EUROPEAN CLUSTER COLLABORATION PLATFORM

An initiative of the European Union

EU CLUSTERS TALKS ★

From Strategy to Action:

Leveraging Clusters in Smart Specialisation Strategies

4 December 2024
08:30-09:45 CET

Online

Agenda

1. News from the European Cluster Collaboration Platform

   Ángela Negrete Benedí, *Team Member European Cluster Collaboration Platform*

2. Introduction to the topic

   Silvia Álvarez Santos, *DG REGIO, European Commission*

3. Panel debate

   Anders Olsson, *Manager of Research and Innovation, Region Värmland*

   Patrick Vuillermoz, *General Director, POLIMERYS*

   Christoph Reiss-Schmidt, *Head National & International Projects, Business Upper Austria*

   Gus Verhaeghe, *Innovation Manger, Flanders' FOOD*

4. Funding opportunities

   Ángela Negrete Benedí, *Team Member European Cluster Collaboration Platform*

Housekeeping rules

Zivile Kropaite, presenter

- We will use **slido** to launch polls. Please scan the QR code to answer.

- Please use the **Zoom Q&A function** *to* **ask questions,** and the **chat function** to comment or share links.

- If you want to speak: Please **raise your hand** and we will give you the floor.

- Please note that the session is being **recorded** and that the recording will be **published** on the European Cluster Collaboration Platform.

NEWS FROM THE
EUROPEAN CLUSTER COLLABORATION PLATFORM

Call for Expression of Interest: Clusters meet Regions

The European Cluster Collaboration Platform, on behalf of the European Commission, will be coordinating a further **10 European 'Clusters meet Regions'** workshops throughout 2025.

The **objective** of this [Call for Expression of Interest](#) is organising a European workshop 'Clusters Meet Regions' with the aim to strengthen EU industrial ecosystems and regional economies by **fostering collaboration** between **clusters** and **regional authorities**.

Who can apply?
This call for applications is addressed to **any cluster stakeholder** who is either actively participating in, or interested in, the economic development of their region. It is open to institutions such as **clusters**, **regional agencies for economic developmen**t, and **business network groups**. Please note that a **letter of support** from your **regional authority is needed** if you want to apply. **Proposals from national and/or regional authorities** are also welcomed.

The **application** must be filled out in **English.**   ⚠️ **DEADLINE 20 December 2024 – 18:00 CET**

EU BUSINESS HUB
Japan and the Republic of Korea

The [EU Business Hub](#) is an EU-funded programme which supports EU companies active in the **green** and **low-carbon technologies, digital solutions,** and **healthcare** and **medical equipment** sectors to enter the two Asian markets by organising 10 business missions to **Japan** and 10 business missions to the **Republic of Korea** over the next four years. 50 EU SMEs and startups will be selected for each business mission. The objective of this programme is to **assist EU SMEs** and **start-ups** in their **expansion** to these **Asian** countries.

Upcoming business missions:

EU Business Hub @ Semicon Japan , Digital solutions, Tokyo 9 – 13 Dec 2024

EU Business Hub @ Smart Energy Week Spring 2025 , Green & Low-Carbon, Tokyo, 17-21 Feb 2025

Healthcare and Medical Equipment Korea 2025, Healthcare - Seoul, 17 – 21 Mar 2025

Participants also benefit from logistical assistance, a € 1,000 EU contribution for accommodation, and optional co-financed services like legal, translation, and printing support.

slido

In which degree are you collaborating with your regional authorities in defining and developing Smart Specialisation Strategies?

