



REGIONAL INNOVATION VALLEYS

25 May | 09:30 - 12:00

**13 INSTRUMENT &
EU INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS
CALLS FOR PROPOSAL**

ONLINE INFO SESSION

Welcome & housekeeping rules

MODERATED BY

DENISA PERRIN

Head of Unit, EISMEA I.01
EU and Place-based Innovation Ecosystems



Opening remarks

ANNA PANAGOPOULOU

Director for the European Research Area
and innovation,

Directorate-General for Research and
Innovation (DG RTD)



Agenda

- 9:30 - 9:40 OPENING SPEECH | **Anna Panagopoulou**, Director, DG RTD
- 9:40 - 9:50 WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING RULES | **Denisa Perrin**, Head of Unit, EISMEA
- 9:50 - 10:30 **EUROPEAN INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS CALL**
- **Christina Nanou**, Project Adviser, EISMEA
- 10:30 - 10:50 **Q&A EUROPEAN INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS**
- 10:50 - 11:30 **INTERREGIONAL INNOVATION INVESTMENTS (I3) INSTRUMENT CALLS**
- **Ramunas Linartas**, Policy Analyst, DG REGIO
 - **Eric Koch**, Project Adviser, EISMEA
 - **Milena Stoyanova**, Project Adviser, EISMEA
 - **Valentina Pinna**, Project Adviser, EISMEA
- 11:30 - 11:50 **Q&A INTERREGIONAL INNOVATION INVESTMENTS (I3)**
- 11:50 - 12:00 CLOSING REMARKS | **Nicola De Michelis**, Director, DG REGIO

Regional Innovation Valleys European Innovation Ecosystems Call

CHRISTINA NANOU

Project Adviser, Unit EISMEA I.01
EU and Place-based Innovation Ecosystems





Regional Innovation Valleys European Innovation Ecosystems Call



- 1. Call / topic information**
- 2. Financial Support to third parties (FSTP)**
- 3. Proposal templates**
- 4. FAQs**
- 5. Annex - Definitions**

1. Call / Topic information

Basic info

Type of Action	COFUND (50% EC funding)
Call opening date:	17 May 2023
Call closing date:	17 October 2023
Time to inform the applicants (TTI):	By end March 2024
Time to grant (TTG):	By end June 2024
Total Indicative EU budget	60 m €
Expected EU contribution / project	8 -12 m €
Expected grants to be signed	6
Estimated project duration	3-5 years





Who can apply? (1)

Eligibility conditions

Participation, as beneficiaries of:

- At least **five (5) national or regional authorities** from at least five (5) different Member States or Associated Countries, of which,
 - ✓ at least **two (2) are representing a 'moderate' or 'emerging' innovator region** and
 - ✓ at least **one (1) is representing a 'strong' or 'innovation leader' innovator region**

Ref: (latest version at call closure)

- [Regional Innovation Scoreboard](#)
- [European Innovation Scoreboard](#) (entities representing national authorities)
- [Global Innovation Index](#) (AC not included in EIS)
- [Participation rank in HE programme – H2020 country profile](#) (AC not included in GII)



Who can apply? (2)

Target group (indicative)

- **National and/or regional innovation authorities** (**min eligibility requirement**)
[shape innovation policies/programmes and able to provide 50% co-funding]
- **Other relevant entities** (*research institutions, universities, companies, clusters, innovation intermediaries, etc.*)
 - ✓ **as beneficiaries** (able to provide 50% co-funding) - for HE eligible countries
 - ✓ **as associated partners** - for HE non-eligible countries



Objective

Strong innovation ecosystems across the EU, by accelerating the development and deployment of innovation, including deep tech innovation, to address the most burning challenges facing the EU

This action is intended to create connected **REGIONAL INNOVATION VALLEYS** across EU, involving regions with lower innovation performances and **building on strategic areas of regional strength and specialization** (in support of key EU priorities).

Successful applicant regions get the label.





Expected outcomes:

- **Open, inclusive, efficient, connected innovation ecosystems**, for **joint definition of visions/strategies**
- **Synergies, complementarities, collaboration** notably in **thematic/technological areas (+ deep-tech)** **critical for EU value chains** while tackling **challenges** of EU interest
- Increased **innovation capabilities** in MS/AC, allowing innovators **to bring their ideas into the market**, and innovations to be scaled up at EU level
- Better **links** between **territories** and **actors**
- More innovation **co-investments**, fostering other funding leverages (COFUND).

Scope



Authorities in charge of **public national, regional or local** innovation policies & programmes, in cooperation with **private** and **Research & Innovation actors** to **implement multi-annual joint activities (action plans)** towards **innovation deployment / development**, aimed at tackling **challenges** at **EU, national, regional and local level**.



Proposals should:

- Present **joint strategic visions, their commitment** and **agreed** innovation action plans (+details in annual work plans)
- Explain the **need** and the **reasons** for the selection of:
 - the **action plan**; should be **scalable, strong EU added value**
 - a strategic **thematic/technological area of cooperation**;
(potential for growth/competitiveness; contribution to Joint or EU priorities and HE missions)
- Highlight how cooperation will improve the **EIE efficiency /performance**
- Describe the **activities, process and R&I assets** and ensure:
 - a) **inclusiveness & diversity** (actors + territories)
 - b) participation of **private** actors (implementation + co-funding)
 - c) **complementarity and synergies** with funds, policies/strategies, programmes
- **How** the consortium will implement these activities, clear **targets** (+indicators), **long term commitment (LoI)**



**Proposals
should:**

Include an ACTION PLAN

CORE COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITIES

- **Coordination and support actions (CSA-type) - Horizontal actions**

e.g.

- *structures/tools for networking and coordination*
- *sharing/access to best practices, services, resources*
- *join knowledge assets (methods/data/processes)*
- *interconnection of innovation hubs*
- *market analysis – access to new markets/finance*
- *training/skills development*
- *open infrastructures' interconnection*
- *supportive activities for scaleup of innovative solutions*
- *joint public procurement*
- *social innovators / civil society integration*

- **Final agreement on joint action plan**
- **Preparation of setting up joint calls**



JOINT INTERREGIONAL PROJECTS (FSTP)

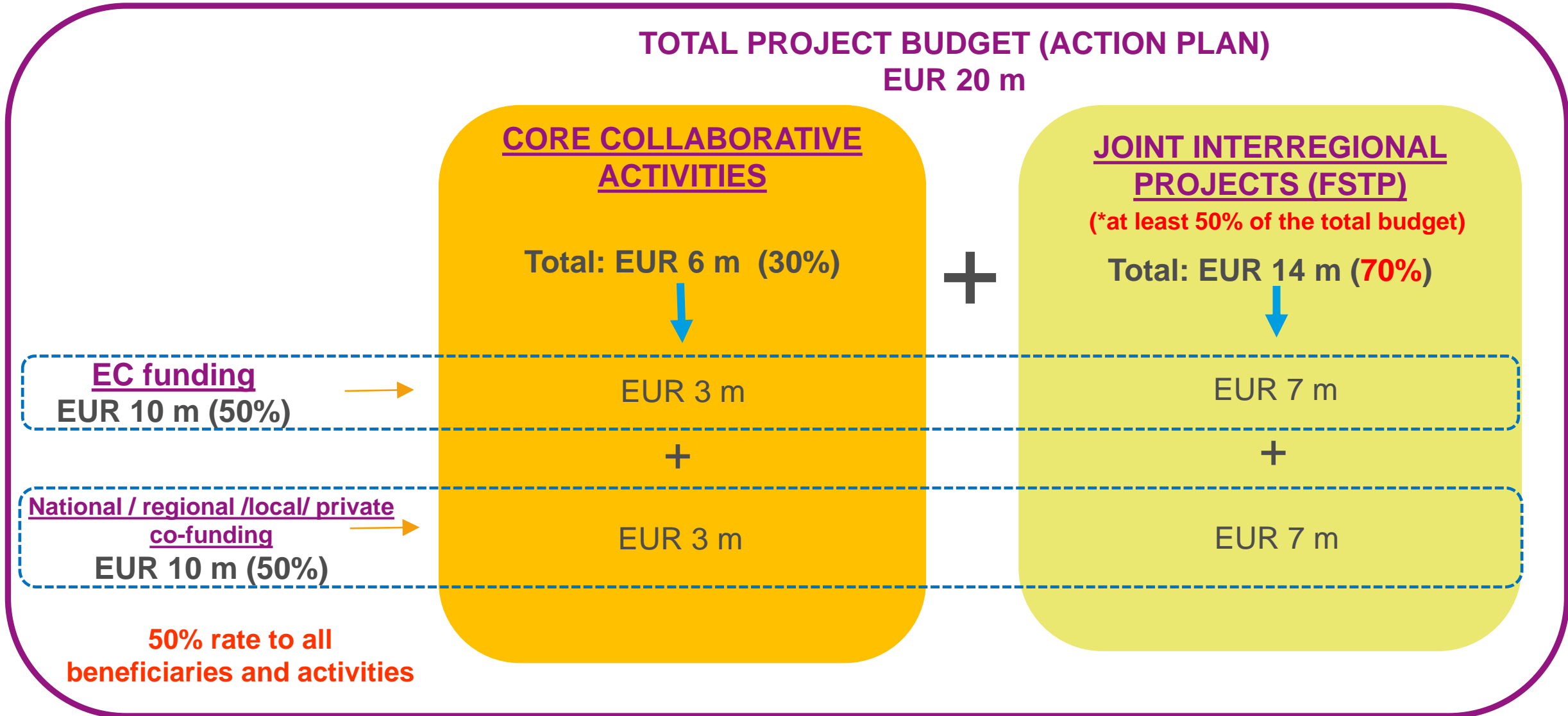
(*at least 50% of the total budget)

