



## **Deliverable 3.5**

# **Report on European, National and Regional Funding Sources to Support Pilots Further to Market**

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## 1. Summary

Generally speaking, it is of utmost importance to ensure optimal synergies between the funds to face the ever increasing competitive pressure from global markets and maximize impact and efficiency. Pilot lines are not an exception and pilot representatives should consider and actively seek synergies between relevant innovation programmes. Examples of synergies include actions that build the business and innovation capacities of pilot production facilities as well as the use of mutually supportive funding from different instruments to achieve greater impact and efficiency.

When it was first planned, the sole purpose of this document was to provide pilot line representatives with a list of potential funding sources that can further support pilot production facilities into the market, thus increasing their impact and expected results. Nevertheless, providing pilot line representatives with a view on the existing European funding landscape is certainly a static exercise only able to provide a screenshot of the current situation in terms of funding opportunities. Today, beyond the initial plan, the major goal of this deliverable is to provide main players around pilot lines with a directory of existing funding frameworks that can potentially support the development of pilots further into the market. Such directory is prepared to work as a reference document to track, filter out and assess potential funding opportunities from a very wide set of frameworks – a support for a funding watch.

The report will also operate as a reference document for the EPPN consortium to regularly update the funding opportunities section available on the EPPN digital platform. This platform feature is a web-based service aiming at helping pilot lines' representatives, members of the EPPN, in the identification of financing opportunities suiting the further development of pilot facilities. Through this digital feature the EPPN consortium will offer:

- A periodic monitoring of open call suiting pilot facilities;
- A channel to disseminate information on funding opportunities supporting SMEs in accessing pilot line services (not in the scope of this deliverable);
- All relevant information on the selected calls.

The report will initiate with a brief explanation on the basic principles for obtaining synergies and combining different funds and with an overview of differences and communalities between relevant EU programmes. It will then deepen into the specificities of each funding framework identified.

## 2. Basic principles for combining funding schemes

Synergies mean joint or coordinated efforts to achieve greater impact and efficiency. It is not just about combining different funding mechanisms. When combining funding of Horizon 2020 and ESIF programmes in no circumstances shall the same cost be financed twice.

There are three different strategies to combine funding programmes:

- Bringing together different funding sources in the same project, always providing that there's no double funding, in a view of achieving greater impact and efficiency;
- Parallel projects complementary between each other;
- Consecutive projects that build on each other.

In 2014 the European Commission has launched a guidance document for policy-makers and implementing bodies on how to enable synergies between European Structural and Investment Funds, Horizon 2020 and other research, innovation and competitiveness-related Union programmes<sup>1</sup>. This document explains the basic rules and principles for obtaining synergies and combining different funds and is a reference for those actively seeking for synergies among different funds.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docgener/guides/synergy/synergies\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/guides/synergy/synergies_en.pdf)

### 3. Overview of differences and communalities between relevant EU programmes

#### 3.1. *Basic principles of the Cohesion Policy and European Structural and Investment Funds*

European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) include the financial tools for implementation of Cohesion Policy, aiming at promoting and supporting the overall harmonious development of its Member States and Regions. The funds providing specifically support under cohesion policy are the following:

- **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**: aiming at redressing the main regional imbalances in the Union and investing in growth);
- **European Social Fund (ESF)**: investing in people
- **Cohesion Fund (CF)**: investing in environment and trans-European networks in the area of transport infrastructure,

Within the European Structural and Investment Funds, the most relevant funds to further develop pilot production facilities into the market are those under the **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)** which cover four key priorities:

- Innovation and research
- Digital agenda
- Support to small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs)
- Low carbon economy. enterprises

Cohesion policy is delivered under shared management. While Commission sets priorities, negotiates and approves the strategies through Partnership agreements and Operational Programmes (OPs) proposed by the Member States, and allocates resources, Member States manage the programmes, select the projects, monitor and assess them, in partnership with the relevant regional and local authorities, economic and social partners as well as civil society bodies. The responsibilities of Member states are carried out by the Managing authorities (MAs), i.e. public or private authorities or bodies at national, regional or local level, designated by the Member State to manage assistance from the ESIF.

Investments from ESIF are disbursed on territorial basis, to the region or member state subject of the OP. Nevertheless, there is also room for crossborder cooperation, making the setting up of more cross-border projects easier with the possibility to support projects located outside the programme area.

#### 3.2. *European Structural and Investment Funds and Horizon 2020*

While **ESIF** acts mainly at national and regional level, with some leeway towards trans-territorial activities, **Horizon 2020** and other Union research and/or innovation programmes are mainly centrally managed and most often foster transnational projects.

**Horizon 2020** is a non-territorial (mainly transnational) approach based on excellence and impact; Horizon 2020 does not take into account geographic specificities in allocating funding and is focused in individual R&I Projects tackling the whole cycle of innovation. **ESIF** is a place-based approach, largely focused on improving the R&I capacities and R&I eco-systems with the objective of regional growth and place-based economic transformation towards higher added value and more knowledge-intensive activities (RIS3).

In terms of management, while **Horizon 2020** is directly managed by the European Commission/ or executive agency, **ESIF** programmes rely on shared management with national and regional public intermediaries which define the implementation details and allocate the funding to final beneficiaries.

