



The Interregional Innovation Investments (I3) Instrument

Competitor or complement? How to make friends?

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**European Commission
DG REGIO, Smart and Sustainable Growth**

Interreg Knowledge Fair

23 May 2023 Ghent, Belgium

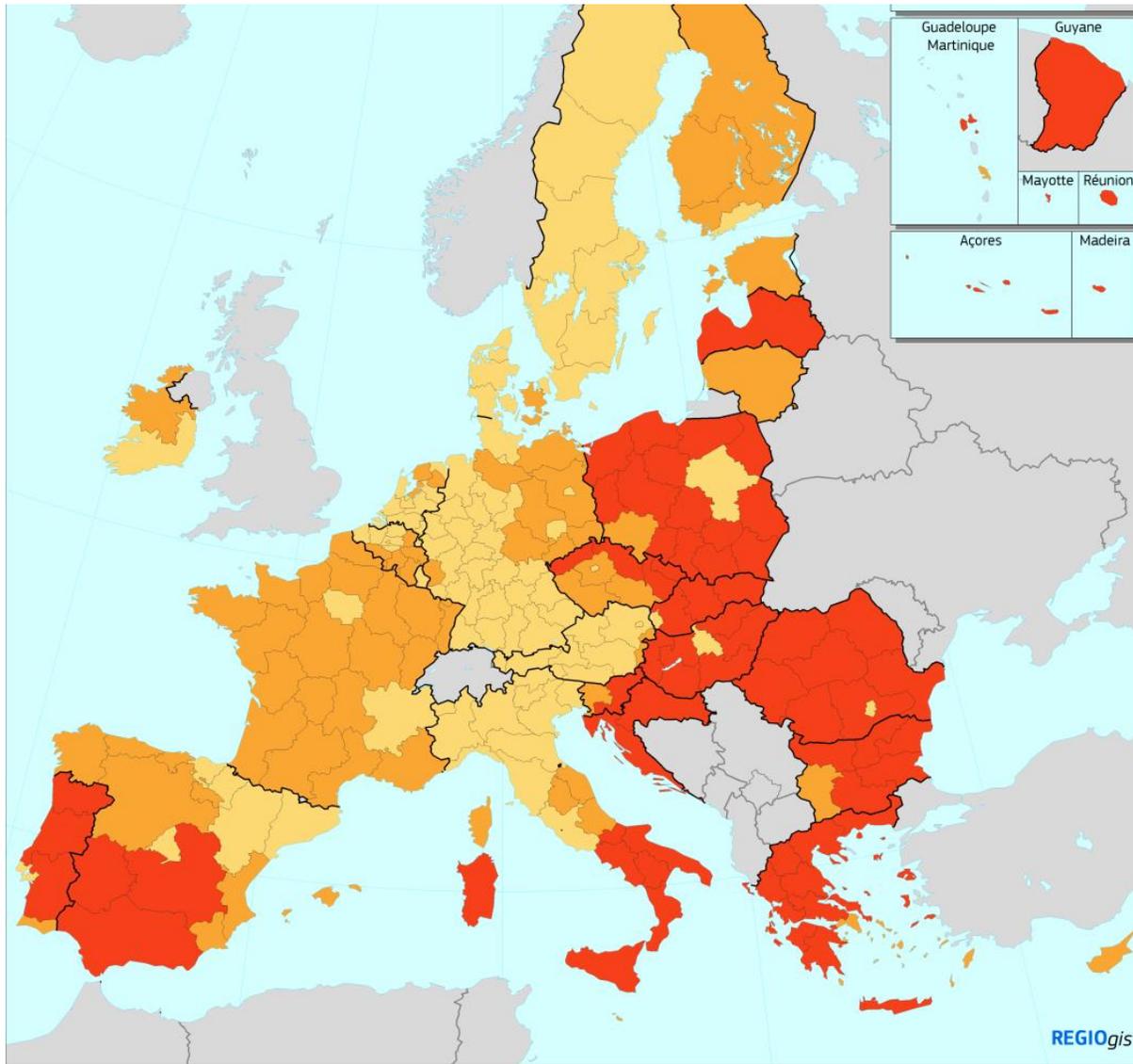
Cohesion Policy 2021-2027

1/3 of the EU budget (ERDF, CF, ESF +, JTF) to:

- Reduce disparities between Europe's regions, strengthening economic, social and territorial cohesion
- Contribute to EU priorities, including the European Green Deal

5 Policy Objectives:

1. A more competitive and smarter Europe
2. A more greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe
3. A more connected Europe
4. A more social and inclusive Europe
5. A Europe closer to citizens



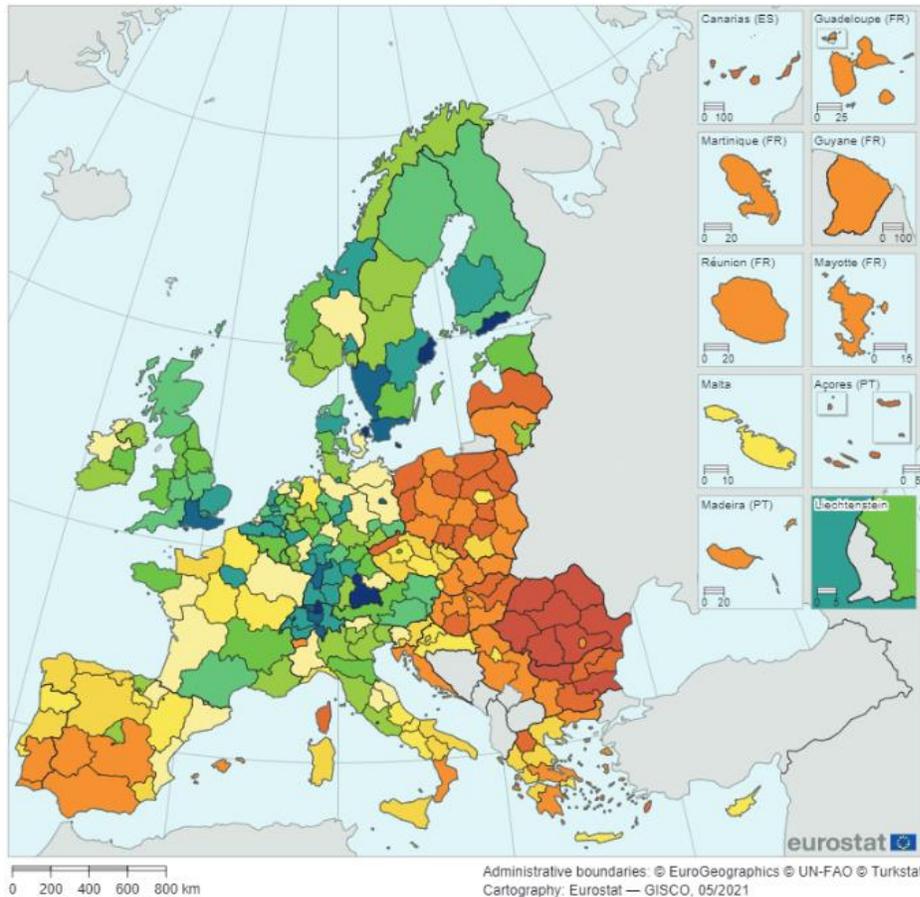
GDP/head (PPS) by NUTS2 region, average 2014-2015-2016

Index, EU-27 = 100

- < 75% (less developed regions)
- 75% - 100% (transition regions)
- >= 100% (more developed regions)

Cohesion Policy objective for Smarter Europe

€ 73 billion goes towards innovation and digital transition (2021-2027)



Differences in Research and Innovation capacity:

- in EU regions across MS
- in EU regions within MS

New S3-based Cohesion Policy Tools for Research and Innovation



Policy Advice

Targeted support

Community Engagement



€ 570 million allocated for near-market activities (2021-2027)