Joint open calls:

- **At least 3 multi-beneficiary projects**
- **Similar to HE Innovation Action (IA) – type (TRL 6-8)**
Collaboration of R&I actors of participating regions
- **Specific thematic/technological area (+deep-tech)**
 1. **Reducing reliance on fossil fuels**
 2. **Increasing global food security**
 3. **Mastering the digital transformation (+ cybersecurity)**
 4. **Improving healthcare**
 5. **Achieving circularity**
- **Concrete / tangible outcomes by end of project**
- **Managed in a coordinated manner (portfolio / links)**



Example of proposal budget / actions (EIE)



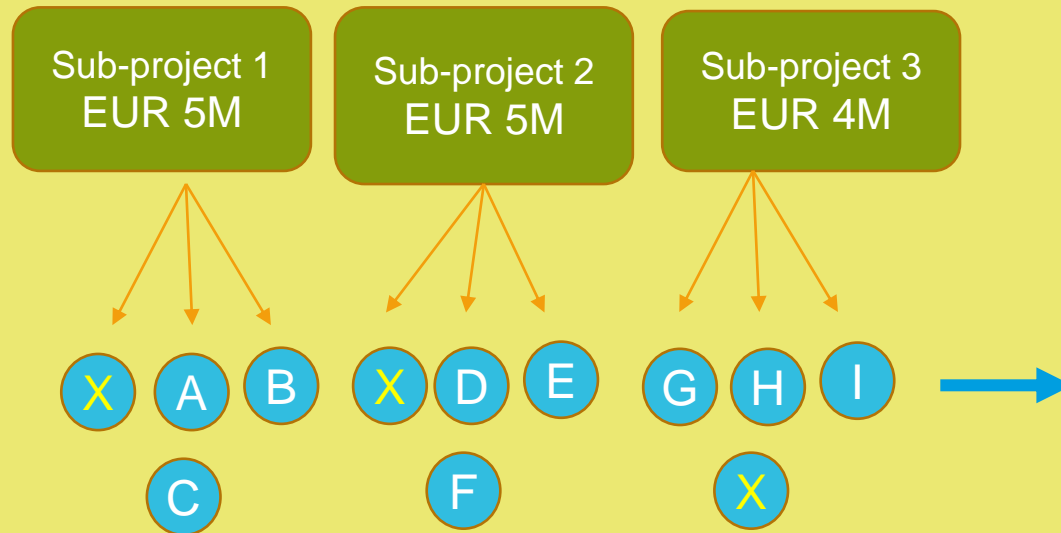
2. Financial Support to third parties (FSTP)



Example – Info on Financial Support to third parties (FSTP)

JOINT INTERREGIONAL PROJECTS (FSTP)

Total: EUR 14 m (70%)



- PROVISIONS/MODALITIES OF CALL: In proposal
- WHAT FORM? Grants
- WHO?
Multi-beneficiaries projects.
Recipients: R&I actors established in participating regions.
- HOW MUCH?
Max EUR 600 000 (per FSTP recipient and per grant)

e.g. recipient X for all 3 projects

No double funding of same cost item!



Example - Financial Support to third parties (FSTP) – Budget

JOINT INTERREGIONAL PROJECTS (FSTP)

Call requirement: Allocate at least 50% of the action plan's total budget to interregional innovation projects (FSTP)
 [Action plan budget = total project budget = total eligible costs]

3 - Budget (table of Part A of proposal)

No.	Name of beneficiary	Country	Role	Personnel costs/€	Subcontracting costs/€	Purchase costs - Travel and subsistence/€	Purchase costs - Equipment/€	Purchase costs - Other goods, works and services/€	Financial support to third parties/€ (actual cost)	Internally invoiced goods and services/€ (Unit costs-usual accounting practices)	Indirect costs/€	Total eligible costs	Funding rate	Maximum EU contribution to eligible costs
1	Test Camelia-valeria	BE	Coordinator	700 000	50 000	30 000	20 000	5 000	2 000 000	20 000	188 750.00	3 013 750.00	50	1 506 875.00

Allocate at least 50% of Total eligible costs to FSTP



Financial Support to third parties (FSTP) – TRL levels

JOINT INTERREGIONAL PROJECTS (FSTP)

Maturity of innovation (TRL levels)

EIE call
Joint interregional projects
(FSTP)

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
development &
demonstration**

**Business &
Investment
Development**



Rules & Legal base for Financial Support to third parties (FSTP)

JOINT INTERREGIONAL PROJECTS (FSTP)

- No specific call requirements (*apart from **max EUR 600 000** per third party*)
- Beneficiaries responsible to set call conditions
- ▶ **Dedicated annex** on FSTP to be filled in with your proposal (Part B).
- Legal base:
 - Financial Regulation - Art 204 (2018/1046 - 18 July 2018)
 - General Annexes to the Horizon Europe WP 2023-2024 (B. Eligibility)
 - Horizon Europe Model Grand Agreement (Art.6.2.D.1 & Art 9.4)



Legal base for providing Financial Support to third parties (FSTP)

JOINT INTERREGIONAL PROJECTS (FSTP)

Horizon Europe Model Grand Agreement (Art.6.2.D.1)

The **proposal** must include the **implementation conditions** of the support and ensure **objective and transparent selection procedures** and include at least the following elements:

1. the *maximum amount to be granted* to each third party (max EUR 600,000)
2. the *criteria* for determining the exact amount.
3. a closed *list of the different types of activities* that qualify for financial support
4. the *persons or categories of persons* that will be supported
5. the *criteria and procedures for giving financial support*
6. The *measures to avoid potential conflicts of interest or unequal treatment* of applicants

The **beneficiaries must ensure** that;

(Art.9.4)

- 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 bodies mentioned in Article 25** (e.g. granting authority, OLAF, Court of Auditors (ECA), etc.) **can exercise their rights also towards the recipients.**

General Annexes to the Horizon Europe WP 2023-2024 (B. Eligibility)

Applicants must clearly describe the **objectives** and the **expected results** incl. the elements listed in the application template

The following **conditions** must also be fulfilled:

- calls to be **published widely** and **to adhere to EU standards** of transparency, equal treatment, conflict of interest and confidentiality
- calls must be **published on the F&T Portal and on the beneficiaries' websites**
- calls must remain **open for at least 2 months**;
- if submission deadlines are changed, this must immediately be announced and **registered applicants must be informed of the change**
- projects must **publish the outcome of the calls** without delay – incl. description of projects, date of the award, duration, the legal name & country
- the calls must have a **clear European dimension**

3. Proposal templates



Proposal templates

Applicants should submit:

- **Part A - Forms & budget**
- **Part B - Technical info** (main proposal – **max 70 pages** for COFUND)

Annexes:

- 1) **Annual Work plan** (for 1st year of project)
- 2) **Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP)** info
- 3) **Letter of intent** (coordinator on behalf of beneficiaries)
- 4) **Additional information – beneficiaries** (xls. file - for policy and statistical purposes)



Proposal templates – Annex: Letter of intent (LoI)

(filled in and duly signed and dated by coordinator on behalf of beneficiaries)

LETTER OF INTENT

I the coordinator, on behalf of the beneficiaries of the project, confirm our commitment to support the proposal submitted in response to the Horizon Europe call HORIZON-EIE-2023-CONNECT-03 and all its relevant requirements (including the 50% co-funding).

To confirm our commitment, we agree in case the proposal is successful to submit to the granting authority (EISMEA) at the time of the grant preparation letters of commitment of the remaining co-fund budget provided by the relevant beneficiaries (national/regional funds or private funds) covering the first two (2) years of implementation of the project.

The absence of such letter will impede/block the signature of the grant agreement.

Additional information *(mandatory)*:

[Insert short text (per beneficiary)]:

- a) The role of the beneficiary in the project;
- b) How the beneficiary ensures its commitment to the project, including the 50% co-funding.
Please indicate the source of the required 50% of complementary funding (e.g. national and/or regional, EU funding or private funding).



Proposal templates – Annex: Additional info (xls file)

Project Acronym <i>(repeat several times as the beneficiaries number)</i>	Project Number <i>(repeat several times as the beneficiaries number)</i>	Thematic area of the proposal <i>(drop down list)</i>	If other, please specify	Beneficiary full name <i>(1 row per beneficiary)</i>	Is the beneficiary a NATIONAL or REGIONAL AUTHORITY from a Member State or Associated Country?	If the beneficiary is a REGION, has it participated to the Call for Expression of Interest to become a REGIONAL INNOVATION VALLEY?