**ESIF** programmes can take up good practices and project formats that were tested under **Horizon 2020**.

### ***3.3. Programme for Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (COSME), ESIF and Horizon 2020***

Likewise **Horizon 2020**, **COSME** is non-territorial. **COSME** does not take into account geographic specificities in allocating funding, except for the Enterprise Europe Network where ‘informal pre-allocation of funds to MS/regions takes place’. **ESIF** programmes, in opposition, are a place based approach supporting economic and social cohesion.

**COSME** focus on projects strengthening the competitiveness and sustainability of the Union’s enterprises, particularly SMEs and encouraging, entrepreneurial culture and promoting the creation and growth of SMEs (no support to individual SME’s projects). **ESIF** programmes are largely focused on improving the R&I capacities and R&I eco-systems with the objective of regional growth and place-based economic transformation towards higher added value and more knowledge-intensive activities (RIS3). **ESIF** programmes also offer an increased support to R&I activities as such, e.g. business-university cooperations and closer to the market activities (prototyping, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production). **Horizon 2020** focus on individual (R&I) Projects tackling the whole cycle of innovation, taking into account strategic approaches at EU level,

Like for **Horizon 2020**, **COSME** is directly managed (European Commission/executive agency) and awarded directly to final beneficiaries. **ESIF** programmes rely on shared management with national and regional public intermediaries (managing authorities, implementing agencies and intermediate bodies) which define the implementation details and allocate the funding to final beneficiaries.

### ***3.4. Financial instruments giving support to companies***

The aim of these instruments is to provide companies engaged in research and innovation (R&I) to gain easier access to loans, guarantees, counter-guarantees and hybrid, mezzanine and equity finance.

One of the key factors constraining the implementation of research and innovation activities is the lack of available financing at acceptable terms to innovative businesses due to their complex products and technologies, unproven markets and intangible assets.

Particular support is required for innovative SMEs (and in some sectors microenterprises), especially in the start-up phase or after diversifying into new markets. The availability of early-stage and growth-stage equity finance for innovative firms is being improved thanks to venture capitals, which help providing better access to finance to support the concept and proof-of-concept stage of the innovation process, as well as the later stages of development where relevant.

While **Horizon 2020**, **ESIF** programmes and **COSME** (all mentioned in the previous sections) providing funding on the basis of an agreement, usually free of charge and with no requirements



to pay back the capital, access to risk finance is a process of receiving capital for business purpose, with the expectation to repay and organizations are liable to pay back the capital amount along with a certain percentage of interest. Therefore, the repayment also includes an interest component. It is usually provided by financial institutions like banks, or investors like venture capitalists, business angels, shareholders, etc.



## 4. Horizon 2020

Horizon 2020 is the biggest EU Research and Innovation programme ever with nearly €80 billion of funding available over 7 years (2014 to 2020). Horizon 2020 is the financial instrument implementing the Innovation Union, a Europe 2020 flagship initiative aimed at securing Europe's global competitiveness.

By coupling research and innovation, Horizon 2020 is helping to achieve this with its emphasis on excellent science, industrial leadership and tackling societal challenges. The goal is to ensure Europe produces world-class science, removes barriers to innovation and makes it easier for the public and private sectors to work together in delivering innovation.

The EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation will be complemented by further measures to complete and further develop the **European Research Area**. These measures will aim at breaking down barriers to create a genuine single market for knowledge, research and innovation.

### *4.1. Work Programme for Nanotechnologies, Advanced Materials, Biotechnology, and Advanced Manufacturing and Processing (NMBP) – Open Innovation Test Beds*

#### *Description*

The call Foundations for Tomorrow's Industry is expected to create about 20 Open Innovation Test Beds (OITB) for materials development and upscaling in six technology domains and four Open Innovation Test Beds for materials characterization.

These test beds will allow European industry and SMEs to develop leadership in nanotechnologies and advanced materials across the whole value chain with significant impact on jobs creation and growth. **This should be achieved by developing new or upgrading existing facilities**, both private and public, and making them accessible to users for the development, testing and upscaling of nanotechnologies and advanced materials in industrial environments.

OITBs are expected to form European networks of competences along the entire value chain matching the demands of industry. These networks should reach out to all regions of Europe and create a sustainable ecosystem. This is especially important for European regions that are building or strengthening their capacities.

There is a clear expectation that they will become sustainable, by making their facilities and services accessible to industry at fair costs and conditions, and to demonstrate their ability to attract, and interact with, a community of users, investors and other stakeholders from regional to European level.

The Open Innovation Test Beds will help users including SMEs to:

- Minimise costs and lower technological risks when adopting new materials and new technologies;
- Tap into relevant competencies and services (including those provided by other test beds and similar initiatives), such as computational modelling; characterisation; risk-benefit assessment

to ensure regulatory compliance; and the implementation of standardization efforts early in the technology development process;

- Gain access to services driven by their business needs, such as mentoring, IPR and market analysis.

