VANGUARD INITIATIVE
New growth through smart specialisation

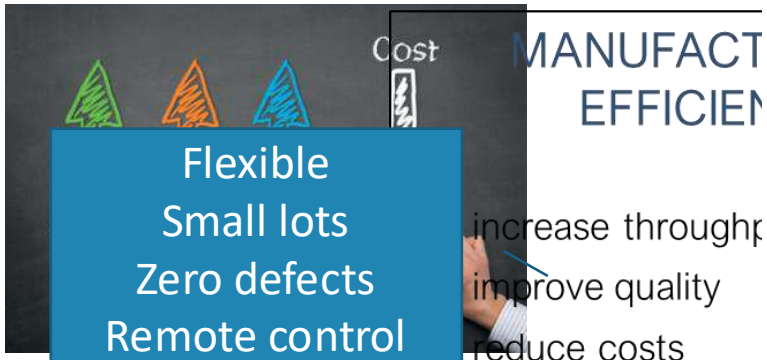
Pilot Mid-Term Review 2026

ESM

September 25, 2026

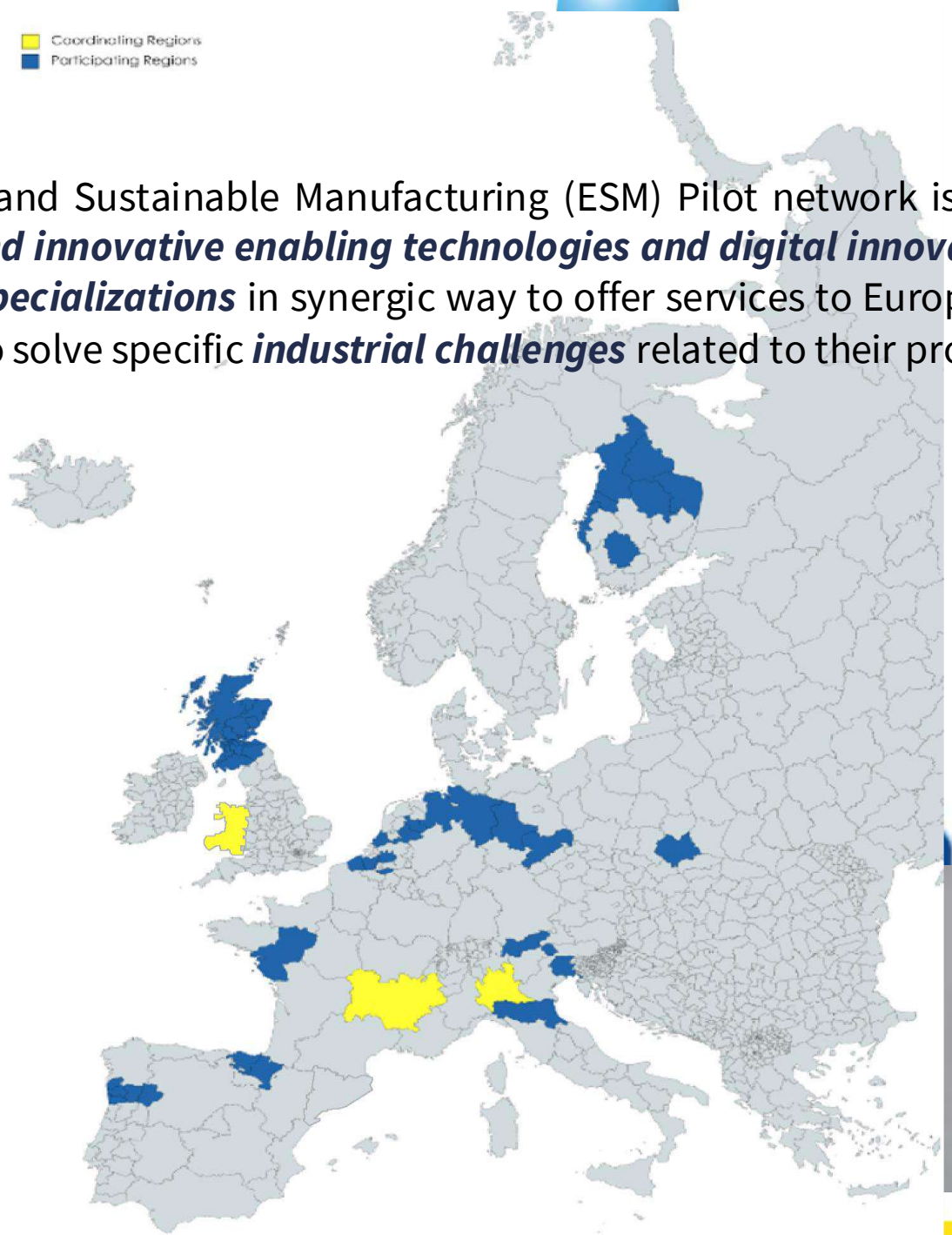
ESM 2026 rescoping

The main objective of the Efficient and Sustainable Manufacturing (ESM) Pilot network is to ***integrate*** a multidisciplinary set of ***advanced and innovative enabling technologies and digital innovations*** (TRL 7-8) and to exploit the ***regional Smart Specializations*** in synergic way to offer services to European end-users, mainly manufacturing companies, to solve specific ***industrial challenges*** related to their products.