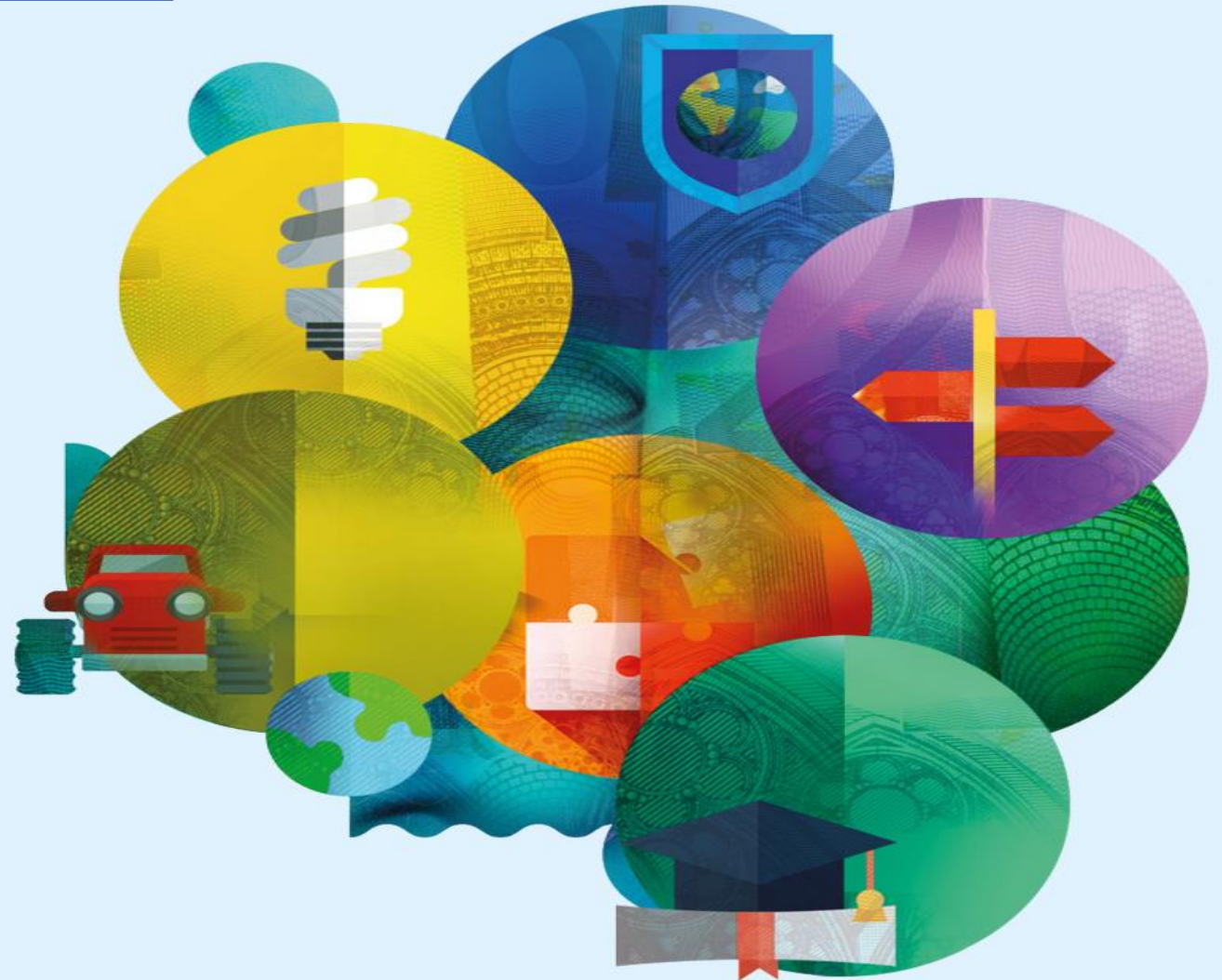ⓘ Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

10 years of S3 implementation under Cohesion Policy

Smart Specialisation: An innovation policy concept designed to enhance regional innovation by enabling regions to focus on their strengths and comparative advantages.

- ❑ **Strategic Impact:** Smart Specialisation has significantly influenced the design of innovation strategies in European regions, fostering cooperation at various levels.

- ❑ **The three pillars of S3** – Localisation, Prioritisation and Participation – are now integral to EU regional policy and development strategies.

- ❑ **S3 scope enlarged to reflect new challenges:** increased focus on core principles (governance, stakeholder management, M&E) + new elements (innovation diffusion, industrial transition and interregional cooperation)

- ❑ **New European Innovation Agenda (2022)**: S3 as a coordination principle to strengthen innovation ecosystems across EU and support key EU priorities.

Smart Specialisation Community of Practice (S3 CoP)

EU regional and urban development

| Home | Policy | 2021-2027 | Funding | What's new | In your country | Projects | Information sources |

Regional Policy > Policy > Communities and Networks > S3 Community of Practice > Community of Practice

S3 Community of Practice

The Smart Specialisation Community of Practice (S3 CoP) is the central node on guidance, networking, support and peer-learning on S3, covering its conceptual development and its implementation.