Please refer with free text on the area, e.g., "Achieving Circularity – Water", "reducing the reliance on fossil fuels – Hydrogen"

1. Reduce reliance on fossil fuels
2. Increasing global food security
3. Mastering the digital transformation (+ cybersecurity)
4. Improving healthcare
5. Achieving circularity

YES/NO YES/NO

Regions, Call for Eol

Data on beneficiaries' regions' (1 row per beneficiary)							
Country code <i>(drop down list)</i>	NUTS 1 <i>(drop down list)</i>	NUTS2 <i>(drop down list)</i>	If other, please specify	Are you already a coordinator or a member of I3 instrument?	Is your consortium/your member planning to apply/has already applied for I3 call in 2023?	Please indicate members of consortium who make part of I3 instrument	Eligibility criterion <i>See call text. Categorisation based on on Regional Innovation Scoreboard or European Innovation Scoreboard (for national authorities, Associated Countries). (drop down list)</i>

Cohesion policy status
[Check the status of your region here](#)
(drop down list)

More developed/ transition/ less developed

Moderate/emerging innovator
Strong / innovation leader

YES/NO YES/NO

Links with Cohesion policy and I3



4. FAQs

Please check the [FAQs in the portal](#) for the call!





General

Can a proposal focus in more than 1 thematic/technological area?

Yes. Proposals should be **challenged-based**. Applicants are **encouraged to prepare proposals focused/targeted in 1 area** (*reducing reliance on the fossil fuels, food security, digital, healthcare, circularity*), including deep-tech.

Depending on challenge, proposals may cover more than 1 areas.

Can an applicant submit/participate in several proposals?

Yes. No restriction, as long as proposals have different objectives/activities, and no double funding of the same cost item.

How the COFUND call is linked to the “preparatory action” CSA calls in 2021 and 2023?

- **CSA topic (2021, 2023)** finance the preparation of joint action plans (*i.e. explore areas/ways of cooperation, concretise, co-design*)
- **COFUND topic (2023)** finance the implementation of mature long-term joint action plans (*already agreed areas, actions..*)

Will successful projects of the “preparatory action” call (2021, 2023) get automatically financing for their implementation via the COFUND call (2023) ?

Competitive call. Not linked actions. Not automatic funding. Operationally, successful 2021 projects may have some outcomes ready to feed in a proposal under the COFUND call, **with some adjustments** (objectives, links with NEIA, consortium, etc.)



Regions/ Partners

Can only national / regional innovation authorities participate under the call as beneficiaries?

- No. **Any innovation entity is eligible to participate** from MS/AC or other HE eligible Third countries, as long as:
a) the minimum eligibility criterion is met; b) they are committed to provide the 50% remaining co-funding.
- **No other restriction** (type of partners, role, coordinator)
- **Cities/municipalities (local authorities)** are eligible (but not included in min eligibility criterion)
- **Consortium composition** may be evaluated (**inclusiveness**)
- Other entities can be also **end-beneficiaries via FSTP joint calls**.

What would be the optimal size of a consortium?

The topic does not define any optimal size of the consortia only min eligibility criterion.



Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP)

Is the FSTP part mandatory under the call?

Operationally, FSTP is an integral part of the call:

- ✓ the proposal should include provisions and modalities for the competitive selection and funding (joint open calls implemented via FSTP) of at least 3 interregional innovation projects
- ✓ proposals should allocate at least 50% of the total budget to these interregional projects (FSTP).

What FSTP rules/requirements apply to the calls?

- Interregional projects (FSTP) to absorb **at least 50% of the total eligible costs**.
- Max amount per end-beneficiary and per grant: **EUR 600.000** (no double funding!)
- Consortia: **responsible for the joint open calls and implementation modalities/provisions (in line with legal base)**.

How extra public and private funding can be leveraged?

Partner regions (beneficiaries) may mobilise further:

- ✓ **public funding** by launching open calls targeting additional regions (not only those participating in the proposal);
- ✓ **private funding** by lowering the FSTP funding rate
 - **The beneficiaries will report only the eligible costs related to the project (budget table Part A).**



CO-FUND Rate

How the applicants can cover the co-financing of 50% (COFUND)?

Entirely up to beneficiaries to choose the source of the financing (*e.g., own resources, other funding, loans, etc...*).

Can be covered by any other:

- ✓ **public** (national, regional or a combination of both) or
- ✓ **private sources** (e.g. participating companies, associations, etc.)

Is there a possibility of combining HE and Cohesion policy funds for the projects' co-funding?

Yes, provided it complies with the Common Provisions Regulation (CPR) 2021-2027.

Relevant articles: CPR Article 73(2)(4), HE Article 15, also General Block Exception Regulation (GBER) Article 25c].

Synergies EC notice: https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/information/publications/communications/2022/synergies-between-erdf-programmes-and-horizon-europe

5. Annex



Definitions *(in part B of proposal)*

Co-fund action	An action to provide multi-annual co-funding to a programme of activities established or implemented by legal entities managing or funding R&I programmes, other than Union funding bodies; such a programme of activities may support networking and coordination, research, innovation, pilot actions, and innovation and market deployment actions, training and mobility actions, awareness raising and communication, dissemination and exploitation, and provide any relevant financial support, such as grants, prizes and procurement, as well as Horizon Europe blended finance or a combination thereof.
Deep tech	Deep tech innovation aims to provide concrete solutions to our societal problems by finding its source in a deep interaction with the most recent scientific and technological advances and by seeking to produce a profound impact in the targeted application areas .
Interregional Innovation Investments (I3) Instrument	The I3 Instrument is a new Cohesion Policy tool focusing on existing interregional partnerships that emerged around concrete smart specialisation strategies.
Innovation action	An action primarily consisting of activities directly aiming to produce plans and arrangements or designs for new, altered or improved products, processes or services, possibly including prototyping, testing, demonstrating, piloting, large-scale product validation and market replication.
Regional Innovation Valley	<p>A regional innovation valley has to meet the following <u>main conditions</u>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="532 939 2410 1006">i. Enhance the coordination and directionality of the region's R&I investment and policies, at regional level in support of key EU priorities and to address the most burning challenges facing the EU <li data-bbox="532 1015 2410 1158">ii. Engage, building on shared or complementary smart specialisation areas (where applicable) in interregional collaboration to develop innovation, including deeptech innovation, and help [increase innovation cohesion by addressing Europe's persistent innovation divide] between regions at different levels of development and/or innovation performance by including regions with lower innovation performance; <li data-bbox="532 1166 2410 1276">iii. Strengthen and connect their regional innovation ecosystems, including for example through joint innovation action plans to constitute connected regional innovation valleys] building on their Smart Specialisation Strategies (containing milestones and targets) and, where applicable, on the participation in the Partnerships for Regional Innovation (PRIs).



Thank you!

EISMEA-EU-ECOSYSTEMS@ec.europa.eu

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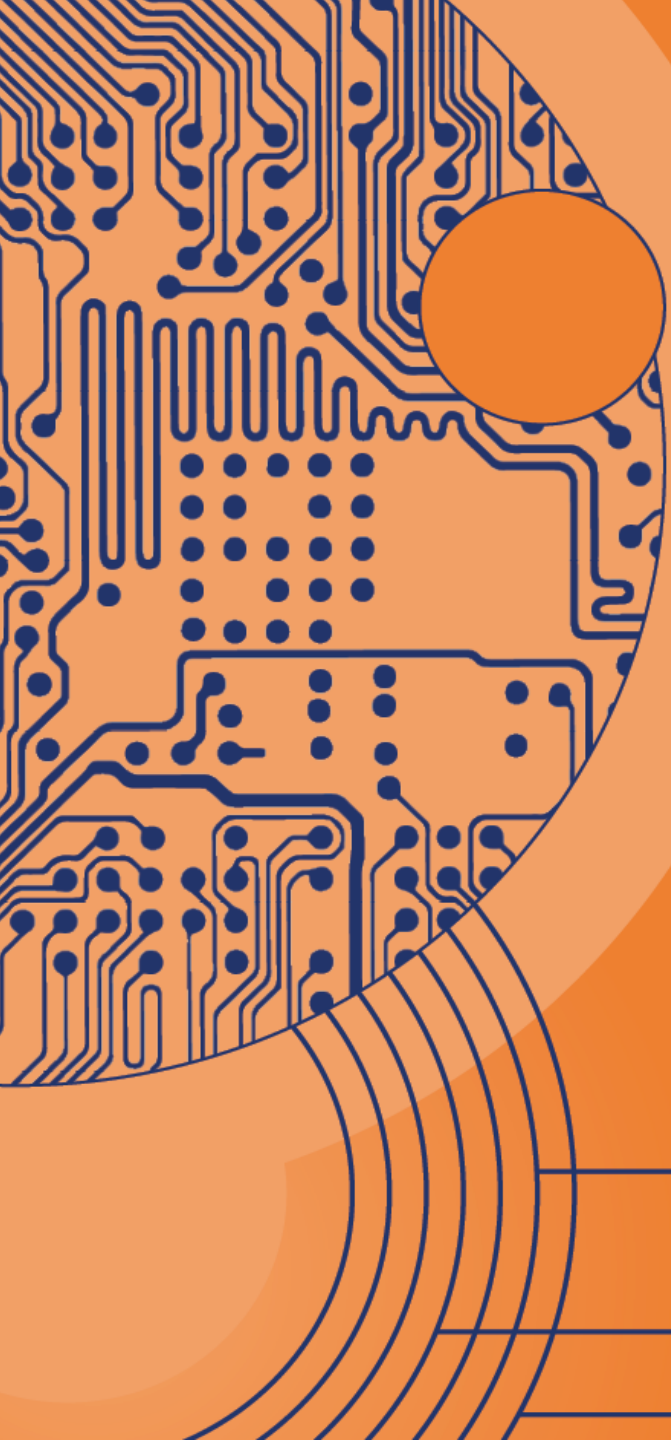


