

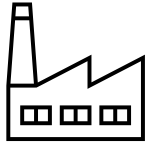
**3D PRINTING**  
VANGUARD INITIATIVE

# VI 3DP Pilot in 2025

*Jean-François Romainville, Network Manager*

# A growing community

*23 regions in 2025*

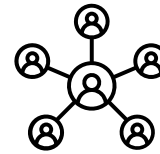


**End-Users**



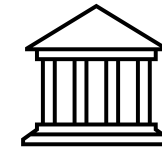
**Solutions (co-) developers**

*130+ technology infrastructures, research centers and universities*



**Intermediaries**

*30+ clusters organisations/industrial associations*



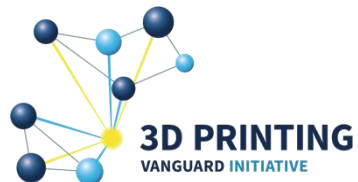
**Policy makers**

*170+ private companies*

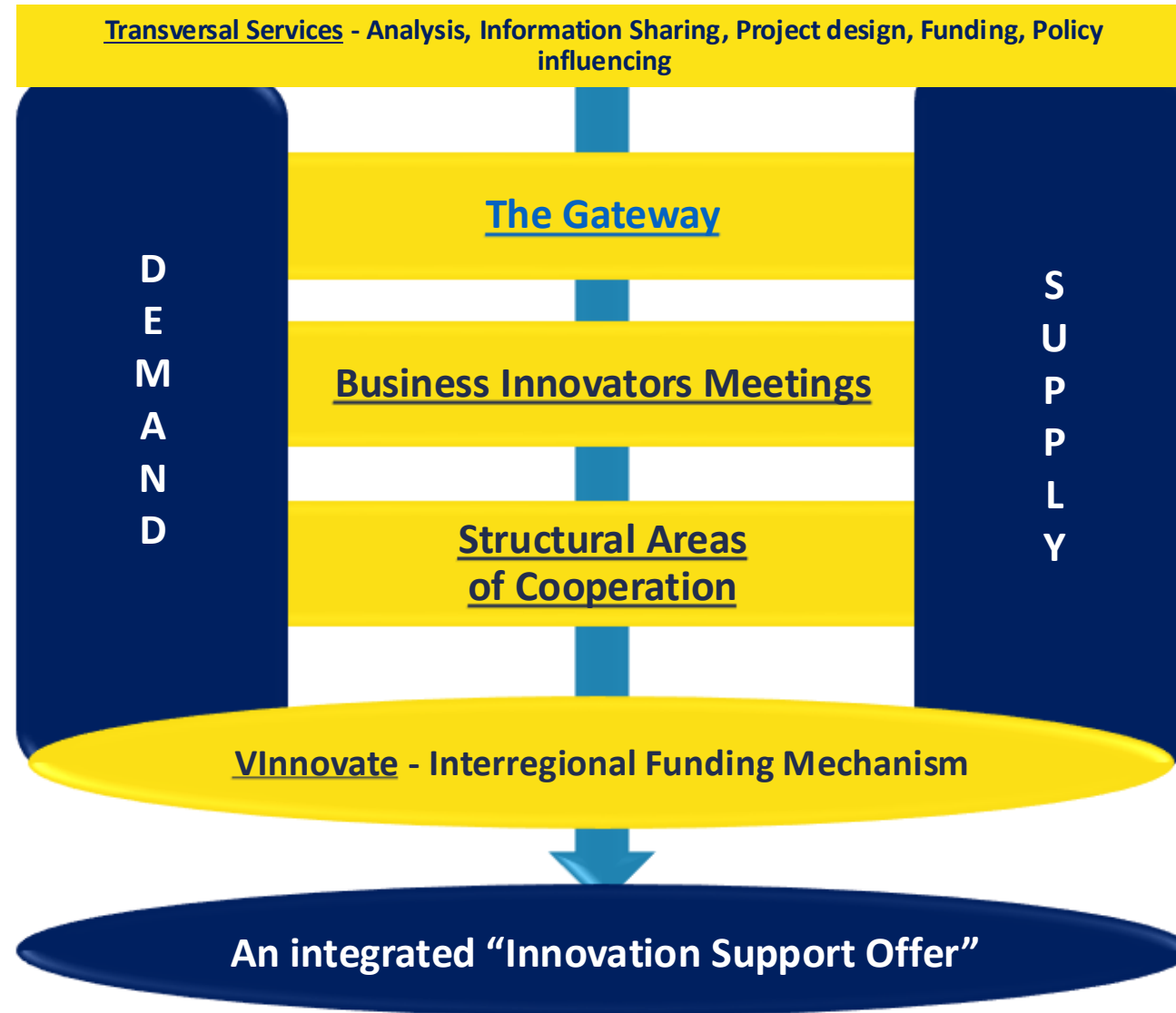
# Still fragmented (emerging) segments and expertise within the community