S3 CoP website: https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy/communities-and-networks/s3-community-of-practice_en
S3 CoP Secretariat: contact@s3-cop.eu
Twitter: @S3CoP_EU
Newsletter: https://mailchi.mp/98614e0f7301/s3-cop-monthly-newsletter?e=97348d96c2

Smart Specialisation Thematic Platforms and Partnerships

S3 Thematic Platforms

Agri-food	Industrial modernisation	Energy	Sustainable Blue Economy

- Collaborative network of strategic Thematic Smart Specialisation Partnerships.

- **Mission:** To initiate and explore new value chains in specific priority areas.
  Alignment of regional S3 →creation of European value chains → common investment project

- **Actors:** committed regions, cluster organisations, innovation agencies, businesses and innovation actors as well as civil society (quadruple helix).

https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy/communities-and-networks/s3-community-of-practice/thematic_platforms_en

Services offered to Thematic Partnerships

Training and capacity building on interregional collaboration (incl. support for community backing)

Governance

(Re)Scoping

Mapping

Smart Partnering

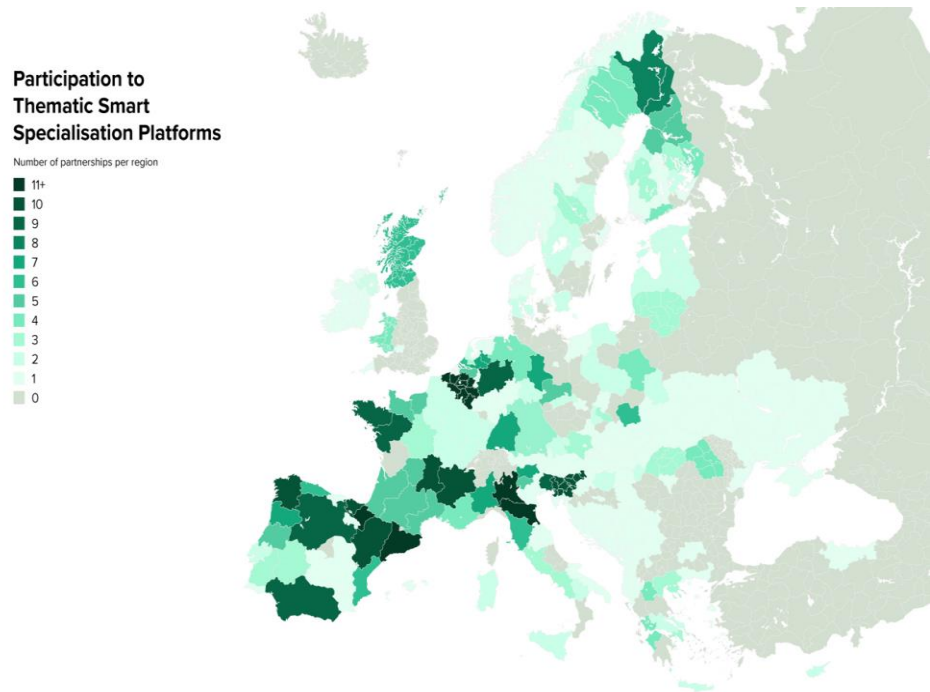Funding, finance, and investment assistance

Demonstration

Scale-up and commercialisation

Participation to Thematic Smart Specialisation Platforms

Participation to Thematic Smart Specialisation Platforms

Number of partnerships per region

- 11+
- 10
- 9
- 8
- 7
- 6
- 5
- 4
- 3
- 2
- 1
- 0

- 39 partnerships
- 191 unique regions
- All 27 Member States
- 9 non-EU countries

New Partnership Opportunities: If you are looking to join or form a new interregional value chain partnership, apply to the Call for Expression of Interest (open call). Further details online and at partnerships@s3-cop.eu (S3 CoP Secretariat)

S3 Observatory

Link to the profile

Link to priorities and keywords

Link to the strategy:

Region name (NUTS ID)	Priority	Strategy
✛ Walloon (BE3)	FutureAgri-Food chains and innovative management of the environment (Sustainable farming,ecosystem services,food traceability,biodiversity conservation)	Smart Specialisation Strategy of Wallonia 2021-2027
✛ Croatia (HR)	Sustainable and circular food (Sustainable management,sustainable development,agriculture,mariculture,forestry)	Smart Specialisation Strategy 2029
✛ Cyprus (CY)	Ecosystems: agrifood, renewable energy, maritime and shipping (Farming equipment,farming tools,agroecology principles,ship ownership,ship management,shipping insurance)	Cyprus Smart Specialisation Strategy 2030

https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/assets/s3-observatory/index_en.html

