



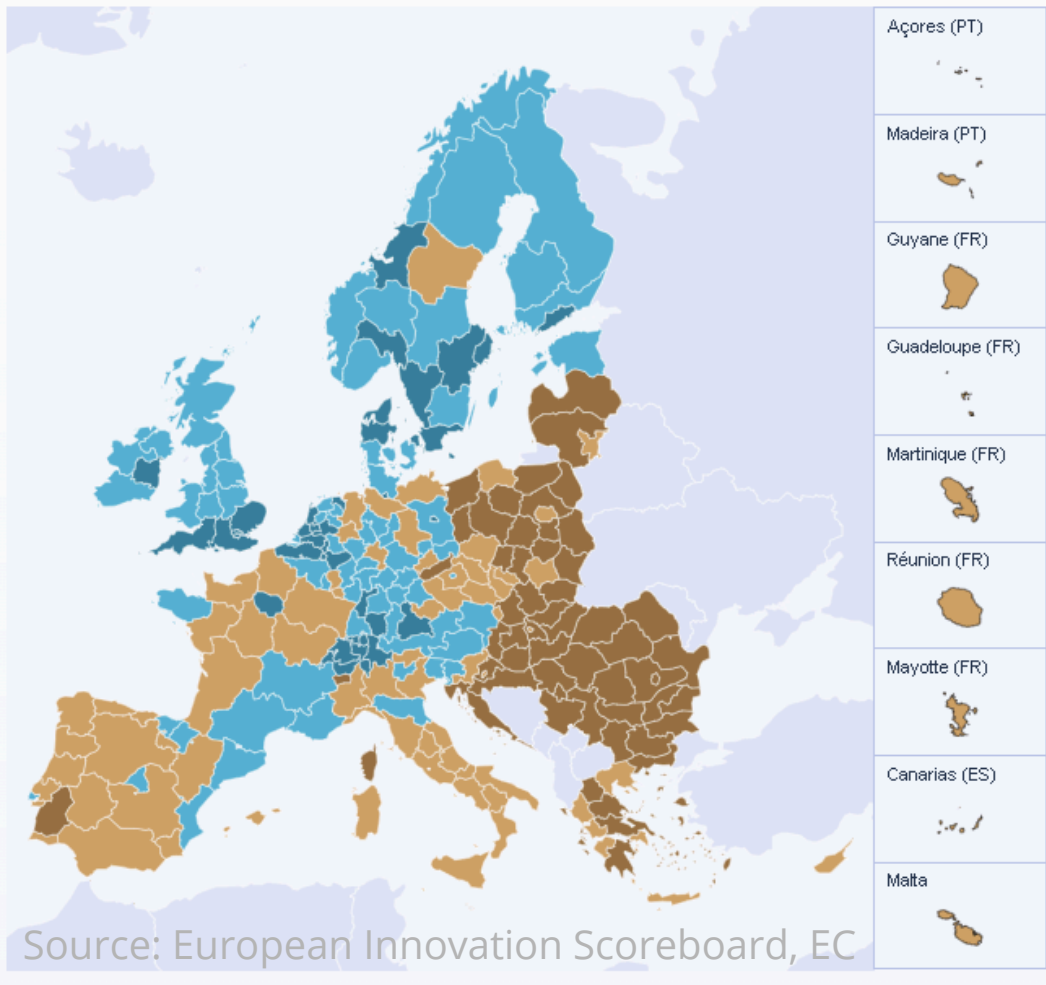
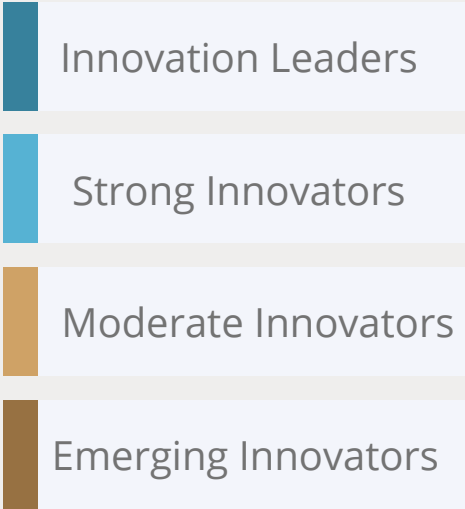
# Smarter Interreg

