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# S3 FORUM

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Parallel session 8 : Fostering interregional  
collaboration through S3 Thematic  
Platforms and Thematic Smart  
Specialisation Partnerships (TSSPs)



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# Parallel session 8 : Fostering interregional collaboration through S3 Thematic Platforms and Thematic Smart Specialisation Partnerships (TSSPs)

- **Ramunas Linartas**, Policy officer, Smart and Sustainable Growth Unit, DG REGIO
- **Wim De Kinderen**, Programme Director European Affairs, Brainport Eindhoven EU Office, Netherlands
- **Rene Wijlens**, Executive director, Clister Sports & technology/EPSt, Eindhoven, Netherlands
- **Marisa Fernandez**, Cluster Manager ZINNAE, Spain

*Moderator : Els Van de Velde, S3 CoP Secretariat*

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Interregional collaboration and I3  
Ramunas Linartas, DG REGIO



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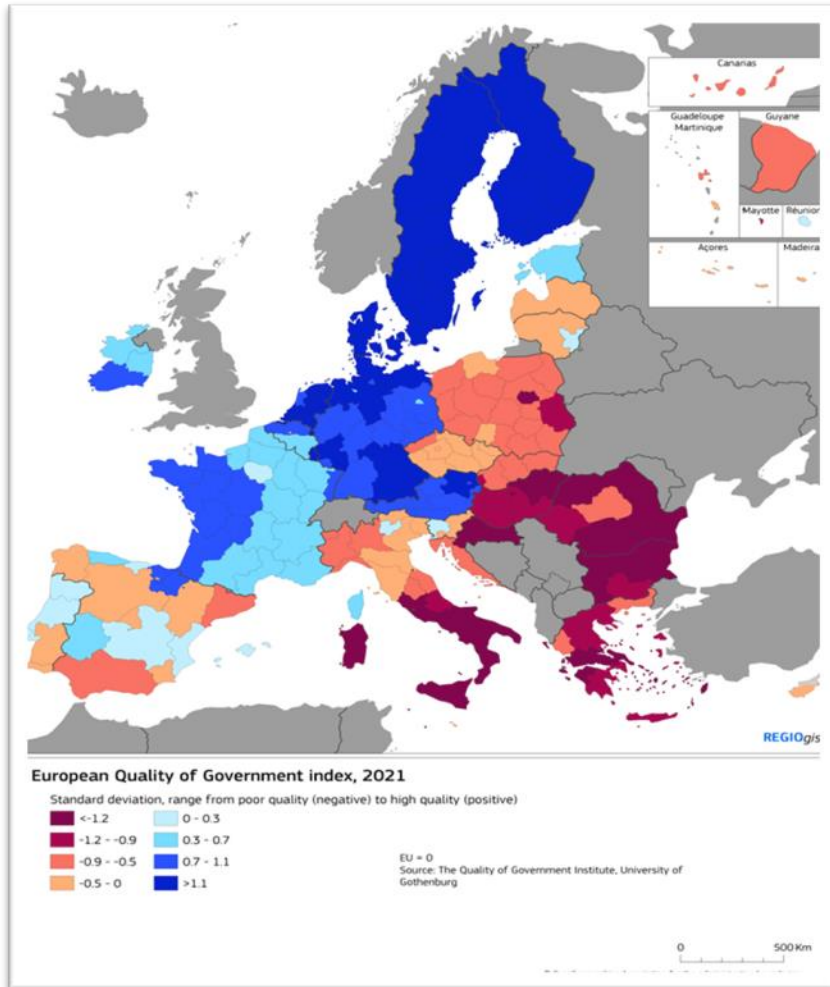


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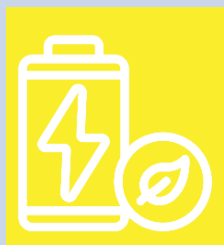


# Interregional collaboration focus in I3



- **Continued thematic priorities** of twin transition and smart manufacturing with additional emphasis on burning challenges and link to the New European Innovation Agenda, RIV;
- **Continued** focus on capacity building (new Call launched) – underlying success factor for interregional collaboration;
- **New S3 community of practice** in support of partnerships, umbrella for regional innovation stakeholders, linking ideas, facilitating consortia creation;
- **Strengthened cohesion policy dimension** – stronger integration of the less developed regions into EU value chains, more partners from the less developed regions to be included in I3 consortia;
- **Same indicative project size** now for both strands;
- **100% rate for cascade funding**;
- **Simplification – S3 support letter** from the coordinator only, consortia members to outline link to S3 within the application

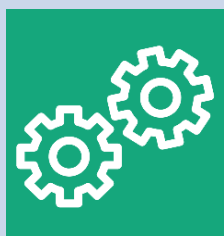
# Capacity building for interregional innovation



- **Improving Capacity for Interregional Innovation Investments:** Supporting public authorities and intermediaries in guiding companies towards interregional investment portfolios.



- **Addressing the challenges and obstacles** in innovation building and diffusion in less developed and other categories of regions (such as EU outermost regions or regions with specific challenges).



- **Developing tailored policies and regulations** to foster an enabling environment for innovation and interregional cooperation.
- **Dissemination** (beyond projects) and **exploitation** (next steps in project).



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Interregional Collaboration through S3  
Platforms and Thematic Partnerships

S3 Forum – parallel session 8

Wim De Kinderen – Brainport Eindhoven / South Netherlands



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# South Netherlands, an active region

Member of +/- 15 TSSPs, co-leading 3 TSSPs

- internationalisation is a 'default' attitude
- active and strong provinces and innovation intermediaries
- TSSP, a useful permanent platform of collaboration (saving time and money)
- too much too handle?

