

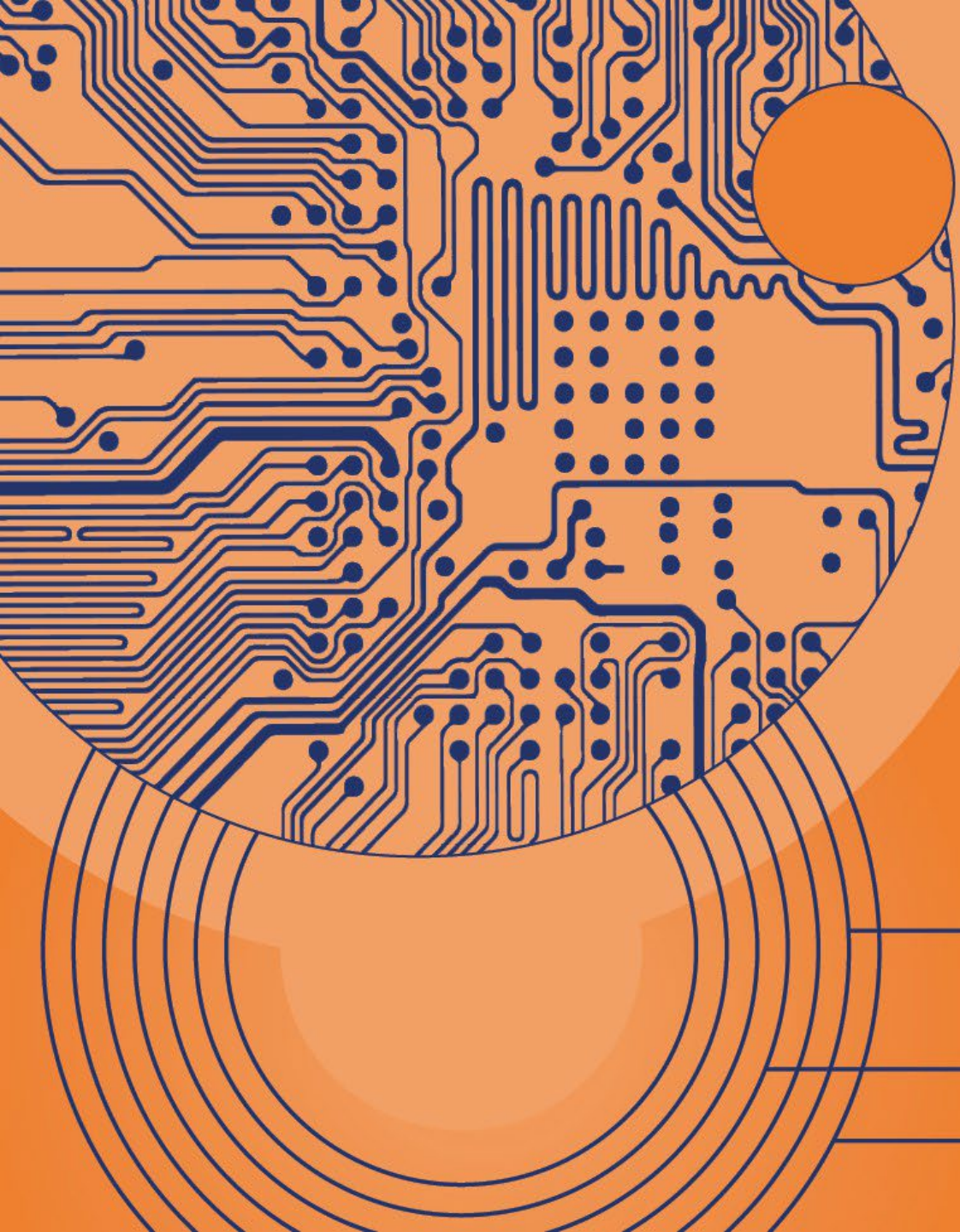


13 Interregional Innovation Investments Instrument

CESAM Final Event
2nd July 2026, Toulouse

Virginie Perron, Project Adviser
EISMEA



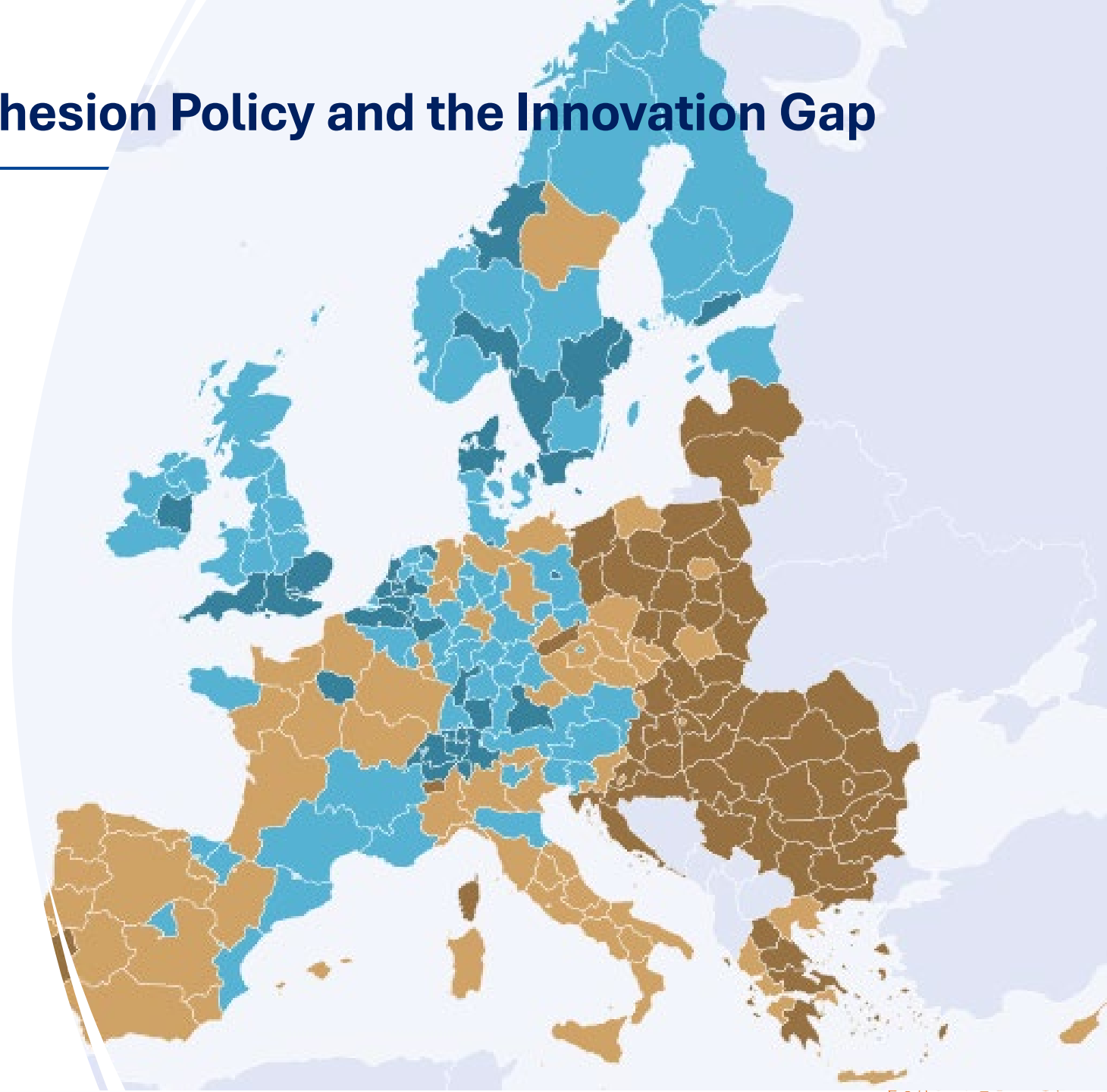


I3 Instrument overview

Behind the I3 Instrument: Cohesion Policy and the Innovation Gap

Differences - known as the **'innovation gap'** - are recognized as one of the main factors holding back the overall innovation capabilities of the EU