I3

Interregional
Innovation
Investment
Instrument

Regional Innovation Valleys
**Interregional Innovation
Investments (I3) Instrument Calls**

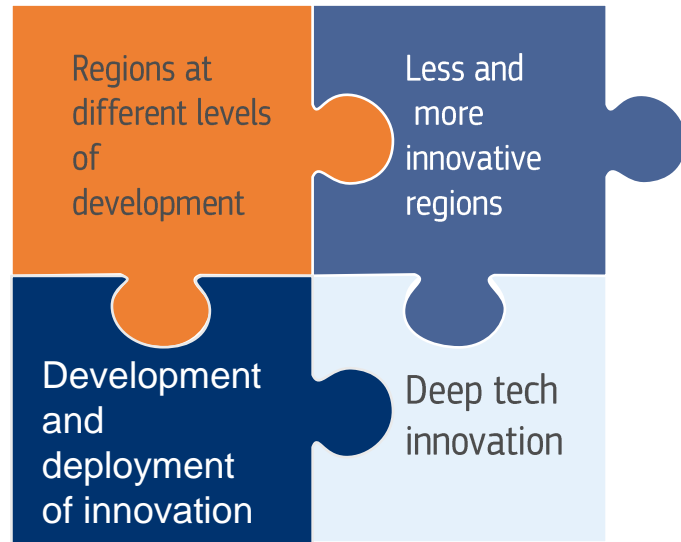




Outline of the presentation:

- Policy background
- Strand 1 & 2a
- Differences between Strand 1 & 2a
- Financial support to third parties (FSTP)
- Links between I3 & RIVs

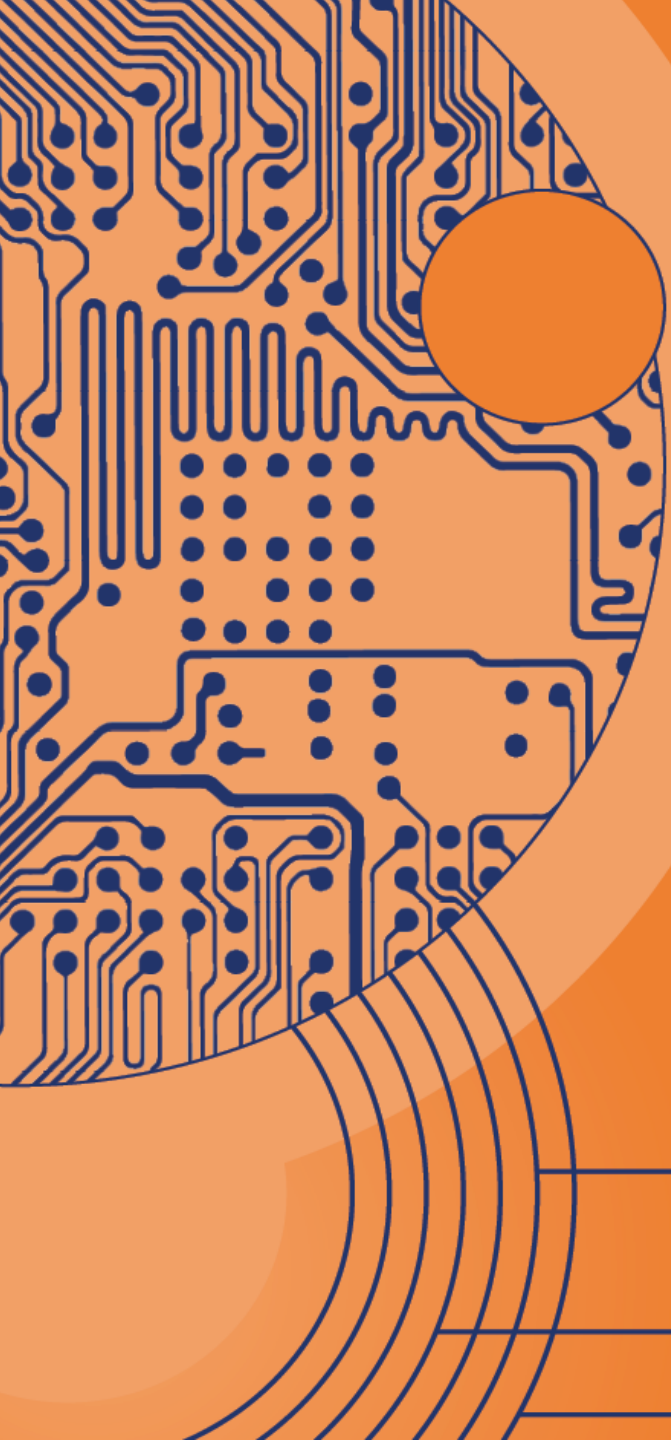
Policy background: I3 Work Programme 2023-2024



- Increased competitiveness and resilience of EU value chains, cohesion goals
- Regional Innovation Valleys

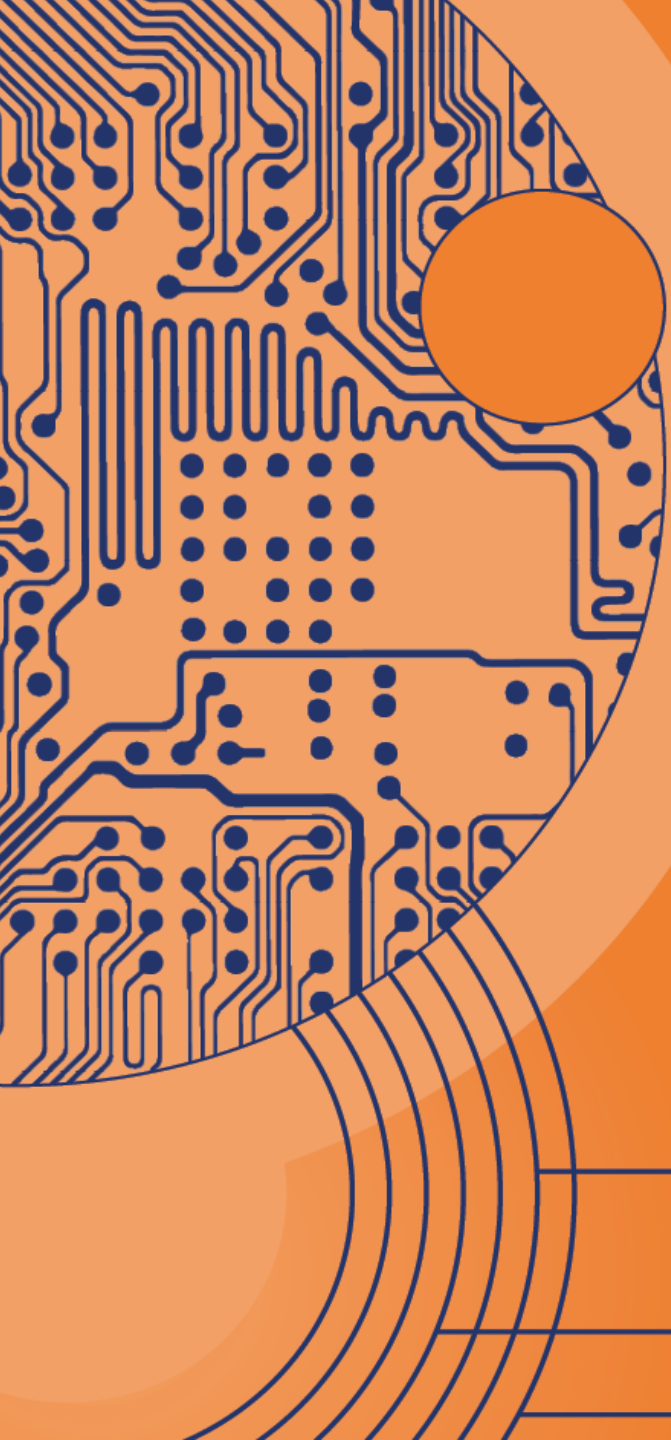
Building on Work Programme 2021-2022 - maintaining what worked, updates following expert and stakeholder feedback:

- **Continued & updated:** thematic priorities of twin transition and smart manufacturing carried over, however additional emphasis on burning challenges and link to the *New European Innovation Agenda*, RIV;
- **Continued:** focus on capacity building (new Call to come);
- **New:** S3 community of practice launched to support partnerships, umbrella for regional innovation stakeholders, linking ideas, facilitating consortia creation ;
- **NEW: strengthened cohesion policy dimension** – first call results, stronger integration of the less developed regions into EU value chains, more partners from the less developed regions to be included in I3 consortia;
- **NEW: same indicative project size** for both strands;
- **NEW: 100% rate for cascade funding;**
- **NEW: simplification – S3 support letter** from the coordinator only, consortia members to outline link to S3 within the application



Eric KOCH

Project Adviser, Unit EISMEA I.01
EU and place-based Innovation Ecosystems



Strand 1 & 2a

**Financial and advisory support
for investments in
interregional innovation
projects**

13 Strands

Strand 1 | Investment & advisory support for interregional innovation projects in shared smart specialisation areas

Strand 2a | Investment & advisory support for interregional innovation projects for the development of value chains in less developed regions

Strand 2b | Capacity building for the development of value chains in less developed regions

Technical assistance & experimentation

Innovation
Valleys

**€ 570 million
(2021-2027)**

Burning challenges – New European Innovation Agenda



Thematic priorities

Green transition

Digital transition

Strand 1

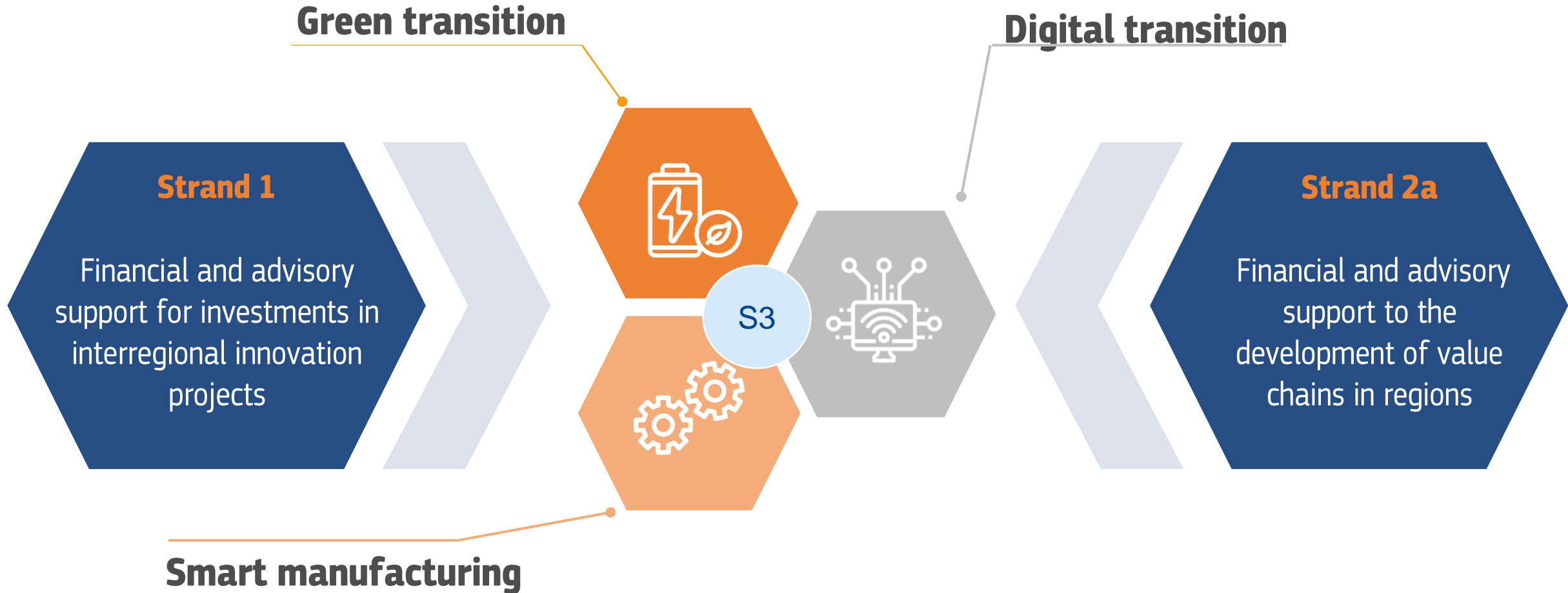
Financial and advisory support for investments in interregional innovation projects