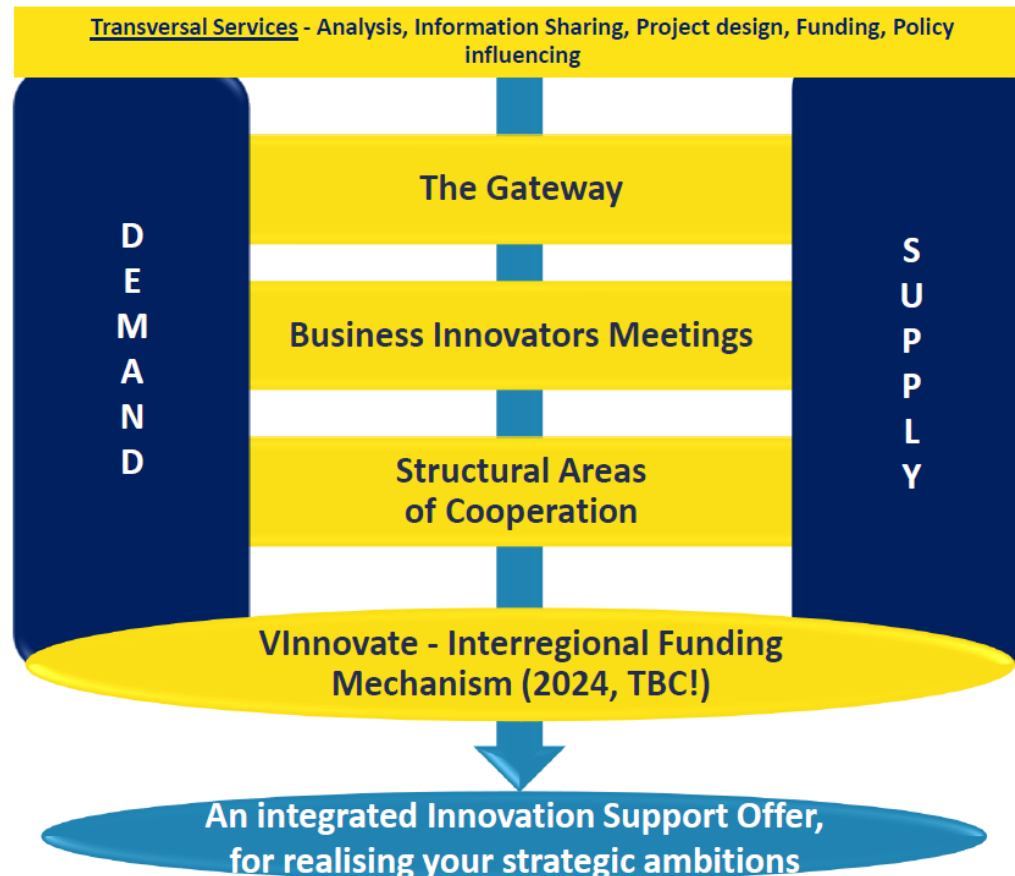


# The ideal TSSP

- Interregional cooperation projects between companies and knowledge institutes in a specific technology field or application domain
    - demonstration projects, no research (> TRL 5 – post prototyping)
    - industrial commitment (to participate/lead/co-invest)
    - European dimension : added value of joint demonstration
    - expected significant impact (economic, social and environmental returns)
  - European Networks of Demonstrators
  - no “one off” projects / building of new industrial value chains through a pipeline of investment projects
- in order to :
- accelerate market development
  - global competitiveness

# The 3D Printing TSSP in reality today

## 10 years trial-and-error



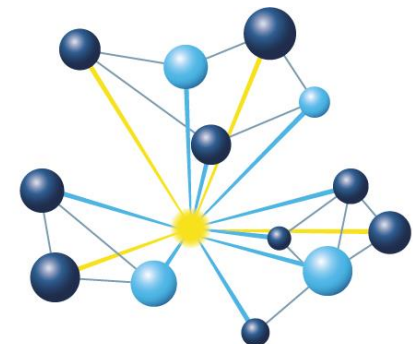
- **Automated Connections and Matchmaking**
- **Descriptions of relevant funding opportunities**
- **Matchmaking towards proposals development**

- **'In-person punctual pitching'**
- **Promoting expertise, services, challenges, new ideas/projects**

- **Community building around complex and emerging topics, requiring critical mass and structural cooperation for solutions co-developments and deployment**
- **'Projects meetings'**

