



13 Interregional Innovation Investments Instrument

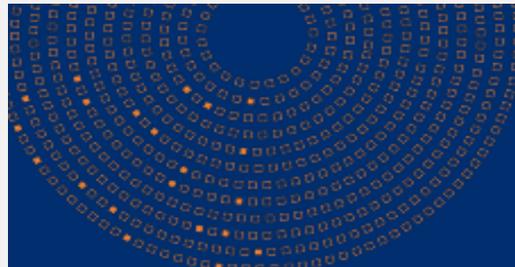
GREET CE final conference

Brussels, 18.2.2026

Maja FERLINC, project advisor
EISMEA I.01
EU and place-based Innovation Ecosystems



13 Instrument - Strengthening Innovation in Europe's Regions



INTERREGIONAL

**MINIMUM
3-5
PARTNERS**



from different
Member States and
regional ecosystems

INNOVATION

CLOSE TO MARKET
activities (TRL 6-9)

**INNOVATION &
IMPACT-ORIENTED**
investments



INVESTMENTS

€ 490
million available in
the **2021-2027**
programming period

**UP TO
€10**
million in EU funding per project

70 %
of EU contribution for all
beneficiaries and cost categories,
100% to SMEs in the form of
cascade funding

TOPICS

Green transition

Digital transition

**Smart
manufacturing**



Funding opportunities under I3 instrument

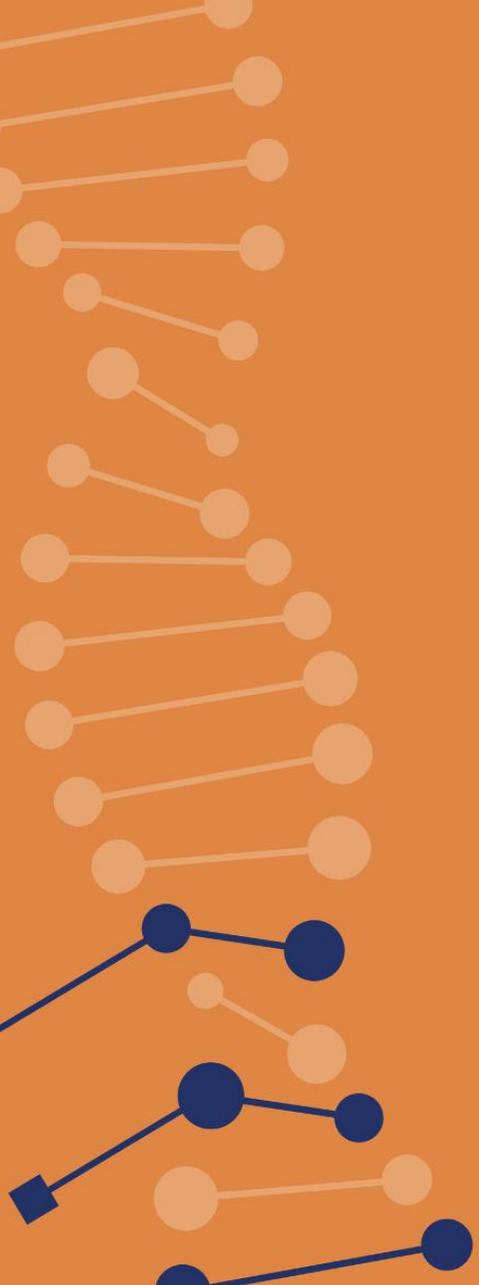
Strand 1 | support for investments in **interregional innovation projects in shared smart specialisation areas**