Closing this gap is important for Europe's overall competitiveness



13 Instrument Strands

€ 490 million
2021–2027

Thematic priorities



Green Transition



Smart
Manufacturing



Digital Transition

Strand 1 | support for investments in interregional innovation projects in shared smart specialisation areas

Strand 2a | support for investments in 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

13 Support Facility Technical assistance & experimentation

I3 Instrument Overview

Calls Launched:


 **Nov 2021 – May 2026** : 10 calls for Innovation Support - Strands 1&2a

 **Dec 2022 – Oct 2025**: 3 calls for Capacity Building – Strand 2b

Open calls:

 **May 2026 – Nov 2026: Investment Call – Strand 1 and Strand 2a**

Upcoming Calls:

 **2027**: Innovation Support – New calls for Strands 1&2a

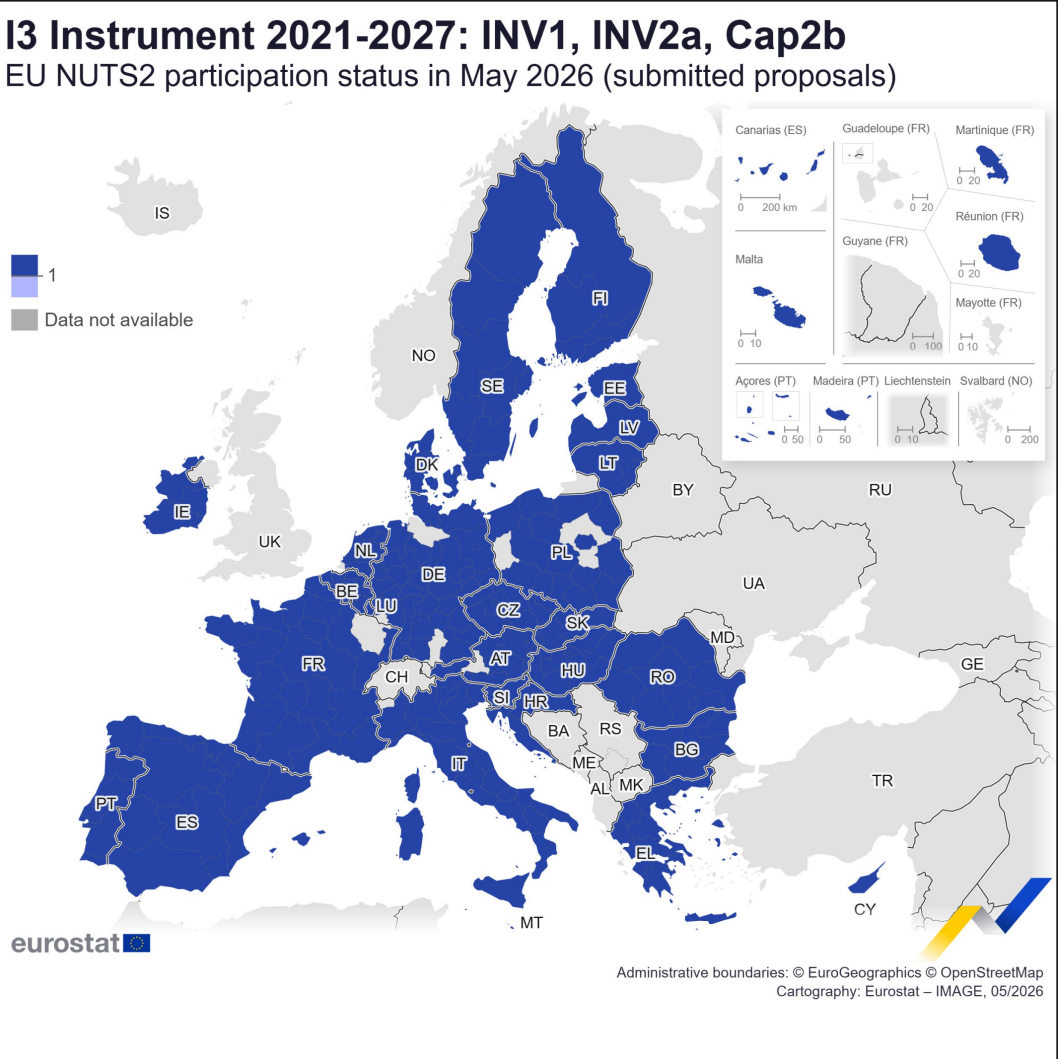
Achievements:

 **78 projects**

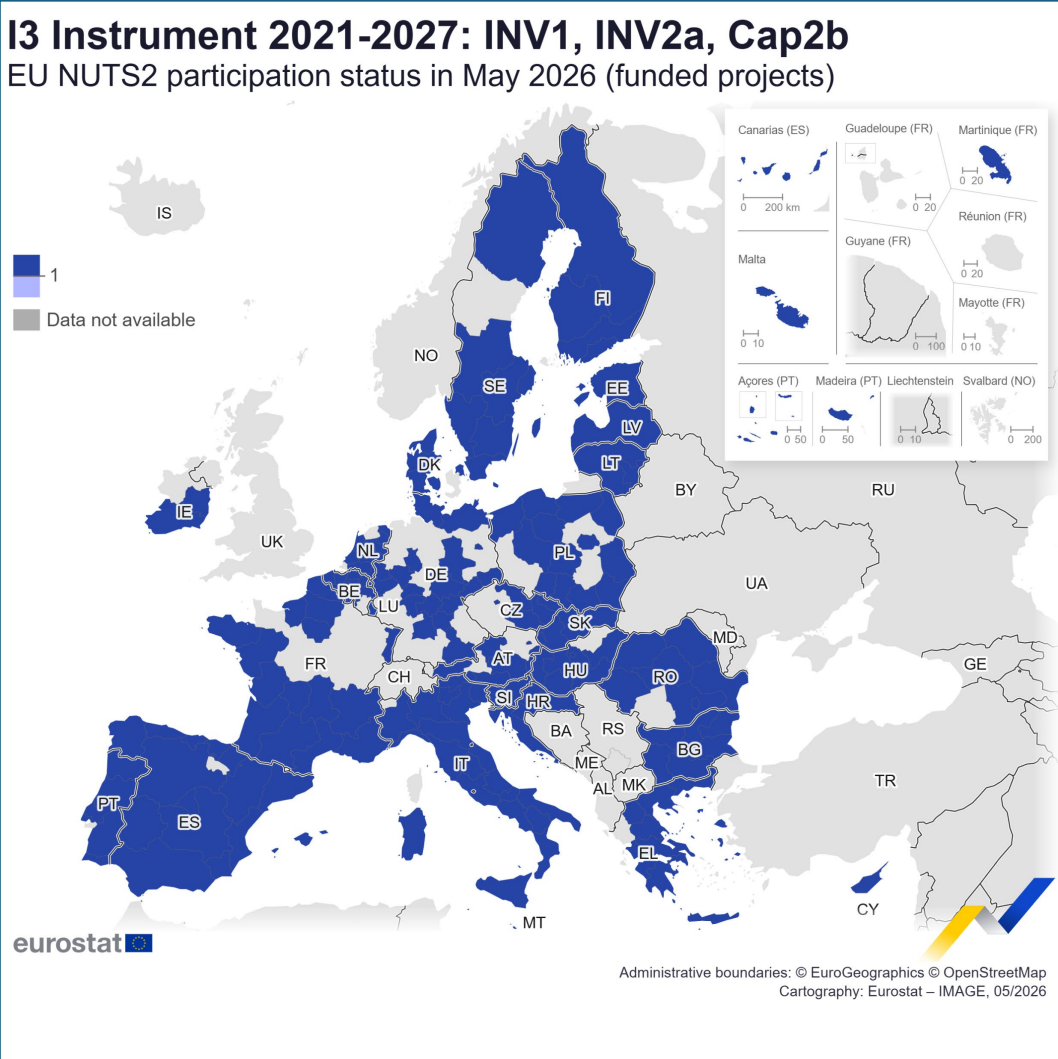
 **EUR 350 million** out of **EUR 490 million (71.5%)** funds allocated

 **close to 1300 participants** from all EU countries

EU NUTS2 coverage in proposals/ projects: all strands



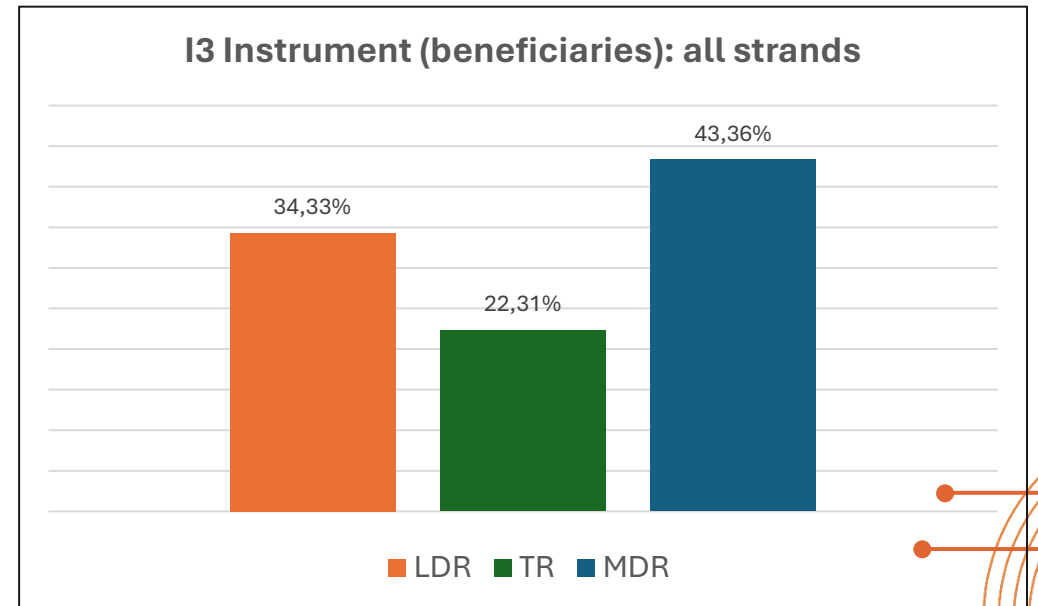
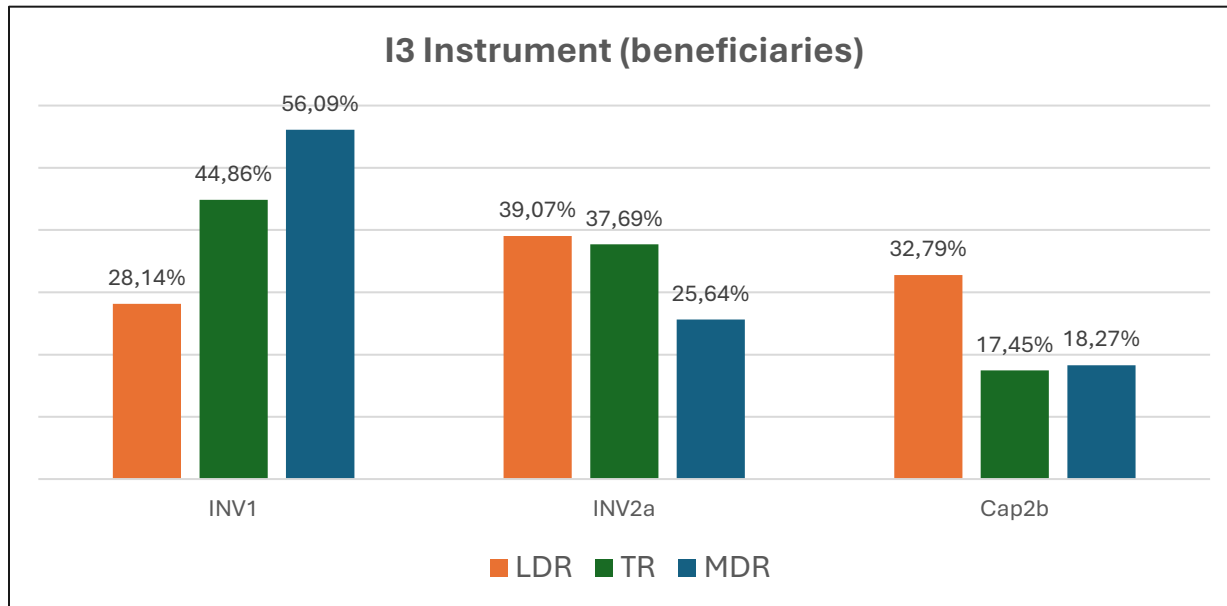
Coverage rate (**proposals**): 93.8% (227 out of 244)

