The Vanguard Initiative: Boosting the digital transition by connecting regional innovation ecosystems
The Vanguard Initiative: Boosting the digital transition by connecting regional innovation ecosystems

Session moderator:
Farha Brahmi, Vanguard Initiative

Speakers:
• Michael Berz, Project Adviser, EU and place-based Innovation Ecosystems, European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA)
• Eddy van Hijum, Regional Minister Province Overijssel, Member of the EU Committee of the Regions and Chair of the Vanguard Initiative
• Martijn van Gruijthuijsen, Regional Minister for Economy, Finance, Knowledge and Talent development of Noord-Brabant, Committee of the Regions shadow rapporteur on the EU Chips Act
• António M. Cunha, President of Norte Portugal Regional Coordination and Development Commission (CCDR-N)
• Gabriela Macoveiu, Director for Communication Innovation and External Cooperation ADR Nord-Est, North East Romania
• Patricia Argerey, Director of the Galician Innovation Agency (GAIN)
• Maritta Perälä-Heape, Professor of practice (PhD), Centre for Health and Technology, University of Oulu
Established 1 April 2021

In collaboration R&I, GROW, JUST, REGIO, and CNECT

Focus on innovators, researchers, Innovation ecosystems, SMEs, consumers

To support innovation, modernisation, growth,
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Horizon Europe</th>
<th>SMP</th>
<th>ERDF</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>European Innovation Council</td>
<td>Single Market Programme</td>
<td>I3 Instrument</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>€ 10 billion</td>
<td>€ 1 billion</td>
<td>€570 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Innovation Ecosystems</td>
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</table>
### Interregional Innovation Investment (I3) Instrument

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What</th>
<th>For whom</th>
<th>How</th>
<th>How much</th>
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</table>
| Commercialisation and scaling up of innovation projects for the development of European value chains | Interregional Q-Helix ecosystems:  
  - Researchers  
  - Businesses  
  - Civic society & public administrations | Implemented under direct management.  
DG REGIO supported by EISMEA | Cohesion Policy  
ERDF (Art. 13)  
€ 570 million (current prices) |
General policy objective

*Strengthening innovation, cohesion and resilience in EU regions*

- Supporting **Interregional Innovation Investments**, including demonstration, commercialization and scale-up activities to achieve cohesion goals
- Interconnecting regional innovation ecosystems along **S3 priorities**
- Combining bottom-up S3 priorities with EU strategic priorities
- Reinforcing **EU value chains**
- Create **synergies** and **complementarities** with EU Programmes
### Total budget per strand 2021 - 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THEMATIC AREAS</th>
<th>STRANDS</th>
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| **DIGITAL TRANSITION**    | **Strand 1** | Focus on developed regions  
Budget: € 39.8 million (2021) & € 36.7 million (2022)  
Indicative Project size: € 4-10 million |
| **GREEN TRANSITION**      | **Strand 2a** | Focus on less developed regions  
Budget: 2021: € 36 million & 2022: € 32.9 million  
Indicative Project size: € 2-3 million |
| **SMART MANUFACTURING**   | **Strand 2b** | Capacity building for less developed regions  
Overall budget: € 28.5 million |
|                           | **Strand 3** | Technical assistance & experimentation  
Overall budget: € 11.4 million |
Focus of the calls

Strong cohesion dimension in both strands, focus on S3 priorities

STRAND 1

• To accelerate market uptake and scale up of innovation solutions in shared S3 priority areas
• To support partnerships developing, connecting or making complementary use of testing and demonstration facilities
• To finance the implementation of a portfolio of investment projects

STRAND 2a

• To develop the capacity of regional innovation ecosystems in less developed regions (LDR) to participate in EU value chains
• To support LDR participation in investment partnerships with other regions
• To develop value chains in LDR
• To improve investment readiness
### Some further statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Strand 1</strong></th>
<th><strong>Strand 2a</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of submitted proposals: 16</td>
<td>Number of submitted proposals: 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Success rate: 44%</td>
<td>Success rate: 57%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For the successful projects:

