



#EURegionsWeek



21<sup>st</sup>

European Week of  
Regions and Cities

Thriving Regions, Stronger Europe



VANGUARD INITIATIVE  
New growth through smart specialisation

# Vanguard Initiative regions' pilot activities leading by example in the post-industrial transition

*House of the Dutch Provinces, Rue de Treves 59, 1040 Brussels*

*Thursday 12th October 2023, 08:30 - 10:30*

*The panel discussion will be preceded by a **networking breakfast from 8:30 to 9:30***

## Background information

For 10 years, Vanguard Initiative members have been leading by example on fostering the post-industrial transition with strong Regional Smart Specialisation Strategies and innovative cooperations across Europe. 8 regions will demonstrate the benefits of working in Vanguard Initiative with testimonials from 4 of its pilots. Together they take up the challenges of the smart and green transitions, being the center of the new Innovation Valleys and open for new connections to innovative ecosystems.

## Speakers

**Patrick Brenier**, Adviser for European Research Area (ERA) and Open science, DG RTD, European Commission

**Stephan Satijn**, Regional Minister for Economy, Finance, Business Operations and Public Affairs, Province of Limburg, South Netherlands

**André Dekker**, professor at Maastricht University, Province of Limburg, South Netherlands

**Eva Pando**, General Director of Sekuens Agency, Principality of Asturias, Spain

**Gabriela Macoveiu**, Director for Communication Innovation and External Cooperation, North-East Romania

**Alenka Rožaj Brvar**, Director, Slovenian Innovation Hub & SRIP Health Medicine, Slovenia

**Cristina Oyon**, Director for Technology, Innovation and Sustainability, Basque Business Development Agency (SPRI), Spain

**António Cunha**, President of Norte Regional Coordination and Development Commission and of the Managing Authority of the Regional Programme 2021-2027 (NORTE 2030), Portugal

**#EURegionsWeek**