



## The ESM Pilot fosters...

### Circular economy

Through the Vanguard Initiative ESM Pilot, several circular economy projects for sustainable manufacturing have been supported. These include demonstration activities of new value chains and business models, as well as matchmaking platforms.

Amongst the projects supported by the ESM pilot, the **DigiPrime circular economy platform** has succeeded in connected **36 European organizations** across **11 countries**.

### Artificial Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence can be very useful for Efficient and Sustainable Manufacturing practices. Multiple projects from the ESM pilot contribute to developing the use of AI in manufacturing, connecting actors in both fields and providing resources to lower the AI adoption barriers for SMEs.

The collaboration between the Vanguard Initiative ESM and AI Pilots is materialized by the **AI REDGIO 5.0 project**, which aims at **renovating and extending the alliance between Vanguard European regions and Digital Innovation Hubs** connecting **43 partners** across **15 EU countries**.

### Competitiveness

The ESM pilot projects support European SMEs to foster green growth and to strengthen their competitiveness in manufacturing related fields.

In order to strengthen Europe's Critical Raw Material (CRM) Strategy, the **SCREEN project**, supported by the ESM pilot, has been set up to contribute to **expert advice in support of decision-making at the EU level** covering all the raw materials and their value chains screened in the CRMs assessment.