance socio-economic impact



Strengthen people, communities & institutions

- **Develop sustainable, long lasting and mutually beneficial higher education and R&I partnerships**



Learn, monitor, and scale it up

- Scale-up instruments that can take forward existing successful programmes and projects, enable - strengthen the knowledge triangle of education, R&I & place special focus on **public participation, transparency, and inclusion**



Short-, medium- and long-term set of actions, according to four joint priority areas:




- i. Public Health
- ii. Green Transition
- iii. Innovation & Technology
- iv. Capacities for Science + the additional
- v. Cross-cutting issues



Mapping of **gaps & needs** for each priority area


Currently under **implementation**. Supported, from the EU side, by the **Global Gateway Africa – Europe Investment Package** as well as **Horizon Europe**.

Short-term Actions



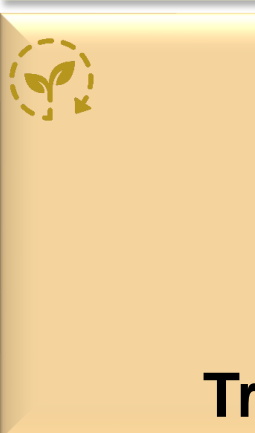
Cross-cutting

- 1 **Networking** of business, government, higher education and NPO sectors through platforms
- 2 Pro-active **involvement of citizens** in the innovation ecosystems
- 3 Fostering the participation of **financing partners**
- 4 Create easily accessible and widely available **microcredit schemes** for researchers & innovators



Public Health

- 1 Support to Health R&I outputs to turn into relevant **products, policy guidance and services**
- 2 Developing **joint R&I agendas on health priorities**, enhancing best practices and common standards, using emerging tech (e.g. genomics, digitalisation, internet of things, robotics, AI) encompassing communicable and non-communicable diseases (including, among others, poverty related-neglected diseases, antimicrobial resistance and zoonoses) as well as mental health, in infants, youth and adults




Green Transition

- 1 Identifying/Sharing **climate resilience and adaptation practices** (SDGs 13) during consultative meetings
- 2 Developing-and supporting the market uptake of **innovative renewable energy solution** and use devices, suitable for easy and prompt adoption by 'energy communities'
- 3 Supporting the development of **innovative climate services through a new "space STI cooperation"** action for risk reduction at local and regional level
- 4 Fostering the development and enhancement of sustainable and resilient **agricultural and food systems value chains**
- 5 Supporting the development and scale up of efficient and **sustainable management of water resources**
- 6 Supporting the development and scale up of efficient and **sustainable management of cultural heritage and cultural practices**, encouraging a green management of cultural and natural heritage



Innovation & Technology

- 1 Supporting research and innovation cooperation between **AU and EU research organizations and companies** (in particular SMEs) from low tech to high tech
- 2 Supporting **tech/innovation hubs, networks, &** operations of accelerators and **incubators**
- 3 Linking science with **education**, by promoting a culture of innovation and scientific communication programmes at all education levels



Capacities for Science

- 1 Strengthening R&D cooperation between **AU-EU Higher Education / Governmental institutions** through knowledge transfer, teaming, twinning and learning mobility activities
- 2 Improving transparency/**recognition of qualifications**/relevance of curricula for enhanced mobility
- 3 Setting up **training programmes** in the priority areas of AU-EU cooperation in R&I to increase youth's employability
- 4 Fostering the development of **high-performing digital education systems** and upgrade digital skills and competences for digital transformation

Medium-term Actions



Cross-Cutting

- ① **Re-skilling / upskilling** citizens to profit from innovation and technologies to prevent inequalities and / or discriminations (SDGs 8-9-13)
- ② Ensuring **sustainability of research mobility programmes** by providing conducive support infrastructures for scholars returning to Africa to create jobs / entrepreneurship/start-ups



Public Health

- ① Ensuring **tech-transfer** and improving and developing affordable, equitably available and accessible and quality vaccine, medicines and health technologies
- ② Ensuring the development of **specific training curricula** and capacity building throughout the value chain of health technologies