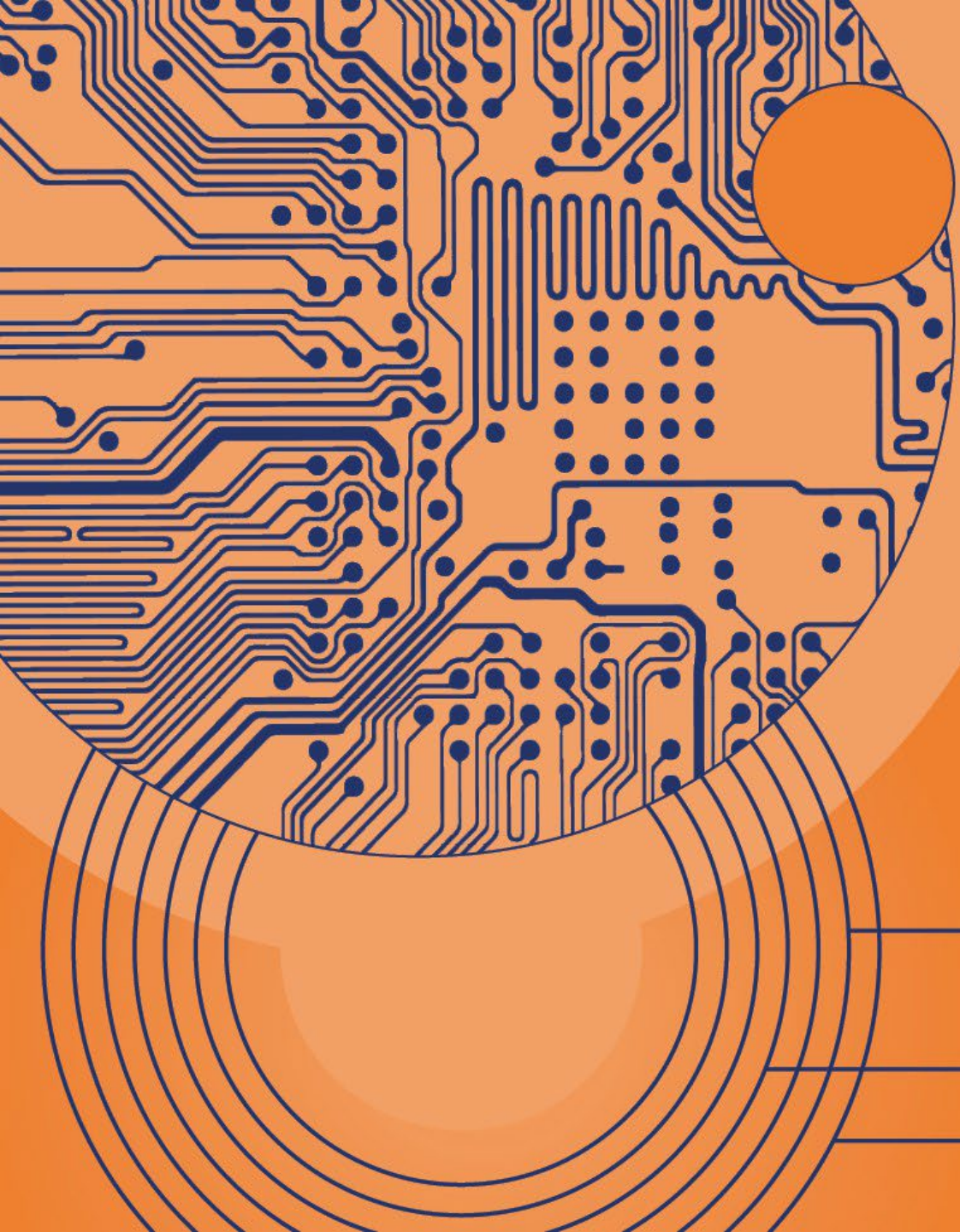


Coverage rate (**projects**): 76.6% (187 out of 244)

Where do we stand today?

Strand	Funded (finished) projects	Budget [M EUR]
<i>INV1</i>	24 (6)	179.87
<i>INV2a</i>	29 (8)	134.77
<i>Cap2b</i>	25 (9)	35.92
Total	78 (23)	350.57 out of 490 (71.5%)





Focus on the
Euroregion

Participation of the Euroregion in I3 projects

Aggregated overview based on the I3 Observatory

20

I3 projects with participation from the Euroregion

15 projects with participants from Catalonia

6 projects with participants from Occitanie

1 project with participants from Balears

48 (52)

entities located in the Euroregion

40 (37) in Catalonia

10 (9) in Occitanie

2 in Balears

4

projects led by entities from the Euroregion

3 from Catalonia

1 in Occitanie

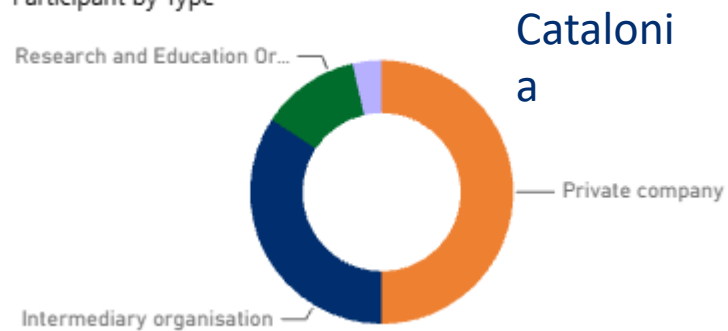
11,33 M € for the Euroregion
(EU I3 Funding)

8,85 M € for Catalonia

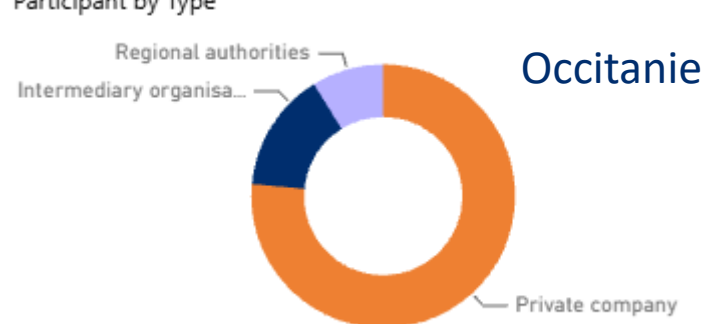
2,22 M € for Occitanie

259,000 € for Balears

Participant by Type



Participant by Type



Participant by Type



I3 projects with participants from the Euroregion (1)

I3-INV1 &2a:

3DoP - Optimisation of Production by 3DP (Catalonia)

AquaLoops4Med - Mediterranean network for sustainable and circular water management in the agrifood sector (Catalonia)

CESAM - Circular Economy and Sustainability solutions for Agrifood in the Mediterranean (Catalonia, Balears, Occitanie)

EVEN-CLOSER - involvement of less dEveloped rEGions to streNgthen the CLOSER circular value chain for chips and microelectronics production (Occitanie)

HealthChain - Boosting value chains in Health at regional and EU level (Catalonia)

HIGHFIVE - enHancing dIgitAl and Green growthH in the Food processing industry via Interregional innoVation invEstments (Occitanie)

Hy2Market - HYdrogen TO enter MARKets reducing carbon Emissions footprint (Occitanie)

I3-4-BIOFERTILIZERS - Interregional innovation investments for biofertilizers and circular bioeconomy solutions for a sustainable agriculture (Catalonia)

INNO4CFIs - Nature-Based Business Model and Emerging Innovations to enhance Carbon Farming Initiatives (CFIs) while preserving Biodiversity, Water Security and Soil Health (Occitanie)