<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Strand 1</strong></th>
<th><strong>Strand 2a</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ø requested EU contribution: 7,976,508,93 €</td>
<td>Ø requested EU contribution: 2,660,467,69 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ø total project cost: 11,395,014,52 €</td>
<td>Ø total project cost: 3,803,666,67 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ø # consortium members: 28 (range: 10-45)</td>
<td>Ø # consortium members: 14 (range: 9-22)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ø # SME consortium partners: 11 (range: 3-22)</td>
<td>Ø # SME consortium partners: 5 (range: 3-8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># projects using financial support to 3rd parties: 4 out of 7 = ~€10.5 million</td>
<td># projects using financial support to 3rd parties: 1 out of 3 ~€0.49 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1st cut-off results: cohesion - Strand 1

Applicants per Region
- LDR: 39; 20%
- MDR: 24; 13%
- TR: 130; 67%

Applicants per Topic
- Digital: 88; 46%
- Green: 95; 49%

Applicants per Type
- Public: 37; 19%
- Other: 7; 4%
- Private: 23; 12%
- Research: 118; 61%
- Higher Edu: 8; 4%
1st cut-off results: cohesion - Strand 2a

Applicants per Region:
- LDR: 16 (38%)
- MDR: 11 (26%)
- TR: 15 (36%)

Applicants per Topic:
- Digital: 42 (100%)

Applicants per Type:
- Public: 8 (19%)
- Other: 5 (12%)
- Private: 7 (17%)
- Research: 4 (9%)
- Higher Edu: 18 (43%)
Thank you!

https://eismea.ec.europa.eu
FISMEA-I3-INSTRUMENT@ec.europa.eu
#I3Instrument
North-East Region Romania in Vanguard Initiative

New Challenges for Europe’s Cohesion

#EURegionsWeek

Gabriela Macoveiu, North-East RDA
12th of October 2022
North-East Romania – a region with resources and opportunities but also significant challenges

2021- we joined Vanguard Initiative as a member (observer statute) - interested to be active in Personalized Medicine and Artificial Intelligence Pilots.

We see VI as a strategic alliance to advance innovation diffusion at regional level.
ITC making our region in the following 10 years a national and European Hub in AI, Data Management and Cybersecurity with the support of existing regional talents.

Between 2021-2027, the region will focus 150 mil investments from North-East Regional Program in digitalization of the companies and public administration, and increase ITC companies’ capacity with investments in R&D and technologies.

**IT&C is a key enabler for other smart specialization sectors**

Health innovation generator, that should increase its benefits for the society and the medical industry, using efficient public-private partnerships and investments in medicine and pharma for advanced technologies and digitalization.
VI benefits - we advanced our SMEs and facilitators in new EU value chains

Case study 1- TRACE-MED Demo Case
- Imago-Mol member of the Personalized Medicine Pilot - unique cluster in Romania includes 54 members from the entire regional health ecosystem (34 are enterprises).
- Imago-Mol submitted a proposal together with VI members from Emilia Romagna IT and Slovenia (13 stakeholders clusters, RD organizations and regional facilitators) for TRACE-MED - Inter-regional platform for new radiotracers development in personalized medicine Demo Case.
- The demo case was accepted and in 2022, SECURE project was submitted successfully under Horizon Euratom Program. The project consortia in includes 15 VI members from 10 countries, plus the European Nuclear Education Network and European Federation of Organisations for Medical Physics and is coordinated by POLATOM Polonia. It starts this month and will receive 3.6 mil. Euro to strengthen the European Chain of supply for the next generation of medical radionuclides.
VI benefits - we advanced our SMEs and facilitators in new EU value chains

Case study 2 – Science Meet Regions Events

- Together with East Netherlands and Lower Austria, North-East RDA Romania organized in 2022 a series of events dedicated to accelerating digital transformation of the health system in VI regions, in the framework of the Science Meets Regions Program, coordinated by the Joint Research Centre.
- The Innovation Labs brought together quadruple helix stakeholders in all partner regions to assess their challenges and identify solutions for digitalization facilitated networking and generation of new project ideas.
VI benefits - we advanced with implementation of our RIS3, based on interregional collaboration projects oriented to technological developments, demonstration and piloting

Case study 4 – DIZ North-East AI Demo Lab Grid

Case study 4 – Digital Twin Project AI Redgio 5.0

- In February 2022 our region joined the HE Digital Twin project AI Redgio 5.0 consortia initiated by Politechnico di Milano Institute. This project brings together 40 partners, VI Regions and (E)DIHs to promote AI-at-the-Edge adoption by European Industry 5.0 Manufacturing SMEs.