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**

I3SF | **Technical assistance & experimentation**

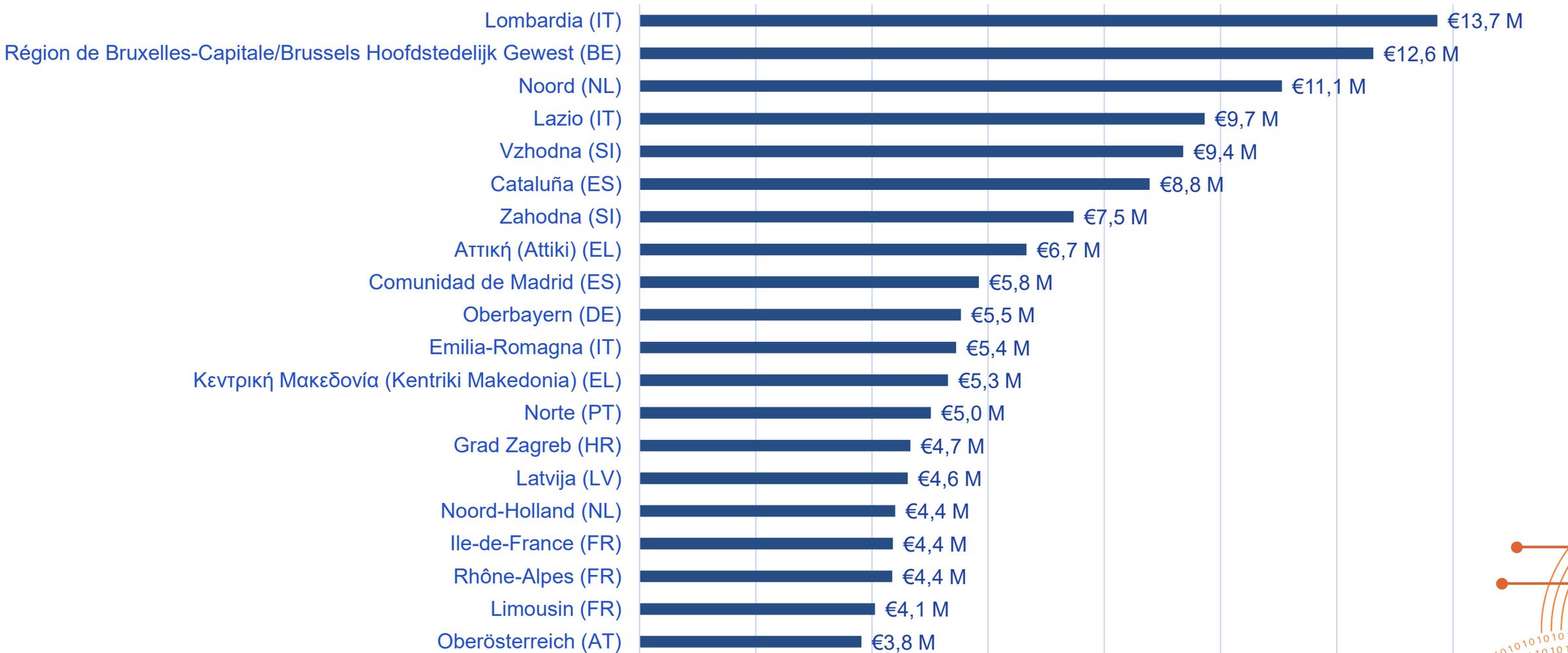




13 Instrument across EU Regions

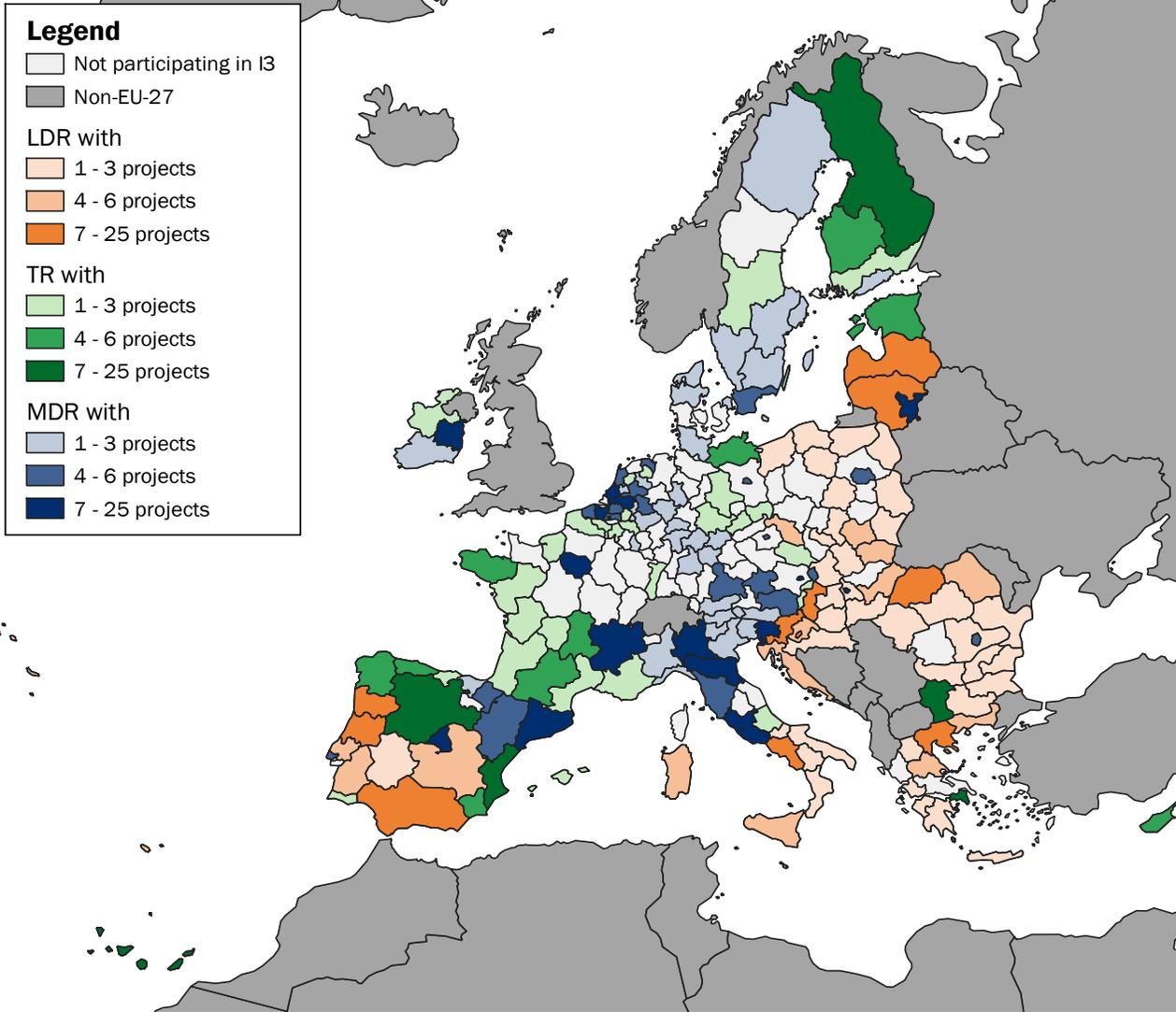
Grants distribution in all regions - Top 20

2021 – 2025, all Strands



I3 Instrument : Unlocking Innovation in Emerging Regions

Involvement in I3-projects across regions, by cohesion group



I3 helps spread innovation Outside Traditional Centres and across all types of Cohesion regions

Numbers of participations:

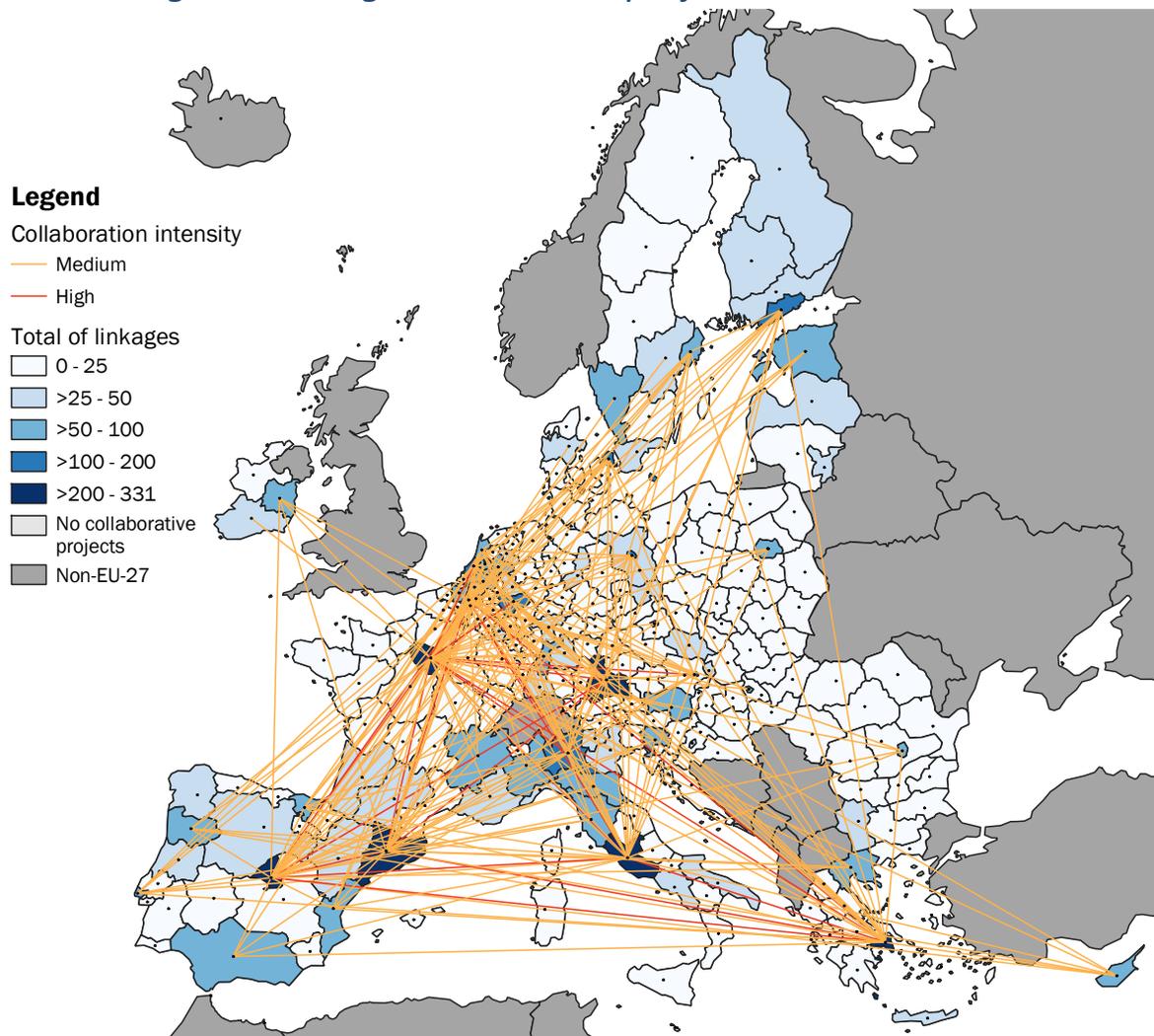
- **LDR 416 (33%)**
- **TR 251 (20%)**
- **MDR 593 (47%)**

LDRs with high participation rate show:

- **Dynamic SME landscape**
- **Strong skills and education**

Strong cohesion impact

Interregional linkages between 13 projects



The I3 Instrument simultaneously attracts Europe's capital cities and innovation hubs (e.g., Brussels, Madrid, Milan) alongside LDRs.