S3

Strand 2a

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

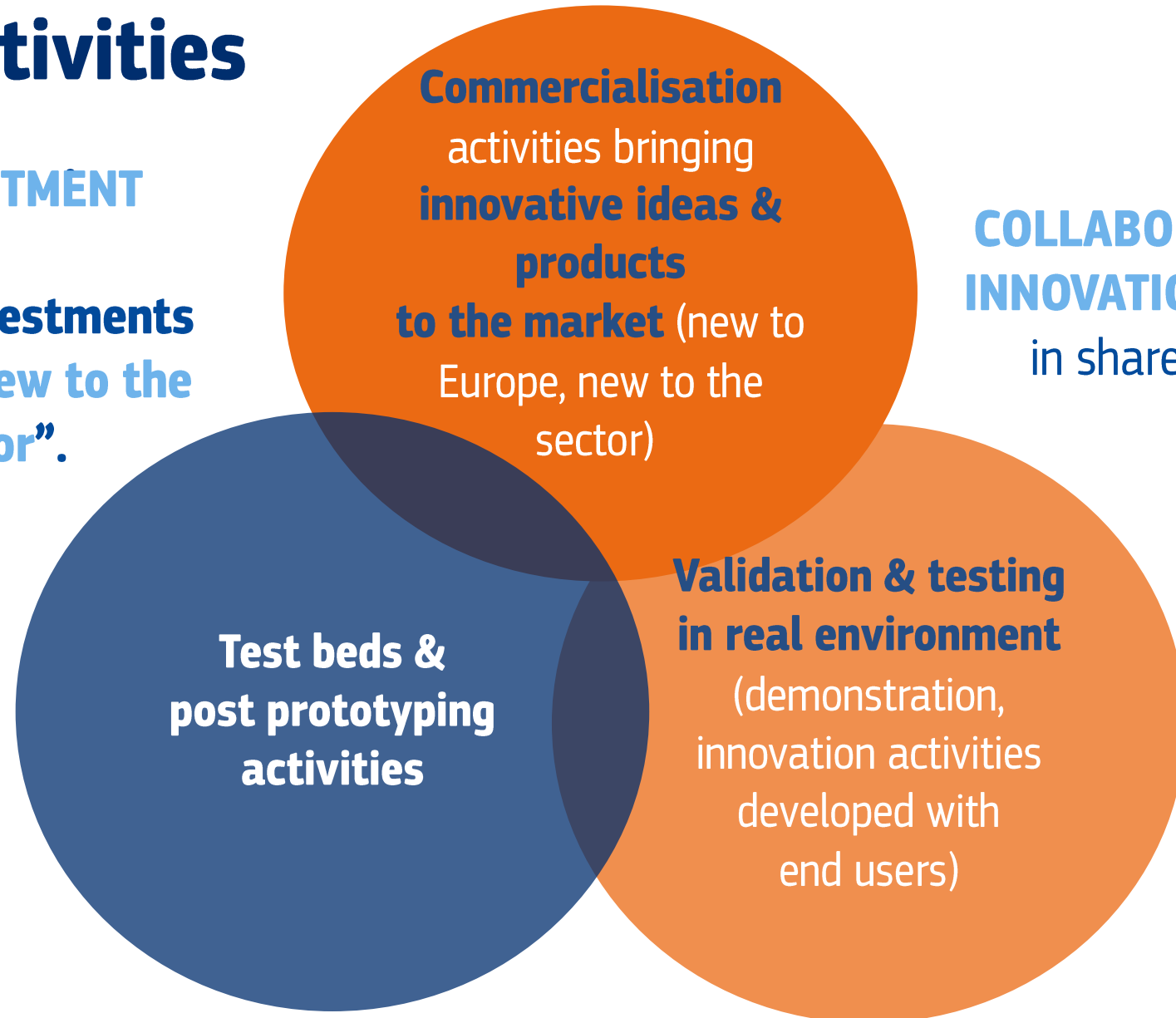
Smart manufacturing



Eligible activities

VALUE CHAIN INVESTMENT PORTFOLIOS

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



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

instrumental to bring innovative ideas and new products to the market

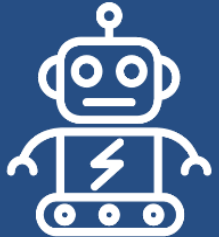
Key dimensions & KPIs



**Interregional
dimension**



Investment dimension



**Innovation
dimension**



Value chain dimension



**Gender balance
dimension**



IPR dimension

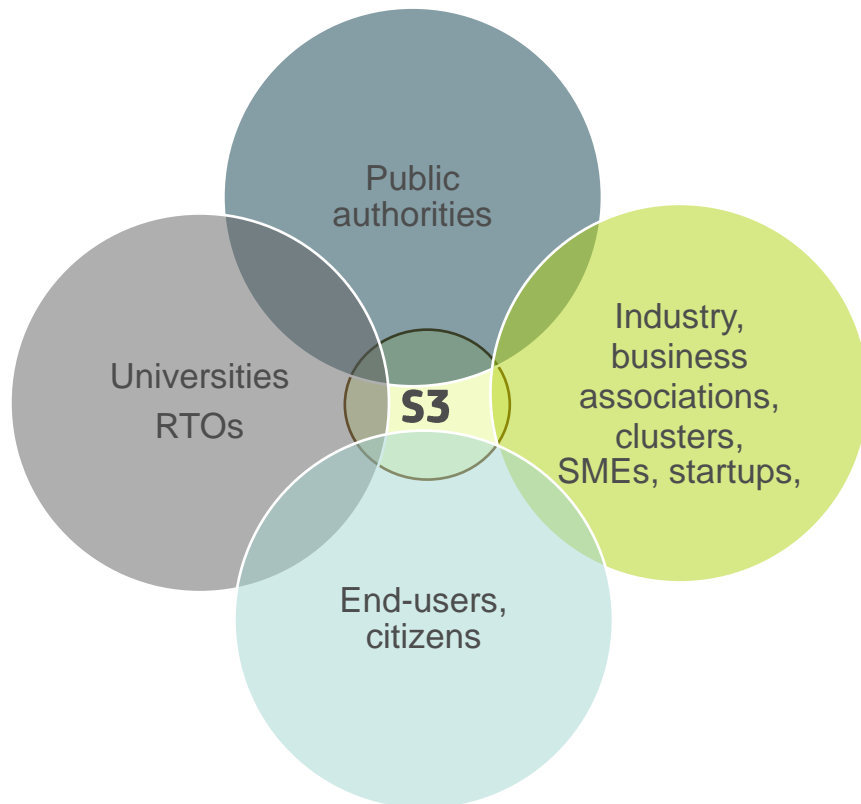


Socio-economic benefits

Interregional Dimension

Q-helix partnerships

on behalf of a regional / national ecosystems



Endorsed by competent bodies for Smart Specialisation

Different types of regions at the appropriate NUTS level

Minimum conditions in terms of ecosystems involved

(different for strand 1 and 2a)

Innovation Dimension: all type of Innovation

Innovation (Oslo Manual): *New or improved products, processes, services, technologies or business models made available to markets, governments and society. Uptake of innovative technologies or solutions (TRL 6-9)*

Product innovation

A good or service that is new or significantly improved.

Process innovation

A new or significantly improved production or delivery method.

Marketing innovation

A new marketing method involving significant changes in design or packaging, product placement, promotion or pricing.

Organisational innovation

A new organisational method in business practices, workplace organisation or external relations.

Investment dimension



- **70% from the total eligible costs invested in SMEs**
- **Tangible and Intangible investments**
- Investment justified by a **market analysis or a business and investment plan**
- Identified **time to market** or the **TRL of departure** (requirement TRL 6-9)
- **Defined private/public** investments leveraged by the project
- **Multilevel architecture** of the investment project (national, regional, European)
- **Evidence based**, expected territorial impact

PORTFOLIO APPROACH:

identification, within a specific **thematic/technological area of cooperation**, of a number of **investment-ready sub-projects** that address **one or several challenges/ bottlenecks** faced by the consortium

Project budget and duration, funding rate

B
O
T
H

S
T
R
A
N
D
S

Project size

€ 2 – 10 million

Duration

18 – 36 months

Funding rate

70% for all cost categories & beneficiaries EXCEPT
100% for costs of FSTP

€ 31
million/
strand
2023

Admissibility

- Application Form Part A — administrative information about the participants
- Application Form Part B — the technical description of the project
- Part C - additional project data (TRL, innovation type, NUTS level etc.)

Documents

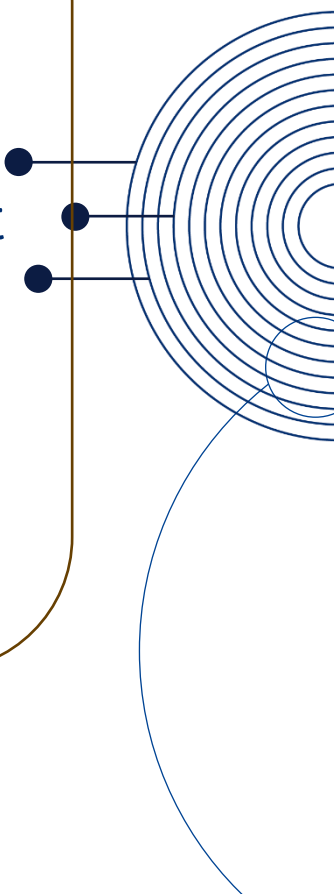
- Detailed budget table
- CVs (short outlines) of core project team
- Letter of support/endorsement

The letter of endorsement/support

- Submitted by the project coordinator
- Should be from the competent regional or national institution or body, responsible for the management of S3
- Compulsory for the coordinator and optional for the partners
- In case of multiple consortia members coming from the same region, **only one letter** is required
- Must be submitted before the call deadline

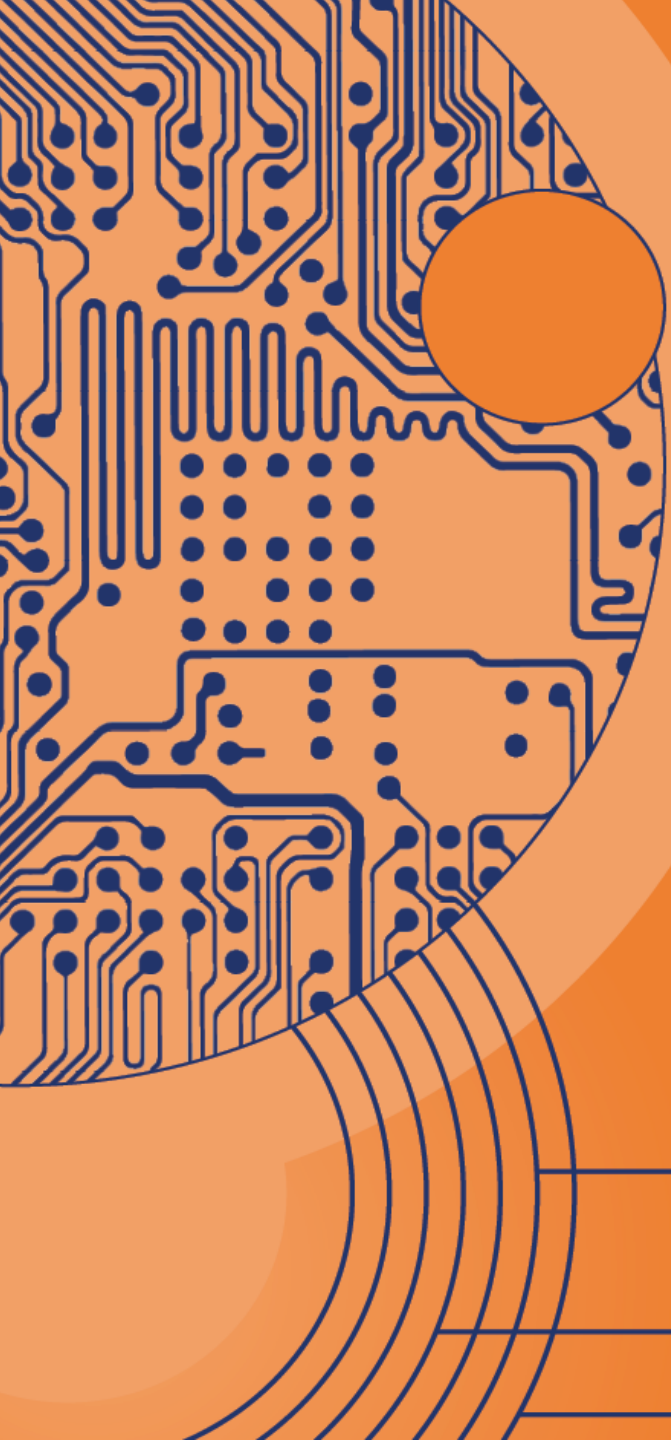
*Regional Innovation Valleys recognition:

- Sign letter of endorsement
- Tick the RIV box
- Sign Grant Agreement



Indicative timeline





Differences between Strand 1 & Strand 2a

Objectives

Strand 1	Strand 2a
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Targets consortia of innovation actors from different regions- Encourages interlinked investments in interregional innovation projects- Investments will serve to strengthen, connect, or expand existing value chains	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Aims at developing value chains in less developed regions- Strong cohesion dimension and focus on collaboration of ecosystems with different level of development- Strives to embed & integrate the innovation actors from less developed regions in EU value chains