N° of individuals on mailing list	Regions
80 and above	South Netherlands; Lombardia
60–79	Emilia Romagna
40–59	—
30–39	Norte; Lower Saxony; Flanders
20–29	Malopolska; Wallonia; East-Netherlands; Slovenia; Autonomous Province of Trento/Trentino
10–19	Friuli Venezia Giulia; Asturias; North Rhine-Westphalia; Saxony-Anhalt
Below 10	Pays de la Loire; Cantabria; Saxony; Aragon; Dalarna

Observation: The more we enter in direct contact with adequate stakeholders, the more a region benefit from the VI 3DP Pilot  
Call for action: Help us in populating our mailing list [here](#)



# A stable set of tools - From building ideas to deploying in the market



# Overview of key 2025 events and activities

Tool	Participants	Some outputs/results
Gateway	377 organisations	More than 75 EOIs on selected funding Calls, and more than 4 HE Cluster 4 proposals prepared and submitted; 24/7 bilateral connections (users/partners),
Business Innovators Meeting Tampere (3 and 4 June 2025)	42 participants, companies' booths and visits, etc.	“Regional Ecosystem”-internationalisation (recognised by BIM hosts), bilateral connections (incl. Users-Tech providers connections)
May 2025 Funding and Project-building Webinar	60 registered participants	More than 4 HE Cluster 4 proposals submitted, 4 Vinnovate 2025 proposals submitted, 1 Euroclusters proposal submitted, 1 I3 Strand 1 submitted
September 2025 Funding and Project-building Webinar	64 registered participants	
January 2026: Funding and Project-building Webinar	73 registered participants	
Call-dedicated meetings round 1 (June 2025): more than 6 specific meetings organised	20 per meeting	
Call-dedicated meetings round 2 (November 2025): 5 meetings organised	20 per meeting	
Various demo case meetings	10 to 20 participants in meetings	Action Plans, Specific activities (webinars) and Projects (see next slides)
<p><u>Transversal</u>: survey “topics”, survey “satisfaction“, support projects design and funding mixes, etc.</p>		

# Outcomes – Learn and Connect

*As a result, matching ambitions and needs at ecosystem and companies' levels, and translating them into strategic innovation projects funded (next slide)*

We enable our members to be more knowledgeable about technical developments, the EU competitive landscape and adequate funding opportunities



**95%**

of the members\* agree (or strongly agree) that the Pilot is helping them being informed about EU funding opportunities



**87%**

of members agree (or strongly agree) that the Pilot is helping them being more knowledgeable of the 3DP (EU) landscape

\*Survey conducted among members in Nov. 2025 (25 respondents)

We enable our members to connect with new users, and to implement (funded) innovation projects



**95,5%**

of members agree (or strongly agree) that the Pilot is enabling them being connected to new users or partners



**66,7%**

of the members\* were able, over the last 3 years, to be part of an innovation project (publicly funded), which was generated/enabled by the Pilot activities

\*Survey conducted among members in Nov. 2025 (25 respondents)

# Outcomes - Demo Case & Commercialize

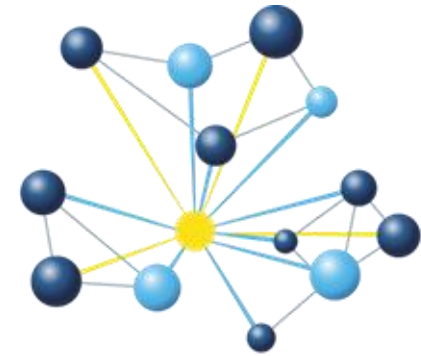
**15+ projects in implementation in 2025 – Each of them:**