- **Total 9,768 interregional linkages** through common I3 projects with **cross-border collaborations (90%)**
- MDRs remain central in interregional collaborations (47%), while **LDRs represent nearly 32% of all connections** (Horizon Europe – 12%).
- Strong alignment with **Smart Specialisation Strategies (S3)**

Source: I3 project data (last updated 04.09.2025)

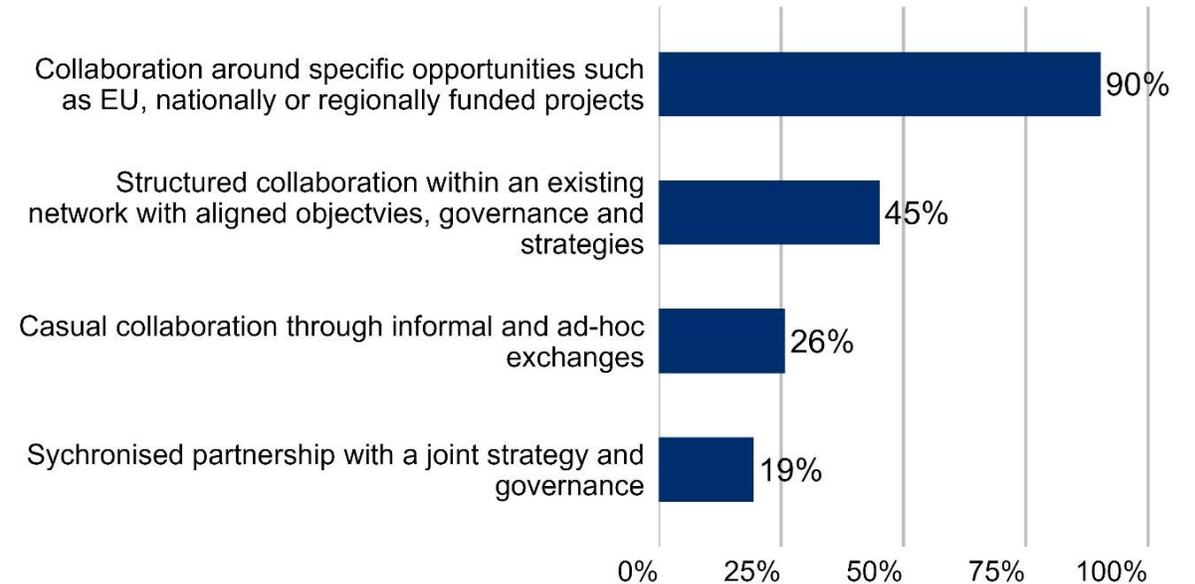
EU networks are essential

-  **Business-Driven & Market-Oriented**
- **63%** of projects initiated by clusters or SMEs
- **91%** built on existing collaboration networks
- **38%** of the surveyed 13 projects resulted from collaborations through a **S3 Thematic Platform**.
- Strong industry leadership in interregional value chains

Advancing Innovations to Market

- 90% expect TRL 8–9
- Capacity-building projects preparing future investment pipelines
- Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) boosts SME participation

Format of previous collaboration



Source: I3 Survey 2025, latest results: 04.09.2025, n = 34 (multiple answers possible).