- 11 interregional innovation projects
- 200+ partners

Upscaling from interregional cooperation to co-investments

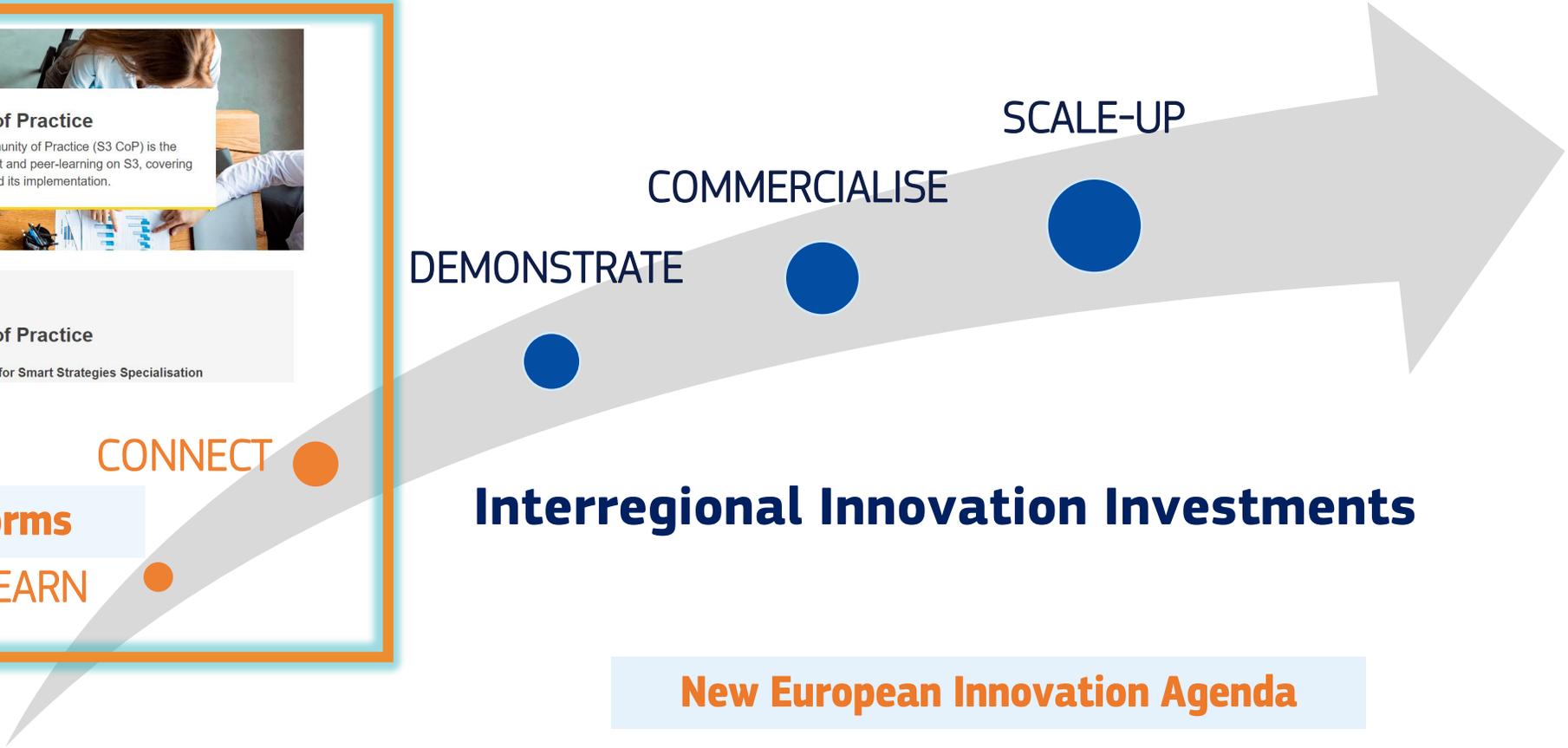
S3 Community of Practice
The Smart Specialisation Strategies Community of Practice (S3 CoP) is the central node on guidance, networking, support and peer-learning on S3, covering its conceptual development and its implementation.

