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## Parallel session 8:

# Making Regional Innovation Valleys a Reality: From Project to Action

6

# Parallel session 8: Making Regional Innovation Valleys a Reality: From Project to Action

*Moderators*

**Jekaterina Novikova**, DG RTD and **Wolfgang Munch**, DG REGIO

**Jekaterian Novikova**, DG RTD

**Sauro Vicini**,

Clust-ER Health & Wellbeing, Emilia-Romagna, Italy

**Delia Sola Jimenez**, Government of Navarra, Navarra, Spain

**Michail Chalaris** and **Kalliopi Kravari**, Democritus University of Thrace, Greece

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## **Introduction**

**Jekaterina Novikova, DG RTD**  
**Wolfgang Munch, DG REGIO**

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# New European Innovation Agenda

Funding for deep tech scale-ups



Enabling deep tech innovation through **experimentation spaces and public procurement**



Improving policy making tools



Accelerating and strengthening innovation in **European Innovation Ecosystems** and addressing the innovation divide:



Fostering, attracting and retaining **deep tech talent**

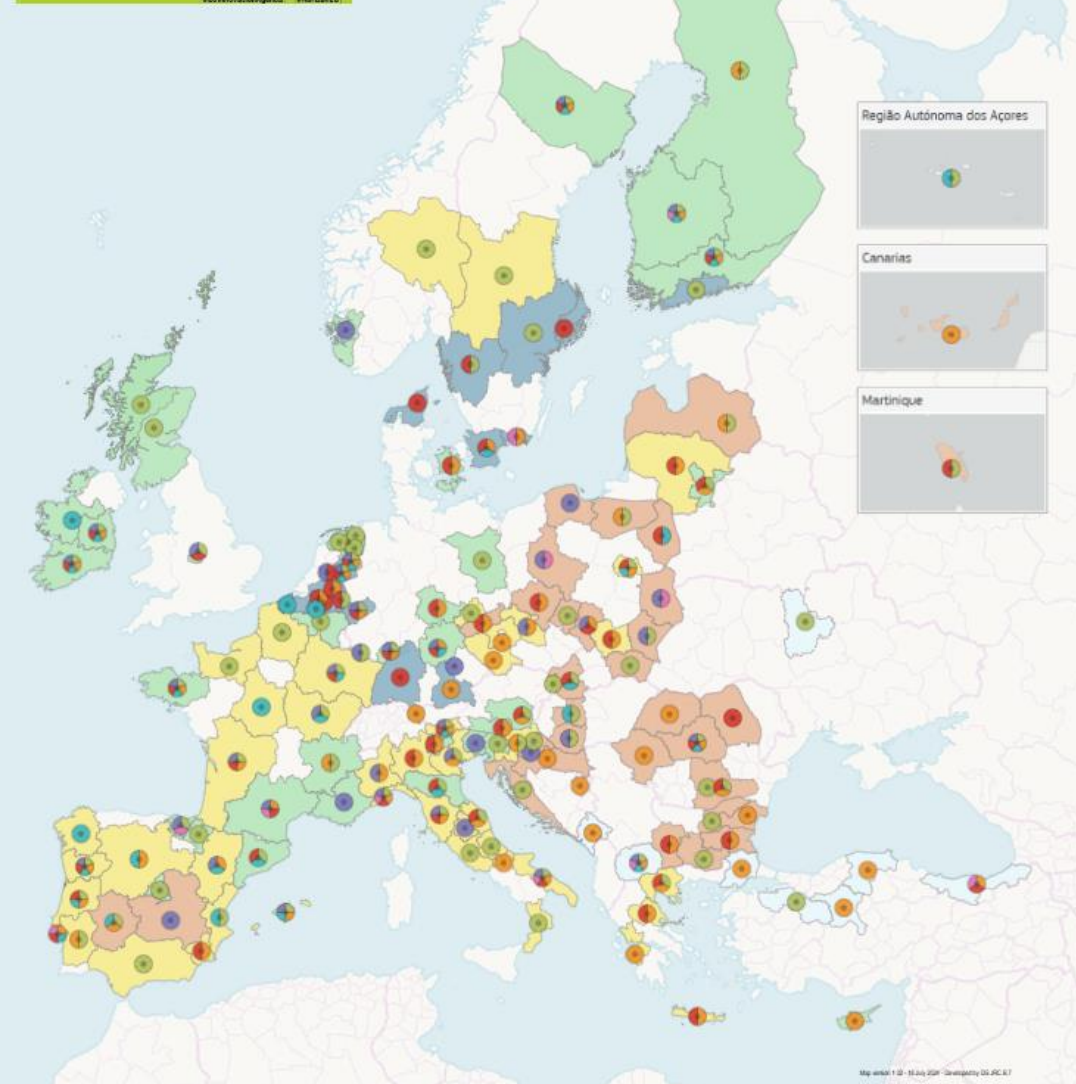
**‘Fostering connected Regional innovation valleys across the EU’**

# Fostering the Regional Innovation Valleys

EU Cohesion and R&I policies bring together **less** and **more developed regions** committed to enhance the directionality of their R&I investment responding to five EU burning challenges, building on Smart Specialisation Strategies (S3).

**148\* regions identified as the Regional Innovation Valleys through:**

- ✓ the **Interregional Innovation Investments (I3) Instrument** 2023 I3 calls for proposals (ERDF)
- ✓ the **European Innovation Ecosystems programme**: 2023 EIE WP call for proposals (Horizon Europe)
- ✓ Additional action: Call for Expression of Interest (no funding)



# Regional Innovation Valleys – commitments:

By applying to be identified as Regional Innovation Valleys regions committed to:

- ✓ further **strengthen their Research & Innovation (R&I) ecosystem**
- ✓ **enhance the coordination and directionality** of their research and innovation policy and investments towards the EU challenges identified by New European Innovation Agenda
- ✓ **engage in R&I collaboration** between more and less advanced regions based on Smart Specialisation Strategies (S3).

# Regional Innovation Valleys – what's next?

**RIVs identified under the avenues of the 2023 EIE and I3 Instrument calls:** participants of the EIE and I3 successful projects will receive specific **funding from Horizon Europe and ERDF to implement their projects.**

**All regions identified as Regional Innovation Valleys (RIVs) will benefit from:**

- ✓ **Increased visibility**, including through dedicated communication actions and events
- ✓ **Facilitated matchmaking** and identification of relevant partners, for example, to support the generation of new projects
- ✓ **Facilitated exchanges** of best practices and cooperation with other Regional Innovation Valleys

**Join the Interactive session III today!**

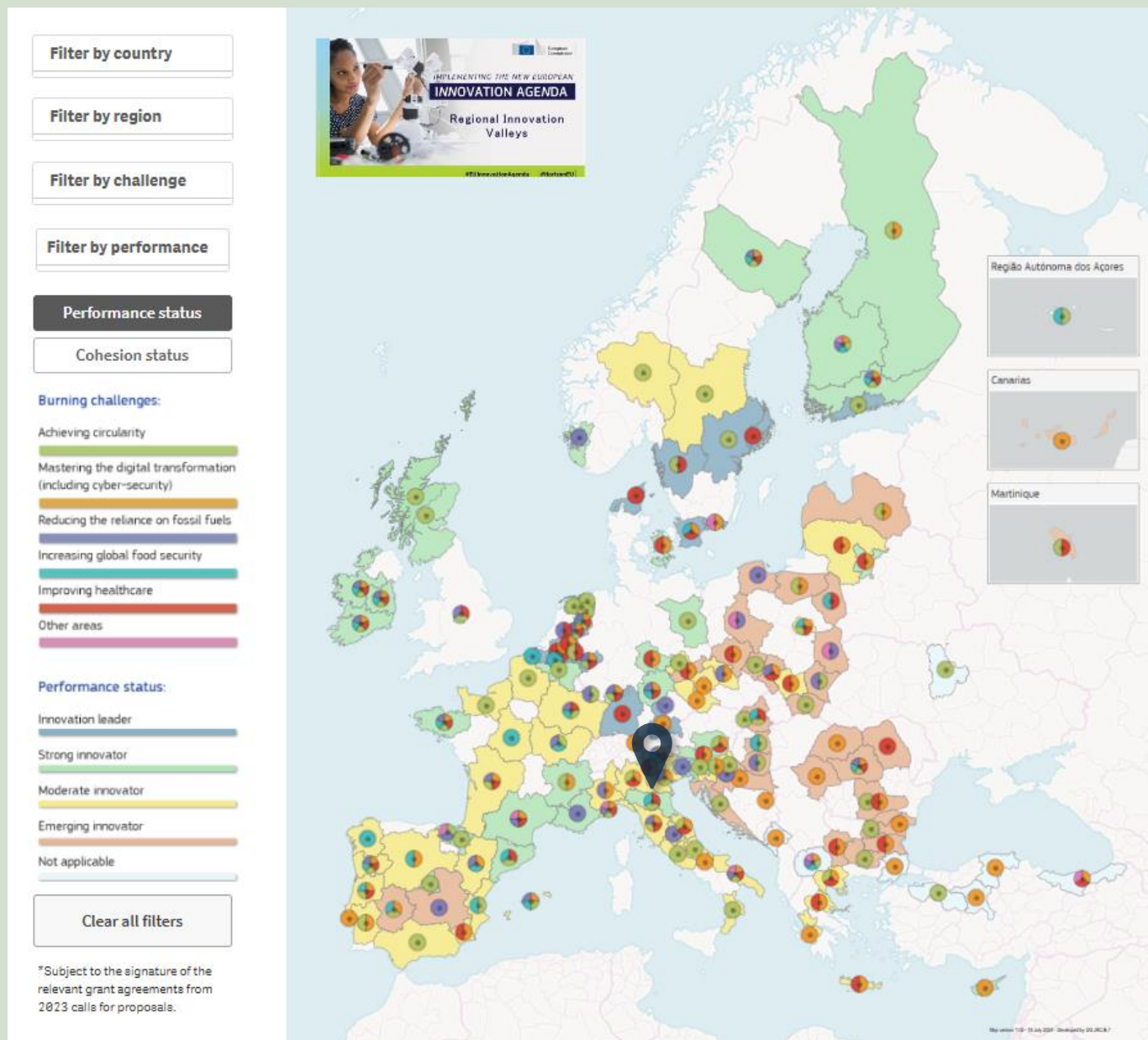
# The Regional Innovation Valleys interactive map

