



VANGUARD INITIATIVE

New growth through smart specialisation

The Vanguard Initiative

Farha Brahmi, VI Network Manager - Farha.brahmi@s3vanguardinitiative.eu

A Place-Based Approach leading by example to boost Regional Innovation Ecosystems

SMEs and Intermediaries

- To Increase the competitiveness of companies and scale-up regional businesses
- Project development beyond TRL 5
- Exclusive networks of pilot plants, demo-sites and partners

Interregional Collaboration

- Promoting co-investments in European priority areas,
- Facilitating access to combined funding for co-investment projects,
- Taking advantage of better synergies between regional, national and European instruments to support interregional collaboration.

Policy Influencing

- How to fund technology uptake activities and how to join forces to support their roll-out
- advocating for stronger commitment to enable effective synergies between EU funding tools and instruments, with regional and national funding

39 of the most advanced industrial regions in Europe leading by example in delivering growth and jobs through industry-led interregional cooperation, co-creation, and co-investment

5 Task Groups

Vanguard Pilot Monitoring
Policy Influencing
Future of the Vanguard Initiative
Co-Funding and Financing
Communications

7 Pilot Projects, including 25 demo-cases

New Nano-Enabled Products
Bio-Economy
Efficient Sustainable Manufacturing
High-Performance Production through 3D Printing
Advanced Manufacturing for Energy-related
Applications in Harsh Environments
Smart Health (*launched in 2021*)
Artificial Intelligence (*Launched in 2021*)

New Pilot Call

Two eligible applications:

1. Pilot project proposal on Hydrogen
2. Pilot project proposal on Smart Marine Ecosystem

Results of the General Assembly vote on June 16th

VI Methodology

UPSCALE

COMMERCIALISE

- Launch of new ventures and start-ups
- New value chains
- **TRL 9**

DEMONSTRATE

- Networked demonstration
- Pilot lines and first of a kind factories
- **TRL 6 – 7 – 8**

CONNECT

- Matching events for complementary partners
- Developing demonstration cases

LEARN

- Developing a scoping paper
- Mapping questionnaire
- Identify lead regions and actors

Business & Investment Plans

Competitive challenges – Showcase of SME impact through VI pilots



Dr. Petra Püchner – petra.puechner@steinbeis-Europa.de

Commissioner for Europe of the Minister of Economic Affairs,
Labour and Tourism Baden-Württemberg

Head of Steinbeis-Europa-Zentrum

- Key challenge for pilot /demo case activities in VI
 - **SME participation** / industry
- Overall goals
 - Create several SME Success Stories through interregional cooperation
 - Showcase of Impact from VI towards SME technology uptake
 - Learning effect for VI – what works best
- How to? – incentives!
 - Testing earmarked funds / incentives (cascading funding, vouchers...) for SMEs
 - Focus on SME needs and requirements
 - Challenge towards Lab-facilities from our pilots

VANGUARD INITIATIVE CROSS-CUTTING CALL 2022

- 2 calls to open in 2022
 - Call 2022-1 opening date: 1st June
 - Call 2022-1 closing date: 1st September
- Type of activities to be funded:
 - Individual Pilot Project activities which after successful delivery can directly benefit other VI pilot.
 - All other activities that are beneficial to reach VI's goals.
- Already selected project ideas to be rolled out in 2022:
 - 3DP PAN EU platform (www.3dppan.eu)
 - Joint application 3DP, AI, BIO, ESM, NANO and Smart Health - support in preparing I3 application(s)

VI SME SUCCESS STORY CALL 2022

- Financial aid will be provided to SMEs (up to EUR 11.000) to finance interregional collaboration activities between at least two legal entities (of which at least one SME) registered in at least two different VI regions and countries.
- The timeline of the Call will be as follows:
 - 03.06.2022 launch of the call
 - 30.06.2022 Call closure and evaluation of the applications by the selection committee
 - 15.07.2022 Applicants informed
 - 30.08.2022 (latest) Signed sub-grant agreements received by the managing authority Steinbeis
 - 30.01.2023 (latest) Submission of the final report for evaluation
 - 15.02.2023 (latest) Voucher payment to beneficiaries
- For more information, please contact sme@s3vanguardinitiative.eu

The Vanguard initiative to hire an ‘Expert Interregional Funding’

- create dedicated capacity : temporary recruitment (+/- 18 months) of a technically skilled and politically/managerially smart expert with one task only
- work ‘product and result oriented’ : solutions for given collaboration projects okay but priority for structural system for financial support
 - *“elaborating structural system(s) financially supporting innovation collaboration projects between economic stakeholders based in different VI regions (and their different possible cost categories: layer 1 and layer 2 costs / investment costs, running costs, activities costs)”*
 - solutions work for X VI regions, and others can join later when ready
 - also aiming at preparing a proposal to the “Connect-02-01” call in the “European Innovation Ecosystems” WP 2021-2022 (27/9/22 deadline)
- positive result has outcome which has effect far beyond the Pilots and even VI : ‘lead-by-example’ and a network of proven practice and inspiration