Green Transition

- ① Fostering **digital applications and green technologies** to enhance climate resilience and adaptation for agricultural and agro-ecological production, healthy and sustainable food processing and consumption
- ② Developing in Africa **renewable energy** in a changing world for climate change mitigation and adaptation
- ③ Catalysing the development of **circular economy strategy** and policies in both FNSSA and CCSE
- ④ Developing **citizen science and engage key players** to reduce unprecedented climate risks in line with the climate adaptation pillar of the CCSE partnership



Innovation & Technology

- ① Enhancing **R&I infrastructure and manufacturing capacity** in Africa, so to strengthen supply and value chains within the continent, to enable also the fulfilment of medium- and long-term of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda



Capacities for Science

- ① Promoting **joint master/doctoral degrees** between AU-EU universities, mobility of researchers
- ② Creating **enabling STI environment** for sustainable innovation ecosystems (Quadruple helix actors)

Long-term actions



Cross-cutting

- ① Promoting R&D with a special focus on youth, women, vulnerable groups and demography, mitigation and management of global challenges



Public Health

- ① Designing and implementing **new methods and tools to monitor, prevent and counteract** future health threats (long standing/re-emerging/antimicrobial resistant pathogens as well as chronic diseases), promoting One Health and precision medicine, in a changing environment, embedding the mental health dimension in this approach



Green Transition

- ① Improving the **agricultural innovation ecosystems** to strengthen capacities of actors to co-design, co-invest and scale up and employ innovative technologies and methodologies through a multi-stakeholder approach, engaging the private sector and fostering PPPs in the areas of FNSSA and CCSE, enhancing capacity for job creation in agriculture / fisheries and for proactive innovation policy



Innovation & Technology

- ① Reinforcing and Facilitating **inclusive / affordable access to world-class R&I infrastructures**
- ② **Dissemination of knowledge** through digital transformation



Capacities for Science

- ① Bridging R&I in fostering the emergence of new or strengthening of existing **centres of excellence**
- ② Modernising and reinforcing **R&D & Higher education systems** (RHESs)

Needs and gaps analysis

Needs and gaps analysis identified five areas:



A

The innovation ecosystem



B

Innovation management



C

**Knowledge exchange,
including technology transfer**



D

Access to finance



E

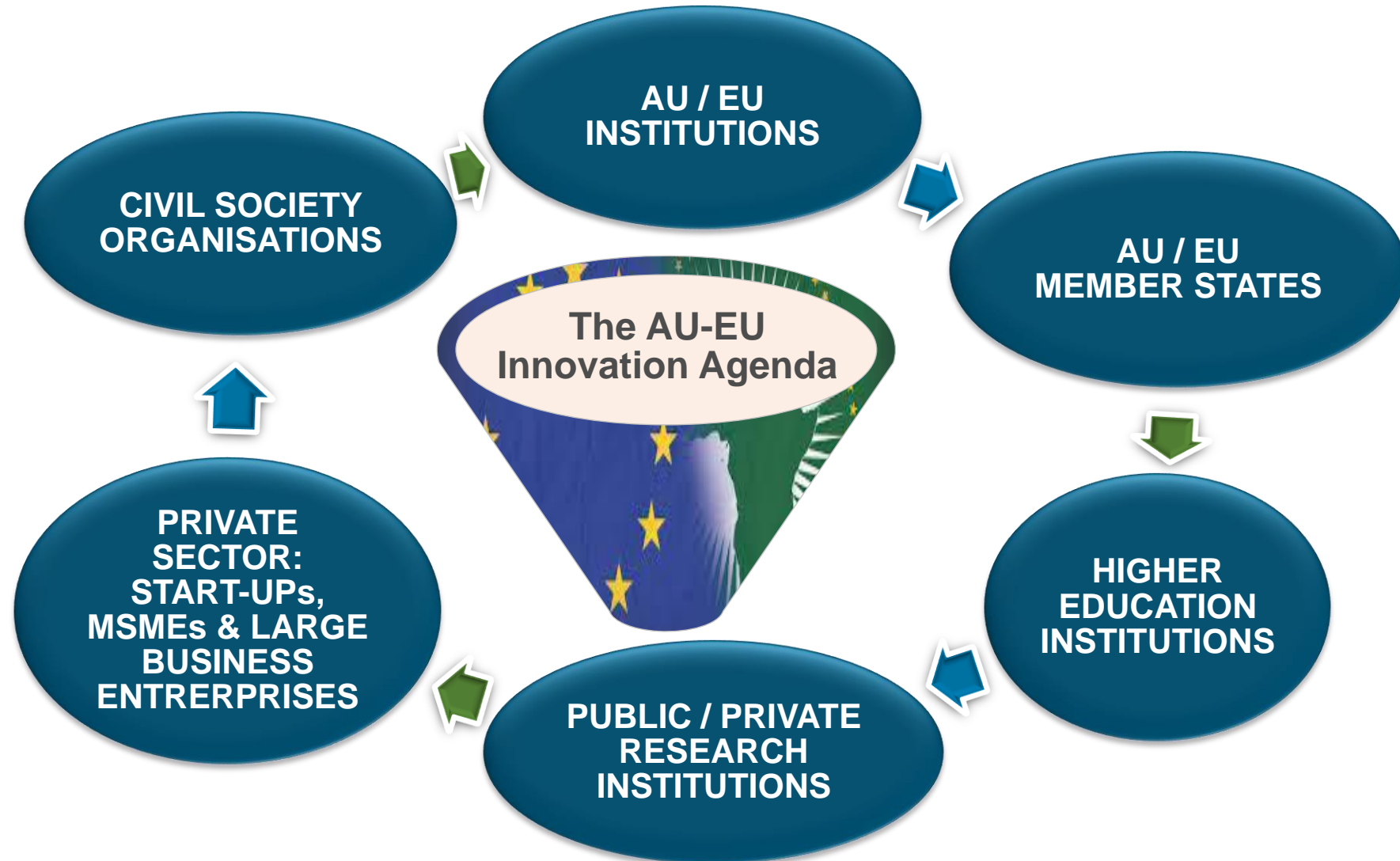
Human capacity development

Throughout all the aforementioned areas of needs and gaps, the importance of engaging the **African diaspora** in Europe (and elsewhere) is recognised as crucial for knowledge and experience sharing for developing expertise and innovations in Africa and Europe.

The AU-EU Innovation Agenda: A multi-sectoral, multi-disciplinary collaboration



- The collaboration under the AU-EU Innovation Agenda needs to occur with **all innovation stakeholders**, leveraging the **demographic dividend** to **empower the youth**.



How to make this happen?

Instrument	Actions / Priority Areas
Framework Programme Horizon Europe – Work Programme 2023-2024 ('Africa Initiative II')	Short- & medium-term actions across all target areas
Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking	Public Health
Global Gateway Africa – Europe Investment Package: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Europe: Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) • European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+) • ERASMUS + 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All target areas • All target areas • Capacities for science
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eureka INNOWIDE call • ENRICH in Africa 	Short-term actions for Innovation & Technology
Other instruments from other sources, including EU and AU Member States, Development Banks and International Financial Institutions and Private Sector too.	All target areas, according to countries'/organisations' specificities

- Ongoing and future discussions aiming to devise and mobilise additional funding instruments.

Africa Initiative II

In the 2nd Work Programme of Horizon Europe
2023-2024



- Building on the positive outcome of the **Africa Initiative I** of Horizon Europe Work Programme 2021-2022.
- A total budget of **~300 MEUR** through **~30 topics** under **calls for proposals** to boost **EU-Africa cooperation on Research & Innovation (R&I)**.
- Enabling the implementation of the **short-term and medium-term actions** of the **AU-EU Innovation Agenda**, aiming to **translate R&I into tangible positive impact on the ground**, particularly in the areas of ¹:
 1. **Green Transition** (260 MEUR) 
 2. **Innovation & Technology** (35 MEUR) 
 3. **Capacities for Science** (9 MEUR) 
- Adoption of **Horizon Europe Work Programme: 6 December 2022**
  [EU funding & tenders' portal → calls for proposals from “Africa Initiative”](#)

¹ The AU-EU R&I priority area of *Public Health* will be primarily addressed through the calls of the Work Programme 2023 of the **Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking**.