Open Innovation Test Beds for upscaling nanotechnology and materials will be funded in the following technology domains:

- Lightweight nano-enabled multifunctional materials and components
- Safety Testing of Medical Technologies for Health
- Nano-enabled surfaces and membranes
- Bio-based nano-materials and solutions
- Materials for building envelopes

#### *Useful links:*

Funding & tender opportunities: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-search;freeTextSearchKeyword=:typeCodes=0,1;statusCodes=31094502;programCode=null;programDivisionCode=null;focusAreaCode=null;crossCuttingPriorityCode=null;callCode=H2020-NMBP-TO-IND-2018-2020;sortQuery=openingDate;orderBy=asc;onlyTenders=false;topicListKey=topicSearchTablePageState>

Work Programme 2018-2020: 5.ii. Nanotechnologies, Advanced Materials, Biotechnology and Advanced Manufacturing and Processing:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2018-2020/main/h2020-wp1820-leit-nmp\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2018-2020/main/h2020-wp1820-leit-nmp_en.pdf)

Explanatory Notes on Open Innovation Test Beds:

[https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/guides\\_for\\_applicants/h2020-supp-info-innotestbeds-18-20\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/guides_for_applicants/h2020-supp-info-innotestbeds-18-20_en.pdf)

Open Innovation Test Beds Guidelines for Internal Management and Access Conditions:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/guides\\_for\\_applicants/h2020-im-ac-innotestbeds-18-20\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/guides_for_applicants/h2020-im-ac-innotestbeds-18-20_en.pdf)

## **4.2. ERA-Net Cofund Scheme**

### *Description*

ERA-NET under Horizon 2020 is a funding instrument **designed to support public-public partnerships (P2Ps)** in their preparation, establishment of networking structures, design and implementation and coordination of joint activities.

ERA-Net instruments mainly 'tops-up' funding for single joint calls and transnational research and innovation actions. This is done in selected areas with high European added-value and Horizon 2020 relevance. This aims to increase substantially the share of funding that Member States dedicate jointly to challenge driven research and innovation agendas.

The ERA-NET scheme aims at increasing the share of funding that Member States jointly dedicate to challenge-driven research and innovation agendas. In Horizon 2020 the EU contribution is limited to a maximum of 33% of the total eligible costs of the action (i.e. costs for support to or implementation of transnational projects) and the duration of the actions should not

be longer than 5 years. The EU contribution is limited to one call per grant agreement. The EC funding may be used for financing transnational research projects but also as means to cover (partially) the preparation and management of additional joint activities to be performed by the consortium aiming to increase coordination of national/regional programmes.

The participation in an ERA-NET allows the country/region to link its research programme to the ones of other Member States/countries and participate in joint activities, in particular the funding of transnational research projects. The implementation of transnational research programmes based on an international peer review evaluation process should contribute to increasing the quality of research, increasing the level of funding for challenges which no Member States can tackle alone and avoiding the duplication of research funding.

### *Useful links:*

Background & practical information from ERA-LEARN 2020 for ERA-NET Cofund: <https://www.era-learn.eu/>

FAQ for the ERA-NET Cofund: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/cross-cutting-issues/era-net\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/cross-cutting-issues/era-net_en.htm)

Topics for ERA-Net: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-search;freeTextSearchKeyword=ERA-NET;typeCodes=1;statusCodes=31094501,31094502;programCode=H2020;programDivisionCode=null;focusAreaCode=null;crossCuttingPriorityCode=null;callCode=Default;sortQuery=openingDate;orderBy=asc;onlyTenders=false;topicListKey=topicSearchTablePageState>

Table 1. List of active ERA-Net Cofund

ACRONYM	FULL NAME	START DATE	END DATE	COUNTRIES
<b><u>CHIST-ERA IV</u></b>	European Coordinated Research on Long-term ICT and ICT-based Scientific and Technological Challenges	01/07/2019	30/06/2024	21
<b><u>CSP ERANET</u></b>	Joint programming actions to foster innovative CSP solutions	31/05/2019	01/05/2024	9
<b><u>FLAG-ERA III</u></b>	The Flagship ERA-NET — FLAG-ERA III	01/01/2019	31/12/2023	19
<b><u>Governance</u></b>	Democratic governance in a turbulent age	01/01/2019	31/12/2023	21
<b><u>JPCOFUND2</u></b>	ERA-NET to support the Joint Programming in Neurodegenerative Diseases strategic plan (JPND)	01/01/2019	31/12/2023	24
<b><u>BlueBio</u></b>	ERA-NET Cofund on Blue Bioeconomy - Unlocking the potential of aquatic bioresources	01/12/2018	30/11/2023	16
<b><u>Solar Cofund 2</u></b>	SOLAR-ERA.NET Cofund 2	01/06/2018	31/05/2023	13