Comprehensive set of data available for each region when selected



[europa.eu/!Wm3vRD](https://europa.eu/!Wm3vRD)

(Best viewed on Full HD monitor or tablet in landscape mode)



## Emilia-Romagna (ITH5)

Italy

Regional performance status:

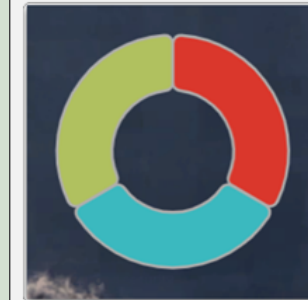
Strong innovator -

Cohesion status:

More developed region

Burning challenge(s):

- Improving healthcare
- Food security
- Achieving circularity



Technical representative:

Elisabetta Maini  
Head of Unit,  
Angelica Laterza,  
Unit for Research, Innovation,  
European Networks



Postal address:

Viale Aldo Moro n. 44  
40127 Bologna, Italy

# The Regional Innovation Valleys interactive map

## Steiermark (AT22)

Austria

**Regional performance status:**

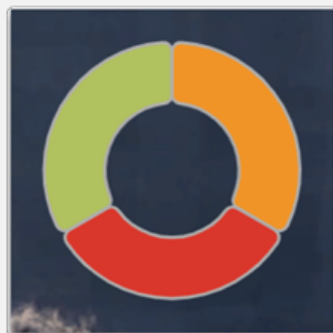
Strong innovator

**Cohesion status:**

More developed region

**Burning challenge(s):**

- Digital transformation
- Improving healthcare
- Achieving circularity



**Technical representative:**

Viktor Milosevic  
Desk Officer Broadband Deployment  
Smart Specialisation Strategy  
Office of the Regional Government  
of Styria.



**Postal address:**

Nikolaiplatz 3  
8020 Graz, Styria, Austria

## Sostinės regionas (LT01)

Lithuania

**Regional performance status:**

Strong innovator -

**Cohesion status:**

More developed region

**Burning challenge(s):**

- Digital transformation
- Improving healthcare



**Technical representative:**

Jekaterina Kaliniene  
Head of Biotech Lab  
Innovation Agency Lithuania



**Postal address:**

Gedimino Ave. 38  
01104 Vilnius, Lithuania

## Lubelskie (PL81)

Poland

**Regional performance status:**

Emerging innovator +

**Cohesion status:**

Less developed region

**Burning challenge(s):**

- Reduce fossil fuels
- Other areas: Hydrogen, Cosmetics



**Technical representative:**

Dominik Majchrowski



**Postal address:**

4 Artura Grottgera St.  
20-029 Lublin, Poland

## Centro (PT19)

Portugal

**Regional performance status:**

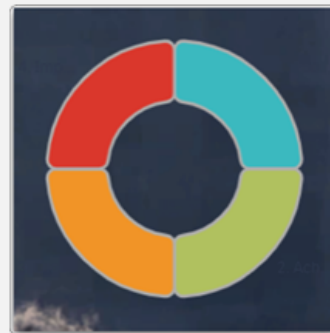
Moderate innovator

**Cohesion status:**

Less developed region

**Burning challenge(s):**

- Food security
- Achieving circularity
- Digital transformation
- Improving healthcare



**Technical representative:**

Alexandra Rodrigues  
Director of regional development  
services. Presidency, Centro Regional  
Coordination and Development  
Commission – CCDD Centro



**Postal address:**

Rua Bernardim Ribeiro 80  
3000-069 Coimbra, Portugal

## Vzhodna Slovenija (SI03)

Slovenia

**Regional performance status:**

Moderate innovator

**Cohesion status:**

Less developed region

**Burning challenge(s):**

- Achieving circularity
- Digital transformation



**Technical representative:**

Mojca Aljancic  
Acting Director, Cohesion Policy  
Directorate, Smart Specialisation  
Coordination Division; Ministry of  
Cohesion and Regional Development



**Postal address:**

Ulica heroja Staneta 1  
2000 Maribor, Slovenia

## Cataluña (ES51)

Spain

**Regional performance status:**

Strong innovator -

**Cohesion status:**

More developed region

**Burning challenge(s):**

- Improving healthcare
- Food security
- Achieving circularity



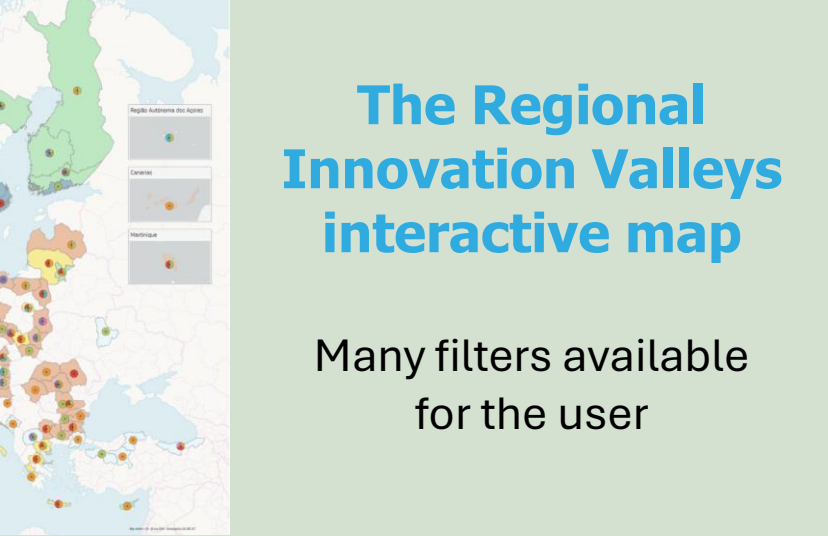
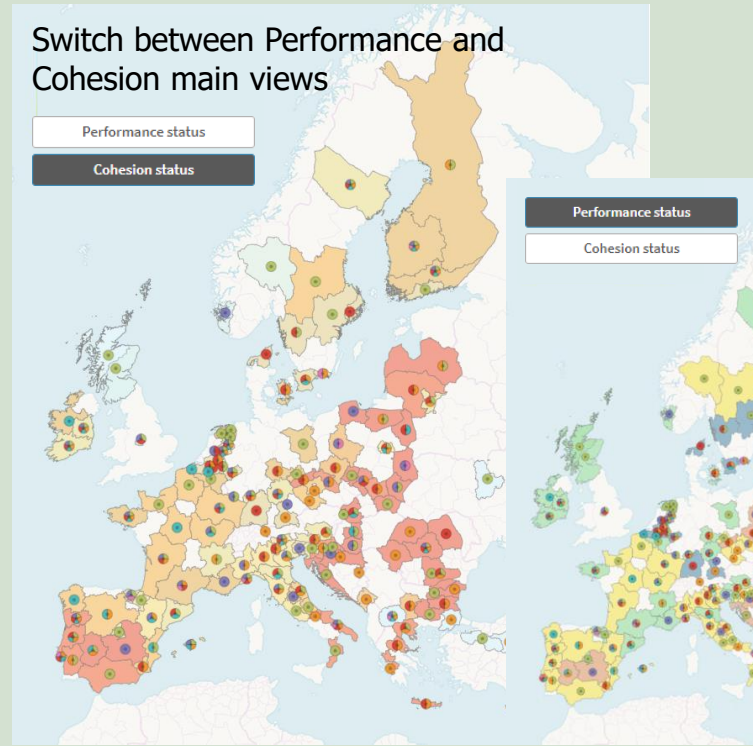
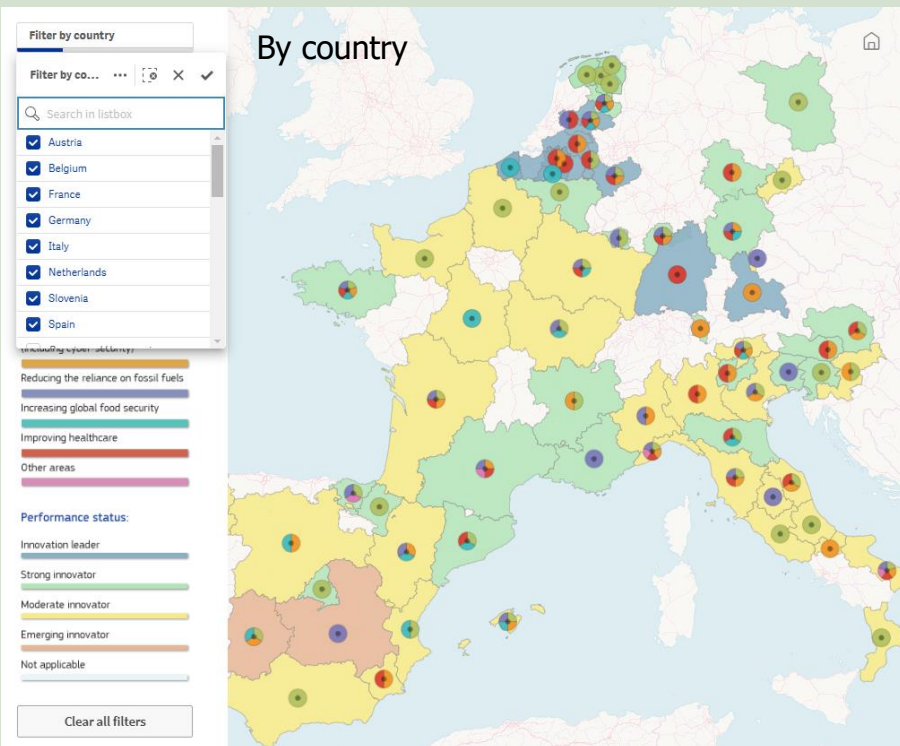
**Technical representative:**