Flexible
Small lots
Zero defects
Remote control



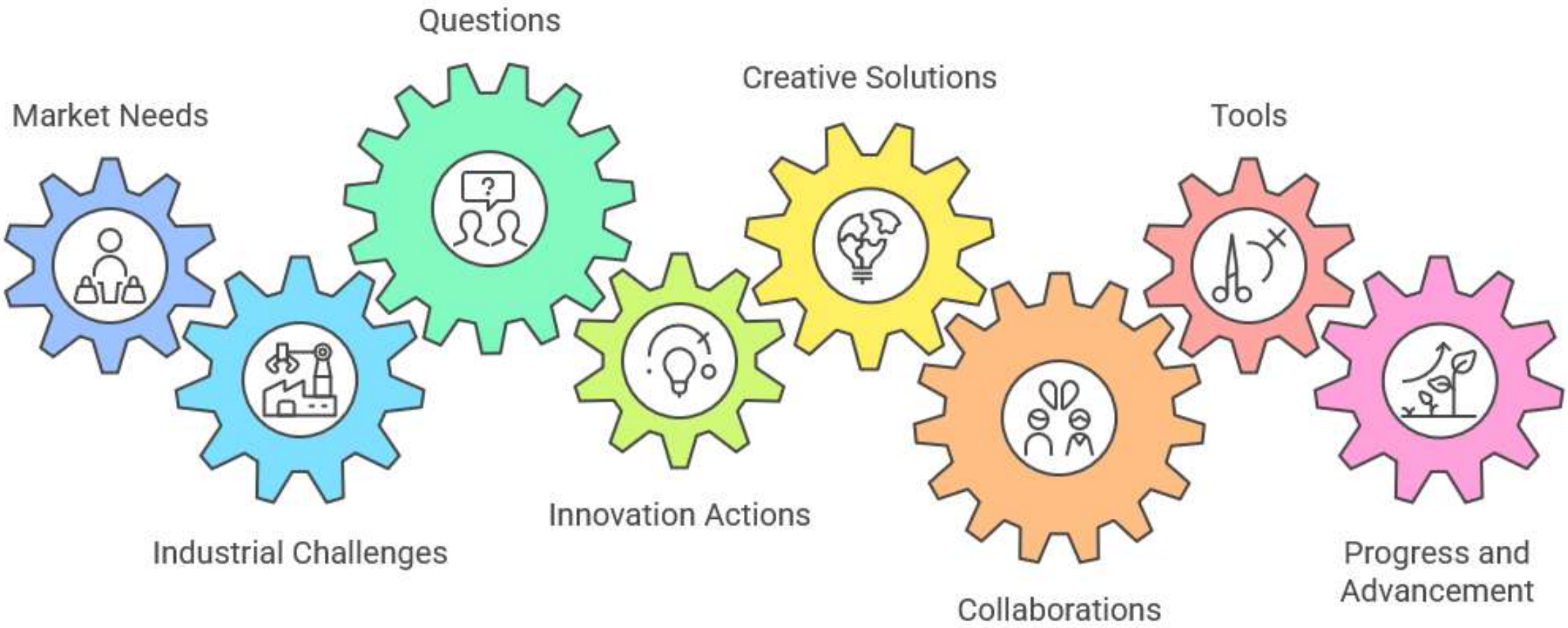




Advanced/Smart materials
High Value material mining
Produce Sustainability – DPP
Food manufacturing