<b><u>AXIS</u></b>	Assessment of Cross(X)-sectoral climate Impacts and pathways for Sustainable transformation	01/01/2018	31/12/2022	10
<b><u>EN SGplusRegSys</u></b>	A European joint programming initiative to develop integrated, regional, smart energy systems enabling regions and local communities to realize their high sustainable energy ambitions	01/01/2018	31/12/2022	19
<b><u>SusCrop</u></b>	ERA-NET Cofund on Sustainable Crop Production	01/01/2018	31/12/2022	17
<b><u>WaterWorks2017</u></b>	Water Works 2018-2022 in Support of the Water JPI (WaterWorks2017) and of the EC Call SC5-33-2017: Closing the water cycle gap	01/01/2018	31/12/2022	19
<b><u>CHIST-ERA III</u></b>	European coordinated research on long-term ICT and ICT-based scientific challenges	01/12/2017	30/11/2022	19
<b><u>ERA PerMed</u></b>	ERA-Net Cofund in Personalised Medicine	01/12/2017	30/11/2022	22
<b><u>BiodivScen</u></b>	Promoting and implementing joint programming at the international level to reinforce research on the development of scenarios of biodiversity and ecosystem services	01/10/2017	30/09/2022	22
<b><u>ForestValue</u></b>	ForestValue - Innovating forest-based bioeconomy	01/10/2017	30/09/2022	19
<b><u>GENDER NET Plus</u></b>	ERA-NET Cofund Promoting Gender Equality in H2020 and the ERA	15/09/2017	14/09/2022	13
<b><u>HERA-JRP-PS</u></b>	HERA Joint Research Programme European Public Space, Culture and Integration	01/08/2017	31/07/2022	24
<b><u>GeoERA</u></b>	Establishing the European Geological Surveys Research Area to deliver a Geological Service for Europe	01/01/2017	31/12/2021	31
<b><u>Geothermica</u></b>	GEO THERMICA ERA-NET Co-fund Action	01/01/2017	31/12/2021	14
<b><u>OCEANERA-NET COFUND</u></b>	Ocean Energy ERA-NET Cofund	01/01/2017	31/12/2021	7
<b><u>SUSFOOD2</u></b>	ERA-Net Cofund on Sustainable Food production and consumption (SUSFOOD2)	01/01/2017	31/12/2021	16
<b><u>T2S</u></b>	Transformations to Sustainability	01/01/2017	31/12/2021	13
<b><u>CORE Organic Cofund</u></b>	Coordination of European Transnational Research in Organic Food and Farming Systems Cofund	01/12/2016	30/11/2021	20
<b><u>EN-SUGI</u></b>	Eranet Sustainable Urbanisation Global Initiative	01/12/2016	30/11/2021	17
<b><u>ERA CoBioTech</u></b>	Cofund on Biotechnologies	01/12/2016	30/11/2021	19
<b><u>ERA-MIN 2</u></b>	Implement a European-wide coordination of research and innovation programs on raw materials to strengthen the industry competitiveness and the shift to a circular economy	01/12/2016	30/11/2021	17
<b><u>FLAG-ERA II</u></b>	The Flagship ERA-NET	01/12/2016	30/11/2021	21

<b><u>HDHL-INTIMIC</u></b>	ERA-Net on IntesTInal MICrobiomics, diet and health, implementing JPI HDHL objectives	01/12/2016	30/11/2021	9
<b><u>MarTERA</u></b>	Maritime and Marine Technologies for a New ERA	01/12/2016	30/11/2021	16
<b><u>DIAL</u></b>	Dynamics of Inequality Across the Life-Course: structures and processes	01/11/2016	31/10/2021	17
<b><u>EuroNanoMed III</u></b>	ERA-NET ON NANOMEDICINE	01/11/2016	31/10/2021	20
<b><u>QuantERA</u></b>	QuantERA ERA-NET Cofund in Quantum Technologies	01/11/2016	31/10/2021	26
<b><u>SOLAR-ERA.NET Cofund</u></b>	SOLAR-ERA.NET Cofund	01/11/2016	31/10/2021	12
<b><u>EMEurope</u></b>	ERA-NET Cofund Electric Mobility Europe	01/10/2016	30/09/2021	16
<b><u>MANUNET III</u></b>	ERA-NET ON ADVANCED MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGIES	01/10/2016	30/09/2021	12
<b><u>PhotonicSensing</u></b>	Photonics based sensing	01/09/2016	31/08/2021	10
<b><u>ENSUF</u></b>	ERA-NET Cofund Smart Urban Futures	01/05/2016	30/04/2020	18
<b><u>ERA-GAS</u></b>	ERA-NET for Monitoring and Mitigation of Greenhouse Gases from Agri- and Silvi-Culture	01/05/2016	30/04/2021	15
<b><u>M-ERA.NET 2</u></b>	ERA-NET for materials research and innovation	01/03/2016	28/02/2021	34
<b><u>SusAn</u></b>	European Research Area on Sustainable Animal Production Systems	01/03/2016	28/02/2021	23
<b><u>ACT</u></b>	Accelerating CCS technologies as a new low-carbon energy vector	01/02/2016	31/01/2021	9
<b><u>ERA-HDHL</u></b>	ERA-NET Biomarkers for Nutrition and Health implementing the JPI HDHL objectives	01/02/2016	31/01/2021	14
<b><u>ERA-PLANET</u></b>	The European network for observing our changing planet	01/02/2016	31/12/2021	20
<b><u>BESTF3</u></b>	Bioenergy Sustaining the Future	01/01/2016	31/12/2020	10
<b><u>DemoWind 2</u></b>	DemoWind 2 ERA-NET Cofund action - delivering cost reduction in offshore wind	01/01/2016	31/12/2020	7
<b><u>ERA4CS</u></b>	European Research Area for Climate Services	01/01/2016	31/12/2020	18
<b><u>LEAP-AGRI</u></b>	A long term EU-Africa research and innovation partnership on food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture	01/01/2016	30/11/2021	21
<b><u>NEURON Cofund</u></b>	ERA NET NEURON in the area of brain-related diseases and disorders of the nervous system	01/01/2016	31/12/2020	18
<b><u>WaterWorks2015</u></b>	Water Works 2016-2020 in Support of the Water JPI (WaterWorks2015) - Sustainable water use in agriculture, to increase water use efficiency and reduce soil and water pollution	01/01/2016	31/12/2020	23