Robert Fabregat  
CEO of Biocat,  
Tatiana Fernández,  
Head of Economic Strategy



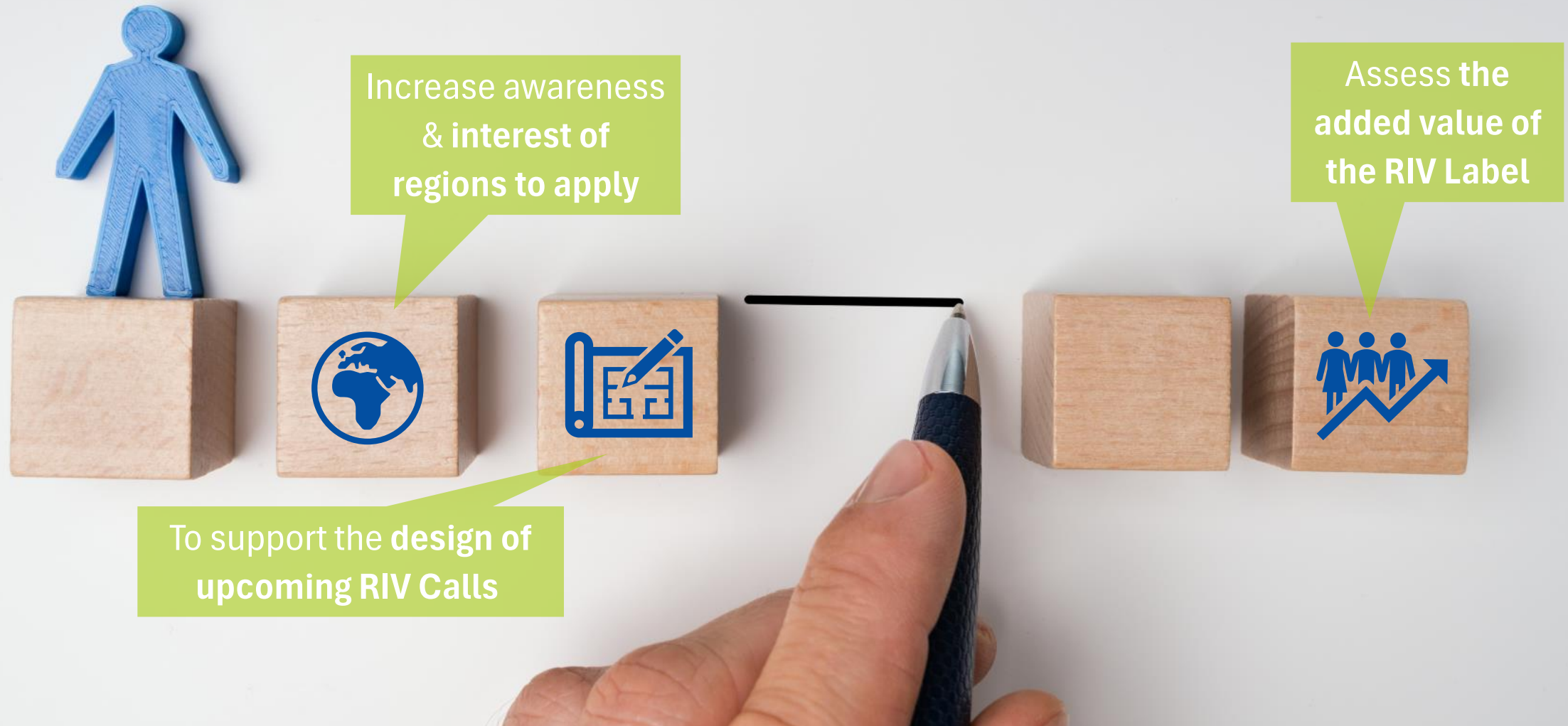
**Postal address:**

Travessera de les Corts, 131-159  
Pavelló Ave Maria  
08028 Barcelona, Spain



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for the user

# Gap Analysis on Regional Innovation Valleys Calls



# RIV Gap Analysis Report:

## ***RIV Labelled-regions say that the RIV Label***

- Provides **regional visibility** and **reputation** within EU innovation networks
- Strengthens and creates **interregional alliances**
- Provides **strategic advantage** in accessing additional funding opportunities
- Assists in **aligning regional innovation strategy** with EU priorities

# RIV Gap Analysis Report:

## *Evidence-based recommendations*

### Regional collaboration

- Building on existing collaborations through **current networks** (e.g. S3CoP)
- Increase further the **directionality** of RIV Calls

### Thematic focus areas

- Further aligned with **S3 Strategies**
- Develop **mission-oriented approach** for each focus areas
- Clearer **definitions** for each area

### RIV Label

- Offering **capacity-building and technical assistance**
- Organising **networking and matchmaking events**



**Thank you for  
your  
attention!**

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**#S3Conference**  
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# PRECISEU

PeRsonalised Medicine Empowerment Connecting Innovation ecoSystems Across Europe

## Sauro Vicini



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 101161301

## The Context and the Vision



The **Regional Innovation Valleys (RIVs)** aim to **strengthen and better connect regional innovation** players throughout Europe, including regions with lower innovation performance.

Healthcare innovations represent a pillar of all EU policies and a cross-cutting priority, with fundamental importance to public authorities and local communities in terms of investment opportunities and the quality of life of the 448 million citizens of the European continent. And the most transformative commitment that the European Commission (EC), along with National and Regional Authorities, is acquiring toward healthcare is to channel huge efforts and funding towards Personalised Medicine (PM), which is on the backbone of several initiatives for building the European Health Union, and the ground test for the technology-driven transformation of the health care domain.

There is the need of accelerating the integration of the PM paradigm across Europe, **sustainably connecting regional innovation ecosystems**, reducing the gap between regions, and facilitating patients' access to deep-tech innovations.