I3 Instrument: Latest developments

70 projects

💰 **€301M**: already committed budget for 70

projects

💰 **€79,3M**: Still available for Strand 1 (INV1) 2025-2027

💰 **€86,3M**: Still available for Strand 2a (INV20) 2025-2027

🌍 Close to **1000 single participants** from all 27 EU countries

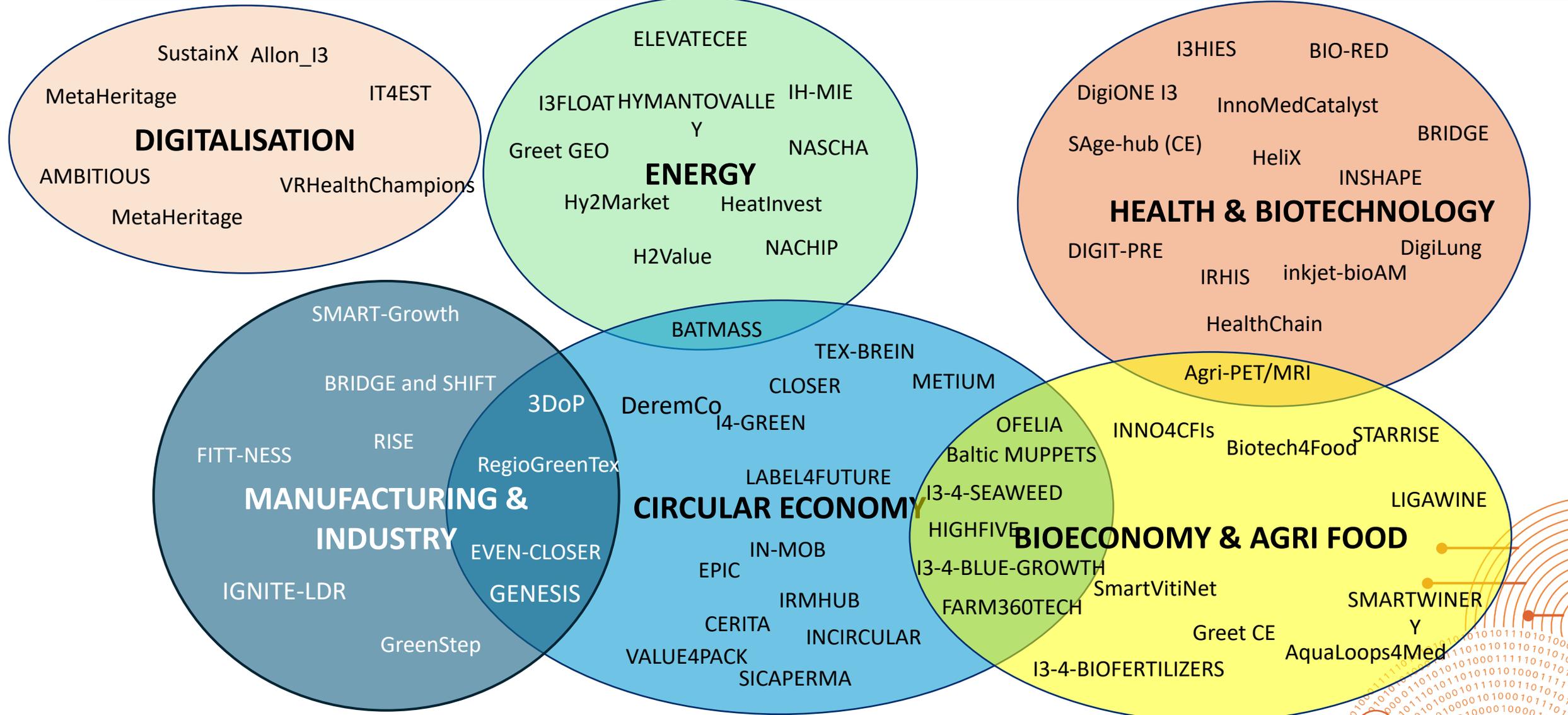
NEW Evaluation process for INV1&2a calls 2025

Last 5 calls

🚀 1 **Cap2b call** deadline 19 March 2026 (€ 9,8M)

🕒 Still **2 x 2 calls** for 2026 and 2027 (under INV1 & & INV2a)

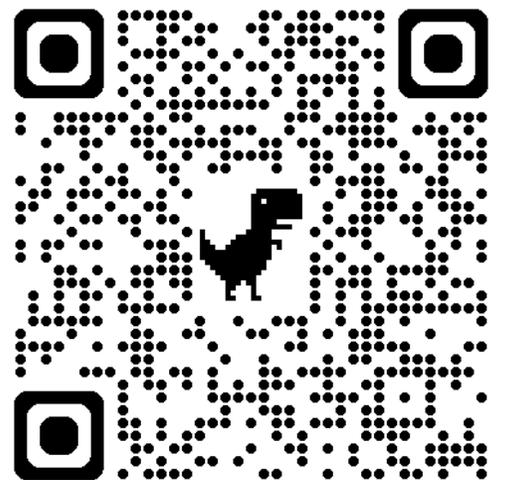
I3 Projects by Topic



I3 Support Facility

Support to innovation stakeholders and public authorities
reinforcing the objectives of the I3 Instrument

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



I3 Instrument Observatory

I3 Project descriptions

Annual Observatory Report

Dashboard

Greet CE
Green transition in Central Europe

The GREET CE project aims to strengthen Central European regions—to participate in I3 calls and other EU programmes and to attract interregional investments. It focuses on three main objectives: promoting bioeconomy investments through European programmes and private sector engagement such as crowdfunding; facilitating EU value chain interactions and cross-sectoral partnerships through best practice exchange, peer learning, and tailored training; and developing mature innovation-driven projects with strong regional impact.