Capacities for Science + Innovation & Technology

Horizon Europe Thematic Cluster	Topics	Action type	Budget (MEUR)	Year	AU-EU R&I Cooperation Priority Area
Research infrastructure	1. Strengthen the bilateral cooperation on research infrastructures with Africa	CSA	1.5	2024	Capacities for Science / Innovation & Technology / Cross-cutting issues
European Innovation Ecosystems (EIE)	2. The African Union-European Union Innovation Platform	CSA	2.5	2024	
Digital, Industry and Space (Cluster 4)	3. R&I cooperation with Sub-Saharan Africa	CSA	2	2023	Innovation & Technology
	4. Promoting EU standards globally	CSA	3	2023	
	5. Earth Observation platform, products and services for raw materials	IA	20	2023	Innovation & Technology
	6. Designing space-based downstream applications with international partners	RIA	6	2023	

#HorizonEU

CSA = Coordination and Support Action
 IA = Innovation Action
 RIA = Research & Innovation Action

AU-EU Innovation Agenda

Main Next Steps Ahead



- **Large virtual events** occurring on a **6 months basis** in continuity with the **AU-EU Innovation Festival**, to include **training, experience-sharing, matchmaking, networking** for innovators, investors, researchers, R&I stakeholders!
- First session (with a training component on IPRs): 28 November 2023
→ Next session: **April 2024** (TBC).
- **New and existing initiatives** will contribute to the implementation of the Innovation Agenda.
- Work in progress: a **Dashboard** of initiatives contributing to the AU-EU IA will be soon launched.
- **Several follow-up communication actions** stemming from 2022 Stakeholder Dialogue and the 2023 AU-EU Innovation Festival.
- Stay updated and engage through our **website**.

EURAXESS

[Home](#) | [Jobs and Funding](#) | [Career Development](#) | [Partnering](#) | [Information and Assistance](#) | [National Portals](#) | [Worldwide](#)

[Home](#) > [Innovation Talent Platform](#) > [AU-EU Innovation Interface](#)



Welcome to the new African Union (AU) - European Union (EU) Innovation Interface, part of the Innovation Talent Platform! The AU-EU Innovation Interface will bring information on initiatives, resources and opportunities addressed to innovators, entrepreneurs, researchers and investors, generated as part of the implementation of the joint AU-EU Innovation Agenda. By doing so, the Interface aims to connect Research and Innovator Stakeholders and ecosystems at the interface between Africa and Europe and therefore bring value to the impact of the Innovation Agenda.

Resources

Story map on the Projects pertaining to the AU-EU Research & Innovation partnership on Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA)

Find out how geographical analyses, based on the use of the "Africa Knowledge Platform", bolster efforts to unlock tangible impact through the AU-EU Innovation Agenda.

If you are an investor, find out how you can engage in supporting the scale up of most promising and innovative projects!

[Read more](#) >



Launched on the adoption of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda – [Link here](#)



Join the ENRICH in Africa virtual Community Platform!



Funded under the EU Framework Programme Horizon 2020, Enrich in Africa (EiA) brings together key stakeholders from the European and African innovation ecosystem to upgrade the capacity of incubators and accelerators and benefit entrepreneurs in both regions. It supports knowledge exchange, provides co-creation opportunities, and enables the delivery of quality services for European and African innovators. Join this community to learn more about what ENRICH in Africa has to offer, expand your network, and find partners and investors!

[Read more >](#)

AU-EU Deep Tech Transformation Training Scheme

Watch this space for upcoming training sessions in the area of Deep Tech applied to the context of EU-Africa cooperation on Research and Innovation. The AU-EU Deep Tech Transformation Training Scheme will be delivered in the form of 7 consecutive modules to be held within dedicated workshops to take place throughout the timeframe of implementation of the short-term actions of the Agenda (between June 2023 and March 2027). The following key topics will be covered: Artificial Intelligence (AI) (big data included), quantum computing, blockchain and biotech, delivered through dedicated online Workshops and applied to case studies pertaining to the AU-EU cooperation.



Online workshops



Stay tuned for the announcement of the first session of bi-annual (online) Workshops dedicated to the implementation of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda. Each Workshop will focus on topics related to the priority areas of the AU-EU cooperation in Research and Innovation, such as (i) Public Health, (ii) Green Transition, (iii) Innovation & Technology and (iv) Capacities for Science.