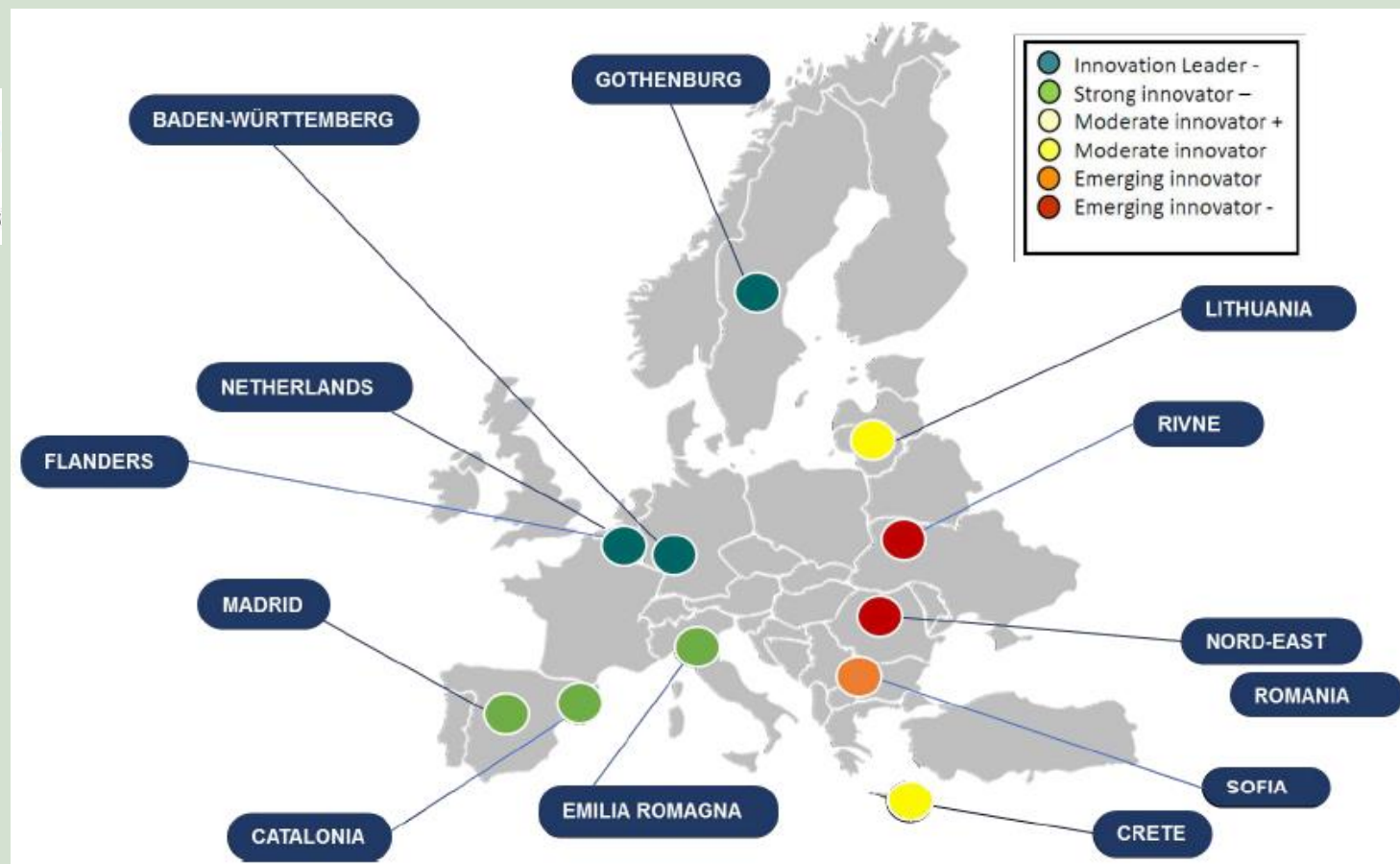


This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 101161301

## Exploiting European Networks



### S3 Partnership Medical Technologies



## In a nutshell



- **Flagship project** to address **main challenges** of **Personalized Medicine** (based on EP Permed's SRIA)
- Towards 5P Healthcare: *preventive, personalized, predictive, patient-centered/ participatory/ population/ planetary* healthcare, in a **shorter** time.
- A **unique opportunity for Europe** to lead the path and **engage Ukraine** in networks of innovative hubs for a shared future

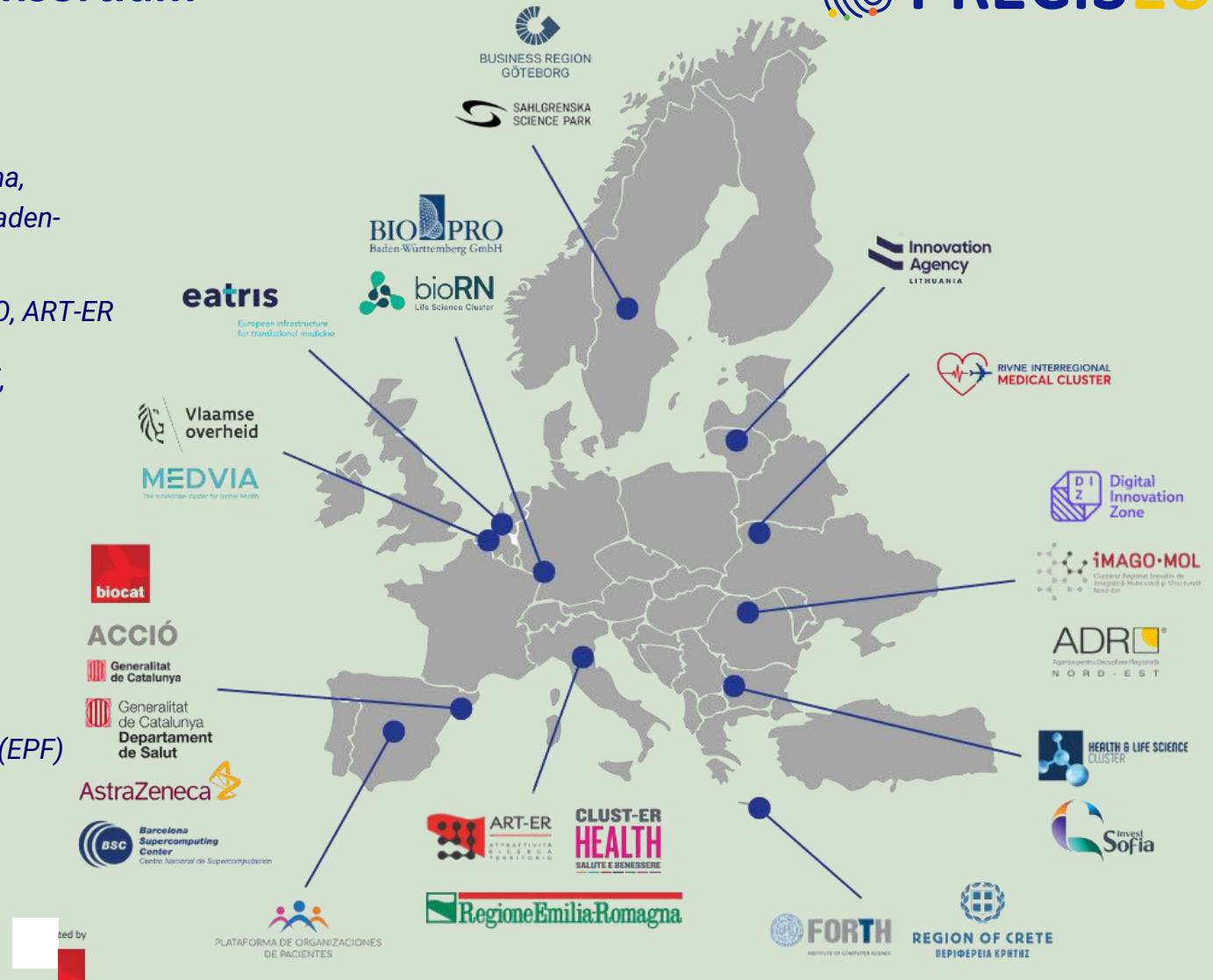


This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 101161301

# Key Stakeholders & The Consortium



- 9 Regional authorities:** Catalonia, Emilia Romagna, Gothenburg, Flanders, Crete, Nord-East Romania, Baden-Württemberg, Sofia Municipality, Lithuania
- 5 Innovation agencies:** ACCIÓ, SIA, IA Lit, BIOPRO, ART-ER
- 7 Clusters:** Biocat, Clust-ER Health, BioRN, RIVNE, ImagoMol, Medvia, HLSC
- 1 Science Park – Incubator:** Sahlgrenska
- 1 Large Infrastructure:** EATRIS
- 1 Public Research Center:** BSC-CNS
- 1 Global pharmaceutical company:** AstraZeneca
- 1 Patient organization:** Plataforma de Pacientes (EPF)
- 1 European Digital Innovation Hub:** DIZNE
- 1 Research institution:** FORTH



## Our Mission



PRECISEU consortium has broken down the complex general objective (GO) into four core elements, representing the building blocks of the project:

- Accelerate the adoption of PM at European level
- Increase the efficiency regional innovation ecosystems through strengthened collaboration and shared resources on strategic areas of regional strength and specialisation
- Enable the development and implementation of innovative initiatives

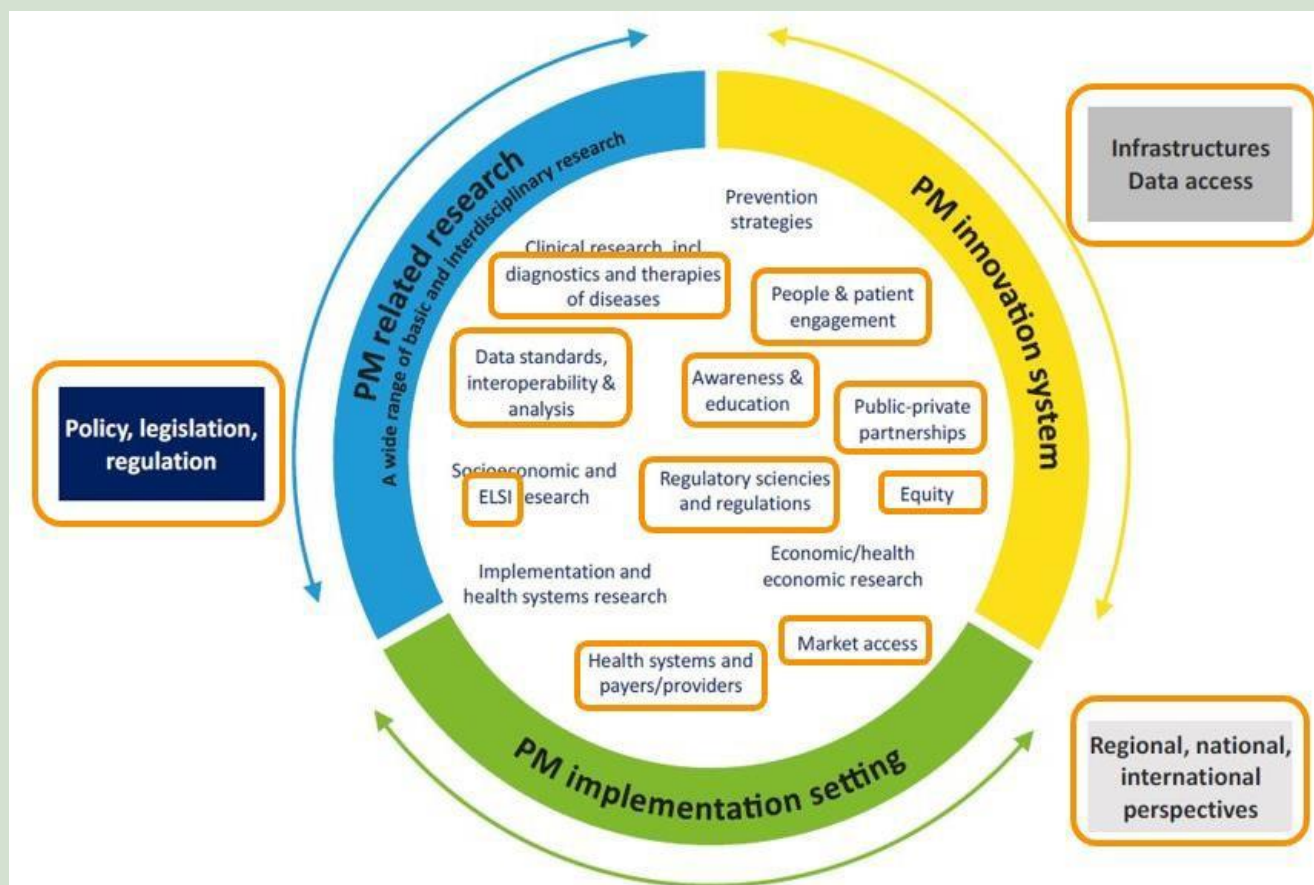


- Facilitate the digital and sustainable transformation of the healthcare systems.
- Reduce the fragmentation and inequalities across EU
- Support the implementation of deep-tech innovation in diverse ecosystems with different innovation levels, assets, strategies, and policies.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 101161301

# Alignment of PRECISEU with IC permed SRIAS TOA and Progress Beyond the State of the Art



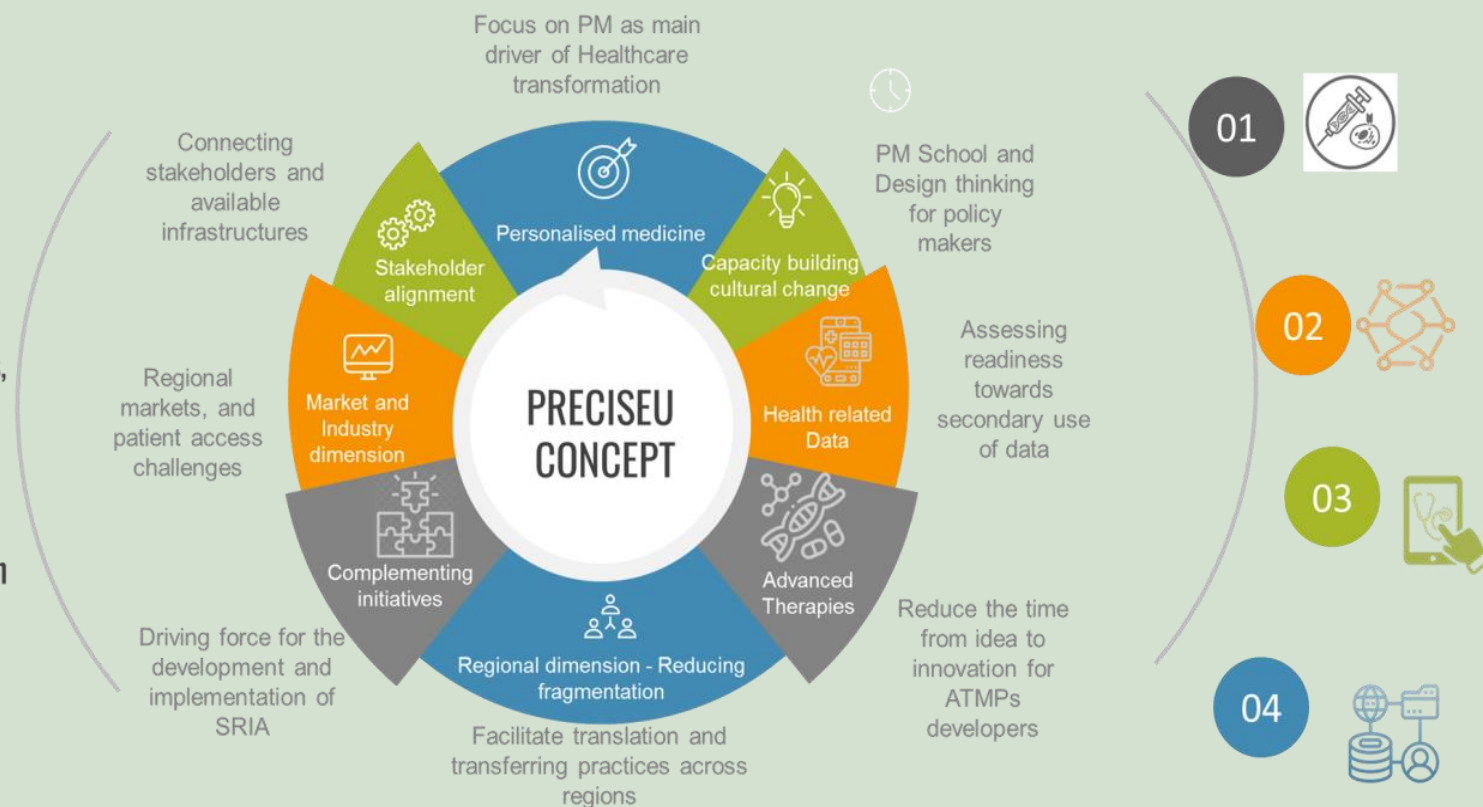
## Project phases

Phase 1. A Coordination Support Action among partners (mapping, aligning, sharing, transferring, connecting, complementing). This phase will include a funneling mechanism.

Phase 2. Financial Support to Third Parties, with open calls to IAs, addressing the agendas built in the CSA and based on the ToAs, on 2 main topics: health data and ATMPs, the two key enablers for the adoption of a PM model in the EU27.