? Want to know more : <https://interregional-innovation-investments.ec.europa.eu/projects>



13 projects with participants from the Euroregion (2)

INSHAPE - European cross regional innovation for Sports & Active Healthy Lifestyle (Catalonia)

LIGAWINE - Low Input Grape Growing and Winemaking (Catalonia)

REGIOGREENTEX - Regions for Green Textiles (Catalonia)

SICAPERMA - Sustainable Innovation investment Catapult for Permanent Magnets (Catalonia)

SmartVitiNet - Smart and Sustainable Drone-assisted Viticulture Excellence Network (Occitanie)

13 Cap2b:

BRIDGE - Biomanufacturing Regions for Integrated Development and Growth in the Ecosystems (Catalonia)

EPIC - Enhancing Packaging Innovation Ecosystems for Interregional Collaboration (Catalonia)

InnoMedCatalyst - Catalysing the regional innovation capacity of the MEDIC NEST Digital Precision Medicine ecosystem and beyond (Catalonia)

Sage-hub Smart Ageing Synergies: Strengthening Interregional Innovation through Living Labs and Digital Hubs (Catalonia)

TEX-BREIN - Interregional community of TEXTile ecosystems for the circular transition: Building capacities, REINforcing network and organisations (Catalonia)

Value4Pack - Bridging investment opportunities to achieve the resilient European food packaging value chain (Catalonia)

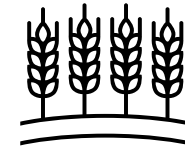
Ended projects

SmartVitiNet



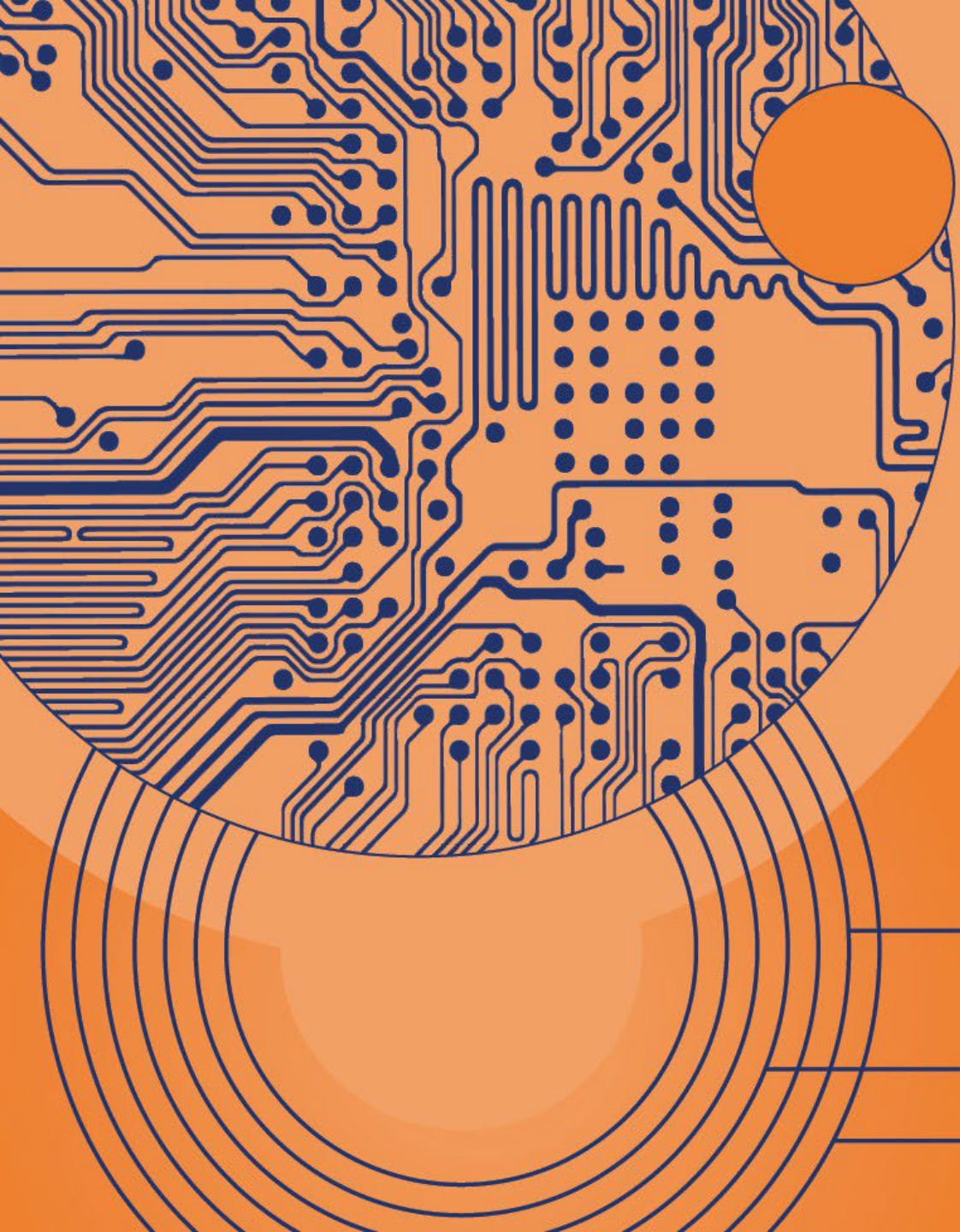
I3 projects in the agriculture and food sectors

AquaLoops4Med - Mediterranean network for sustainable and circular water management in the agrifood sector	Agri-PET/MRI - A portable in-field plant PET/MRI technology for the early crop stress detection	Biotech4Food - Acceleration of new promising circular agri-food value chains and sustainable bio-industrial interregional investment in SMEs by integration of advanced biotechnoETlogy	CESAM - Circular Economy and Sustainability solutions for Agrifood in the Mediterranean
FARM360TECH - A 360-degree Digital Approach to Sustainable Agriculture	HIGHFIVE - enHancing dIgital and Green growtH in the Food processing industry via Interregional innoVation invEstments	I3-4-BIOFERTILIZERS - Interregional innovation investments for biofertilizers and circular bioeconomy solutions for a sustainable agriculture	INNO4CFIs - Nature-Based Business Model and Emerging Innovations to enhance Carbon Farming Initiatives (CFIs) while preserving Biodiversity, Water Security and Soil Health
I3-4Blue Growth - Unlocking the potential of Sustainable Blue Economy	I3-4-Seaweed - Interregional innovation investments for the piloting, demonstration and scale-up of innovative seaweed/algae-based solutions and ecosystem building.	IT4EST - Interregional Tech for forEst SusTainability	LIGAWINE - Low Input Grape Growing and Winemaking
OFELIA - Boosting interregional value chains on functiOnal Foods and mEdicinaL and aromatic pLAnts via digital transformation	SmartVitiNet - Smart and Sustainable Drone-assisted Viticulture Excellence Network	SMARTWINERY : Boosting interregional value chains on functiOnal Foods and mEdicinaL and aromatic pLAnts via digital transformation	Value4Pack - Bridging investment opportunities to achieve the resilient European food packaging value chain.