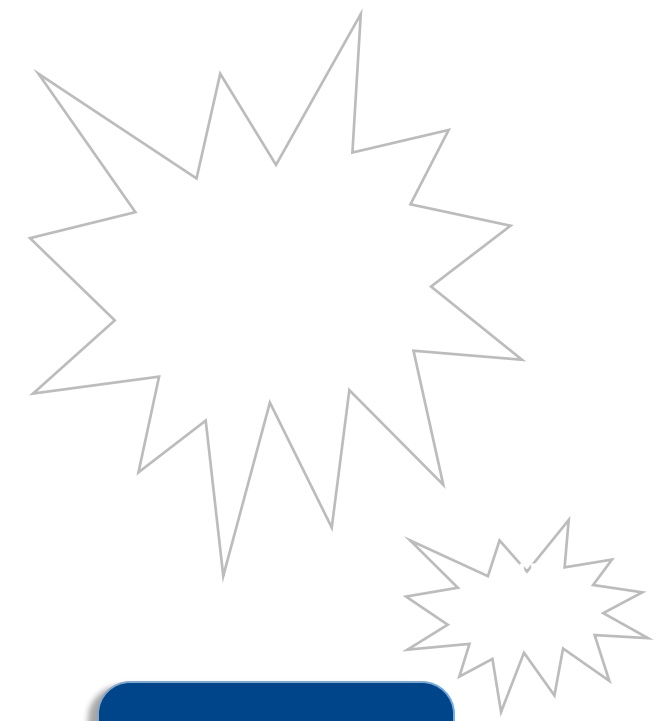
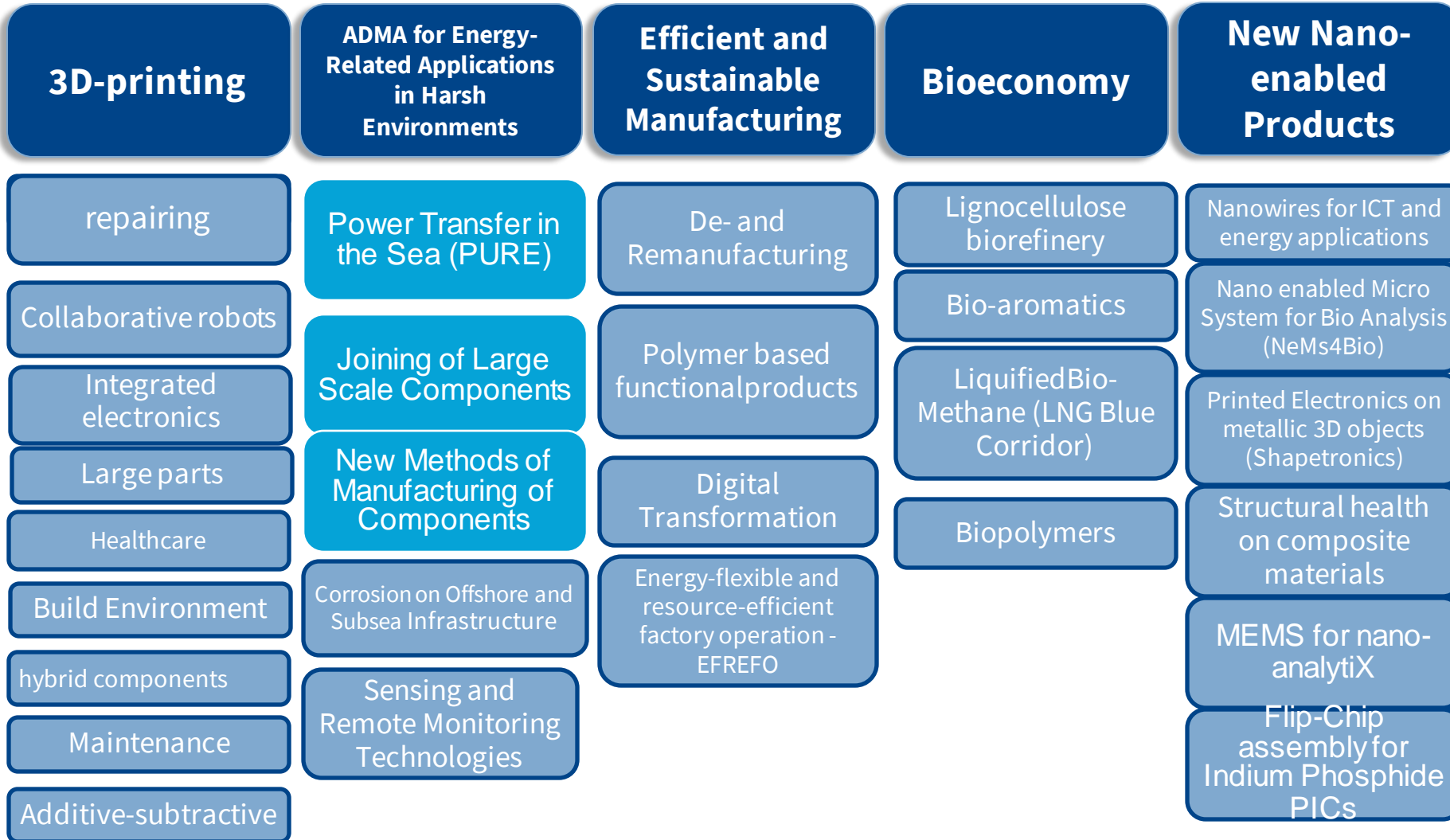
# The added value of bringing TSSPs together in an umbrella structure such as Vanguard Initiative

- collectivisation of links with regional public authorities
- partial collectivisation of policy influencing activities
- partial funding of coordination tasks, allowing (more) to concentrate on core tasks
- peer learning
- stimulating cross-TSSP activities



**VANGUARD INITIATIVE**  
New growth through smart specialisation

# Vanguard Initiative's TSSPs / Pilot Projects



**Artificial Intelligence**

**Smart Health**

**Hydrogen**

# Vanguard Initiative's "Gateway"

The screenshot displays the Vanguard Initiative's "Gateway" website. At the top left is the logo for "3D PRINTING VANGUARD INITIATIVE". The navigation bar includes "Funding opportunities", "Projects", "Homepage", and a user profile for "Ron Meelen". A main heading reads "Find your 3D printing partner here!". Below this is a search bar with the placeholder text "Enter expertise, keywords, organization...." and a magnifying glass icon. To the right of the search bar are three call-to-action buttons: "POST A PROJECT" (under "LOOKING FOR A 3D PRINTING PARTNER?"), "VIEW PROJECTS" (under "ORGANIZATIONS LOOKING FOR YOUR EXPERTISE"), and "HERE" (under "FIND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES").

The main content area is titled "Advanced filter | Clear" and features a "Qualified" logo. It is divided into two columns. The left column contains filter categories: "Services" (with a search bar and checkboxes for 3D Printing / Prototyping, Product Design & Modelling, Technical studies - state of the art, Technical training, and Technical studies - process), "Country" (with a search bar and checkboxes for Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, and Denmark), "City", "Brand of machine", "Model of machine", "Position in the production chain & technology", "Main application sectors", "Material mainly used", and "Product size". The right column displays a list of organization profiles, each with a logo, name, and location. The first profile is "ENEА-TEMAF" from Faenza, Italy. Other profiles include "CeNTI - Centre for Nanotechnology and Smart Materials" (Portugal), "Solid Energy s.r.l." (Bologna, Italy), "CETMA - Centro di Ricerche Europeo di Tecnologie Design e Materiali" (Brindisi, Italy), "Qualified.technology Advance Technology Development" (Eindhoven, Netherlands), "Creabis GmbH" (Kirchheim, Germany), "Imade3D Cyprus Ltd" (Cyprus), "Oesterreichische Gesellschaft fuer 3D-Druck/ Austrian 3D-Printing Society" (Austria), and "Brightlands Materials Center" (Geleen, Netherlands).