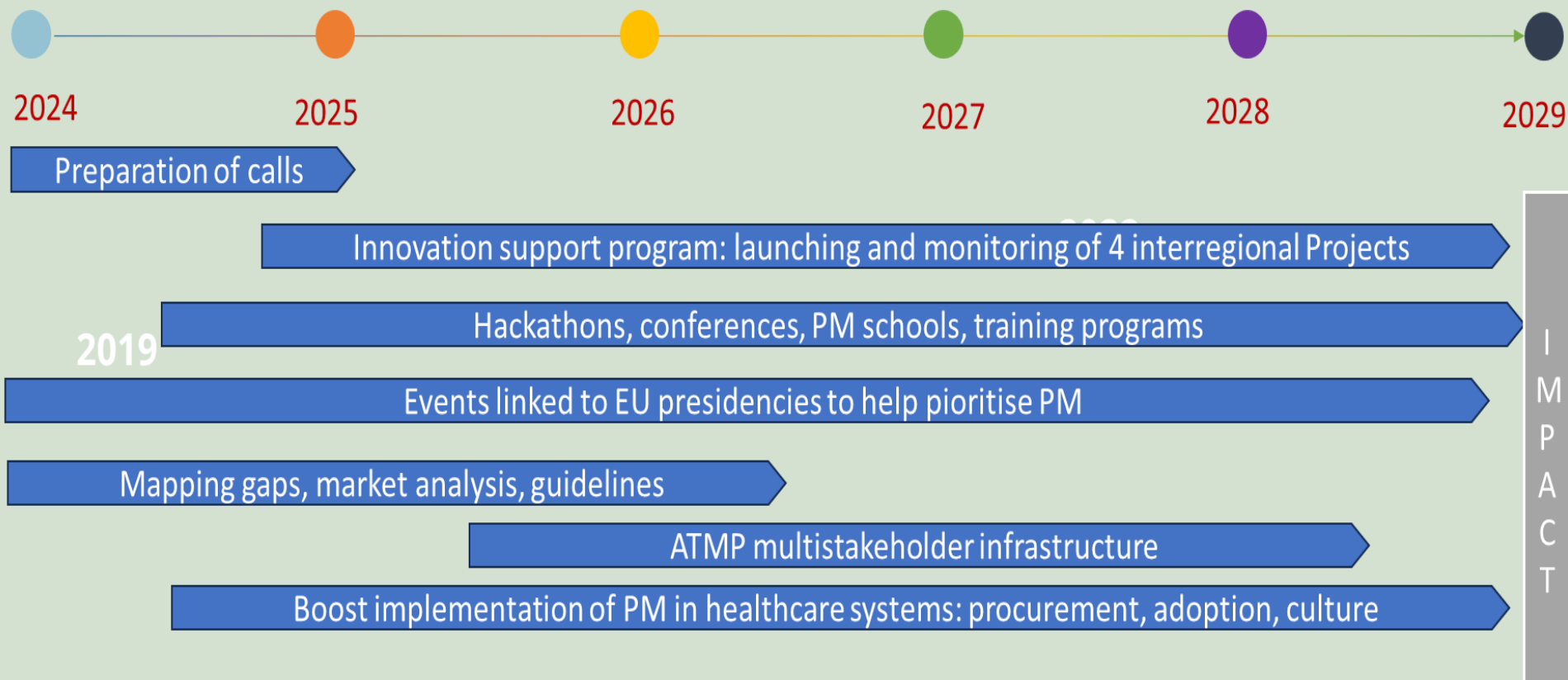
**PRECISEU consortium expertise, infrastructures, strategies, policies**

**SRIA's ToA calls to action**



# 11.6 M€ FSTP

## Project Milestones





# PRECISEU

## First Results Health & Digital Innovation in EU



# Digital Health in Europe



## Technologies

- AI, Machine Learning, NLP (as used on clinical decision systems, imaging and diagnostics)
- Wearable devices for remote monitoring
- Robotics
- Virtual and augmented reality
- Mobile apps

## Healthcare and Health promotion

- Telemedicine
- Mobile Health
- Remote monitoring
- Decision support systems
- Digital therapeutics
- Digital Health promotion and Digital Behavioral Interventions

## Data Protection & Cybersecurity

- Data Protection, Compliance with Regulations

## Education, Health Literacy and Patient engagement

- Specialized Education (medical)
- Health Literacy
- Patient Engagement and communication tools

## Health information Systems

- Health Information Exchange (HIE)
- Interoperability Standards
- Blockchain in Healthcare
- Electronic Health Records (EHR)

## Health Data Analytics, including Personalized Medicine and Precisions Health

- Big Data Analytics
- Predictive Analytics
- Personalized Medicine and Precision Health: OMICs, Pharmacogenomic, Biomarkers discovery

*Other aspects: Health Equity and Access; Regulation and Policy in Digital Health*

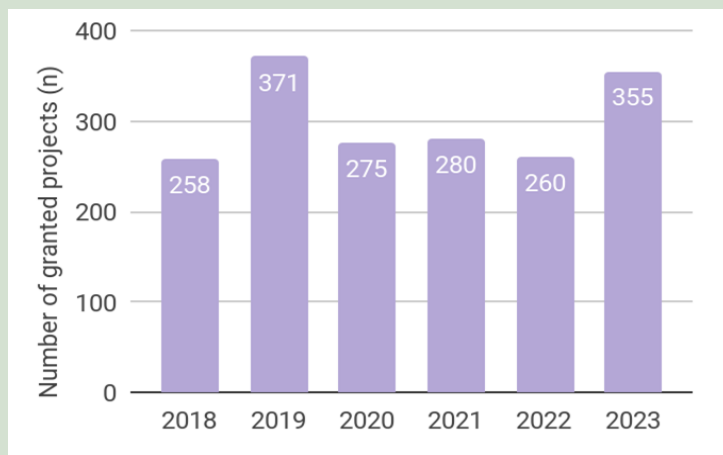
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# Digital Health in Europe

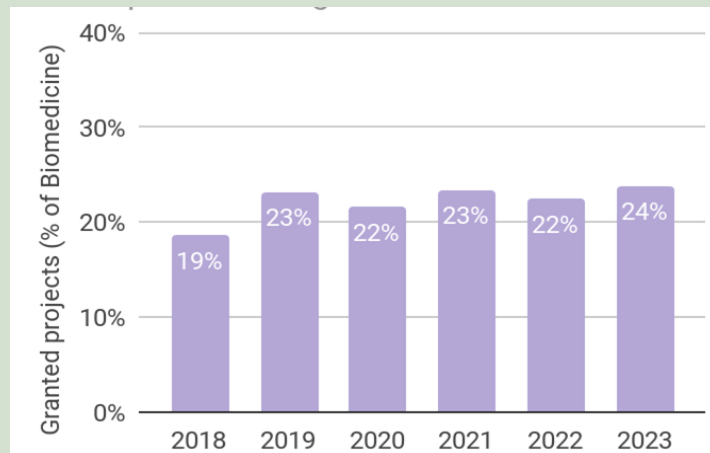


## CORDIS Life Sciences Projects with a component of Digital Health and AI

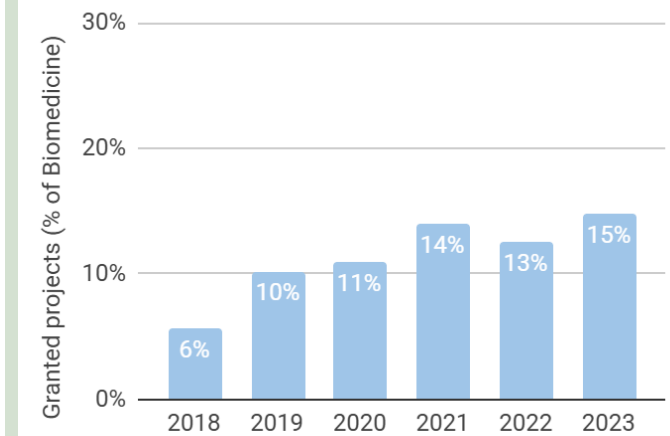
Granted projects (n)



Digital in Health & Life Sciences research



Artificial Intelligence in Health & Life Sciences research



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## Share of Digital Health in Life Sciences EU Projects in PRECISEU Regions (2018-2023)

European funding of selected Regions (from PRECISEU partners)			Life Sciences Research	Digital Health			
Participant Region	Country	NUTS2 code	projects (n)	Projects (n)	Coordinated projects (n)	Share of Life Sciences Research (%)	Funding received (M€)
<b>Catalonia</b>	Spain	ES51	817	303	107	37%	237.1
<b>Madrid</b>	Spain	ES30	534	202	58	38%	139.7
<b>Zuid-Holland</b>	Netherlands	NL33	522	163	25	31%	116.1
<b>Karlsruhe</b> (in Baden-Württemberg)	Germany	DE12	319	105	19	33%	87.4
<b>Emilia-Romagna</b>	Italy	ITH5	206	81	16	39%	48.2
<b>Flemish Brabant</b>	Belgium	BE23	212	62	17	29%	38.9
<b>Crete</b>	Greece	EL43	94	53	6	56%	24.3
<b>Västsverige</b> (Gothenburg)	Sweden	SE23	136	45	9	33%	18.7
<b>Capital Region</b>	Lithuania	LT01	58	30	3	52%	10.0
<b>Sofia</b>	Bulgaria	BG41	42	18	2	43%	6.3
<b>Nord-Est</b>	Romania	RO21	12	3	0	25%	2.0