? Want to look for more sectors: [I3 Instrument Observatory](#)





Financial Support to
Third Parties & other
funding opportunities

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

Financial support to third parties (FSTP) is a funding mechanism implemented by grant beneficiary/ies to select recipients that are not part of the Grant Agreement.

It is also called '**cascade funding**'.

Available in many EU programmes (not just I3)



Main features of cascade funding

- Direct funding of intermediaries
- Organisation of sub-calls for third parties
- Less competition than direct funding
- Less formalities / administrative burden
- Faster access to financial support
- The amount must be specified in the call. It may not be more than 60 000 EUR, unless the objective of the action would otherwise be impossible or overly difficult to achieve
 - For I3 projects to be funded under the I3-2026-INV calls, max of 100 K
 - SMEs from all EU regions can now be now eligible to the I3 FSTP schemes



Where to find FSTP calls?

All FSTP call announcements are published on the F&T Portal

Have a look at: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/calls-for-proposals>

By selecting “Calls for funding in cascade” as “Type of grants calls”



The screenshot displays the 'EU Funding & Tenders Portal' interface. The main navigation bar includes 'Home', 'Funding', 'Procurement', 'Projects & results', 'News & events', 'Work as an expert', and 'Guidance & documents'. The 'Funding' menu is active, leading to 'Calls for proposals'. The page title is 'Calls for proposals', with a brief description and a 'More details' link.

Filters:

- Quick search:** A search bar with 'Select...' and a magnifying glass icon.
- Programming period:** A dropdown menu.
- Interregional Innovation Inve...:** A dropdown menu.
- Call:** A dropdown menu.
- Submission status:** A dropdown menu.
- All filters:** A button to view all filter options.

GRANTS RECOMMENDED FOR YOU:

Do you want to receive personalised recommendations? [Log in](#) to your F&T profile or [register](#) an account to activate them.

12 item(s) found

Programme: **Interregional Innovation Investments Instrument (I3)**

INSHAPE OPEN CALL
INSHAPE | Cascade funding
Opening date: **10 February 2025** | Deadline date: **14 April 2025** | Single-stage
Programme: **Interregional Innovation Investments Instrument (I3)** | Type of action: -

All filters: [Hide >](#)

- TYPE OF GRANTS CALLS:**
 - Direct calls for proposals (issued by the EU)
 - EU External Actions
 - Calls for funding in cascade** (issued by funded projects) 12
- PROGRAMMING PERIOD:**
 - 2021 - 2027 12
- PROGRAMME:** **FSTP – the process in a nutshell**
 - Interregional Innovation Investments Instrument (I3)** 12 ×
- CALL:**
- SUBMISSION STATUS:**

- Technology maturation from proof of concept to validation
- Business and market readiness
- Grants up to 2.5 million EUR

Pathfinder

- Early stage research on breakthrough technologies
- Grants up to 3 to 4 million EUR
- Successor of FET (Open & Proactive)

Transition

- Development & scale up of deep-tech/disruptive innovations by startups/SMEs
- Blended finance (grants up to 2.5 million EUR; equity investment up to 15 million EUR)
- Successor of SME Instrument

Accelerator

European Innovation Council (EIC)

EIC Accelerator: what can companies apply for?



EIC Blended Finance

Equity

€1-10
million

Grant

Less than
€ 2.5
million

Also

Grant only

With other
finance

Equity only

No
previous
grant
needed



Grant component

- maximum of less than **€ 2.5 million**
- eligible costs are reimbursed up to a maximum of **70%**
- small mid-caps are not eligible for a grant only



Investment component

- **€ 1 million** and **NEW** maximum **€ 10 million**
- usually in the form of direct **equity** or quasi-equity
- **minority ownership** (maximum 25% of the voting shares of the company)
- **“patient capital” principle** (7-10 years perspective on average, max 15 years)



Grant only

If you can prove that you have sufficient financial means for deployment and scale-up (TRL 9)

Grant & Investment

If you need support for development (TRL 6 → 8), deployment and scale-up (TRL 9)

Investment Only

If you are looking to fill the funding gap for rapid scale-up of your high-risk innovation and you don't need a grant

EIC Accelerator - Who can apply?



- **Single company (i.e. no consortia, but subcontracting and affiliated entities are possible)**
- **SME according to EU definition:**
< 250 employees, < 50 million EUR turnover or < 43 million EUR total balance sheet, data from linked or partner enterprises might need to be taken into account*
- **Small mid-caps (up to 499 employees) - for rapid scale up only**

[* More details and self-assessment tool](#)

EIC Accelerator - Who can apply?



- Natural person(s) or legal entity
 - From Member State (MS) or Associated Country (AC) intending to establish an SME or small mid-cap in MS or AC by the time of signing the EIC Accelerator contract.
 - From a non-associated third country intending to establish an SME or to relocate an existing SME to a MS or AC (establishment prior to full proposal!)

[* More details and self-assessment tool](#)



EIC Accelerator **Open**



to support **projects in any field** of science, technology or application without predefined thematic priorities ('bottom-up')

EIC Accelerator **Challenges**



to support projects within **predefined thematic areas** with the aim to achieve specific objectives for each Challenge

The selection process in a nutshell



- The **Accelerator evaluation process** is composed of the **following phases**:
 - **Screening of short proposals**: performed by remote evaluators, which leads to a GO or NO-GO to the next evaluation stage,
 - **Evaluation of full proposals**, performed by a technology expert and assessed by an evaluation committee. Those with highest score will be invited to interview. **NEW**
 - **Interviews with participation of Jury Members** which leads to establishing the list of GO (funded) and NO-GO (non-funded) proposals

EIC Accelerator 2026 challenges



ACCELERATOR CHALLENGES



Advanced Materials for Renewable Energy and Energy Storage Systems

€ 50 million



Alternative Concepts and Key Enabling Technologies for Fusion Power Plants

€ 20 million



Biotech for Regenerating Agricultural Soils

€ 50 million



Boosting the European Critical Raw Materials value chain

€ 50 million



Deep Tech for Climate Adaptation

€ 50 million

Indicative call budget

€ 220 million

Info day on
Accelerator Challenges
with Programme
Managers
on 14/11/2025

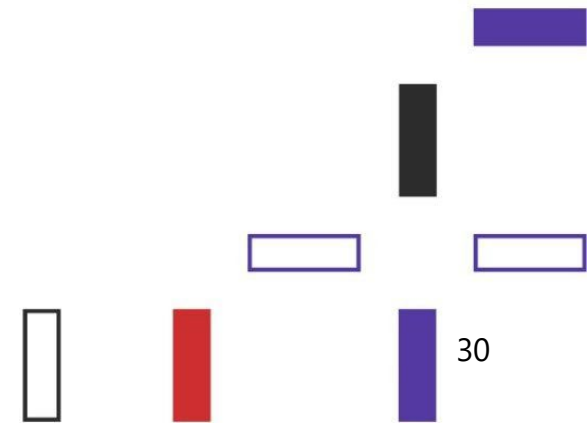
[Online Info Day - EIC
Work Programme
2026 - Accelerator
Challenges \(LINK\)](#)