Regional and country profiles – example

Download the full document about Catalonia

PDF document ⬇

📍 Spain

Catalonia(English)

Cataluña(National language)

NUTS Level: NUTS 2 - NUTS CODE/MS:ES51

Statistics

⬜	Area: 32110 km2
👥	Population: 7679192
🛒	GDP at current prices (M EUR): 229417.94
	GDP per capita at current prices (EUR): 31700
	% of National GDP: No information available.
💼	% of Unemployment: 9.7%
ⓔ	Regional GERD (%): 1.51 %

Thematic platforms and partnership

🔧 **Industrial Modernisation**

Wireless ICT	Partner	More info →
Water Smart Territories	Partner	More info →
CLUSSPORT (SPORT & VITALITY)	Partner	More info →
Smart Regional Investments in Textile Innovation	Partner	More info →
Photonics	Partner	More info →
Medical Technologies	Partner	More info →
Hydrogen Valleys S3 Partnership	Partner	More info →

Ecosystem label

✈	Aerospace & Defence →	No	🩺	Healthcare →	Yes
🍴	Agri-food →	No	🚗	Mobility, Transport & Automotive →	Yes
🔧	Construction →	No	🔌	Proximity Economy →	No

Contact points

Name	Position
Juan Luis Aparicio Romero	Generalitat de Catalunya

Scientific classification - NABS digit 1 and 2

- 8 - Agriculture 6 - Industrial production and technology
    - : 06.57 - Manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products

Economic classification - Nace section and division

- A - Agriculture, forestry and fishing
    - A.01 - Crop and animal production, hunting and related service activities
    - A.02 - Forestry and logging
    - A.03 - Fishing and aquaculture

Shaping the future of Smart Specialization

Building up on key elements of the strategic framework

- Aligning EU objectives with local priorities

- Support to industrial transition and strategic autonomy

- Stronger focus on close-to-market innovation

- Transformational priorities combined with structural improvements in local ecosystems

- Supporting EU value chains

- Workable strategy adapted to needs and capabilities of leading as well as emerging innovators

- Reinforcing multilevel Governance and stakeholder involvement

Identifying reforms

- Improving institutional capacities
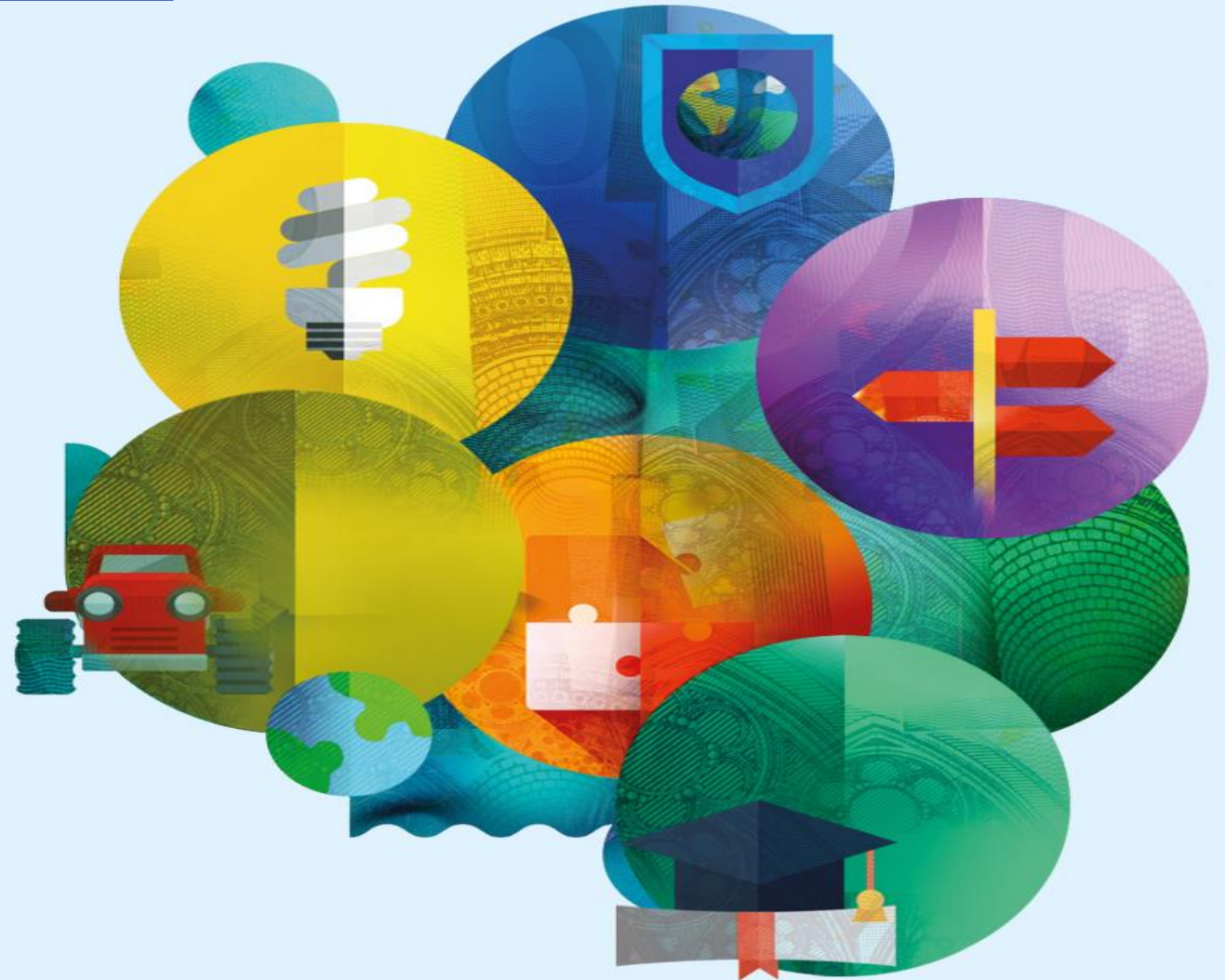
- Speeding up investments

