

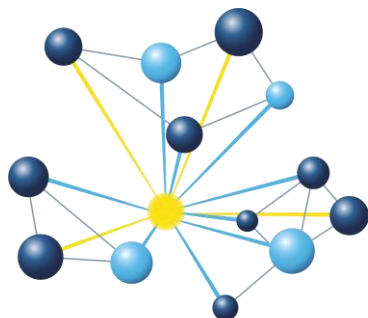


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Programma Oost-Nederland 2021-2027  
Europees Fonds voor Regionale Ontwikkeling

# **Vanguard Initiative & Vinnovate**



## **VANGUARD INITIATIVE**

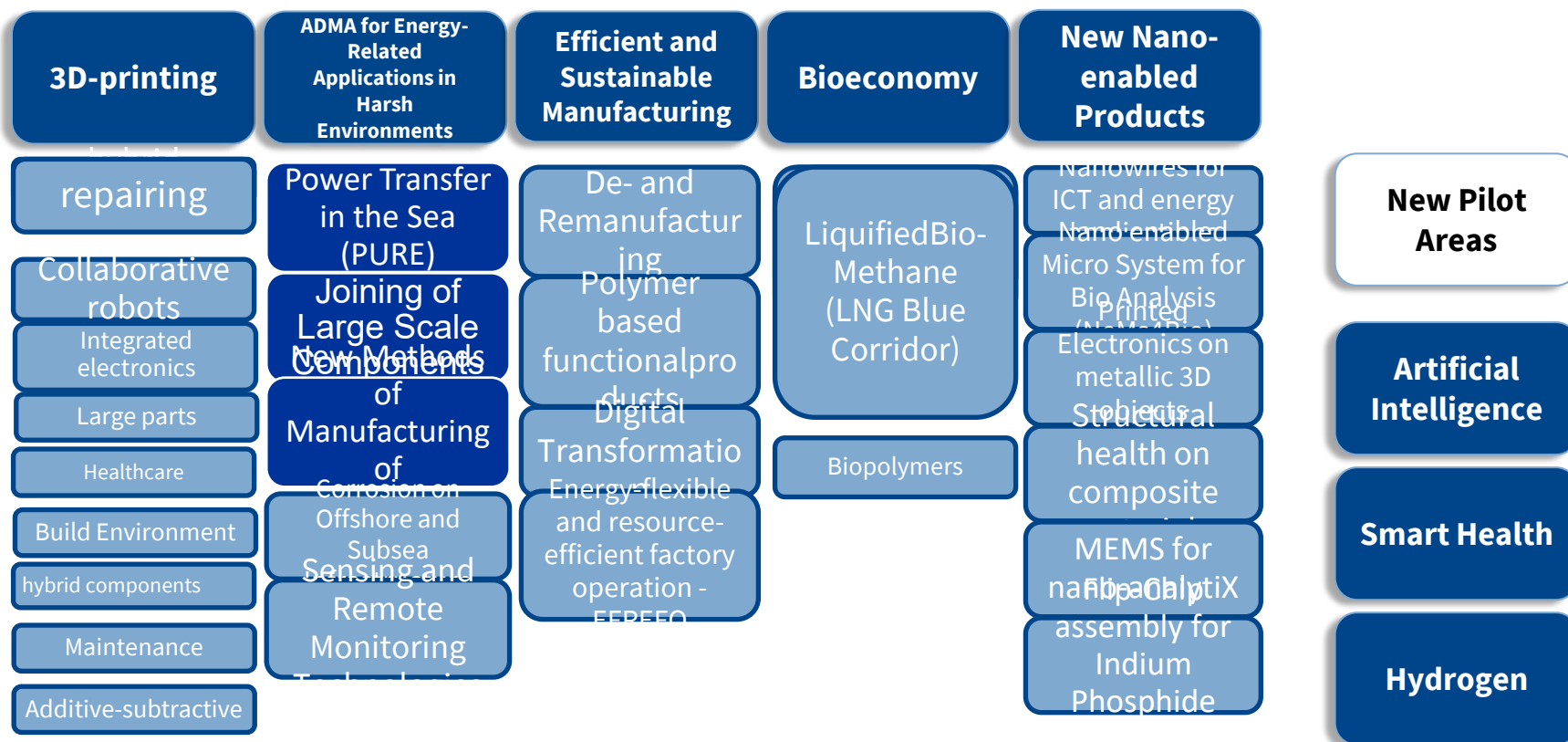
New growth through smart specialisation



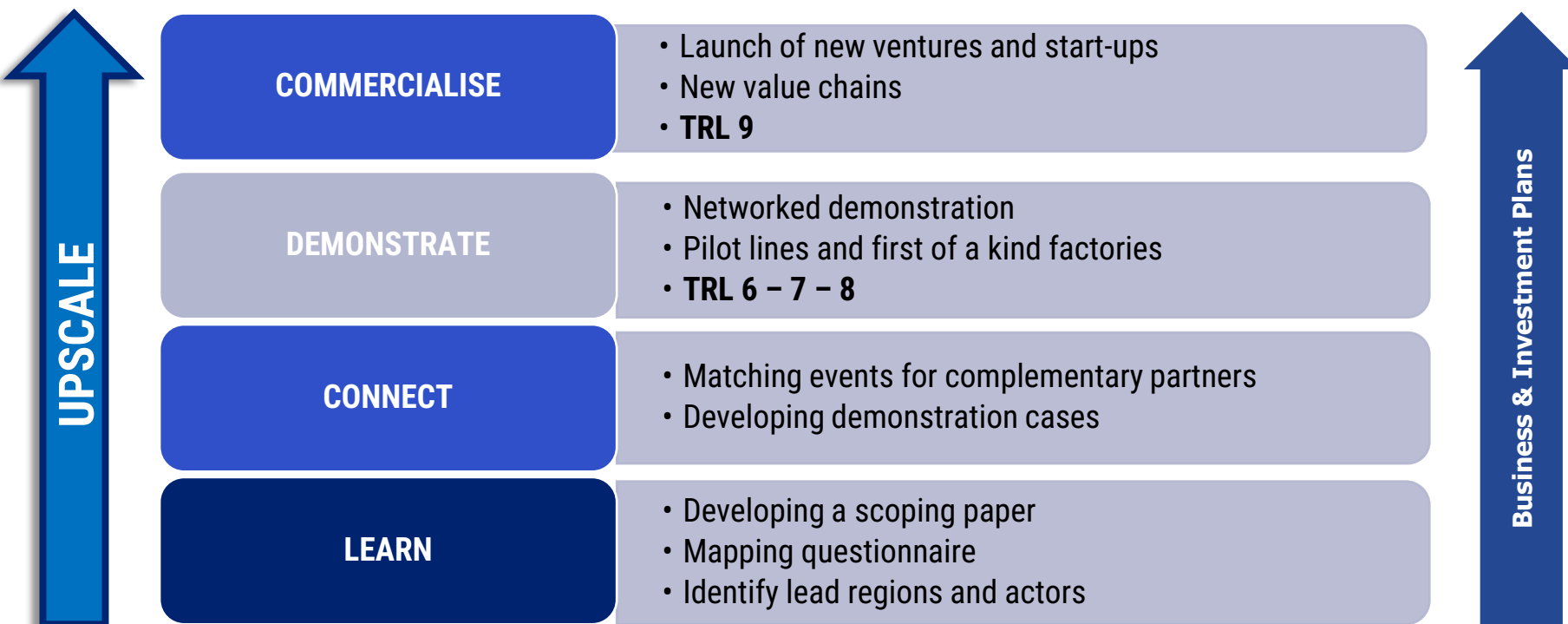
# Current Vanguard Initiative Model

- Established in 2013 for fostering interregional innovation collaboration
- Network of 32 European Regions from 13 countries
- 8 Innovation Areas (in Manufacturing, Bio-Economy, AI, Energy & Health)
- A financial support tool 'Vinnovate' for deployment-ready solutions
- A Policy Influencing Taskforce on industrial policy & competitiveness
- Regular strategy meetings at Regional Director & Political Level
- An Ambition to transform network into Innovation Ecosystem of Regions