EIC Accelerator Open
Indicative budget¹³⁴
€ 414 million

Planning

- 2026 calls:
 - Short proposal call:
 - Short proposals may be submitted at any time and will be batched for evaluation every first Tuesday of the month at 5pm Brussels time
 - Full proposal call:
 - If your short proposal receives a GO, you can submit your full proposal to any of the 2026 batching dates.
 - Last 3 batching dates:
 - 08/07/2026
 - 02/09/2026
 - 04/11/2026



How to apply – useful links

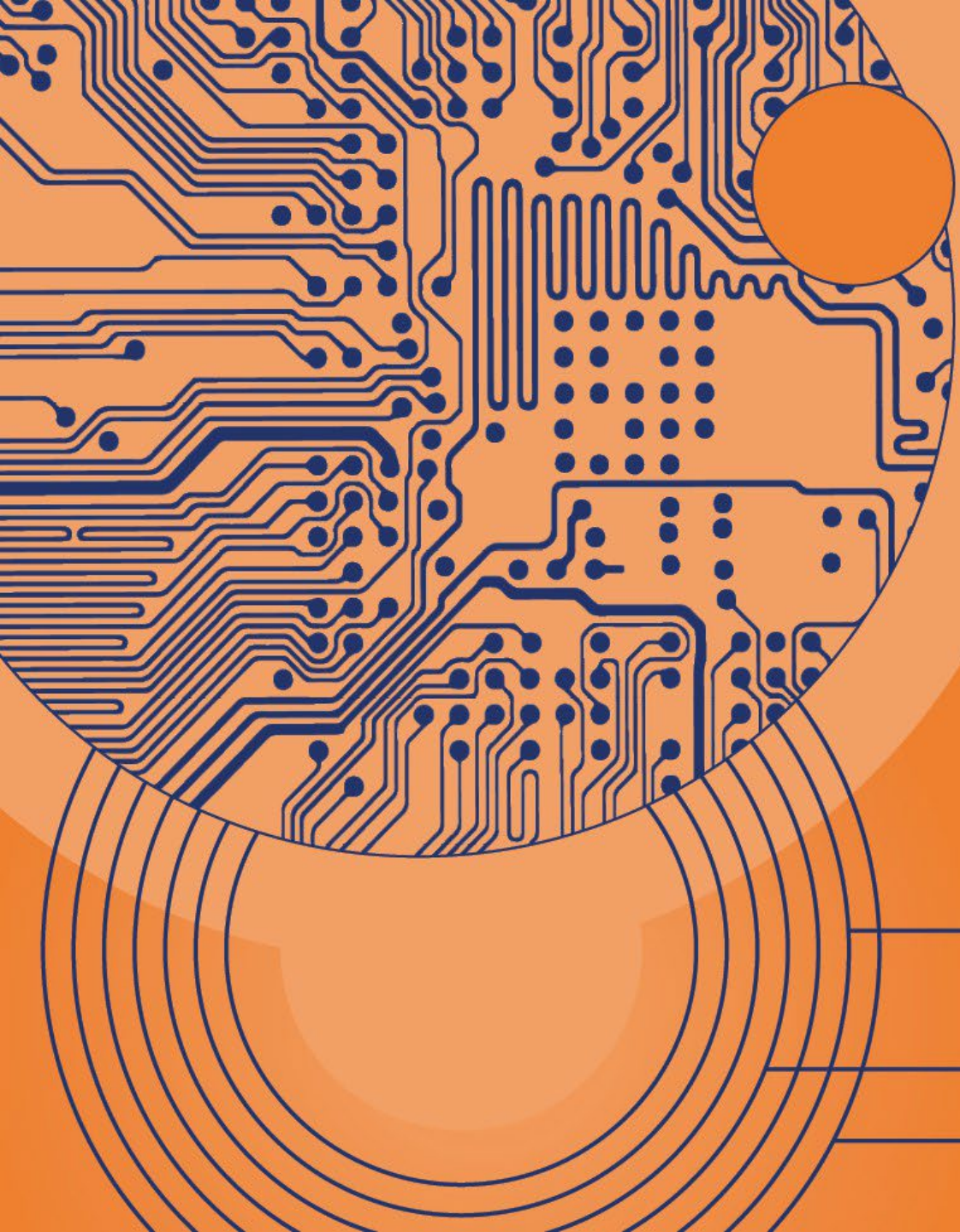


[EIC Accelerator](#)

EIC Work Programme 2026

[Support for applicants
\(FAQs, guidelines, contacts\)](#)

[Funding & tenders opportunities Portal
\(legal & supporting documents\)](#)



I3 Support Facility & Enterprise Europe Network

I3 Support Facility Scope & Actions

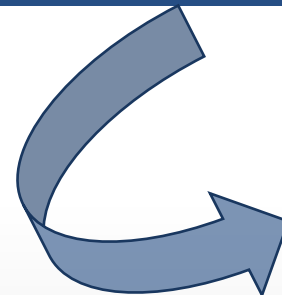
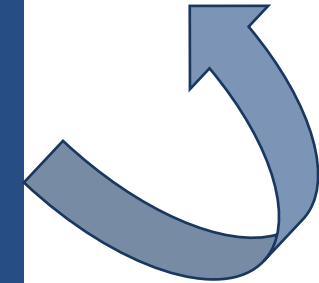
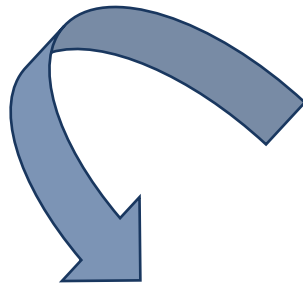
Capacity Building Hub for the organization & promotion of innovation ecosystems

Advice on technical, policy, regulatory and investment aspects

EU-level Support Facility to efficiently support regional and national Q-helix stakeholders in innovation ecosystem building

Support to participants from less developed regions in running I3 projects

Support the Commission in learning and evaluation activities.



I3 SUPPORT FACILITY

- **I3 Instrument Observatory** - access statistics on all I3 projects
- **detailed descriptions of I3 projects** highlighting their focus on building interregional innovation investments.
- **monthly virtual events** on practical topics relevant for beneficiaries and innovation community
- **I3 policy discussion groups** provide valuable recommendations
- database of **good practices** and success stories from I3 projects
- **Articles & publications** on interregional innovation investments



<https://interregional-innovation-investments.ec.europa.eu/>

European Commission

Search

I3 Instrument Support Facility

Home About Services Share your perspective News Events Contact us

I3 Instrument Support Facility

Empowering regional interregional innovation ecosystems, reinforcing the objectives of the I3 Instrument.

I3 Instrument in figures

€ 301 Million of EU funding invested

70 Projects

Services

I3 Instrument observatory

Dashboard with key analytics, trends and insights from I3 projects

Learn more

Partner search

Find partners to build I3 project proposals

Learn more

I3 Instrument stories

Presentation of I3 projects, success stories and impact on less developed regions

Learn more

Annual I3 Instrument Forum 2026: Save the date!