The "Organization profile" for ENEА-TEMAF is expanded on the right. It includes a "Contact" button, a description of the "Laboratory of Material Technologies Faenza (TEMAF)", a "Contact person" section for ENEА-TEMAF, a "Technology" section with tags for 3D Printable Materials, Additive Manufacturing, Mechanical Testing and Analysis, Structural Materials, and Technical Ceramics, an "Equipment" section listing various machines like EOS - EOSint P700, Wasp - R&D FDM machines, Robotfactory - 3DLPrinter-hd 2.0+, Fritsch - Fritsch Pulviresette, Thermal Technology Inc. - Astro 1000-4560-FP20, Proba Forni - SINT. 25 25 70 2200, LINN GmbH - HT 1800 VAC, HT 1600G, MAB - SK-M, FE-N/HD-M, Carbolite - CTF 17/100/800, and Robotfactory - UV furnace, and an "Expertise" section with tags for Ceramic Matrix Composites, Ceramics, and Lithography-based Ceramic Manufa... The "Organization type" is listed as "Research", and the "Product development lifecycle" includes "Post Processing" and "Printing".



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S3 Platform for Sports and Vitality

ClusSport

*Rene Wijlens*

*Cluster Sports & Technology / EPSI*



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# Who are we?

14 regions with excellences and ambitions

Represented by

- **Regional authorities** and
- **Q-helix innovation clusters**

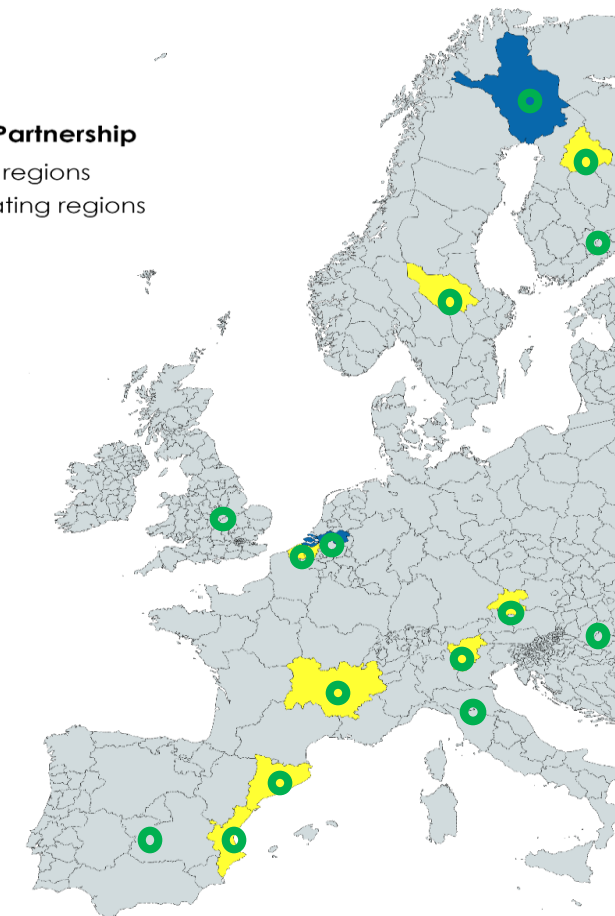
2 leading regions: South-Netherlands and Lapland



Supported by EPSI



ClusSport Partnership  
■ Leading regions  
■ Participating regions





# ClusSport *Strategy and Goals*

## Contribute to transition from *Healthcare* to *Care for Health*

- STRENGTHEN the EU Sport & Vitality sector
- CONNECTING regional ambitions and excellences in the field of innovation for Sport & Vitality
- REALIZE a continuous flow of innovation projects with **IMPACT**

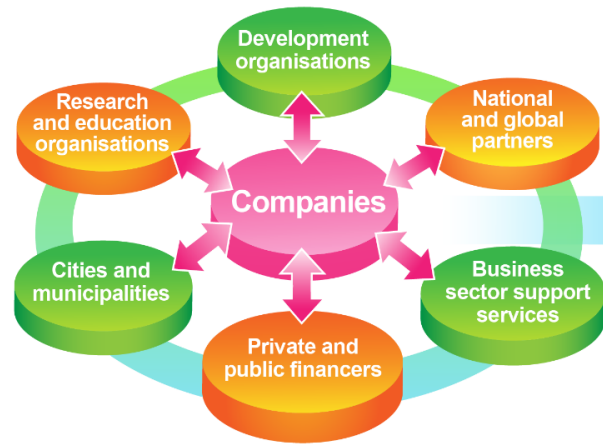
## Q-helix approach (clusters and regions)

>> From *scattered* to *coherent interregional support for SMEs to create impact*



**Build strong and attractive environments ...  
 where regional and interregional value chains...  
 in the sport & vitality sector are developed.**

**Regional actors  
 and knowledge platforms  
 developing innovative  
 international sport business**



**From idea to demo**  
 Design process and making a prototype

**From demo to production model**  
 From validation to solutions and preparing a production model

**From field testing to production**  
 Piloting, testing, test-batch production, marketing

**Further development of the product & other items in the product series**

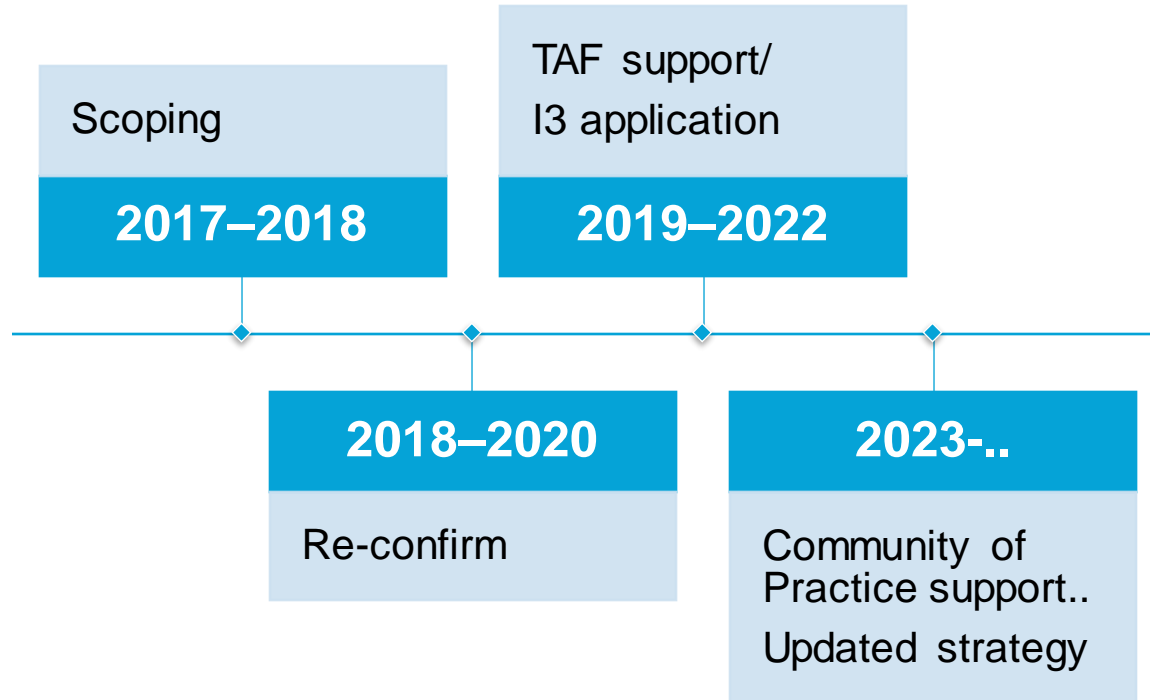
**Maturity level of the product and implementation**  
 Bringing ideas to the market with the globally known TRL-SRL model