- Our regional stakeholders introduced in this project are the Technical University Gheorghe Asachi Iasi, that will contribute to the development of Data Space and AI for Manufacturing toolkit, act as didactic factory to promote Circular Economy Pathways to Digitalization and Katty Fashion SRL, that will participate in SME-driven experimentation for a close loop AI production. The project was successfully evaluated by EC and the grant agreement for 7,99 Mil. Euro is under preparation.
North-East RDA, as regional development, smart specialization and entrepreneurship policy maker and managing authority for North-East Regional Program 2021-2027

→ advocate for RIS3 internationalization → IDEA ‘VI Members Smart Specialisation Strategies’ mapping process, development of the ‘Matrix of Linkages Pilots-Priorities’ and the ‘Repository of S3 characteristics’.

→ active involvement and VI Pilots for AI Personalized Medicine

→ reiterates its readiness to participate in projects in the field of digitalization of the health system and manufacturing, to increase our innovation ecosystem performance
Thank you!

Gabriela Macoveiu

Tel 0745 616717
E-mail: adrnordest@adrnordest.ro

Details here:
http://www.adrnordest.ro/inovare
Health Data Driven Innovations in Vanguard Smart Health Piloting

Maritta Perälä-Heape,
Professor of Practice, Data-driven healthcare solutions and innovation ecosystems
Director, Centre for Health and Technology,
University of Oulu/OuluHealth
Introduction of the region
East and North Finland co-operation

Smart Specialisation Strategy 2019–2023
https://issuu.com/ip-suomi.elmo/docs/elmo-strategy_english_web
Oulu Region

Our solution to boost digital transition –
➢ Oulu Innovation Alliance collaboration agreement (2021-2027) between eight regional partner organizations

Stakeholders roles and responsibilities for successful digital transformation need to be jointly defined and properly implemented throughout the involved organizations

➢ Shared vision and strategy between regional stakeholders
➢ Shared S3 Planning processes
➢ Spear head Program management
➢ National and international collaboration & Resource allocation
# Oulu Innovation Alliance

**EUROPE’S BEST ECOSYSTEM TO CREATE GLOBAL ADDED VALUE WITH DIGITALISATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target Fields</th>
<th>Spearhead Programmes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oulu</td>
<td>OSAO</td>
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<tr>
<td>OAMK</td>
<td>Luke</td>
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<tr>
<td>VTT</td>
<td>Technopolis</td>
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<tr>
<td>PPSHP</td>
<td>University of Oulu</td>
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**Support for startups, continuous learning and ecosystem building**

**Smart city as a platform**

**Business networks and clusters**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Digitalisation in the changing urban environment</th>
<th>Digital Solutions for Health and Well-being - Oulhealth</th>
<th>Sustainable circular economy and clean solutions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Future information networks</td>
<td>Data solutions in preventive and supportive healthcare</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development platform for autonomous vehicles and devices</td>
<td>Better services for citizens through virtual service production</td>
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<tr>
<td>Data analytics</td>
<td>Development of innovation and testing facilities for social and health care service providers</td>
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<td>Digital Health RCD Center of the Future</td>
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<td>Next-generation energy products and services</td>
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<td>New solutions for inorganic side flows</td>
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<td>Environmentally friendly steel production and related value chains</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Development and commercialization of water expertise</td>
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[New Challenges for Europe’s Cohesion]

VI Smart Health:
➢ Transform the connected European value chains on personalized medicine and smart health, by combining biomedical, technological and data driven expertise
➢ Towards preventive medicine, health, well-being

Smart Health pillars:
➢ Data and digital tech, digital therapies & preventive health are well aligned with our regional objectives
➢ Interregional collaboration on citizen driven ecosystem of personal health data

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East and North Finland participating in the Smart Health Vanguard Initiative (VI)
Thank You!

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+358-406734159