Brussels | 30 September - 1 October 2026

The Annual I3 Instrument Forum 2026 will bring together policymakers, regional authorities, project coordinators and innovation stakeholders from across Europe to reflect on the progress and results of the I3 Instrument. The event will showcase project achievements, share lessons from interregional collaboration and discuss the role of the I3 Instrument in strengthening European value chains and regional innovation ecosystems.

Registrations will open in spring 2026. In the meantime, you can revisit the 2025 edition.

More details

Partnering Offers

[< Back to homepage](#)

Find your I3 project partners by browsing existing partnering offers and by posting your own offer!

The I3 Partner Search makes it easier to find partners and form successful consortia by giving users the possibility to offer the collaboration of their company, research institute, university or any other entity relevant for a cross-border innovation project.

[Post/Manage your partnering offers](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

I3-2026-INV1
I3-2026-INV2a
Now open!
Deadline 12.11.2026

[Click here for more information.](#)

Filter by

TYPE OF PARTNER

Select



SECTOR

Select



I3 CALL

Select



Partnering opportunities (47)

Showing results 1 to 12

Private company

Winnovart Innovation Services SRL

București-Ilfov , Romania

With direct experience as EIC contractor, as well as participant in collaborative projects (funding programmes), Winnovart can bring value in multiple ways:

...

Time of posting

PARTNER SEARCH TOOL - Already featuring >50 partnership offers for upcoming I3 Instrument proposals



**ONLINE MATCHMAKING
EVENT**

8 July 2026



Registration open

I3 Interregional
Innovation
Investments
Instrument

**Annual
I3 Instrument
Forum 2026**
Save the date

01.10.2026 - Brussels, Belgium

30.09.2026 - I3 Instrument Coordinators' Day



**Registration and Agenda available on the I3
Support facility website**



I3 Instrument – success and challenges encountered



#I3Instrument

Business-driven partnerships

63% Initiated by clusters or SMEs

91% Based on previous consortium collaboration

Building on strong existing networks

European Commission | I3 Interregional Innovation Investments Instrument



Read the report in full and find out more key figures and insights!

Download it now on the I3 Support Facility Website

Advancing innovation to market

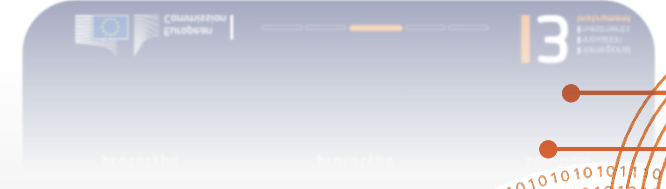
80% Started at TRL 6

75% Progressed to TRL 7 by Q3 of 2025

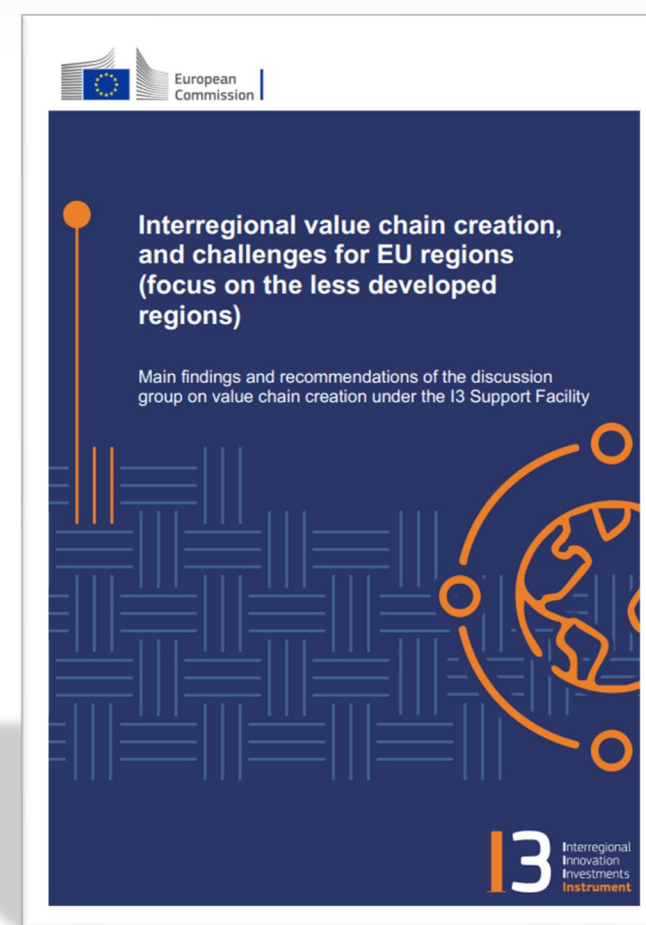
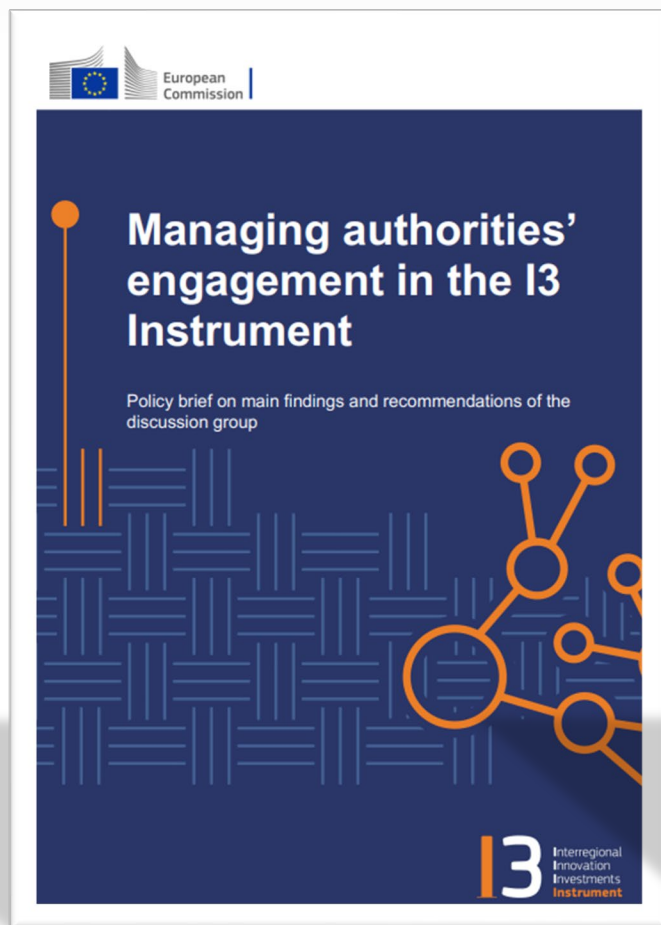
90% Expected to reach TRL 8/9 by project end

Testing prototype → Operational prototype → Market-ready solution

European Commission | I3 Interregional Innovation Investments Instrument



I3 Instrument – policy briefs



interregional-innovation-investments.ec.europa.eu/discussion-groups

Advice & support

How the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) helps SMEs



Merci ! Gràcies !



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

<https://eisma.ec.europa.eu/programmes/interregional-innovation-investments-i3-instrument> en



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



#I3Instrument