**Educational solutions, international networking and regional appeal**  
 A diverse range of educational opportunities and workforce drawn from other regions increase the regional expertise level and promote international business, creating added value for regional development.

# ClusSport Developments are supported by the EU

## S3-Support to develop interregional cooperation



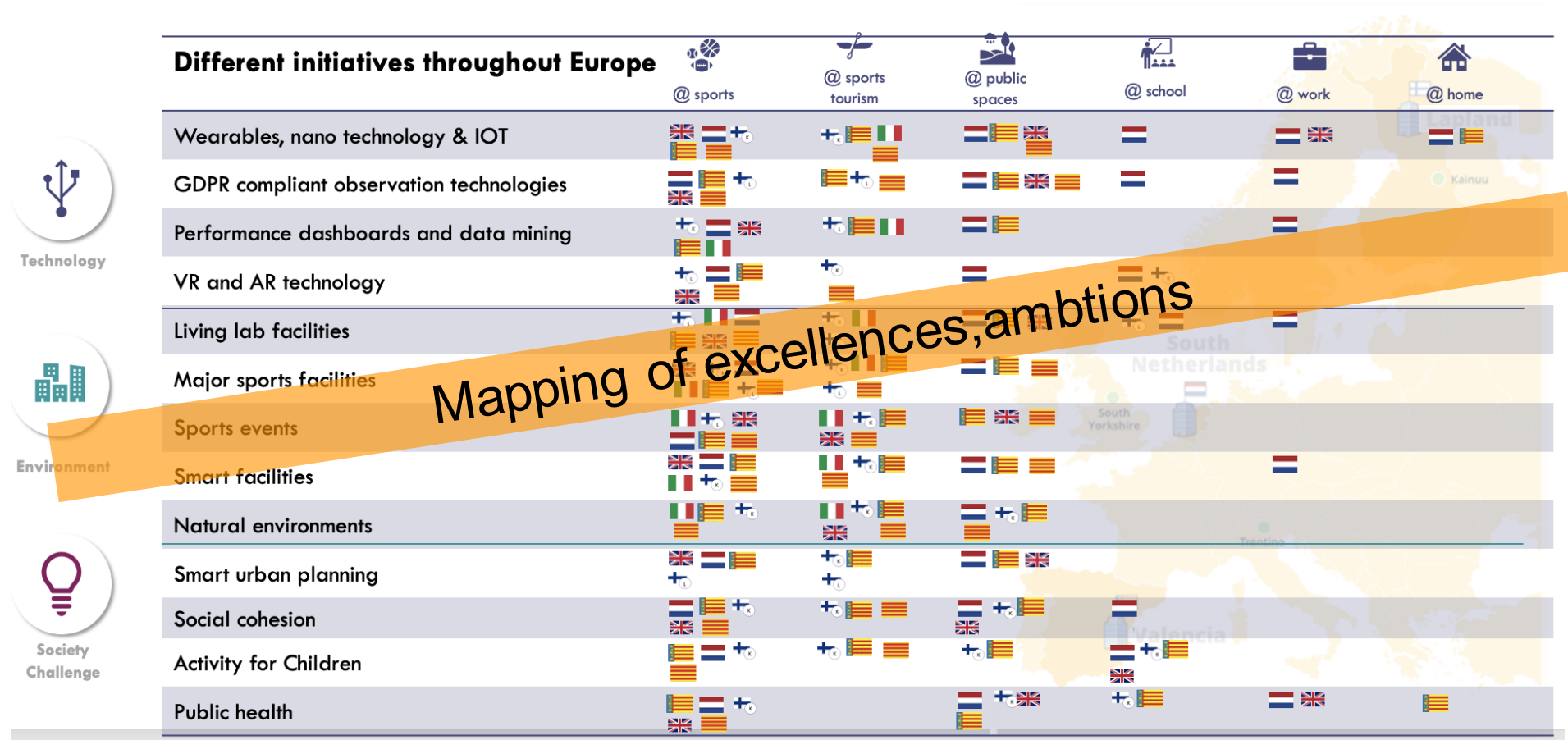
## Support for projects by various funding schemes:

- INTERREG EU
- ERDF
- I3-PROGRAM
- Other EU programs such as HORIZON Europe, Erasmus, ..



# Results

# Results: A growing network with excellences and ambitions



# Results: projects with focus on SME support

- Regional ERDF projects (e.g. **VLL project** 2018-2021, **50 SMEs**)
- Interregional ERDF projects (e.g. **Nano4Sports** Interreg VL-NL 2017–2020, **20 SMEs**)
- Interreg EU project (**Inno4Sport** 2018-2022 )
- Cluster collaboration projects (e.g. **SS4GL** 2019-2022)
- **I3 Digit-Pre:** Cross over project on prevention, prediction, remote care (2022-2025) **20-30 SMEs**
- **I3 INSHAPE:** (2023-2026)
- **ACTIVE-ID:** cross over project on tourism and sport (submitted)

# Running Project: I3-INSHAPE



## PARTNERS:

- Lead partner: Cluster Sports and Technology (NL)
- in total 22 partners:
  - Coming from 7 ClusSport regions
  - EPSI
  - Including 7 flagship SMEs
- In total approx. 40 SME's will be supported

Funded from I3-program

Budget: 9,5 M€

September 2023- August 2026



INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM FOR  
HEALTHY ACTIVE PEOPLE IN EUROPE

ity

Connecting excellences  
and ambitions of regional  
hubs on innovation for  
sports and vitality.