<b><u>JPI-EC-AMR</u></b>	ERA-NET for establishing synergies between the Joint Programming Initiative on Antimicrobial Resistance Research and Horizon 2020	01/11/2015	31/10/2020	16
<b><u>ERA-CVD</u></b>	ERA-NET on cardiovascular diseases to implement joint transnational research projects and set up international cooperations	01/10/2015	30/09/2020	18
<b><u>FACCE SURPLUS</u></b>	Sustainable and Resilient agriculture for food and non-food systems	01/03/2015	29/02/2020	14
<b><u>BiodivERsA3</u></b>	Consolidating the European Research Area on biodiversity and ecosystem services	01/02/2015	31/01/2020	20
<b><u>WaterWorks2014</u></b>	Water Works 2014-2019 in Support of the Water JPI	01/02/2015	31/01/2020	19
<b><u>ERANet SmartGridPlus</u></b>	ERA-Net Smart Grids Plus: support deep knowledge sharing between regional and European Smart Grids initiatives	30/01/2015	29/01/2020	20
<b><u>ERaCoSysMed</u></b>	ERaCoSysMed – Collaboration on systems medicine funding to promote the implementation of systems biology approaches in clinical research and medical practice	01/01/2015	31/12/2019	13
<b><u>HERA JRP UP</u></b>	HERA Joint Research Programme Uses of the Past	01/01/2015	31/12/2019	24
<b><u>JPco-fuND</u></b>	ERA-NET for establishing synergies between the Joint Programming on Neurodegenerative Diseases Research and Horizon 2020	01/01/2015	31/12/2019	20
<b><u>TRANSCAN-2</u></b>	ERA-NET: Aligning national/regional translational cancer research programmes and activities	01/01/2015	31/12/2019	19
<b><u>E-Rare-3</u></b>	ERA-NET rare disease research implementing IRDiRC objectives	01/12/2014	30/11/2019	17
<b><u>ENSCC</u></b>	ERA-NET Smart Cities and Communities	01/12/2014	30/11/2019	12

### 4.3. SME Instrument

#### *Description*

The SME Instrument of the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation offers funding and support for innovation projects that help SMEs grow and expand their activities into other countries.

The SME Instrument is part of the European Innovation Council (EIC) pilot that supports top class innovators, entrepreneurs and small companies with funding opportunities and acceleration services. The main focus of the EIC Accelerator (SME Instrument) is on market-creating innovations that shape new markets and generate jobs, growth and higher standards of living.

Support to small companies under the European Innovation Council (EIC) pilot goes far beyond a grant provision. The EIC offers several business acceleration services that help speed up the pace of your innovation. Here you can discover what's on offer.

**Business innovation coaching:** an important feature of the EIC pilot that singles it out compared to other SME funding schemes. If you are an SME benefiting from grant funding from the EIC Accelerator (SME Instrument), FTI or FET-Open, we offer business coaching to help your business scale up and grow. Beneficiaries can receive up to 15 days of coaching (3 days under Phase 1 and 12 days under Phase2) under the SME instrument. SMEs taking part in FTI or FET-Open are offered up to 12 coaching-days.

Coaches will help the beneficiaries to progress over the life cycle of their innovation, from idea to proof of concept, to first pilot application and finally upscaling and expansion. They will empower the SME to cope with challenges such as developing their strategy and organisation, identifying their market and improving ability to attract finance.

**Business acceleration services:** the EIC pilot focusses on continuous improvement, networking, learning opportunities and facilitating access to business partners and investors. Being part of the programme offers you a life-long privileged access to our user-driven business acceleration services, customized to your needs. Finding the right strategic partner can be the fastest way to fast-grow your company, it will also allow you more time to focus on the critical activities that make your business unique.

EIC beneficiaries are also invited to be part of the online EIC Community. The overall aim of the EIC Community platform is to help SMEs successfully establish themselves on the European and global markets, by creating a shared knowledge base and a virtual meeting-place where SMEs can connect and discuss potential businesses partnerships.

#### *Useful links:*

Funding & tender opportunities: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-search;freeTextSearchKeyword=;typeCodes=1;statusCodes=31094501,31094502,31094503;programCode=H2020;programDivisionCode=null;focusAreaCode=null;crossCuttingPriorityCode=null;callCode=H2020-EIC-SMEINST-2018-2020;sortQuery=openingDate;orderBy=asc;onlyTenders=false;topicListKey=topicSearchTablePageState>

Work Programme 2018-2020 for innovation in small and medium-sized enterprises: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2018-2020/main/h2020-wp1820-sme\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2018-2020/main/h2020-wp1820-sme_en.pdf)

#### *4.4. European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)*

##### *Description*

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) is an EU body created by the European Union in 2008 to strengthen Europe's ability to innovate. The EIT is an integral part of Horizon 2020, the EU's Framework Programme for Research and Innovation.

The Institute is a unique EU initiative that drives innovation across Europe by integrating business, education and research to find solutions to pressing global challenges. It supports the development of dynamic, long-term European partnerships among leading companies, research labs and higher education. These partnerships are called Innovation Communities and each is

dedicated to finding solutions to a specific global challenge, from climate change and sustainable energy to healthy living and food.