Cohesion Classification

- More developed regions
- Transition regions
- Less developed regions

Acronym
Greet CE

Title
Green transition in Central Europe

Call ID
I3-2022-CAP2b

Duration
2023-11-20 - 2026-02-19

Total Budget
1,398,006.98 €

EU Contribution
1,398,007 €

Number of Partners/Types

- SMEs and Large Enterprises: 8
- Research and Education Organisations: 8
- Intermediary Organisations: 8
- Public authorities: 5

In-depth analysis of programme implementation and project trajectories

Total number of I3 projects: 70 Total participants: 1281 Countries involved: 31

Participant Type: Higher education, Other, Private company, Public Authority, Research centre

Project Acronym	Country	Region (NUTS 2)	Region Type	Strand	Participant Role	Participant Type	Domain
Greet CE	All	All	All	All	All	All	All

Project Acronym	Participant Legal Name	Region (NUTS 2)	Region Type	Participant Type	Participant Weblink	Project Description	Regional IS3
Greet CE	ENERGETSKI INSTITUT HRVOJE POZAR	Grad Zagreb	Less developed	Research centre			
Greet CE	HRVATSKA POLJOPRIVREDNA KAMIONA	Grad Zagreb	Less developed	Research centre			
Greet CE	RAZVOJNA AGENCIJA VUKOVARSKO-SRIJEMSKO ZUPANJE	Panonska Hrvatska	Less developed	Public Authority			
Greet CE	SVEUKUŠTJE U ZAGREBU GRAĐEVINSKI FAKULTET	Grad Zagreb	Less developed	Higher education			
Greet CE	Anundo Bioenergy Gyarto Korlatolt Felelosagu Tarasag	Eszak-Alföld	Less developed	Private company			
Greet CE	BUDAPESTI MUSZAKI ES GAZDASAGTUJDOMANYSI EGYESULEM	Budapest	More developed	Higher education			
Greet CE	Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Vas County	Nyugat-Dunántúl	Less developed	Public Authority			
Greet CE	DELFI CONSULTING-KFT	Budapest	More developed	Private company			
Greet CE	FALCON VISION MUSZAKI FEJLESZTO ES SZOLGALTATO ZARTKORLEN MUKODO RT	Budapest	More developed	Private company			
Greet CE	Vas County Federation of Industrialists	Nyugat-Dunántúl	Less developed	Private company			



- Interregional Dimension
- Innovation
- Capacity building



I3 Partner Search

Goal: Facilitate search for I3 partners across...

- Quadruple helix actor groups
- Regional development levels

Key features:

- Simple registration for innovation actors and project coordinators
- Project history to show individual track record
- S3 priorities to look for matching partner regions
- Event integration to boost live matchmaking



Available end of February 2026

Monthly virtual events

Event



#17 How to build a continuous pipeline of interregional investment ideas

18 FEB 2026

Last activity 15 days ago

0 0 0 Remote event

Event



#18 Value chain mapping for I3 Instrument implementation

25 MAR 2026

Last activity 7 days ago

0 0 0 Remote event

Event



#19 How interregional consortia enable cross-regional technology transfer

15 APR 2026

Last activity 7 days ago

0 0 0 Remote event

Event



#20 Building capacity in less developed regions through I3

20 MAY 2026

Last activity 7 days ago

Event



#21 I3 data intelligence: How to make the most of the I3 Observatory and Partner Search for project and policy planning