In addition to training on Deep Tech, Workshops are expected to promote experience sharing, foster networking and matchmaking sessions, to promote the establishment and strengthening of collaborations among innovators, Research and Innovation performing organisations, hubs, accelerators and investors. First session to take place during the last quarter of 2023.

EURAXESS Africa

EURAXESS Africa is an initiative of the European Commission established with the aim to provide free access to information about research in Europe, opportunities for research funding, international collaboration and trans-national mobility. It links researchers in Africa to Europe. Furthermore, the network is open to all nationalities and research fields.

[Read more >](#)



Link [here](#)



- **ENRICH in Africa** is an Horizon 2020 project that aims to **strengthen and connect innovation ecosystems in Africa and Europe**, to upgrade the capacity of incubators and accelerators and benefit entrepreneurs in both regions.
- The **ENRICH in Africa virtual community platform** includes ~450 members, >290 of whom being companies (~60% from Africa and ~30% from Europe), ~90 investors and ~60 business support organisations, such as incubators and accelerators.
- The project has led to the opening of the **ENRICH in Africa Center in Cape Town**, aiming to become the go-to platform for innovators, incubators, accelerators, investors, businesses and policymakers looking to strengthen the EU-African tech and innovation ecosystems.



ENRICH in Africa

Moderated
463 membres

<https://www.euroquity.com/fr/communaute/enrich-africa>

Overview

Discussions

Members

Activity



About the community

Key informations

Description

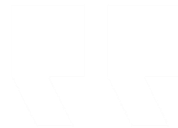
ENRICH in Africa brings together key stakeholders from the European and African innovation ecosystem to upgrade the capacity of incubators and accelerators and benefit entrepreneurs in both regions.

Services provided

Communication of opportunities

Preparation for labelling

Coaching sessions



Thank you!

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HORIZON-EIE-2024-CONNECT-01-01 - The African Union-European Union Innovation Platform

Catalin Ticheru
Project Adviser Unit I1
EISMEA



INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS WORK PROGRAMME 2023-2024

CONNECT



Call: Interconnected Innovation Ecosystems (2024.1)

Open: 11/01/24 Close: 25/04/24

Topic 1: The African Union-European Union Innovation Platform

Target group(s): Networks of start-ups, innovators, incubators, accelerators, academia, research and technology organisations (public and private sector), think tanks, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), civil society organisations, private and financial actors.

Main expected outcome:

To support the implementation of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda by bringing together a mix of EU and AU innovation stakeholders in view of fostering links and networks between academia and business, including higher education establishments, public and private research entities, non-governmental organisations, international finance institutions, incubators and accelerators, the European Institute of Innovation and Technology's (EIT) Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs), technology transfer and capacity building and higher learning organisations.

Type of Action	CSA
Total Indicative budget	2.5 m €
Expected EU contribution / project	2.5 m €
Expected grants to be signed	1
Estimated project duration	should ideally align with the implementation timeframe for the short-term actions of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda (i.e. at least until end-2026)
Additional eligibility criteria	<p>A consortium must consist of at least four (4) entities, out of which at least one (1) independent legal entity is established in a Member State or Associated Country in line with the HE General Annexes, and as an additional call requirement, at least three (3) independent legal entities from different African Union member states, to meet the legal requirements.</p> <p>Legal entities established in all African Union member states may exceptionally participate in this Coordination and Support Action as a beneficiary (or affiliated entity).</p>

INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS WORK PROGRAMME 2023-2024

CONNECT



Call: Interconnected Innovation Ecosystems (2024.1)

Open: 11/01/24 Close: 25/04/24

Topic 1: The African Union-European Union Innovation Platform

Short-term Actions



Cross-cutting

- 1 Networking of business, government, higher education and NPO sectors through platforms
- 2 Pro-active involvement of citizens in the innovation ecosystems
- 3 Fostering the participation of financing partners
- 4 Create easily accessible and widely available microcredit schemes for researchers & innovators



Innovation & Technology

- 1 Supporting research and innovation cooperation between AU and EU research organizations and companies (in particular SMEs) from low tech to high tech
- 2 Supporting tech/innovation hubs, networks, & operations of accelerators and incubators
- 3 Linking science with education, by promoting a culture of innovation and scientific communication programmes at all education levels