Overview of Policy Objective 1 in Interreg

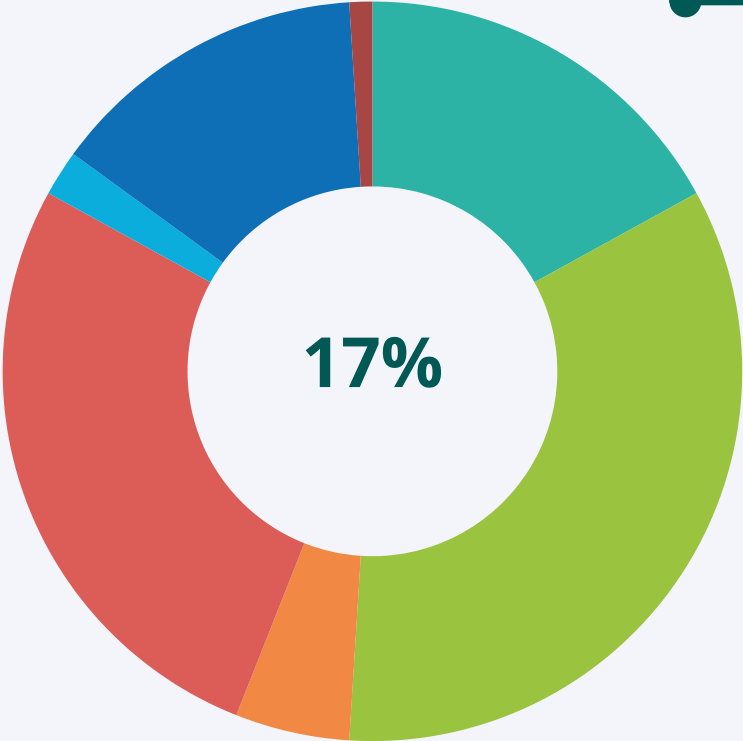
## PO1: A Smarter Europe

Art 5 (a) of Reg. (EU) 2021/1060 establishes policy objective 1: "A more competitive and smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation and regional ICT connectivity."

### EU regions performance



According to Commissioners Sejourné and Zaharieva, Europe has **improved its innovation capacity by 12.6%** since 2018, with progress visible in every Member State despite remaining regional gaps. **Closing these gaps** is a core objective of EU Cohesion Policy, including Interreg.



### EU budget allocation for Interreg

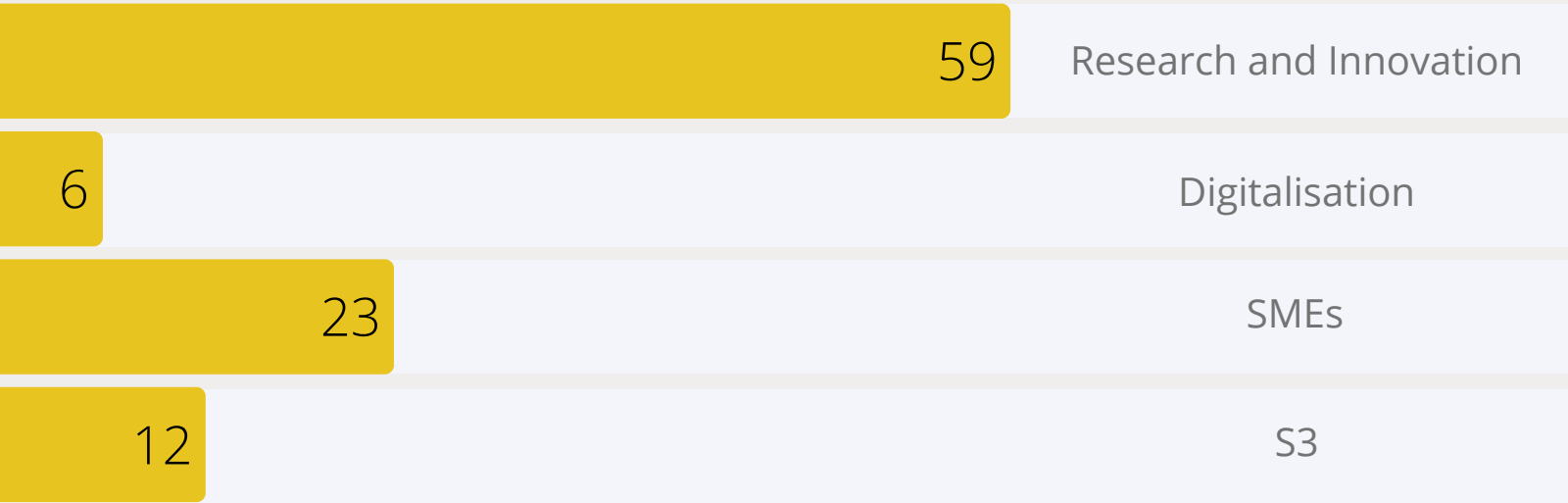
PO 1 has the third largest budgetary allocation in Interreg, with over **1.7 billion euros** as dedicated cofinancing from the European Commission.

# 56 Interreg programmes

selected PO1 as one of their policy objectives for the 2021-2027 programming period.

## PO1 Specific Objectives

Policy objective 1 is composed of 4 Specific objectives.  
**46 programmes** selected RSO1.1, **research & innovation**, which was also allocated almost 2 thirds of the overall budget.



Budget allocation %

## Types of beneficiaries

Data from keep.eu (January 2025) shows that PO1 attracts a broad mix of beneficiaries across Europe. **Public authorities** make up **74 percent of all partners**, spanning local, regional and national levels. The private sector, including SMEs, is also consistently represented across all PO1 specific objectives.