- **Ideas and Consortia because of Pilot’s activities**
- **Activation adequate funding mixes (I3, VInnovate, HE Cluster 4, private) supported by Pilot’s services**
- **Each project is international, SMEs-led (cooperation with technology centres, etc.) and focuses on post-prototyping activities**

Demo Cases	A list of international, SMEs-led, TRL6+ innovation projects secured/and or implemented in 2025	
<b><u>‘Horizontal’: Industrial Challenges</u></b>		
Increasing Life of Parts – ‘Maintenance’ and ‘repairing’ ( <i>Trentino and Slovenia</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Delivery of high-quality original (spare) parts (maintenance), timely and securely (VInnovate Call 2024)</li> <li>- Deployment repairing solutions (I3 3DOP, WP2)</li> </ul>	
Lighter Components - Deployment of ‘hybrid’ components ( <i>E-R</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 3D-Printed Air Injection (ABEP) – Additively manufactured propulsion components for space applications (VInnovate 2025)</li> <li>- S-CUBE – AM and generative design for multifunctional CubeSat structures with embedded batteries (VInnovate 2025)</li> </ul>	
More Sustainable Production – Smart AM for Sustainable Production ( <i>Lombardy</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Development of recycled materials, with a particular focus on recycled thermoplastics and short fibers (100 µm) (VInnovate 2024)</li> <li>- I3 materials recycling, in preparation TBC Development of recycled materials, with a particular focus on recycled thermoplastics and short fibers (100 µm) (VInnovate 2024)</li> <li>- Metal AM for high-performance, energy-efficient heat exchangers, aligned with industrial AM productivity and sustainability (VInnovate 2025)</li> <li>- Additive-based innovative software solutions driving decarbonisation and the twin green and digital transitions (Dilapro project, HE Cluster 4 2023, start in 20024)</li> </ul>	
Automatization of AM factories ( <i>South NL</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Development (and deployment) of Automatization modules (I3 3DOP WP5)</li> </ul>	<b>Market uptake !</b>
<b><u>‘Verticals’: Application areas</u></b>		
Integrated Electronics ( <i>Lower Austria</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Deployment of inkjet printing solutions (I3 “inkjetbio-AM” project)</li> <li>- Embedded electronics for lighting applications (I3 3DOP WP3)</li> </ul>	
Healthcare ( <i>E-R, open to leaders</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Deployment of 3DP-printed orthosis solutions (VInnovate 2024)</li> <li>- Deployment of 3DP solutions for dental (I3 3DOP WP4)</li> </ul>	
<b><u>Previous demo cases – ‘Closed ones’ (but innovation projects still implemented because of past Pilot activities)</u></b>		
Improving Metal printing processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Integrate heating in the 3D printed catalytic structure process (VInnovate 2024)</li> <li>- Deploying solutions for lowering costs metal printing (I3 3DOP WP2), incl. new metal printing processes</li> </ul>	<b>Market uptake !</b>

# Challenges and Learnings

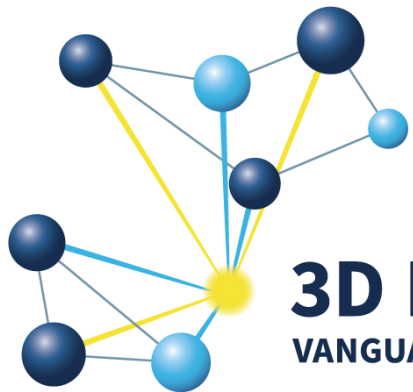
- A structure/system (tools, etc.) that fits with fast-moving ecosystems and industries needs, the VI “tech-pull” and “bottom-up” ambitions, etc. → **“A strategic agility”**
- Deliver unique added value in the landscape and demonstrating **additionality !**
  - “Integrated innovation support”
  - “The regional anchorage”
  - Etc.
- **Attention points:**
  - Predictability and anticipations
    - Pilot reform
    - Merger with ESM
  - Future of funding tools (Vinnovate, I3, etc.)