Co-funded by  
the European Union

## Create the INSHAPE Network of Innovation and Investment Hubs for Sports & Vitality

Support  
interregional  
innovation  
investments for  
SMEs

Concentrate on  
SME cases with  
TRL 6-9

Result:  
commercialisation  
and scaleup of  
innovative SME-  
led initiatives

Focus on transition from  
**Healthcare to Care for Health**  
in various context







# Success factors & Lessons Learned



# What are the key success factors and lessons learned?



Set the agenda based on **Regional excellences and ambitions**



Be driven by **opportunities, needs** and **go for impact**



Involve **Q-helix Clusters** for SME involvement (incl EPSI)



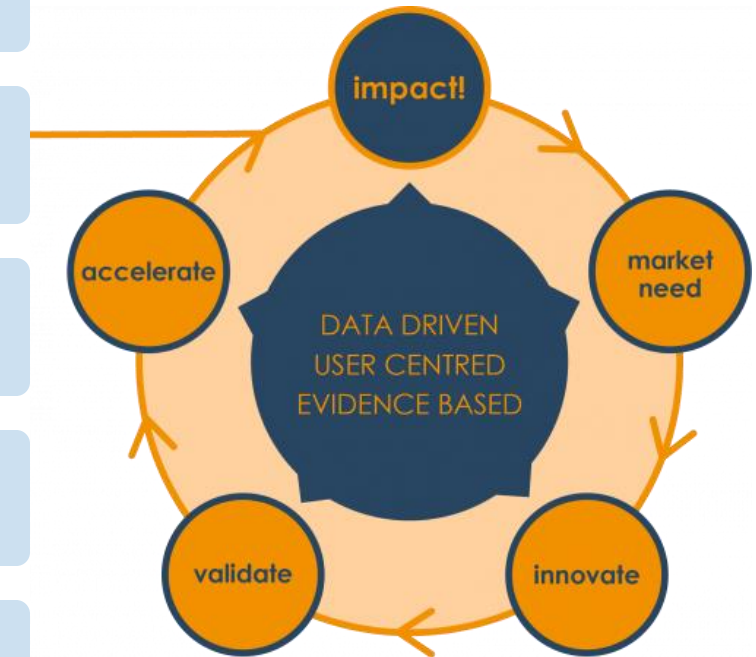
Make use of **support instruments** from S3: scoping, TAF, CoP, ..



Create momentum with **projects** like I3-INSHAPE



**Create bottom-up energy (People make the difference)**



# Critical (Success) factors

- **Limited resources for platform actions:** e.g. for S3 management, communication => interregional funding helps
- **(Dis)balance** between *frontrunners* and *followers*
- S3 in **less developed regions** needs to overcome barriers on (political) backing. *Frontrunners to help Followers*
- Uncertainty on funding and funding instruments
- Keep *Operations* linked to *Regional Politics and Strategy*
- It takes time.....

# Thank you !

**Rene Wijlens**

Manager Cluster Sports & Technology



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Water Smart Territories



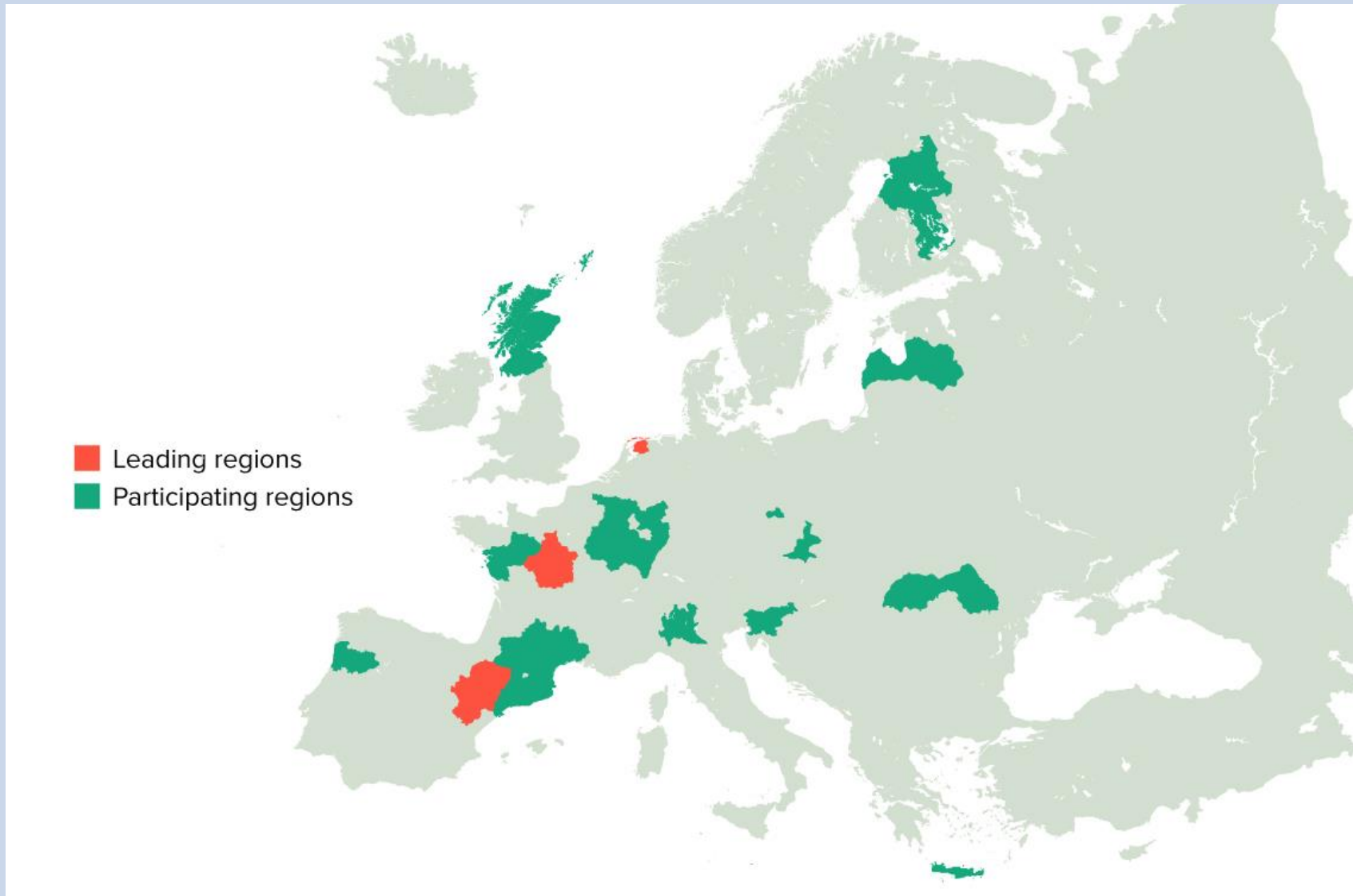
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# Water Smart Territories TSSP