Capacities for Science

- 1 Strengthening R&D cooperation between AU-EU Higher Education / Governmental institutions through knowledge transfer, teaming, twinning and learning mobility activities
- 2 Improving transparency/recognition of qualifications/relevance of curricula for enhanced mobility
- 3 Setting up training programmes in the priority areas of AU-EU cooperation in R&I to increase youth's employability
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INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS WORK PROGRAMME 2023-2024

CONNECT



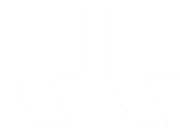
Call: Interconnected Innovation Ecosystems (2024.1)

Open: 11/01/24 Close: 25/04/24

Topic 1: The African Union-European Union Innovation Platform

Applicants should:

- Provide a **convening platform and a forum for discussion** and planning of the implementation of the actions foreseen under the AU-EU Innovation Agenda;
- **Foster links and networks among stakeholders across the innovation value chains**, from the generation of ideas to development and implementation of innovations, including private and public sectors, higher education and research organisations, financial institutions, and civil society organisations;
- **Involve citizens in the innovation ecosystems**, to improve societal uptake of innovation outputs, and valorise creative and collective intelligence, ensuring also gender equality and active participation of youths;
- Strengthen coordination and cooperation between AU and EU innovation programmes and various implementing institutions, **ensuring knowledge transfer, capacity building and mobility opportunities**, consistent with the socio-economic needs of the concerned AU and EU countries or regions.
- Facilitate, conceptually and logistically, **the organisation of annual or bi-annual meetings** with key innovation stakeholders from the EU and the AU;
- Provide further **de-risking support to Eureka**-funded small and medium sized-enterprises (SMEs), that have previously benefited from Viability Assessment Projects (VAPs) under **Eureka's Innowide**.



Thank you!

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HORIZON-EIE-2024-CONNECT-01-02 – Startup Europe

Jekaterina Novikova
Deputy Head of Unit A5, DG RTD



About the Startup Europe initiative

STARTUP
EUROPE

- Initiated in 2011 by DG CNECT
- Strengthens networking opportunities for deep tech scaleups & ecosystem builders to accelerate the growth of the European startup scene
- 25+ EU projects supporting 60+ local ecosystems & activities aimed at enabling startup creation and growth, and between connections of startups with investors, accelerators, universities, etc.
- Under H2020, the Startup Europe projects provided acceleration services to 770 selected startups covering 39 countries.

SCALE UP
FOR EUROPE



Europe

Scale-up
Champions

Innodec



Innodec



EUROPEAN
STARTUPS



SME STRATEGY

Brussels, 10.3.2020
COM(2020) 103 final



Startup Nation Standard

Aim: most attractive Startup
and Scaleup continent

How?

- **Support startups' expansion** across borders
- Streamline the implementation of the **rules on procedures for visa applications** and residence permits for third country
- Talent make granting of **employee stock options** more attractive
- Promote **venture-building and tech transfer** from universities
- Increase **access to finance** for scaling up

Startup Europe 2021-2024

Year	Work Programme	Budget (Million EUR)	# proposals funded
2021	EIC	6	3
2022	EIC	6	3
2024	EIE	12	6

x2-0.eu

venturestrive.eu

synergisteic.eu

ready2scale.eu

d2scale.eu

empowomen.eu





A NEW EUROPEAN INNOVATION AGENDA

SCALING UP OF DEEP TECH INNOVATIONS

26 January 2023

LEADING THE NEW WAVE OF DEEP TECH INNOVATION

The **New European Innovation Agenda** will help Europe to develop new technologies, to address the most pressing societal challenges and bring them on the market. Europe wants to be the place where the best talent work hand in hand with the best companies and where deep tech innovation thrives and creates breakthrough inspiring solutions across the continent.

Europe's leadership on innovation, in particular its new wave of deep tech innovation, will benefit all sectors from renewable energy to agri-tech, from construction to mobility and health.

The New European Innovation Agenda **flagship 1 “Scaling up of deep tech innovations”** aims to improve access to finance for European startups and scale-ups, for example, by mobilising untapped sources of private capital and simplifying listing rules.