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# Results 2025

## Q&A



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# VI 3DP Pilot in 2026

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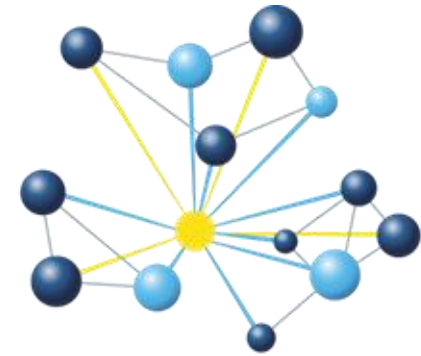
# Objectives and activities - Overview

Specific objectives	Expected results
Ensuring efficient operational governance, organization and communication at Pilot level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A substantial increase in the number of organizations/individuals on the mailing list, towards a more direct outreach to some stakeholders, in some regions</li> <li>• An efficient and stable set of communications (Gateway, General Newsletter and/or Dedicated emails)</li> </ul>
Further strengthen the position of the Pilot as the agile EU platform to connect actors and generate new cross -regional demonstration projects in Additive and Smart Manufacturing Systems: The 'Gateway' as main online channel, the 'Business Innovators meetings' to generate connections, the dedicated 'Demo case meetings', the monthly newsletters for information sharing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least 2 BIMs organised, with 'industry oriented' added value offered to participants</li> <li>• An increase in the actual use and traffic on the Gateway</li> <li>• Towards more connections 'users-providers' actually delivered/enabled</li> </ul>
Identifying and securing funding for Pilot activities and demonstration cases (incl. regional funding solutions and private funding solutions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuing embracing the 'direct' relevant funding opportunities: I3, VInnovate, HE Cluster 4, etc.</li> <li>• Explore new relevant sources: European Defense Fund, Private Funding (in particular facilitating connections with investors)</li> </ul>
Stimulate the development of projects/demo cases, i.e. further ensure effective implementation of the "Demonstrate phase".	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revise the scope of demo cases</li> <li>• More demo case specific activities initiated</li> <li>• More users-solutions providers anchored activities</li> </ul>
Operationalize the (re)scoping of the overall Pilot and Cross-Pilot Activities, towards guaranteeing a scope aligned with emerging industrial needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integration of AI and Nano Pilots activities in 3DP Pilot.</li> <li>• Structural discussion with ESM pilot to have a clear VI 'Advanced Manufacturing' strategy, from 2026 onwards.</li> <li>• Adaptation of the set of communication materials</li> </ul>
Influence EU policy agenda and connect with EU initiatives further	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An improved recognition of AM/3DP (and associated technologies such as AI and Robotics) as major driving forces towards a more competitive/resilient industry.</li> <li>• Outreach to initiatives (CECIMO, AM Alliance, etc.) and non-VI members regions</li> </ul>
<b>Activities:</b> Implementing, while improving, our set of tools/services and activities (Gateway, Business Innovators Meetings, Demo Cases activities and Funding-related services) + Punctual efforts (rescoping, etc.)	

# Activities over the coming weeks

- 5 March - Discussions with demo case leaders, towards rescoping
- Onboarding and Funding Opportunities (March 24, 10:00-12:00)
  - Introduction to VI 3DP Pilot Activities (targeting “newcomers” in particular)
  - Interest in current demo cases, and beyond (!)
  - Funding opportunities
  - **Register [here](#).**
- Call-dedicated meetings:
  - Advanced manufacturing for key products (IA) (Made in Europe partnership) (March 26, 10 AM)
  - New approaches for Human/AI collaboration for the workforce of the future (RIA) (Made in Europe and AI, Data and Robotics partnerships) (March 26 (12 AM)
  - Challenge-Driven AI Innovation Booster in Apply AI prioritised sectors (RIA) (Partnership in AI, Data and Robotics) (March 27, 10 AM)
  - Factory processes and automation for de- and re-manufacturing (RIA) (Made in Europe partnership) (March 27, 2 PM)
  - **Register [here](#).**
- VI 3DP Pilot Business Innovator Meetings, date and place TBC
- Etc.

[Call for action:](#) Help us activating local stakeholders [here](#)



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# Action Plan 2026

**Q&A**