The future of European competitiveness

Part A | A competitiveness strategy for Europe

SEPTEMBER 2024

Next steps

- https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy/communities-and-networks/s3-community-of-practice/s3_event_2024_en

- **Mid January – March 2025: EU Survey on the future of S3: Have your say!**

- S3 Conference – Q2 2025

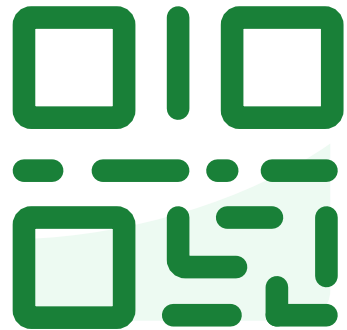- Ongoing stakeholder discussions in parallel

Thank you for your attention!

#SmartSpecialisation
#S3CoP
#CohesionPolicy
#EUinmyRegion

slido

What should be the primary focus and the role of clusters in contributing to Smart Specialisation Strategies (S3)?

ⓘ Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

Panel debate

Anders Olsson, Manager of Research and Innovation, Region Värmland

Patrick Vuillermoz, General Director, Polymeris

Christoph Reiss-Schmidt, Head National & International Projects, Business Upper Austria

Gus Verhaeghe, Innovation Manger, Flanders' FOOD

THE ACADEMY FOR
SMART SPECIALISATION

Region Värmland

**Smart Sustainable
Energy System**

Forest Based Bioeconomy

Advanced Manufacturing
and Complex Systems