S3 Community of Practice
The central knowledge and information hub for Smart Strategies Specialisation

CONNECT

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Thematic S3 Platforms



Thematic Smart Specialisation Platforms

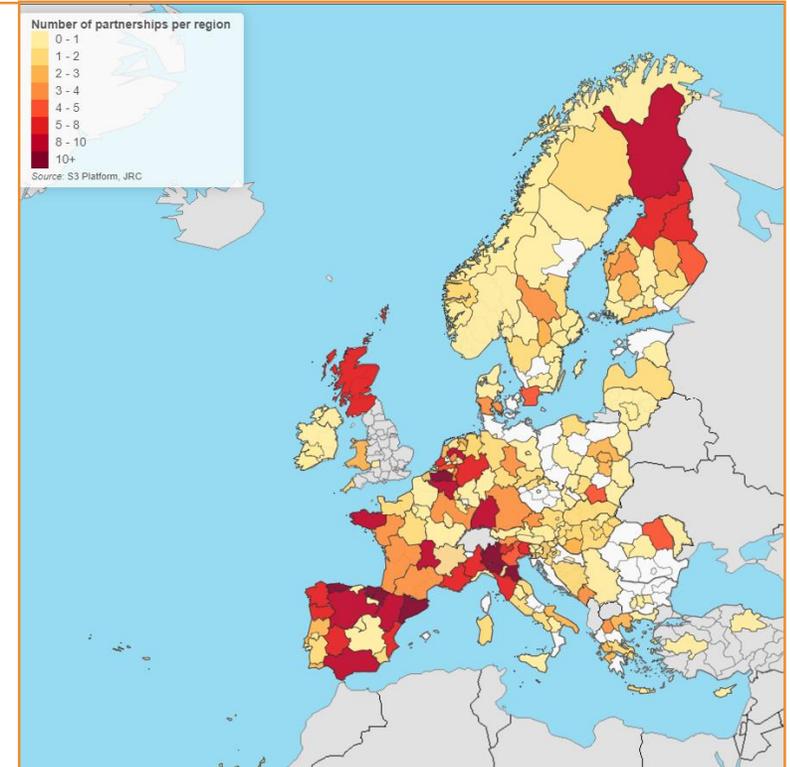
Starting in **2015**, the European Commission services launched four **Thematic S3 Platforms**:

- **Energy**
- **Agri-food**
- **Industrial Modernisation**
- **Sustainable blue economy**

208 registered regions total,
coming from 19 Member States
and 7 non-EU countries

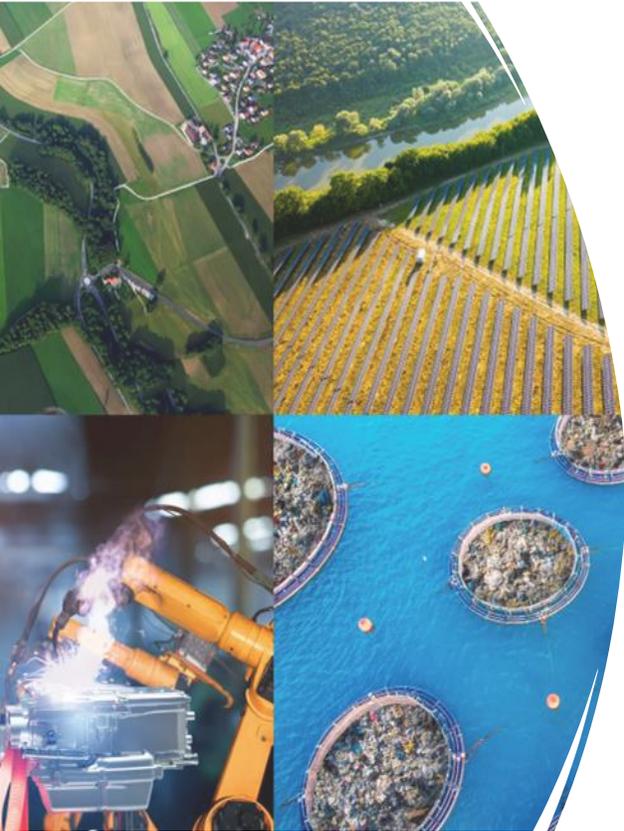
S3 Thematic Platforms:

- joint initiatives supported by the European Commission;
- wide range of advice and support services;
- Currently, 38 S3 partnerships active under existing TSSPs
- Joint EC initiative (REGIO, MARE, GROW, AGRI, ENER, JRC, RTD)



S3P Agri-Food - **S3P Energy** - **S3P Industrial Modernisation** – **S3P Sustainable Blue Economy**