Consortium composition

Strand 1

Strand 2a

The ***consortium coordinator*** must be:

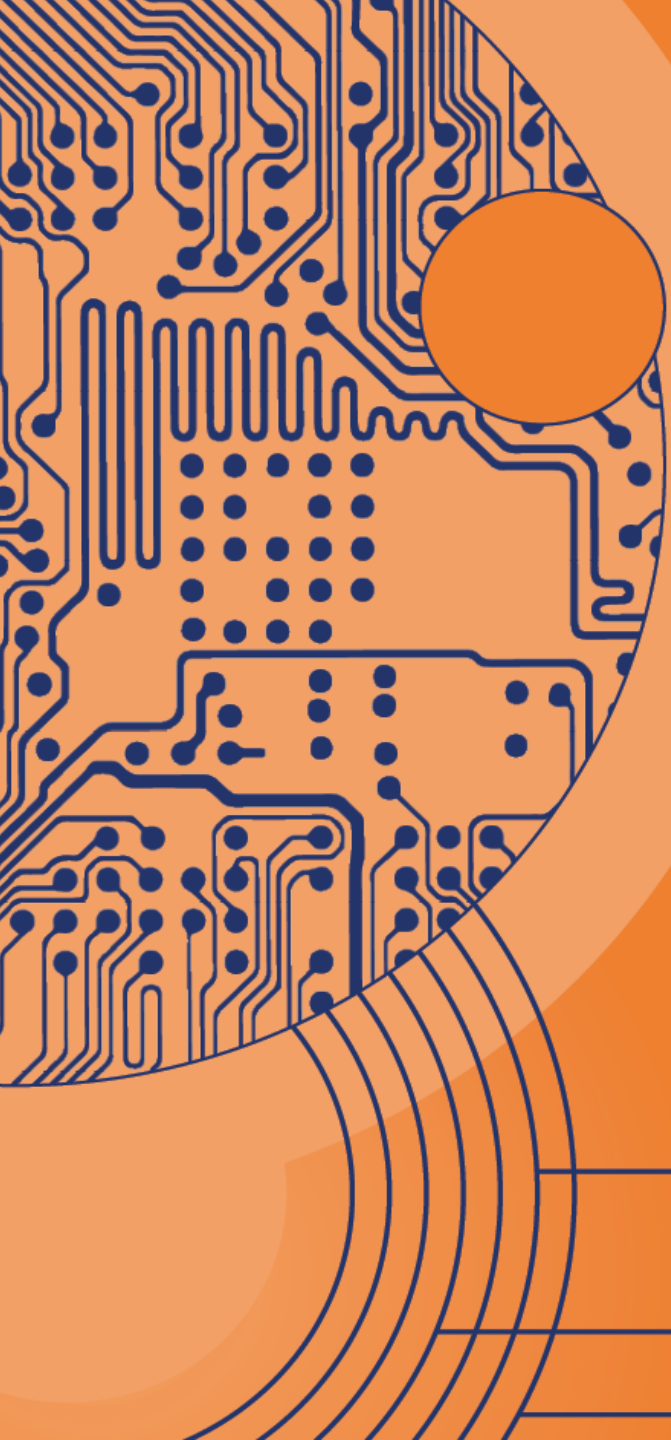
- ***Non-profit organisation*** including research bodies and innovation intermediate organisation (i.e. a cluster organisation, an innovation agency etc.) or
- Member State Organisation acting under indirect management or
- Public authority

– at least ***5 independent legal entities*** established in ***5 different regions*** of at least ***3 eligible countries***.

– at least ***2 legal entities*** must come from ***less developed regions***

– at least ***3 independent legal entities*** established in ***3 different regions*** in at least ***2 eligible countries***

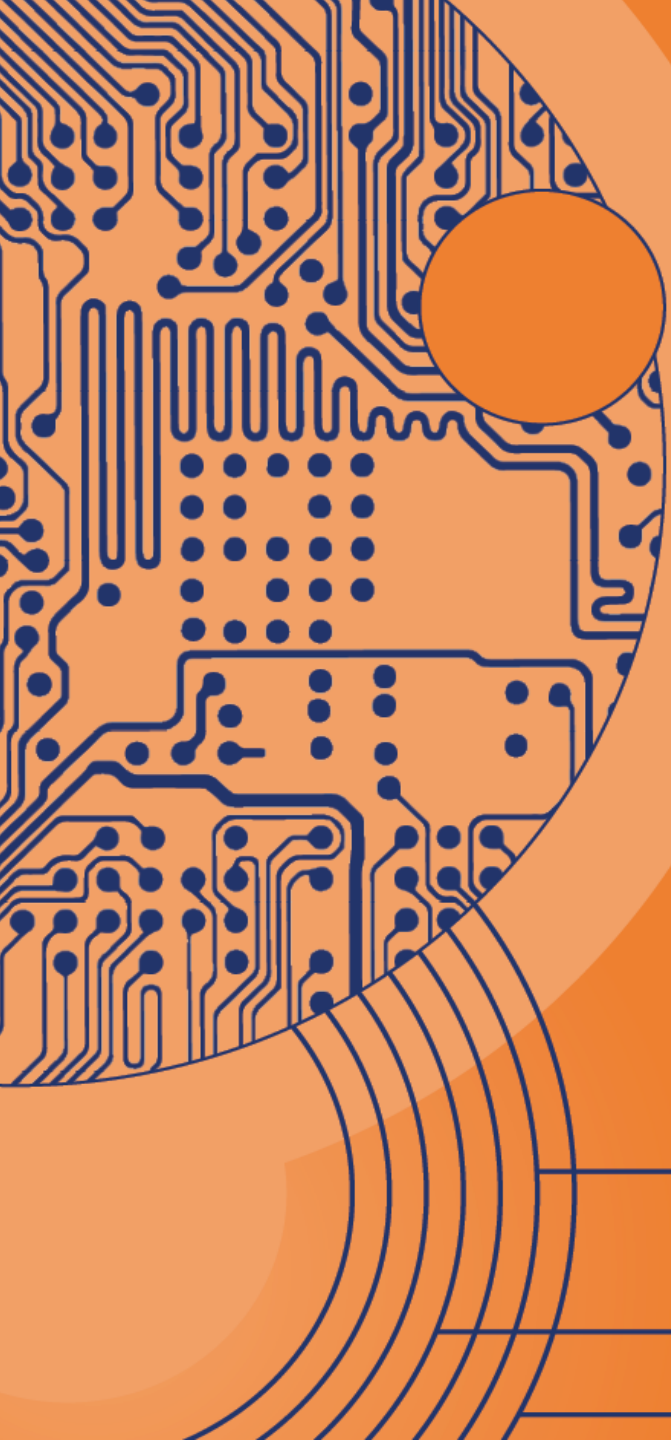
– the consortium should represent ***at least 1 more developed region*** and must have a strong involvement of less developed regions and focus on their needs



Milena **STOYANOVA**

Project Adviser, Unit EISMEA I.01

EU and place-based Innovation Ecosystems



Financial support to third parties scheme (FSTP)

FSTP or 'Cascade funding' – What it is?

Financial support to third parties (FSTP) is a mechanism that allows funding to beneficiaries that are not identified in the Grant Agreement as members of the eligible consortium.

FSTP in your proposals



FSTP is not compulsory !

Under these calls, applicants have the possibility to include FSTP in the form of “Cascade funding”

How to “use” FSTP ?

- FSTP allows to select SMEs during the implementation phase, in order to contribute to the investment project by carrying out necessary and missing tasks
- Examples: to complete a specific value chain, to offer a specific groundwork for testing and optimising products and production processes, for the exploration of new processing technologies
- FSTP could contribute to achieve the call objective to allocate at least 70% of the of the total eligible costs to investments in companies, with a focus on SMEs

FSTP– What are the rules for I3 calls?

The costs for FSTP will be reimbursed at the funding rate fixed in the Grant Agreement: 100% (funding rate for all other cost categories = 70%!)