Sustainable System Solutions
with Photovoltaic in Focus

**Sustainable, Healthy and
Equal Smart Societies**

Digital Health Innovation

Attraction via Sustainable
Site Development

Food in Sustainable
Interactions

Computer Games
and Gamification

Sustainable Development

Gender Integration

Societal Security

Digitalisation

Social Innovation

Region Värmland

KARLSTADS KOMMUN

compare

COOMPANION
VÄRMLAND

PAPER PROVINCE

PAPER PROVINCE

Stål & Verkstad

AVA
Glava Energy Center

compare

Visit VÄRMLA
VÄRMLANDS OFFICIELLA B

CENTRUM FÖR
TJÄNSTEFORSKNING
CTF | SERVICE RESEARCH CENTER

nifa
BRANSCHFÖREN
VÄRMLÄNDSKA MATFÖRETAG

The Great Journey

Polymeris - Strategic participation in S3

French Cluster on Polymer materials with more than 500 members

Polymeris is involved in 6 French Regions, with different S3 objectives and sectors:
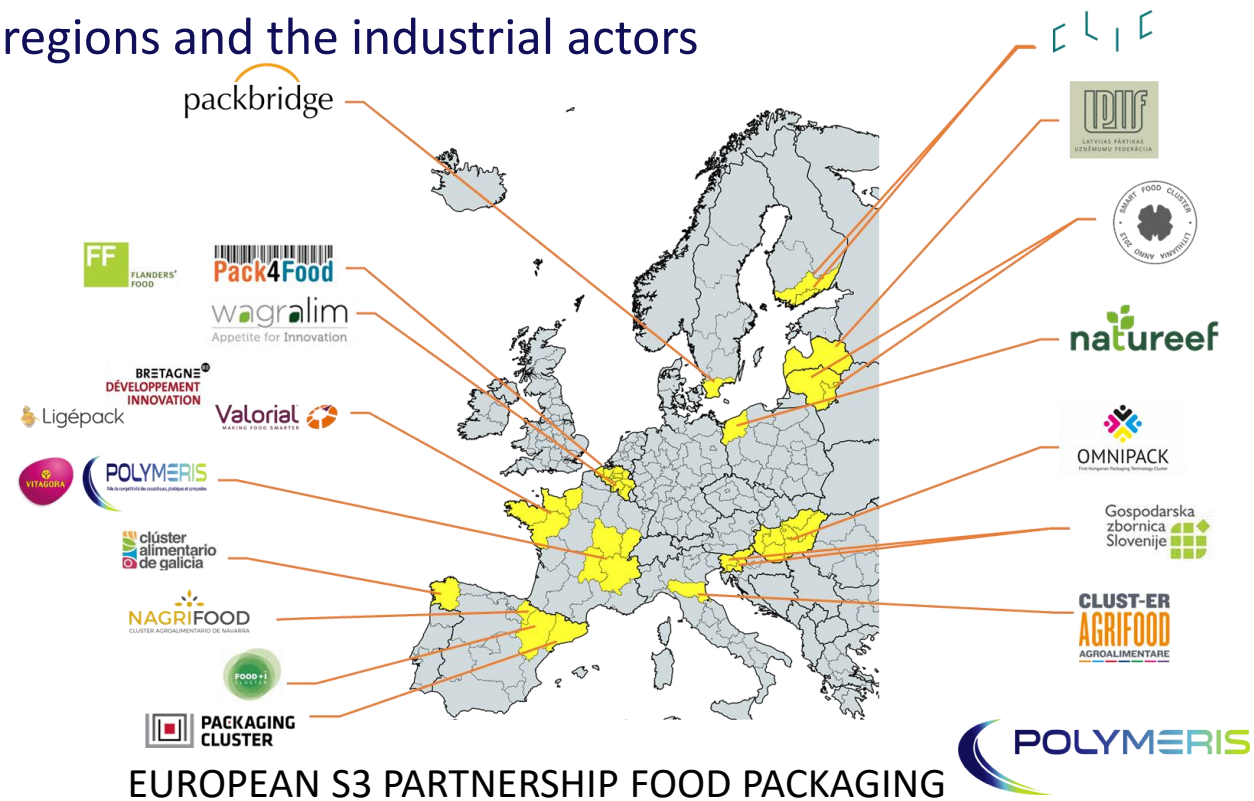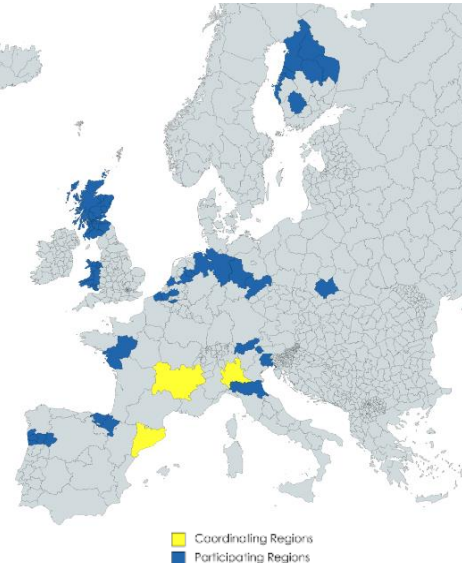
- Need to represent the different regions at European Level

- Importance of understanding the strategic areas and industrial sectors for each region

- Involvement in different networks depending on the regions and the industrial actors