Bringing together more than 1 000 partners, the EIT is Europe's largest innovation network; it connects the dots. EIT powers innovators and entrepreneurs across Europe to turn their best ideas into products, services, jobs and growth.

Together with leading partners, the EIT Community offers a wide range of innovation and entrepreneurship activities: education courses that combine technical and entrepreneurial skills, tailored business creation and acceleration services and innovation driven research projects. This brings new ideas and solutions to the market, turns students into entrepreneurs and, most importantly, delivers innovation.

Within the scope of EPPN, it is worth it to highlight two EIT partnerships:

### **EIT Manufacturing**

EIT Manufacturing's mission is to bring European manufacturing actors together in innovation ecosystems that add unique value to European products, processes, services – and inspire the creation of globally competitive and sustainable manufacturing.

EIT Manufacturing has six strategic objectives:

1. Excellent manufacturing skills and talents: adding value through an upskilled workforce and engaged students.
2. Efficient manufacturing innovation ecosystems: adding value through creating ecosystems for innovation, entrepreneurship and business transformation focused on innovation hotspots.
3. Full digitalisation of manufacturing: adding value through digital solutions and platforms that connect value networks globally.
4. Customer-driven manufacturing: adding value through agile and flexible manufacturing that meets global personalised demand.
5. Socially sustainable manufacturing: adding value through safe, healthy, ethical and socially sustainable production and products.
6. Environmentally sustainable manufacturing: adding value by making industry greener and cleaner.

EIT Manufacturing aims at establishing an innovation community and build a network of ecosystems where people will acquire skills and encounter opportunities; and where innovators are able to attract investors and acquire venture capital.

### **EIT RawMaterials**

EIT RawMaterials is the largest consortium in the raw materials sector worldwide. Its vision is to develop raw materials into a major strength for Europe. Its mission is to enable sustainable competitiveness of the European minerals, metals and materials sector along the value chain by driving innovation, education and entrepreneurship.

EIT RawMaterials unites more than 120 core and associate partners and 180+ project partners from leading industry, universities and research institutions from more than 20 EU countries. Partners of EIT RawMaterials are active across the entire raw materials value chain; from exploration, mining and mineral processing to substitution, recycling and circular economy. They collaborate on finding new, innovative solutions to secure the supplies and improve the raw materials sector in Europe.

There are six regional Innovation Hubs in Belgium, Finland, France, Italy, Poland and Sweden, called Co-Location Centres (CLCs) that represent different regional ecosystems connecting industry, research and education.

EIT RawMaterials aims to significantly enhance innovation in the raw materials sector by sharing knowledge, facilitating matchmaking activities, developing innovative technologies and supporting business creation.



EIT RawMaterials aims at generating a significant impact on European competitiveness and employment by driving and fostering innovation and empowering students, entrepreneurs and education partners driving towards the circular economy. This will result in the introduction of innovative and sustainable products, processes and services, as well as talented people that will deliver increased economic, environmental and social sustainability to the European society.

***Useful links:***

EIT Strategy 2014-2020: <https://eit.europa.eu/who-we-are/eit-glance/eit-strategy-2014-2020>

Calls for EIT Communities: <https://eit.europa.eu/our-activities/call-for-eit-communities>

EIT Manufacturing: <http://eitmanufacturing.eu/>

EIT RawMaterials: <https://eitrawmaterials.eu/>












## 5. INTERREG












Interreg is one of the two goals of the EU Cohesion Policy in the 2014-2020 period and it is funded by the **ESIF/European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**. It has a budget of EUR 10.1 billion invested in the several cooperation programmes responsible for managing project funding.












Interreg is one of the key instruments of the European Union (EU) supporting cooperation across borders through project funding. Interreg has three types of programmes:












- **Cross-Border Cooperation Programmes** (60 programmes): known as Interreg A, supports cooperation between NUTS III regions from at least two different Member States lying directly on the borders or adjacent to them;
- **Transnational Cooperation Programmes** (15 programmes): known as Interreg B, involves regions from several countries of the EU forming bigger areas where it aims to promote better cooperation and regional development within the Union by a joint approach to tackle common issues. Interreg B supports a wide range of project investment related to innovation, environment, accessibility, telecommunications, urban development etc. The transnational programmes add an important extra European dimension to regional development, developed from analysis at a European level, leading to agreed priorities and a coordinated strategic response;
- **Interregional Cooperation Programmes** (4 programmes): known as Interreg C (Interreg Europe, Interact, Urbact and Espon), the interregional programmes are geographically “pan-European” covering all EU Member States, and more. It builds networks to develop good practice and facilitate the exchange and transfer of experience by successful regions. It showcases what regions do well, to the benefit of those still investing.