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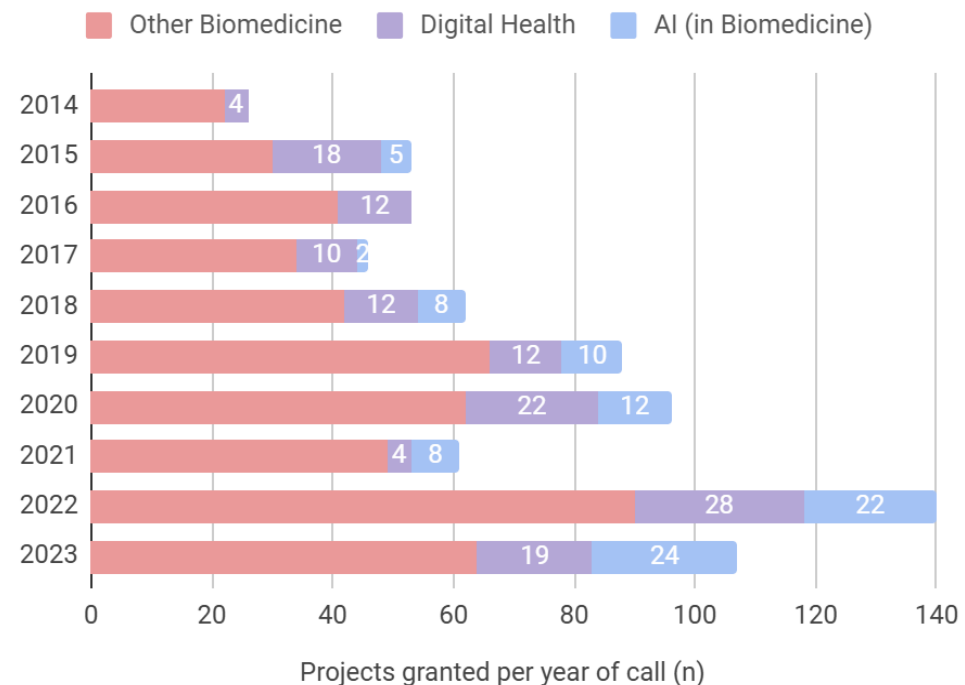
Specialization Index per topic of Digital Health Research (in number of projects) - selected Regions from PRECISEU partners												
Participant Region	Country	Healthcare services and systems	Biomarkers, Diagnostics and Personalized Medicine	Biomarkers, Diagnostics and Personalized Medicine (Cancer)	Bioinformatic and OMICs	Mental Health and Wellbeing	Wearable devices and sensors	Neuroimaging & applications in Neurosciences	Robotics, Rehabilitation and assistive devices	Imaging	Infectious Diseases & COVID19	Robotic Surgery
Catalonia	Spain	1.6	1.3	2.1	1.0	1.1	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.7	1.4	0.4
Madrid	Spain	2.3	1.7	1.5	0.5	1.1	0.7	0.4	0.7	0.8	1.2	0.7
Zuid-Holland	Netherlands	1.8	2.2	1.8	0.6	1.0	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.4	1.8	0.3
Karlsruhe	Germany	0.5	1.7	2.3	1.4	1.2	0.4	0.2	0.6	1.1	2.3	
Emilia-Romagna	Italy	1.2	1.6	2.4	0.3	1.6	1.1	0.3	0.9	0.7	1.0	1.0
Flemish Brabant	Belgium	1.0	1.0	1.6	1.3	2.3	0.7	1.3	0.2	0.6	0.6	0.9
Crete	Greece	3.0	1.4	1.1	0.2	1.1	1.0	0.7	0.6	1.0	0.7	
Västsverige	Sweden	1.0	2.4	0.5		1.6	1.9		1.0	0.6	1.3	1.2
Capital Region	Lithuania	1.8	0.7	2.0		1.9	0.9		1.0	1.1	1.3	0.9
Sofia	Bulgaria	4.8	0.6	2.0		2.4	1.0			0.5		
Nord-Est	Romania	7.1		4.0								

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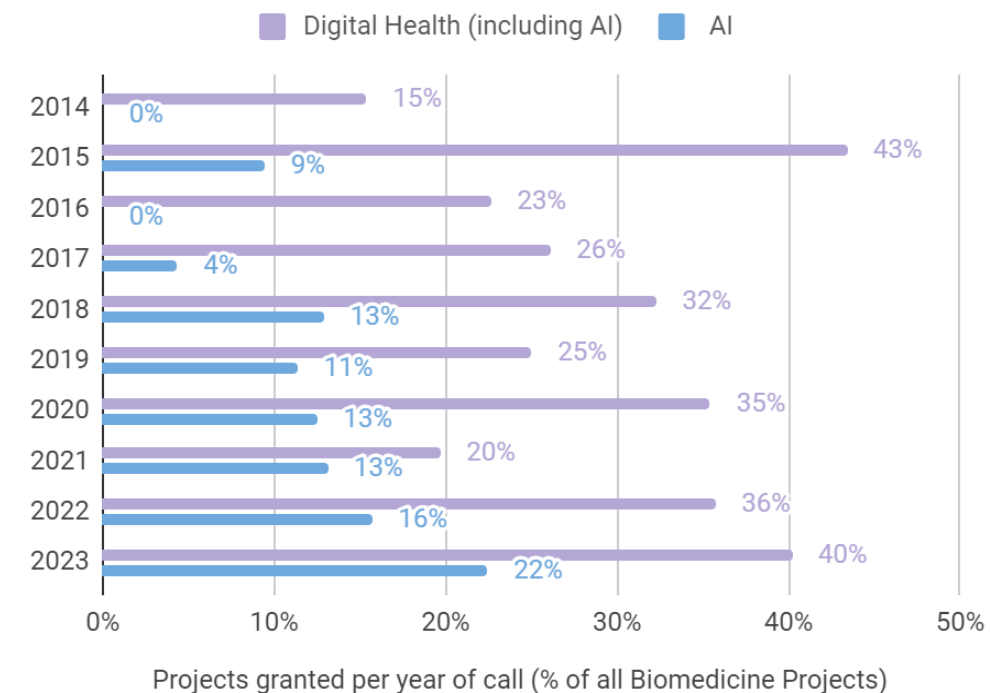
## Focus on Emilia-Romagna Region



### Biomedical Projects granted in Emilia-Romagna



### Biomedical Projects granted in Emilia-Romagna



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## Key Data



Project number: 101161301

Project name: PeRsonalised medicine Empowerment Connecting Innovation ecoSystems across Europe

Project acronym: PRECISEU

Call: HORIZON-EIE-2023-CONNECT-03

Topic: HORIZON-EIE-2023-CONNECT-03-01

Type of action: HORIZON Programme Cofund Actions

Granting authority: European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency

Project starting year: 2024

Project end year: 2029

Project duration: 60 months

Budget: 22.680.100 euro

# Thank you!

For more information about PRECISEU, please visit us online



[www.preciseu.eu](http://www.preciseu.eu)

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**Service for S4 Strategic  
Projects and  
Entrepreneurship  
Government of Navarra**

**Delia Sola**

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The project will create an **interregional ecosystem** within the European Union to **transform value chains** with the aim of developing and delivering **new circular solutions to the market** with a **mission-oriented** approach.