# VI Innovation Areas: Pilots and Demo-cases



# VI Methodology



# Close to Market & Deployment Ready Focus

## VI Pilot Projects

- **Interregional cooperation projects between companies and knowledge institutes in a specific technology field or application domain**
  - (> TRL 5 – post prototyping)
  - industrial commitment
  - European dimension
- **European Networks of Demonstrators**
- **no “one off” projects / building of new industrial value chains through a pipeline of investment projects**

## VI Pilot Demo-cases

- **Common objectives**
  - establish and facilitate access to (shared) facilities
  - lower technology uncertainty, risks and costs
  - stimulate market uptake
- **Each demo-case =**
  - group(s) of companies accessing infrastructure (TRL 6-8)
  - Industrial replication and upscale (TRL 8-9)
- **Types of demo-cases**
  - challenge driven or technology driven
  - connecting existing infrastructure
  - building brand new infrastructure
  - connect and upgrade existing infrastructure (hybrid format)



# Complexity asks for Curiosity

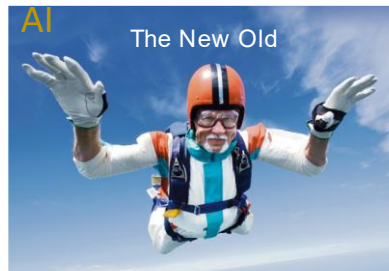
## The emerging VI Narrative towards Systemic Innovation

### Linking Technology with People & Society

- CleanTech & Sustainability
- SmartHealth & Care
- Mobility & Flexibility
- Energy & Community
- Safety & Security
- Work & Leisure
- ...

### Adapting Technology & Changing the Innovation Narrative

- ✓ Advanced Manufacturing
- ✓ Bio-Economy
- ✓ Smart Health
- ✓ AI



### Co-Developing inter-regionally connected Innovation Ecosystems

- ☐ Shared **system awareness**
- ☐ Culture of **Collaboration**
- ☐ **Self-organizing** principles
- ☐ Strategic capacity for **collective action**
- ☐ **Inter-organisational** structures
- ☐ **Shared governance** approaches
- ☐ New **entrepreneurial & service** models
- **A continuous Learning Journey**