ESM path

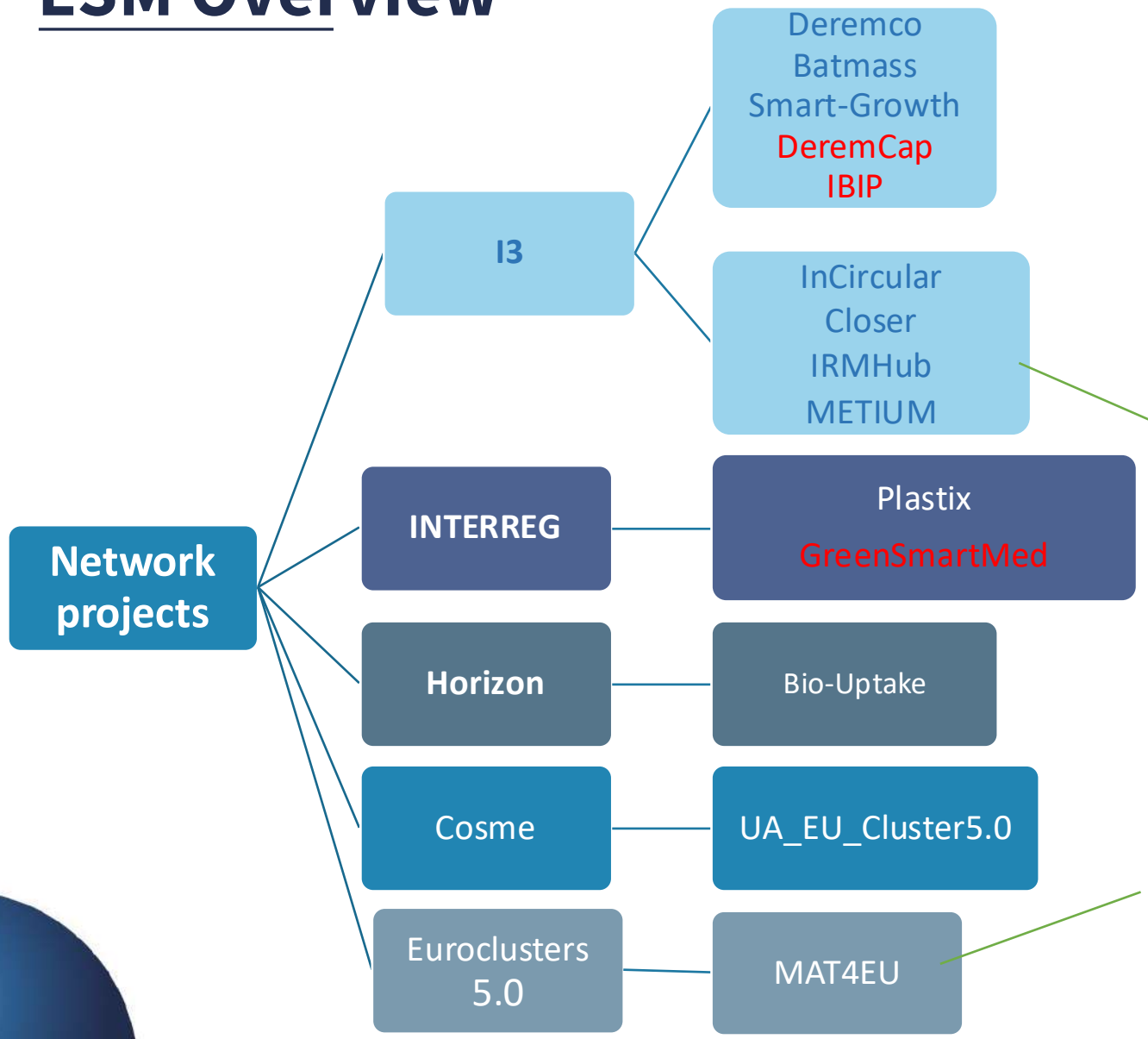

Market Needs
Industrial Challenges
Questions
Innovation Actions
Creative Solutions
Collaborations
Tools
Progress and Advancement

ESM 2026 expected results

Specific objectives	Expected results
Development and monitoring of ESM existing demo-cases and related use-cases	Progress of the DCs, projects follow up and policy reccomendations
Stimulation of new demo-case and use-case initiatives according to emerging needs and challenges	One new interesting area
Development of ESM innovation and industrial uptake inter-regional roadmap: active involvement of regional stakeholders in proposals drafting	Proposals submission
Promotion and rationalisation of the participation to other EU initiatives	Participation to S3 conference; programming an onsite round table
Engagement of a new co-coordinator in order to substitute Eurecat	Identify the candidate, negotiation and entry into the coordination group
Support the VInnovate Secretariat, Regione Lombardia authority and Lombardy stakeholders in projects drafting	Lombardy proposal coordination and other regions' proposals assessment

Targeting a new democase on Food Manufacturing Trends and Technologies

ESM Overview



Access to HUBs

Open Call

Granted projects

2 awarded I3 + 1 EuroMED

Project proposals

- **2 Erasmus + 1 EIC Pathfinder**
- **7 bids (I3, Vinnovate, Interreg)**

Past Projects

- **DigiPrime**
- **FiberUse**
- **AI Redgio 5.0**

Used budget 18 k€

Accomplished tasks

Name of Activity	Type of Activity	Date
VI/ESM presentation	dissemination meeting	22-gen
ESM information 3D printing webinar	webinar	23-gen
ESM information VInnovate webinar	webinar	29-gen
ESM NE Romania and Galicia onboarding	call	06-feb
S3 aligning with CoP	call	17-feb
ESM Interactive event	dissemination meeting	17-feb