S3 Community of Practice services



Policy advice

S3 Expert Group

Working Groups

Support

Thematic Platform and Partnerships

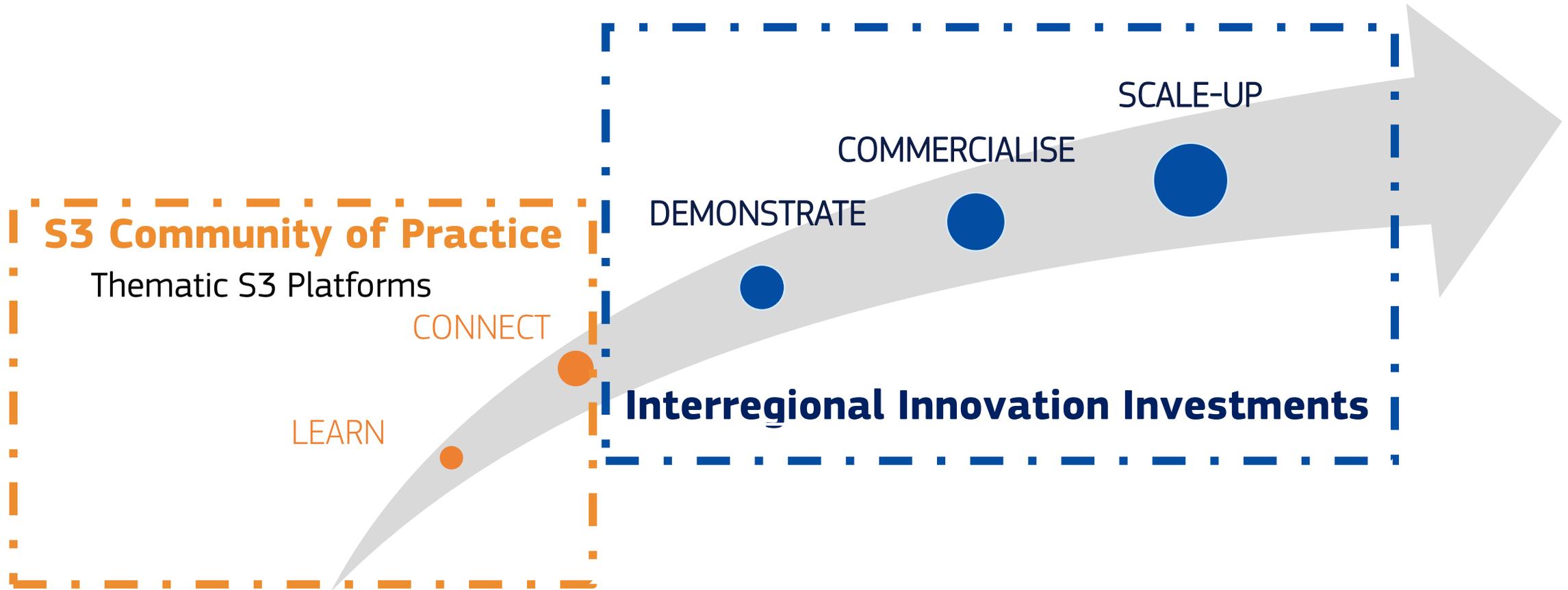
Targeted support to regions

Community engagement

S3 CoP Website

S3 CoP events

Upscaling from interregional cooperation to co-investments



Interregional Innovation Investments (I3) Instrument

- **REGIO** policy development, directly managed by EISMEA
- **Main funding scope:** mobilize investments on ground for mature innovation
- **Target beneficiaries:** companies and other 4-helix partners (e.g. universities, R&I organisations, public authorities, end-users)
- **Strong link with Smart Specialisation Strategies** as Cohesion Policy enabling condition for ERDF expenditure in R&I
- Addresses most **burning challenges facing the EU** (e.g. reducing the reliance on fossil fuels and achieving circularity)
- Aim to support innovative value chain investments, to boost the economy through e.g. **green technology and to create sustainable industry**