# ERDF East Netherlands 2021-2027

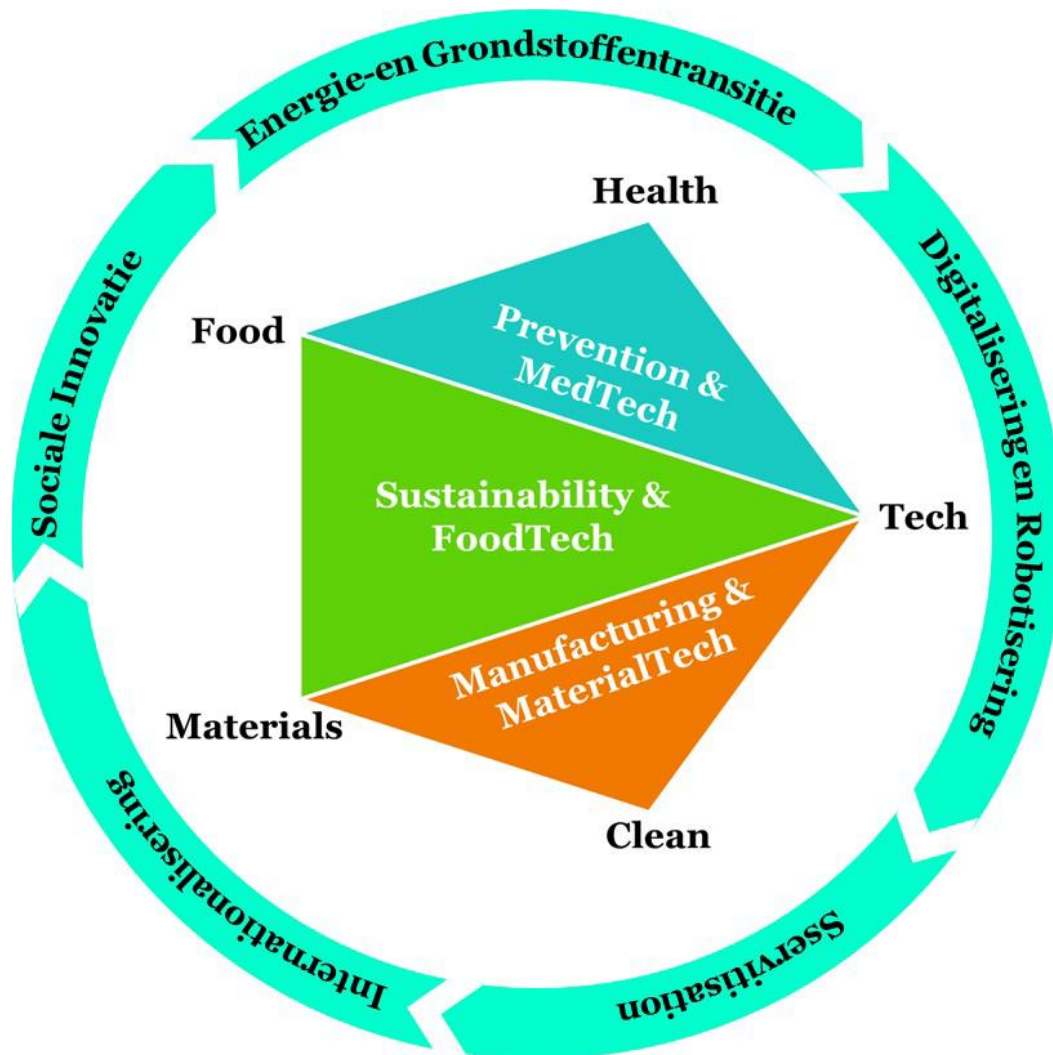
## Innovation:

-> to stimulate innovation within SME's to strengthen the economic position of East Netherlands

## Cooperation:

-> to stimulate cooperation with other SME's, large companies and research centers and/or universities





# Vinnovate Call 2025

The model: funding interregional SMEs-led demonstration projects, through 'Virtual Common Pot' inspired model

The balance of power: regionally-led decision and funding-making processes

The interregional additionalities

The resources for coordination/implementation : No extra regional fee for calls preparation/management !

A Vinnovate mechanism designed to evolve, if needed, for follow up Calls (*Vinnovate Call 2026, Vinnovate Call 2027, etc.*)

# Scope

- Support at least one of the following transitions: 1) a smarter and/or 2) a more sustainable (the move towards a climate-neutral industry, esp. energy efficiency) and/or 3) a more autonomous/less dependent industry.
- In addition to the previous criteria, each project must be linked (thematically) to at least one of the 8 VI pilots: 1) *New Nano-Enabled Products*; 2) *Bio-Economy*; 3) *Efficient Sustainable Manufacturing*; 4) *High-Performance Production through 3D Printing*; 5) *Advanced Manufacturing for Energy-related Applications in Harsh Environments*; 6) *Smart Health*; 7) *Artificial Intelligence*; 8) *Hydrogen*.
- In addition, every Vinnovate candidate will have to comply with requirements of the regional/national instrument to which the beneficiary is applying.

# Vinnovate Call 2025

Funding (grants) for international  
innovation (TRLs 6-8) projects

Target Groups: SMEs  
collaborating with other SMEs  
and/or Research/Technology  
Centres, Universities or Large  
Companies.

Participating Regions  
(TBC)\*: East NL (Gelderland and  
Overijssel provinces), Basque  
country, Emilia Romagna, Flanders,  
Galicia, Lombardy, Lower Austria,  
Lower Saxony, Norte, North East  
Romania, Noord Brabant, Wales

# Characteristics of eligible projects

## Funding & activities

- Grant (funding rate specified at regional level)
- Supporting TRL's 6-8 activities

## Consortia

- At least 2 organisations from at least 2 participating regions and at least 2 different countries
- At least one SME cooperating with at least one other organisation

## Range

- Total project costs: min. € 100.000
- Total project duration: max. 36 months