## 5.1. Cross-Border Cooperation Programmes












Programme	Countries Covered	Open Calls Information	Useful links	Thematic Objectives										
				Research & Innovation 	Low-Carbon Economy 	Combating Climate Change 	Environment & Resources Efficiency 	Social Inclusion 	Better Education, Training 	Employment & Mobility 	Better Public Administration 	Competitiveness of SMEs 	Sustainable Transport 	Information and Communication Technologies 
Interreg 2 Seas	Belgium Netherlands France United Kingdom	8th Call for proposals to be launched	<a href="https://www.interreg2seas.eu/en">https://www.interreg2seas.eu/en</a>	X	X	X	X							
Interreg ALCOTRA	France Italy	No calls for projects open	<a href="http://www.interreg-alcotra.eu/fr">http://www.interreg-alcotra.eu/fr</a>	X	X	X	X	X	X					
Interreg Alpenrhein-Bodensee-Hochrhein	Lichtenstein Austria Germany Switzerland	<b>Continuously Open Call</b>	<a href="https://www.interreg.org/">https://www.interreg.org/</a>	X	X		X							
Interreg Austria Czech Republic	Austria Czech Republic	No calls for projects open	<a href="https://www.at-cz.eu/cz">https://www.at-cz.eu/cz</a>	X			X		X		X			
Interreg Austria Germany	Austria Germany	<b>Continuously Open Call</b>	<a href="https://www.interreg-bayaut.net/">https://www.interreg-bayaut.net/</a>	X			X				X			
Interreg Austria Hungary	Austria Hungary	<b>Continuously Open Call</b>	<a href="https://www.interreg-athu.eu/en/">https://www.interreg-athu.eu/en/</a>				X				X	X	X	
Interreg Botnia Atlantica	Sweden Finland Norway	No calls for projects open	<a href="https://www.botnia-atlantica.eu/frontpage/">https://www.botnia-atlantica.eu/frontpage/</a>	X			X					X	X	
Interreg Central Baltic	Sweden Estonia Finland	<b>5th call for project proposals Deadline 15th October 2019</b>					X		X			X	X	

Programme	Countries Covered	Open Calls Information	Useful links	Thematic Objectives										
				Research & Innovation 	Low-Carbon Economy 	Combating Climate Change 	Environment & Resources Efficiency 	Social Inclusion 	Better Education, Training 	Employment & Mobility 	Better Public Administration 	Competitiveness of SMEs 	Sustainable Transport 	Information and Communication Technologies 
	Latvia													
Interreg Czech Republic Poland	Czech Republic Poland	<b>Call for Microprojects - Continuously Open Call</b>	<a href="http://www.cz-pl.eu/">http://www.cz-pl.eu/</a>			X				X	X	X		
Interreg Deutschland Nederland	Germany Nederland	<b>Continuously Open Call</b>	<a href="https://www.deutschland-nederland.eu/home/">https://www.deutschland-nederland.eu/home/</a>	X	X							X		
Interreg Estonia Latvia	Estonia Latvia	<b>6th call for project proposals Deadline 30th September 2019</b>	<a href="https://estlat.eu/">https://estlat.eu/</a>				X				X		X	
Interreg Euregio Meuse-Rhine	Nederland Belgium Germany	No calls for projects open	<a href="https://www.interregmr.eu/">https://www.interregmr.eu/</a>	X				X	X		X	X		
Interreg France Switzerland	France Switzerland	No calls for projects open	<a href="http://www.interreg-francesuisse.org/">http://www.interreg-francesuisse.org/</a>	X			X				X		X	
Interreg France Wallonie Vlaanderen	France Belgium	No calls for projects open	<a href="https://www.interreg-fwvl.eu/fr/">https://www.interreg-fwvl.eu/fr/</a>	X		X	X	X			X			
Interreg France (Channel) England	France United Kingdom	<b>Continuously Open Call</b>	<a href="https://interreg5a-fce.eu/">https://interreg5a-fce.eu/</a>	X	X		X							












Programme	Countries Covered	Open Calls Information	Useful links	Thematic Objectives										
				Research & Innovation 	Low-Carbon Economy 	Combating Climate Change 	Environment & Resources Efficiency 	Social Inclusion 	Better Education, Training 	Employment & Mobility 	Better Public Administration 	Competitiveness of SMEs 	Sustainable Transport 	Information and Communication Technologies 
Interreg Germany Denmark	Germany Denmark	No calls for projects open	<a href="https://www.interreg5a.eu/">https://www.interreg5a.eu/</a>	X			X			X	X			
Interreg Germany / Brandenburg Poland	Germany Poland	No calls for projects open	<a href="http://interregva-bb-pl.eu/">http://interregva-bb-pl.eu/</a>				X		X		X		X	
Interreg Germany / Mecklenbur-Western Pomerania/ Brandenburg Poland	Germany Poland	No calls for projects open	<a href="https://interreg5a.info/index.php/de/">https://interreg5a.info/index.php/de/</a>				X		X		X		X	
Interreg Germany / Bavaria Czech Republic	Germany Czech Republic	No calls for projects open	<a href="https://www.by-cz.eu/">https://www.by-cz.eu/</a>	X			X		X		X			
Interreg Germany / Saxony Czech Republic	Germany Czech Republic	No calls for projects open	<a href="https://www.sn-cz2020.eu/de/index.jsp">https://www.sn-cz2020.eu/de/index.jsp</a>			X	X		X		X			
Interreg Grand Région / GroBregion	Luxemburg Belgium France Germany	No calls for projects open	<a href="https://interreg-gr.eu">https://interreg-gr.eu</a>	X			X	X		X		X		