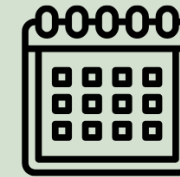
**Overall budget: 27.162.498,00 €**  
**EU contribution: 13.579.061,51 €**



*19 Entities*



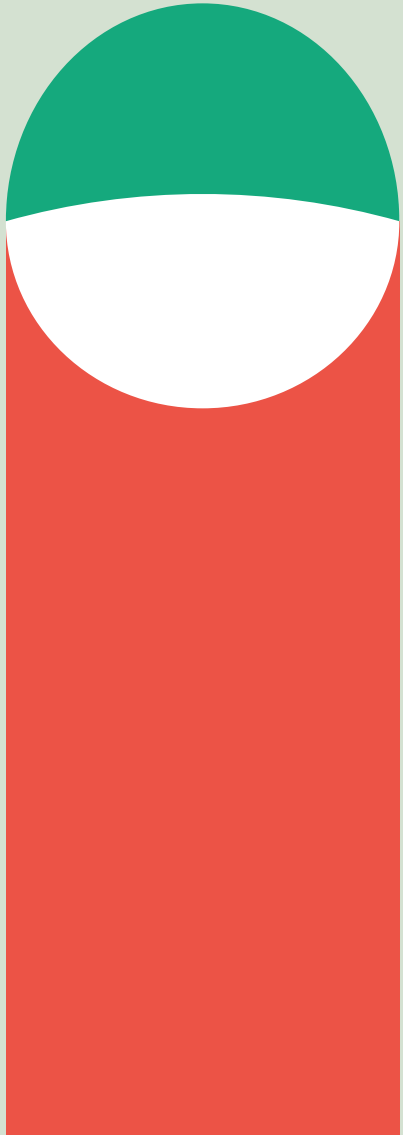
*9 Countries*  
*13 Regions/territories*



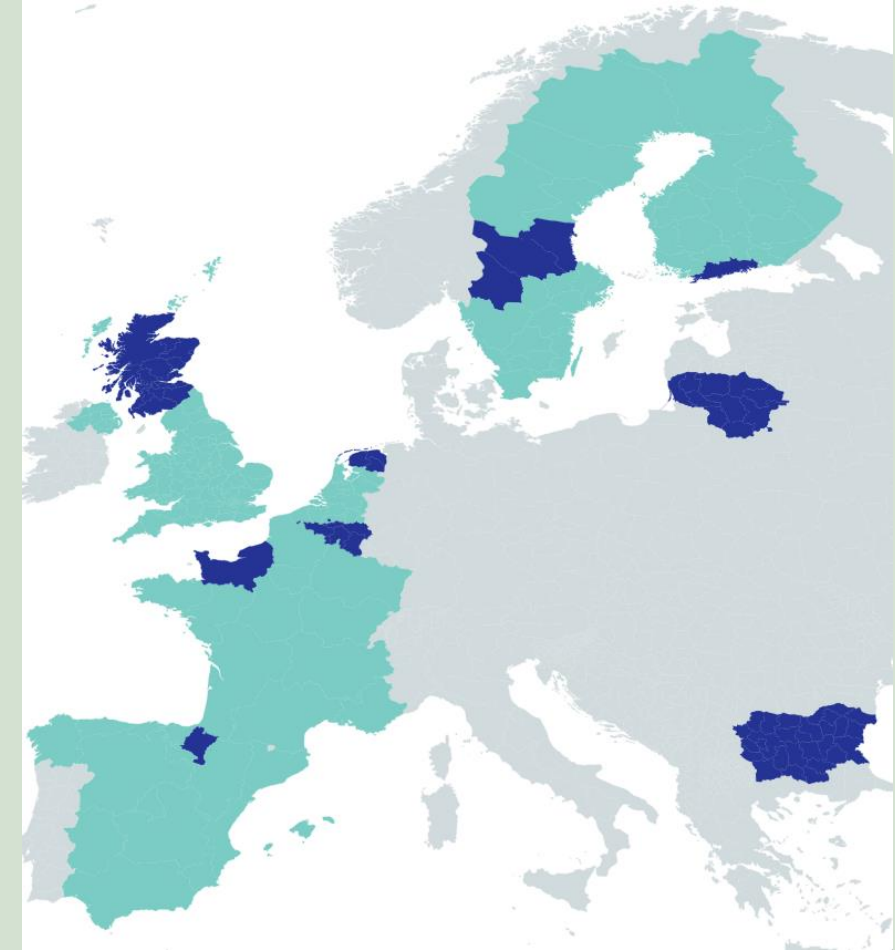
*5 Years*



*2 Open calls*



- 1.(Coordinator) – Government of Navarra (GN)
2. Development Agency of Navarra (SODENA)
3. Northern Netherlands Alliance (SNN)
4. Provincie Groningen (GRO)
5. Provincie Fryslan (FRY)
4. Provincie Drenthe (DTH)
7. University of Groningen (UGRO)
8. Fryslan Innovation Foundation (SIF)
9. Region of Dalarna (DAL)
10. Region of Värmland (VÄR)
11. Region of Gävleborg (GÄV)
12. Region Normandie (NOR)
13. Ministry of Innovation and Growth of Bulgaria (MIGB)
14. Service public de Wallonie Economie (SPW)
15. Lithuania's Innovation Agency (IAL)
16. Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council (HURC)
17. Scottish Enterprise [Scotland Economic Development Agency] (SE)
18. University of Strathclyde/Dptmt. of Industrial Biotech Innovation Centre (IBioIC)
- 19.ACR + (Association of Cities and Regions for sustainable Resource management)



# Objectives and milestones

	To mobilize, dynamize and connect <b>9 regional circular economy innovation ecosystems</b>
	To increase the innovation activity and foster innovation and experimentation in circular industrial value chains. Up to 35 collaborative innovation projects, 30 smaller “collaboration experiment” projects, in up to 10 industrial sectors (including energy, automotive, agro-food, machinery, construction, biotech)
	<b>To increase innovation knowledge and capabilities</b> of the regions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Facilitating to innovators technology and financial elements to bring their ideas to the market.</li><li>• Fostering the collaboration among regions (including more advanced with less advanced regions)</li></ul>
	<b>To mobilise public funding and private investments for innovation in circularity.</b> The project will dedicate 60% of its budget to Open calls (TRL 6-7), and will mobilise: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>16,3 Million € of public funding.</b> 50% is provided by the participating regional public authorities</li><li>• <b>Up to 7 Million € of private investment,</b> provided by the private entities participating in the open calls</li></ul>
	To generate common knowledge assets and regional policies and strategies related to circularity.

# ECIV Methodology



**Task 01:**  
Regional challenges  
identification

**01**  
Regional  
analysis

**Task 02:**  
Mission challenges  
definition

**02**  
Developing a  
mission oriented  
strategy

**03**  
Connecting the  
ecosystems through  
the dance floor  
stakeholder  
engagement

**Task 03:**  
Mobilizing stakeholders  
of the quadruple helix

**Task 04:**  
Provide circular innovative  
solutions near to market

**04**  
Open call for  
interregional  
cooperation  
projects in  
innovation

**05**  
Knowledge transfer and  
replicability to other  
European regions

**Task 05:**  
Whitebook  
elaboration

CIRCULAR  
INTERCONNECTED  
VALUE CHAINS  
AND INDUSTRIAL  
SECTORS

# S3 CONFERENCE

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## Thank you for your attention!

[dsolajim@navarra.es](mailto:dsolajim@navarra.es)

[www.eciv.eu](http://www.eciv.eu)

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/european-circular-innovation-valley-eciv/>

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## **Advancing Innovation for Forest Sustainability: IT4EST and the Vision for Regional Innovation Valleys**

**Michail Chalaris and Kalliopi Kravari,  
Democritus University of Thrace, Greece**

# Introduction to IT4EST

## *Project Overview*

- **Acronym:** IT4EST
  - **Duration:** 36 months (1.9.2024 – 31.8.2027)
  - **EU Funding:** €5.37 million (70% of total cost)
  - **Partners:** 14 across 11 countries
- 
- **Focus:** Combating climate challenges like wildfires and pest infestations via advanced tech (AI, remote sensing, robotics)
  - **Core Objective:** Enhance forest resilience through technological innovation in management and restoration.



# IT4EST & Regional Innovation Valleys

*Interregional Collaboration*

- **Regions Involved:** 13 regions from 10 EU countries, covering more developed, less developed, and transition regions.
- **Goal:** Leverage the strengths of diverse regions to address shared forest management challenges.
- **Network of Sustainable Forest Test Beds:** Real-world demonstrations of innovative forest management technologies.

# IT4EST & Regional Innovation Valleys

## *Alignment with Regional Innovation Valleys*

- IT4EST supports the EU's Green Deal by integrating green technologies in regional ecosystems.
- Promotes cross-border collaboration, knowledge exchange, and sustainable growth in local economies.



# Key Innovations in IT4EST

## ***Advanced Remote Sensing & AI***

- Early warning systems for wildfires and pest outbreaks.
- Data analytics for real-time decision support in forest management.

## ***Fire Suppression Technologies***

- UAVs and innovative extinguishing agents for efficient wildfire control.

## ***Forest Restoration & Reforestation***

- Techniques for restoring damaged ecosystems and enhancing biodiversity.

# Expected Impact and Conclusion

## *Economic & Environmental Benefits:*

- Reduced forest damage from wildfires and pest infestations.
- Job creation in the green economy through technology deployment and research.
- Public awareness of forest conservation and sustainable practices.

## *EU Green Deal Alignment:*

- IT4EST contributes directly to the EU's sustainability goals, positioning Europe as a global leader in forest technology.

## *Scalability of Innovations*

- IT4EST demonstrates how green technologies can be scaled across regions, reinforcing the vision of Regional Innovation Valleys and supporting the transition to a green economy.



**Thank you for  
your  
attention!**

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