## Lessons learned from interregional collaboration

- S3 P context and effective collaborations
- WST challenges
- Needs

- 25 regions





- Objectives

**Circular  
economy**



**Digitization**

**Resilient  
infrastructures**

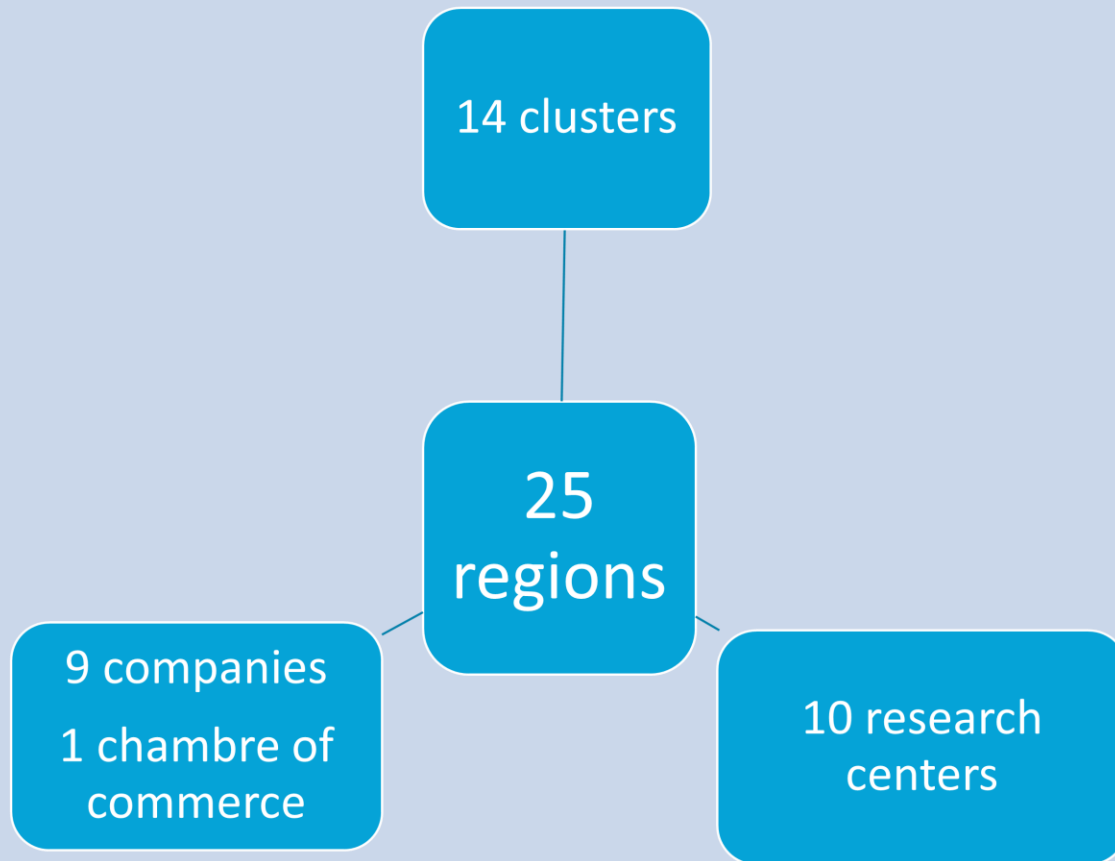
**Governance**

## What is working well

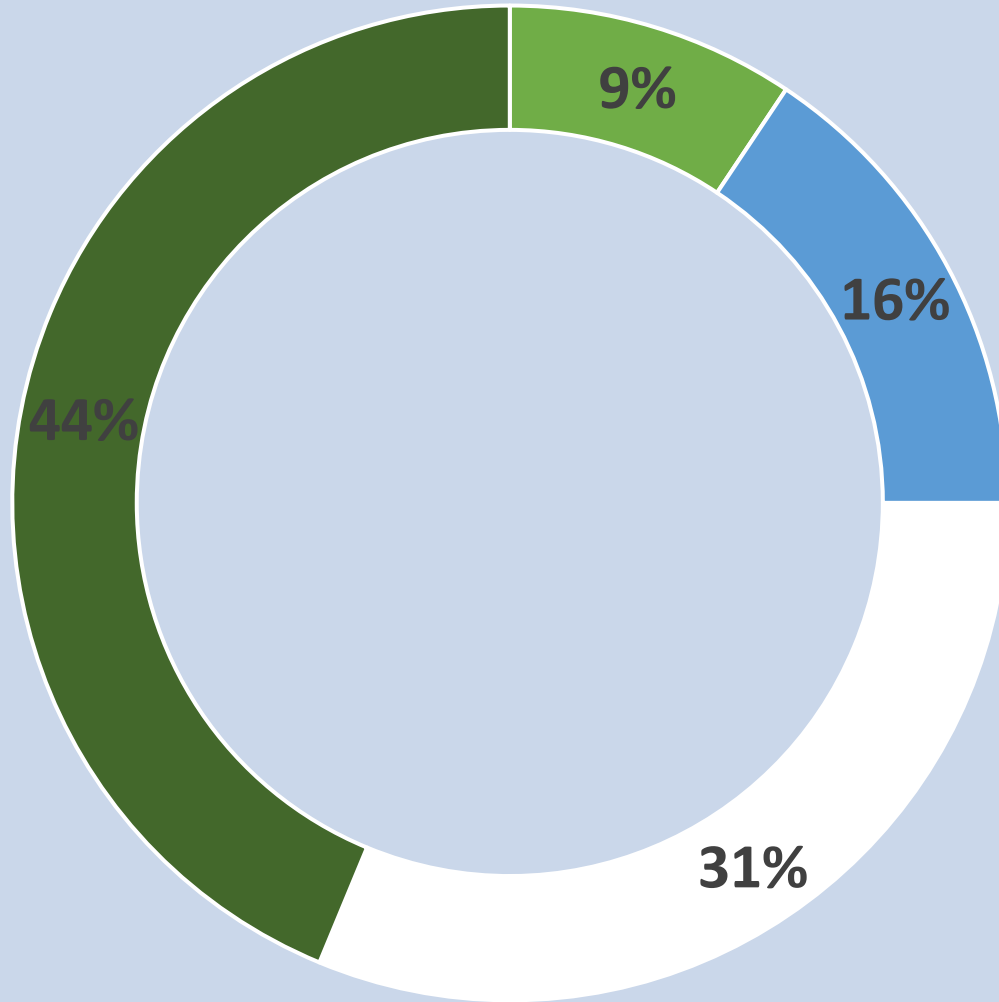
75% of the regions are participating  
All clusters have active role

## Challenge

We have not found the way to better involve Regional authorities



# • Identified Interests



- Sharing of experiences on regional S3
- Sharing strategic initiatives
- Sharing of best practices among the partners
- Building projects

# • Building projects: Working groups



## **CirInWater**

Supporting European SMEs to bring water-smart solutions to market



Co-funded by  
the European Union

## Water Smart Territories members

6 clusters, 1 Research centre  
9 regions



FRANCE  
**Water Team**

Pôle de compétitivité de la filière de l'eau



