

## SME Success Stories 2022 - Call Text

The SME Success Story action aims at boosting the involvement of innovative SMEs in the Vanguard Initiative pilot activities. The objective is to promote significant and relevant SME and industry participation, and thereby to promote a quicker market uptake of products and services. Ultimately this would strengthen interregional value chains.

Only SMEs registered in one of the VI Regions are eligible to participate in the present funding scheme and to receive financial support from the VI.

The applicant should clearly describe the challenge they are currently facing and/or the expertise already identified to solve such challenge. The current support scheme will only finance and support interregional collaboration between at least two legal entities (at least one of which is an SME – the applicant) located and registered in at least two different Vanguard Regions in at least two different countries.

**Each proposal shall therefore foresee the cross-border collaboration with one (or more) partners or solution providers located in another Vanguard Region. This means that collaborations between Vanguard Regions located in the same countries are considered not eligible.**

The collaboration shall always involve at least one SME (the applicant) and shall happen between organizations registered in one of the Vanguard Regions.

The Vanguard Innovation Voucher consists of a **one-time, lump-sum payment of 11.000€** aimed at supporting and strengthening SME-driven interregional innovation value chains.

The applications shall address one of the thematic and industrial areas of the VI as also identified by its pilots:

- Artificial intelligence
- Advanced Manufacturing for Energy Related Applications in Harsh Environments
- Bio-Economy
- Efficient and Sustainable Manufacturing
- High-Performance Production through 3D-Printing
- Nano-enabled Products
- Smart Health

All activities starting from TRL5 are eligible, with a preference for activities between TRL6 and TRL8.

The SME Success Story programme is managed by Steinbeis 2i GmbH (the managing organisation) in cooperation and on behalf of Vanguard Initiative asbl.

All the details of the present call, as well as the documentations and the templates required to apply are available at <https://www.s3vanguardinitiative.eu/what-we-do/smes-intermediary-organisations>