  - Food Packaging

  - Efficient and Sustainable Manufacturing

  - Lightweight

  - Polymer manufacturing

ESM network

COORDINATING REGIONS

Lombardy – Catalonia - Auvergne Rhone Alpes

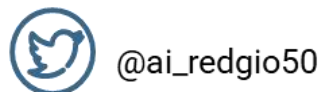EUROPEAN S3 PARTNERSHIP FOOD PACKAGING

Example of projects out of S3 networks

AI REDGIO 5.0
Regions and (E)DIHs alliance for AI-at-the-Edge adoption
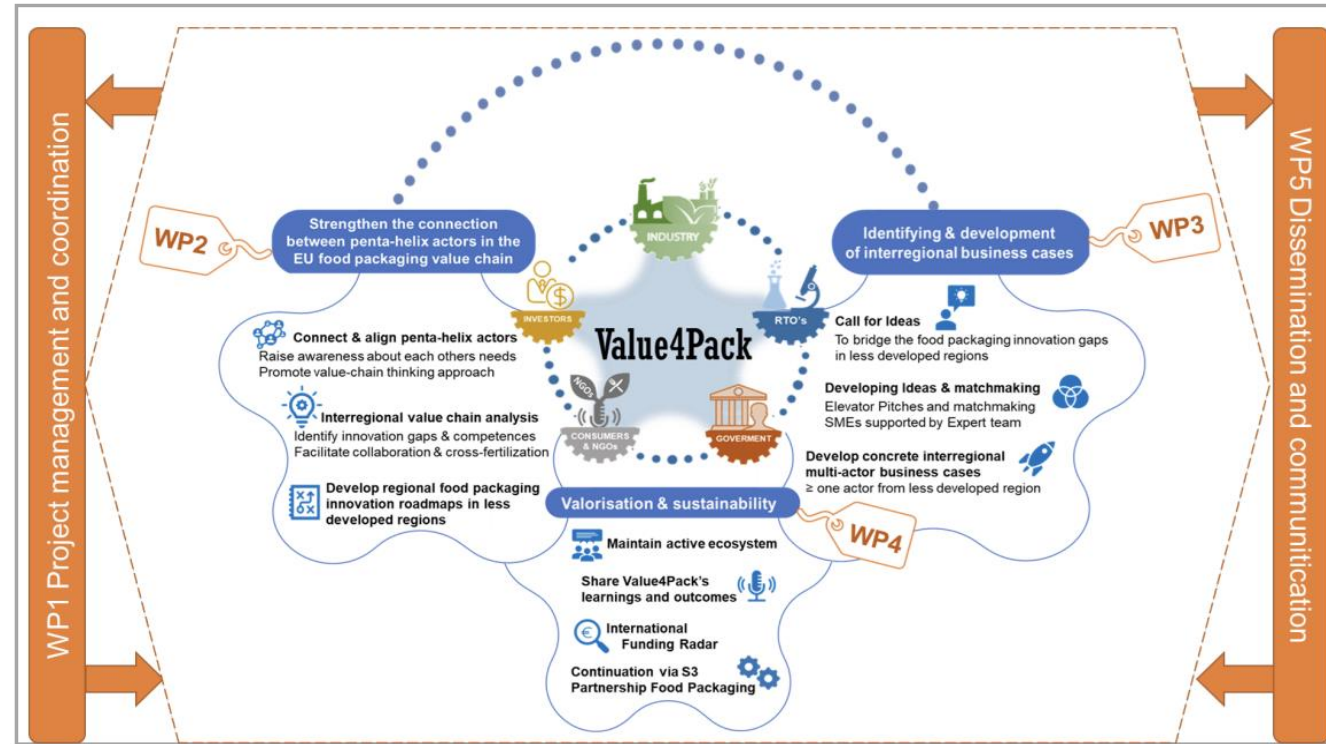by European Industry 5.0 Manufacturing SMEs

43 partners from 18 Countries
15 Vanguard Regions

Value4Pack
1.11.2023-31.10.2025, 14 partners

@AIREDGIO5.0   @ai_redgio50

POLYMERIS

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Interregional Innovation Investments Strand 1

- This call aims to **support interregional innovation investments by fostering collaboration across regions** focusing on:

  - Building interregional value chains.

  - Supporting SMEs and innovation actors from less developed regions.

  - Bridging the innovation divide in Europe.

- The thematic areas are:

  - Digital transition: Innovative digital solutions (AI, big data, cybersecurity), digital transformation of public services (e.g., e-government, healthcare), upskilling for digital technologies.

  - Green transition: Investments in decarbonisation and renewable energy, circular economy and sustainable business models, smart cities and green technologies.

  - Smart manufacturing: Advanced manufacturing solutions (AI, robotics, 3D/4D printing), circular production and carbon-neutral processes, innovation diffusion and SME participation in EU value chains.