The **European Innovation Ecosystems** of **Horizon Europe** and the **Startup Europe** initiative, supported by the European Innovation Council (EIC), contribute to the Agenda by facilitating uptake of deep tech innovations and supporting the next generation of innovative companies whose solutions will lead towards a more competitive EU and a more sustainable, inclusive and resilient world.

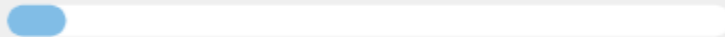
Current project examples

VENTURES THRIVE

Grant agreement ID: 101073762
DOI [10.3030/101073762](https://doi.org/10.3030/101073762)

Start date
1 November 2022

End date
31 October 2024



FUNDED UNDER
THE EUROPEAN
INNOVATION COUNCIL [EIC]



COORDINATED BY
ACCELER8 LIMITED



VENTURES THRIVE - DEEP TECH STARTUP SUPPORT PROGRAMME TO FACILITATE VENTURES THRIVING IN THE EUROPEAN WIDENING AREA

VENTURES THRIVE is one of the first pan-European deep tech venture builders committed to helping startups quickly scale their development. Ventures Thrive provides equity-free funding and a curated growth programme, which will connect startups with investors and corporations to test their solutions in real-world scenarios. Funded by the EIC, the €1,500,000 grant will be deployed over two years to invest in up to 32 deep tech startups. The 8-month hybrid programme will culminate with a Demo Day where startups will be pitching in front of hundreds of local and international investors and business professionals. Ventures Thrive is organised in collaboration with Acceler8, Wolves Summit and Anthology Ventures.

SynergistEIC

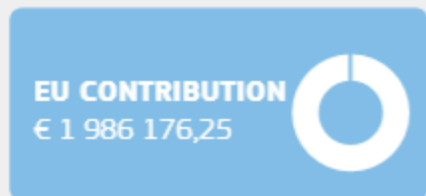
Grant agreement ID: 101073761
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Start date: 1 January 2023

End date: 31 December 2024



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INNOVATION COUNCIL [EIC]



COORDINATED BY
ASOCIATA SPHERIK



SYNERGISTEIC – BOOSTING SYNERGIES BETWEEN THE EIC AND STARTUP EUROPE

The project provides tailored, specific and hands-on support to European impact-driven startups, notably in the climate-tech, green-tech, circular economy and agri-food to increase their competitiveness and readiness to succeed in EIC Accelerator. SynergistEIC will identify and select 30 digital and deep tech startups, especially from the [Widening countries](#), through two waves of open calls. The team will award them with sub-grants, tailored advisory and acceleration services totalling €1,500,000.

Current project examples

X2.0 - Driving deep tech growth <https://x2-0.eu/>

Participant No. *	Participant organisation name	Country
1. Coordinator	F6S Network Limited (F6S)	Ireland
2.	Zabala Innovation Consulting (ZABALA)	Spain
3.	ICT Hub (ICTH)	Serbia

1.5 Million EUR for 50 deep tech startups (40% Widening & women-led) in 5 key areas (Manufacturing & Circular Economy, AgriTech, HealthTech & BioTech, Smart Cities and Sustainability, and Data & A.I.)

Voucher usage

- **Travel** – 5 000 EUR - Cost of Transport, accommodation for Events & incubation (min 2 events)
- **1-on-1 specific mentorship** - At least 5 000 EUR available to Expert 1-on-1 Mentorship
- **Other growth services from the Innovation Growth Matrix** - Max 20 000 EUR

Duration: 24 months





HORIZON-EIE-2024-CONNECT-01-02 – Startup Europe

**Catalin Ticheru
Project Adviser Unit I1
EISMEA**



INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS WORK PROGRAMME 2023-2024

CONNECT



Call: Interconnected Innovation Ecosystems (2024.1)

Open: 11/01/24 Close: 25/04/24

Topic 2: Startup Europe

Scope

- To connect local digital and deep tech start-up ecosystems and support cross-border acceleration activities for start-ups that demonstrate traction (i.e. market-product fit or at least a seed round raised);
- Specific attention will be given to the inclusion of ecosystems in 'moderate' or 'emerging' innovator countries and/or regions among the start-up ecosystems to be connected.

INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS WORK PROGRAMME 2023-2024

CONNECT



Call: Interconnected Innovation Ecosystems (2024.1)

Open: 11/01/24 Close: 25/04/24

Topic 2: Startup Europe

Projects are expected to prioritise

- Start-ups that have either already achieved market-product fit or have raised at least a round of financing (seed or later);
and
- Start-ups established in 'moderate' or 'emerging' innovator countries and/or regions; **or**
- Women-led start-ups

INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS WORK PROGRAMME 2023-2024

CONNECT



Call: Interconnected Innovation Ecosystems (2024.1)

Open: 11/01/24 Close: 25/04/24

Topic 2: Startup Europe

Target group(s): Start-up ecosystem builders, business angel organisations, venture capital entities, accelerators, incubators, start-up associations, clusters.

Expected outcome:

- **Increase the market footprint of European start-ups in strategic digital technologies and deep tech innovation** (e.g. Artificial Intelligence, Advanced Computing, Cybersecurity, Next Generation Internet, Blockchain, Internet of Things, Metaverse, Energy, Greentech, AgriTech, and Fintech);
- **Better connection** of start-ups, including European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) and European Innovation Council (EIC)-supported start-ups and **Seal of Excellence** holders, to **relevant local and/or European ecosystems**, communities, and potential new markets;
- Scaling up of capabilities through **matching** digital and deep tech start-ups **with investment and growth opportunities** in collaboration with other initiatives such as: the EIC, the EIT and the Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs), InvestEU, the Digital Europe Programme, Women TechEU, public and private buyers, or investors and corporate innovation ventures, and start-up villages.

Type of Action	CSA
Total Indicative budget	12 m €
Expected EU contribution / project	1.5 m €
Expected grants to be signed	6
Estimated project duration	24 months on average
Additional eligibility criteria	At least 50% of the beneficiaries in a consortium must be established in 'moderate' or 'emerging' innovator countries or regions.

INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS WORK PROGRAMME 2023-2024

CONNECT



Call: Interconnected Innovation Ecosystems (2024.1)

Open: 11/01/24 Close: 25/04/24

Topic 2: Startup Europe

The cross border acceleration services are open to:

- All European start-ups demonstrating traction
- Scale-ups identified in Horizon Europe (e.g. through the EIC (including the EIC Scaleup 100 action) and EIT-supported companies) and the Digital Europe Programme (e.g. from European Digital Innovation Hubs
- start-ups funded by national programmes, particularly those part of “Plug-in” certified programmes (see EIC Work Programme 2022 Annex 5)

INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS WORK PROGRAMME 2023-2024

CONNECT



Call: Interconnected Innovation Ecosystems (2024.1)

Open: 11/01/24 Close: 25/04/24

Topic 2: Startup Europe

Important

- The project should actively engage with activities and events of the Europe Startup Nations Alliance;
- Special attention will be given to support European digital and deep tech start-ups and scale-ups in accessing innovation procurement opportunities (public or corporate procurers).
- The action **may** be implemented through financial support to third parties (FSTP)
 - In this case, the support to third parties can only be provided in the form of **grants**.
 - The maximum amount to be granted to each third party is **EUR 60 000**.
 - Applicants opting for this non-compulsory financial support scheme must allocate **at least 60%** of the **total proposed budget** to FSTP

INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS WORK PROGRAMME 2023-2024

CONNECT



Call: Interconnected Innovation Ecosystems (2024.1)

Open: 11/01/24 Close: 25/04/24

Topic 2: Startup Europe

➤ Only if the proposal uses financial support to third parties (FSTP)

- The proposers must fill provide a description of the use of financial support to third parties through a dedicated **annex**

This description must address at least the following:

1. clearly detail the **objectives and the results** to be obtained and
2. contain the following specifications (as a minimum):
 - a) the **maximum amount of financial support for each third party**; this amount may not exceed 60 000 EUR.
 - b) the **criteria for calculating** the exact amount of the financial support
 - c) the **different types of activity** that qualify for financial support, on the basis of a closed list
 - d) the **persons or categories of persons** that may receive financial support, and
 - e) the **criteria for giving** financial support



Thank you!

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CONTACTS



For general questions about research and Horizon Europe, please contact:

[Research Enquiry Service \(europa.eu\)](https://europa.eu)



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