Digital trasformation DC pres	dissemination meeting	27-feb
ESM Steering Committee	call	02-mar
ESM information VInnovate webinar	webinar	10-mar
NL1 delivery	newsletter	22-mar
Project building webinars with 3D pilot	webinars	26 and 27 Mar
C. Wallis presentation at Food meeting ESM capacity on food techs	online	18 May
V Innovate Project building webinars with 3D pilot	presence	27 May
Project NEXTI (Mat-Prod-47)	call	June
Strategic Communities meetings Project buildong on 2026/27 EU calls	presence	June
Project building webinars with 3D pilot	webinars	July
Promotion Advanced Manufacturing Business Innovators Meeting	presence	15 september

11th Smart Polymers Congress

Milano

November 17 – Conference Day / Lombardy Regional Government Building

November 18 – Half-day Industrial Visits

Focus 2026 : Smart polymers & integrated functional systems
Advancing intelligent, sustainable and high-performance polymer solutions

Topics of Interest

- Smart & functionalized polymers
- Printed and hybrid electronics
- Sensor integration & active functions (printing / advanced processing)
- Sustainability, eco-design & circularity

Special focus on:
Biopolymers • Recyclable polymers • Functional & nano-composites • Hybrid polymers •
Additive manufacturing & 3D/4D printing

Fostering synergies between materials, processes & smart systems,
Strengthening European collaborations



ORGANIZED BY:
POLYMERIS AFIL

Partners: Regione Lombardia · VANGUARD INITIATIV · La Région Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes

ESM meeting on 18th November with 3D printing contribution

ESM needs

Support in engaging Regional Authorities (or their delegated organizations)

Inputs from other Pilots about their sectors' needs about manufacturing. Technological and collaborative