17 JUN 2026

Last activity 7 days ago

0 0 0 Remote event

Event



#22 Examples of regions with policy experimentation with innovation policy instruments

15 JUL 2026

Last activity 7 days ago

0 0 0 Remote event

Event



#1 Financial reporting & communication for I3 Instrument projects

29 JAN 2025

Last activity 6 months ago

0 0 0 Remote event

Event



#2 Quadruple Helix – Key actors and how they operate

5 MAR 2025

Last activity 6 months ago

0 0 0 Remote event

Event



#3 From Thematic Platforms to I3 Instrument projects

31 MAR 2025



Share your perspective

Policy Discussion Groups

Framework conditions

Making better use of policy recommendations from projects

Ecosystem

Facilitating access to cross-border research and innovation capacities

Investment

Strengthening SME investment readiness – moving from project to follow-up finance



Discussion Group on how to engage Managing Authorities (MAs) in interregional collaboration



Discussion Group on innovation ecosystem management for a better I3 Instrument implementation



Discussion Group on regional, national, European, and global value chain creation, and challenges for EU regions (focus on the less developed areas)

[Visit the page](#)

[Visit the page](#)

[Visit the page](#)

 Policy Briefs, webinars, analytical articles

Capacity Building Heroes Working Group

- Addressing specific challenges in Strand 2b projects
- Project sustainability – what's next for projects after Strand 2b
- Learnings for Investments project
- Peer-learning opportunities



Good practices data base, analytical articles



Annual I3 instrument forum 2026

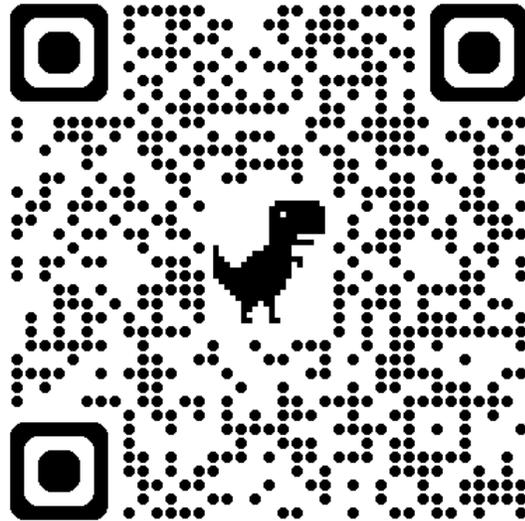


- **1/10/2026: I3 Instrument Forum** - high-level event, spotlighting the I3 Instrument's impact. Registrations closed. Web streaming will be available
- **30/9/2026: I3 Coordinator's day** to bring together beneficiaries for learning and peer exchange
- Check out videos, presentation, promotional videos from I3 projects at the I2 Support Facility website



All services in one website

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



Join the I3 Instrument community

Subscribe to the I3 Instrument Support Facility newsletter for exclusive updates on funding opportunities, events, and tailored support for interregional innovation.

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I3 Instrument Support Facility

Empowering regional and national innovation stakeholders to build robust interregional innovation ecosystems, reinforcing the objectives of the I3 Instrument.

I3 Instrument in figures

€ **301 Million**
of EU funding invested

 **70 Projects**



What is the I3 Instrument

The Interregional Innovation Investments (I3) Instrument, under the [European Regional and Development Fund \(ERDF\)](#), supports **interregional innovation projects** in their **scale-up and commercialisation** phases. It helps overcome **regulatory and market barriers**, bringing projects to **investment level**.

[Visit the website](#)

Services



I3 Instrument observatory

Dashboard with key analytics, trends and insights from I3 projects

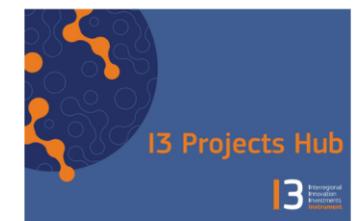
[Learn more](#)



Partner search

Find partners to build I3 project proposals

[Download list](#)



I3 Projects hub

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

[Coming soon](#)

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Thank you for your
attention!