- Topic ID: I3-2024-INV1

- Deadline: 05 December 2024 17:00:00 Brussels time

- Published on EU Funding & Tenders Portal

Interregional Innovation Investments Strand 2a

- The call aims to **bridge the innovation divide by fostering economic cohesion and supporting innovation** ecosystems in less developed regions, enabling their integration into interregional and cross-border value chains.

- Projects are expected to contribute to the following outcome:

  - Integration into interregional and cross-border value chains with more developed regions.

  - Improved public services (user-friendly, accessible, interoperable).

  - Contributions to the European Green Deal, climate goals, and sustainability.

  - Strengthened regional capacity for co-investment and innovation alignment with Smart Specialisation Strategies.

- The **expected impact** is:

  - Short-term: New value chains, innovation diffusion, SME participation.

  - Long-term: Increased EU competitiveness, reduced innovation divide, economic growth, and alignment with the European Green Deal.

- Topic ID: I3-2024-INV2a

- Deadline: 05 December 2024 17:00:00 Brussels time

- Published on EU Funding & Tenders Portal

Maritime regional cooperation fostering Smart Specialisation and Innovation in the Sustainable Blue Economy (Topic 1)

- The objective of this call topic is to **animate and underpin the S3 Thematic Platform for Sustainable Blue Economy with strategic interregional partnerships** that develop and implement highly innovative solutions addressing priorities in the EU **sustainable blue economy** (i.e. decarbonisation of the blue economy sectors, energy transition, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, circular blue economy, new forms of aquaculture, including algae, coastal resilience and marine litter prevention, sustainable food systems, and green coastal and maritime tourism).

- This call for proposal is **complementary to strand 1** (Interregional Innovation Investments) of the I3 Instrument.

- Projects are expected to contribute to the following outcome:

  - Enhanced interregional cooperation, creating and integrating value chains across regions with shared or complementary innovation priorities.

  - Reduction of the innovation divide by enabling less developed regions to access and apply innovative technologies and solutions.

  - Development of sustainable and competitive regional economies through targeted innovation initiatives.

- Topic ID: EMFAF-2025-PIA-FLAGSHIP-I3

- Deadline: 18 February 2025 17:00:00 Brussels time

- Published on [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

Joint EUROCLUSTERS for Europe's recovery

- This call focuses on reinforcing innovation and adoption of new technologies for **strategic autonomy**. In particular, the emphasis is on **value chains** within or across one or more of the 14 industrial ecosystems identified in the European Industrial Strategy.

- The call is divided **into two strands:**

    - Strand 1 focuses on **net-zero technologies and critical raw materials:**

    - Strand 2 covers **value chains not covered in Strand 1.**

- Number of projects to be funded: **16** (with at least **8 projects for Strand 1**)

- Maximum project duration: **36 months**

- Budget: **42 million EUR**

- Topic ID: SMP-COSME-2024-CLUSTER-01

- Deadline: **05 February 2025**

- Functional Mailbox for applicants: EISMEA-SMP-COSME-ENQUIRIES@ec.europa.eu

- Published on EU Funding & Tenders Portal

Opportunities for SMEs: Calls from Euroclusters

- <u>FRIEND CCI</u>: Call for **providers** in the areas of digitalization and/or green transition and/or services for internationalization; deadline 01 August 2025

- <u>GEMSTONE</u>: Financial support for **training** related to **Green Manufacturing**; deadline 31 December 2024

- <u>INGENIOUS</u>: **Training** grants to help SMEs improve their digital skills, green transition, resilience preparedness and reskilling and upskilling of the workforce; deadline 14 February 2025

- <u>RESIST</u>: **Networking and marketing** FSTP for SMEs from the **Automotive – Mobility – Transport** ecosystem; deadline 20 December 2024

- <u>RESIST</u>: **Internationalisation** FSTP for activities in target markets; deadline 20 December 2024.

- <u>SILEO</u>: Best Company **Storytelling Video** Contest, deadline 13 December 2024.

All calls here: https://clustercollaboration.eu/open-calls

Register for the next Talks

Upcoming dates and topics!

11 December   Accelerating Change: The Green Transition in Focus

18 December   State Aid

Continue the discussion

European Cluster Collaboration Platform (ECCP) — General Discussion Group

Private Listed

https://www.linkedin.com/groups/9503062/

Visit the ECCP website and follow us on social media

www.clustercollaboration.eu

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European Cluster Collaboration Platform

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