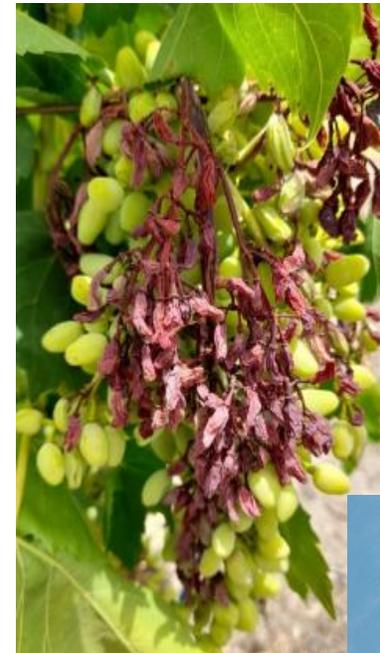
I3 Instrument 2023-2024 Work Programme

	I3 Instrument 2023-2024 Work Programme
Total budget for grants	155 Million EUR
Focus:	Green, digital transition and smart manufacturing with a focus on the most burning challenges facing the EU
Indicative project duration	18-36 months for Strands 1 and 2a , 12-24 months under Strand 2b
EU funding rate (% of eligible costs)	70% for strand 1 and 2a, 100% for financial support to third parties, 100% for strand 2b
Target beneficiaries	Companies and other relevant 4-helix partners (e.g. universities)
Main funding objective	Trigger private investments to fund mature innovations developed within interregional projects

What I3 is all about – Cohesion dimension in projects

Strand 2a project example -> SmartVitiNET

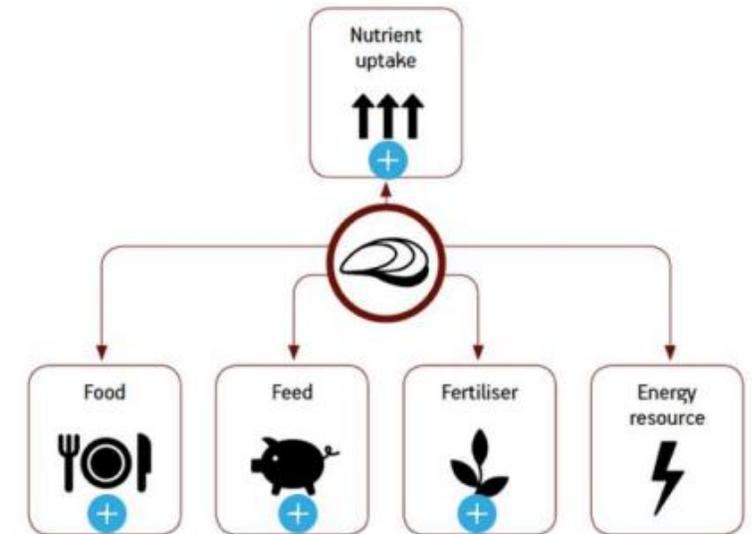
- 11 partners from GR, PT, FR, CY – EUR 1,98 million;
- Solutions for viticulture to be used by vineyard owners and agricultural policy makers;
- **Innovative technologies accessible to wine-growers across the southern Europe;**
 - tailored regional approach; maintaining the tradition;
- **Led by the Agricultural University of Athens**
 - relatively good experience in Horizon projects;
 - the first “close-to-market” project related to the ERDF.



What I3 is all about – Cohesion dimension in projects

Strand 1 project example -> BalticMUPPETS

- 12 partners from SE, DE, DK, EE, IE. – EUR 5,4 million;
- Mussel production, processing and product development (need to find a ‘high-value’ product);
- EUR 1.8 million as seed money available to mobilise new start-ups (Financial Support to Third Parties);



- **Led by the platform active across the Baltic Sea Region (SUBMARINER Network)**
 - Expertise in Inter-Regional and Inter-Sectoral approach;
 - Accelerator for Blue Growth;
 - 2022+ Project Cloud: Erasmus, Mission Ocean, I3, Horizon, Interreg, DG MARE...

Useful links

- [Cohesion policy « Open Data Platform »](#)
- [Kohesio \(europa.eu\)](#)
- [S3 Community of Practice](#)
- [New European Innovation Agenda](#) (published on 5 July 2022)
- [I3 Instrument Work programme](#) (adopted on 6 February 2022)
- [Call document – Strand 1](#) (launched on 17 May 2023)
- [Call document - Strand 2a](#) (launched on 17 May 2023)



European
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Any question?

*Regional
and Urban
Policy*



European
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