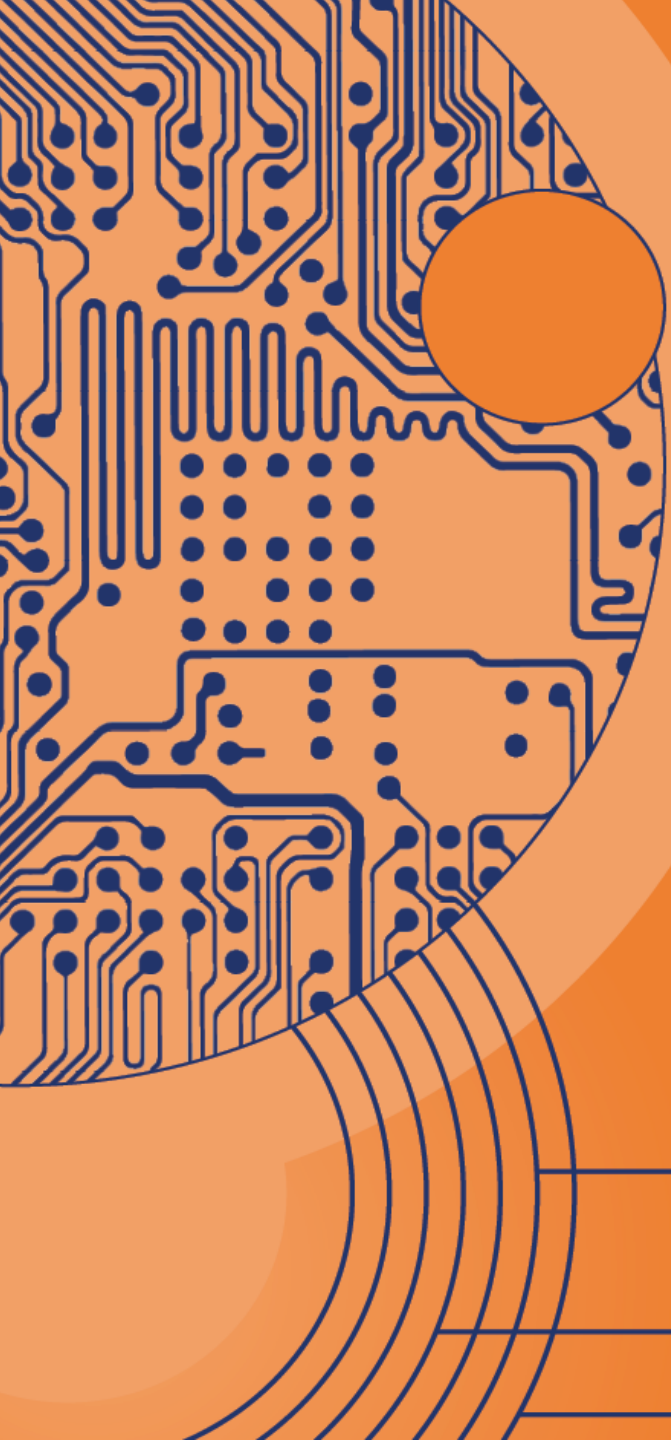
Costs for providing FSTP cannot exceed 30% of the total eligible costs.

Cost for FSTP are allowed only for grants.

Max amount of Financial Support for each third party ('recipient') may not exceed EUR 60 000.

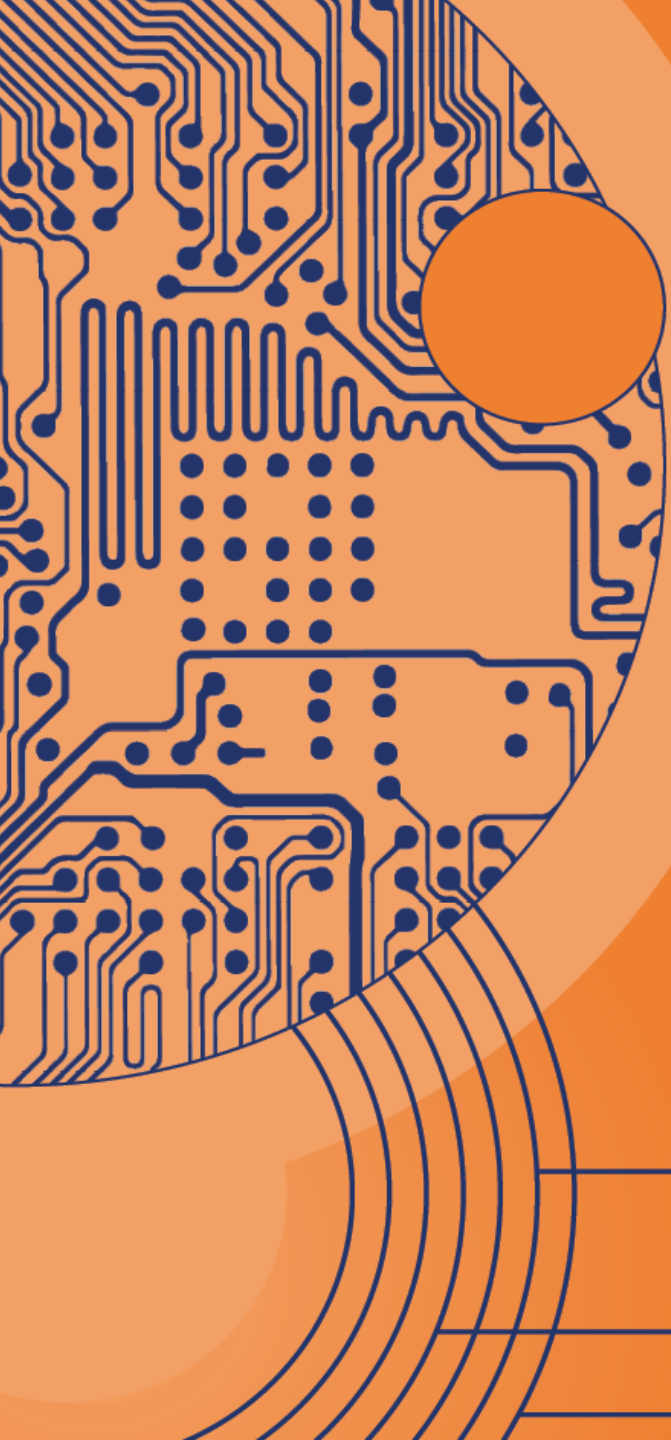
The recipients must be SMEs that are established in the regions covered by the consortium or in another less developed region or in an outermost region;

For more details (e.g. FSTP call publication etc.), please consult section 6 of the call document.



Valentina PINNA

Project Adviser, Unit EISMEA I.01
EU and place-based Innovation Ecosystems



Links between I3 & RIVs

I3 & EIE Co-fund

Complementary calls	I3 Instrument	Co-fund
Objectives	Promote smart economic transformation and cohesion between European regions Reduce the innovation divide Stimulate place-based innovation Reinforce interregional investments in EU value chains	Strength R&I investment policies Create efficient, open, inclusive and interconnected EU Innovation Ecosystems to reduce the innovation divide Supporting cooperation at programme level to enable authorities in charge of public innovation policies to implement multinational "joint activities" in the framework of « joint actions plans » .
Delivery mechanism	Financial and Advisory Support for Investments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovation (TRL 6-9) • Innovation deployment in LDR • Commercialisation and scale up 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering a Co-Fund programme • Co-investments in innovation projects (TRL6-8) • Funding leverage • Funding synergies

I3 & EIE Co-fund

Complementary calls	I3 Instrument	Co-fund
Challenges	Building on strategic S3 areas in support of key EU priorities EU most burning challenges including deep tech innovation (only one focus area)	Relevant thematics and technologies (including deep tech) critical for EU value chains. Particular focus on: Resilience on fossil fuels, Global food security, Digital transformation including cybersecurity, Healthcare, Circularity
Thematic priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Transition • Digital Transition • Smart Manufacturing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green and digital transition • Net zero objectives • Resilient society
Consortium composition	<p>No profit coordinator (LoE) or public authority/MA</p> <p>INV1: 5 legal entities from 5 different regions, at least 3 eligible countries</p> <p>At least 2 LDR</p> <p>INV2a: 3 legal entities from 3 different regions from 2 eligible countries</p> <p>At least a MDR</p>	<p>5 national/regional authorities from different MS/AC</p> <p>-at least 2 « moderate » or « emerging » innovative regions</p> <p>-at least 1 « strong » or « innovation leaders</p> <p>« Long term financial commitment » (LoI)</p>

I3 & EIE Co-fund

Complementary calls	I3 Instrument	Co-fund
<p>Project implementation</p>	<p>Interregional Innovation Investments Multi-beneficiary Projects (IA like) Focus on concrete business & investment cases for Interregional innovation investments in companies (70% of the grant)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core collaborative activities (CSA) (Horizontal action, joint action plan, joint calls) • Joint Interregional Projects (IA) (min. 50% budget to implement at least 3 multi beneficiary projects in the target areas)
<p>FSTP objective</p>	<p>To complete the value chain of the main investors already involved in the consortium Not compulsory Max 30% of total eligible costs 100% funding rate</p>	<p>To identify the at least 3 Joint Interregional Projects Compulsory 50% funding rate (of eligible costs) Open call - Contractual obligation</p>
<p>Max. cascading Grants value</p>	<p>Up to 60K/entity</p>	<p>600K/FSTP recipient/proposal</p>

Useful links

- [I3 Instrument Work programme](#)
- [New European Innovation Agenda](#)
- [Call document – Strand 1](#)
- [Call document - Strand 2a](#)
- [Funding & Tenders portal](#)
- [I3 FAQs](#)



Thank you!



<https://eisma.ec.europa.eu>



EISMEA-I3-INSTRUMENT@ec.europa.eu



[#I3Instrument](https://twitter.com/I3Instrument)

Closing remarks

NICOLA DE MICHELIS

Director for Smart and Sustainable Growth
and Programmes Implementation IV

Directorate-General for Regional and Urban
Policy (DG REGIO)





Thank you!

#EUinnovates #HorizonEU



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