INNOVATION  
CENTRE  
OF THE OLOMOUC  
REGION



- Building projects:  
Networking activities

## Water Innovation Networking Days

6 events: 4 online and 2 physical

More than 300 registered participants online and 100 participants on the face-to-face meetings

B2B

Information funding opportunities

Next edition: first quarter 2024



- Sharing good practises among de partners

## WG Internationalisation: 30 participants

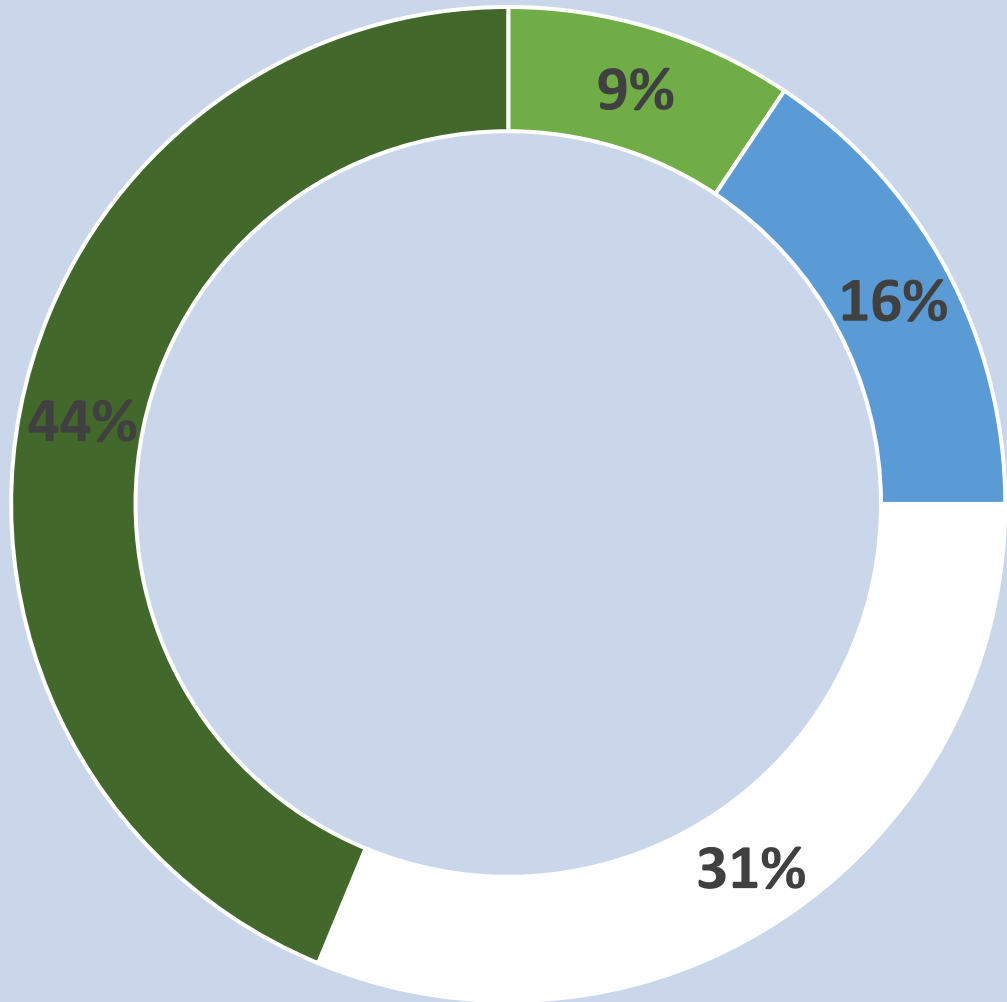
### Meetings

- Every 2 months (1h to 1h30)
- Discuss and share key news related to internationalisation opportunities & important actions
- Coordination: FWT & WA

### Newsletters

- Every month
- Sum up the main international info/news to be shared within all WG members
- Coordination: FWT

- Identified Interests not achieved



25% is not achieved

- Sharing of experiences on regional S3
- Sharing strategic initiatives







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