Programme	Countries Covered	Open Calls Information	Useful links	Thematic Objectives										
				Research & Innovation 	Low-Carbon Economy 	Combating Climate Change 	Environment & Resources Efficiency 	Social Inclusion 	Better Education, Training 	Employment & Mobility 	Better Public Administration 	Competitiveness of SMEs 	Sustainable Transport 	Information and Communication Technologies 
Interreg Greece Bulgaria	Greece Bulgaria	<b>5th Call: «Grant scheme for supporting SMEs to grow and expand beyond local markets» Deadline 15th July 2019</b>  <b>6th CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS Deadline 6th September 2019</b>	<a href="http://www.greece-bulgaria.eu/">http://www.greece-bulgaria.eu/</a>			X	X	X				X	X	
Interreg Greece Cyprus	Greece Cyprus	<b>4th Call for Project Proposals Deadline 30th September 2019</b>	<a href="http://www.greece-cyprus.eu/">http://www.greece-cyprus.eu/</a>		X	X	X					X	X	X
Interreg Greece Italy	Greece Italy	No calls for projects open	<a href="https://greece-italy.eu/">https://greece-italy.eu/</a>	X			X					X	X	
Interreg Ireland Wales	Ireland Wales	No calls for projects open	<a href="https://irelandwales.eu/">https://irelandwales.eu/</a>	X		X	X							
Interreg Italy Austria	Italy Austria	No calls for projects open	<a href="http://www.interreg.net/">http://www.interreg.net/</a>	X			X	X			X			
Interreg Italy Croatia	Italy Croatia	No calls for projects open	<a href="https://www.italy-croatia.eu/">https://www.italy-croatia.eu/</a>	X		X	X						X	
Interreg Italy France (Maritime)	Italy France	No calls for projects open	<a href="http://interreg-maritime.eu/">http://interreg-maritime.eu/</a>			X	X			X		X	X	
Interreg Italy Malta	Italy Malta	No calls for projects open	<a href="http://www.italiamalta.eu/en/programmazione-2014-2020.html">http://www.italiamalta.eu/en/programmazione-2014-2020.html</a>	X		X	X					X		

Programme	Countries Covered	Open Calls Information	Useful links	Thematic Objectives										
				Research & Innovation 	Low-Carbon Economy 	Combating Climate Change 	Environment & Resources Efficiency 	Social Inclusion 	Better Education, Training 	Employment & Mobility 	Better Public Administration 	Competitiveness of SMEs 	Sustainable Transport 	Information and Communication Technologies 
Interreg Italy Slovenia	Italy Slovenia	No calls for projects open	<a href="https://www.ita-slo.eu/">https://www.ita-slo.eu/</a>	X	X		X				X			
Interreg Italy Switzerland	Italy Switzerland	No calls for projects open	<a href="http://interreg-italiasvizzera.eu/">http://interreg-italiasvizzera.eu/</a>				X	X			X	X	X	
Interreg Latvia Lithuania	Latvia Lithuania	No calls for projects open	<a href="https://latlit.eu/">https://latlit.eu/</a>				X	X		X	X			
Interreg Lithuania Poland	Lithuania Poland	No calls for projects open	<a href="http://lietuva-polska.eu/en/interreg.html">http://lietuva-polska.eu/en/interreg.html</a>				X	X		X	X			
Interreg Madeira Açores Canarias (MAC)	Portugal Spain	No calls for projects open	<a href="http://www.mac-interreg.org/">http://www.mac-interreg.org/</a>	X		X	X				X	X		
Interreg Nord – Sweden Finland Norway	Sweden Finland Norway	No calls for projects open	<a href="http://www.interregno rd.com/english-summary/">http://www.interregno rd.com/english-summary/</a>	X			X			X		X		
Interreg Northern Ireland Ireland Schotland (UK-Ireland)	Ireland United Kingdom	No calls for projects open	<a href="https://www.seupb.eu/iva-overview">https://www.seupb.eu/iva-overview</a>	X			X	X					X	












Programme	Countries Covered	Open Calls Information	Useful links	Thematic Objectives										
				Research & Innovation 	Low-Carbon Economy 	Combating Climate Change 	Environment & Resources Efficiency 	Social Inclusion 	Better Education, Training 	Employment & Mobility 	Better Public Administration 	Competitiveness of SMEs 	Sustainable Transport 	Information and Communication Technologies 
Interreg Oresund Kattegat Skagerrak	Denmark Norway Sweden	No calls for projects open	<a href="https://interreg-oks.eu/">https://interreg-oks.eu/</a>	X	X					X			X	
Interreg POCTEFA (Spain France Andorra)	Andorra Spain France	No calls for projects open	<a href="https://www.poctefa.eu/">https://www.poctefa.eu/</a>	X		X	X			X			X	
Interreg POCTEP (Portugal Spain)	Portugal Spain	No calls for projects open	<a href="http://www.poctep.eu/">http://www.poctep.eu/</a>	X		X	X				X	X		
Interreg Poland – Germany / Saxony	Poland Germany	No calls for projects open	<a href="https://en.plsn.eu/">https://en.plsn.eu/</a>				X		X		X		X	
Interreg Poland Slovakia	Poland Slovakia	No calls for projects open	<a href="https://pl.plsk.eu/">https://pl.plsk.eu/</a>				X		X				X	
Interreg Rhin Supérieur Oberrhein	France Germany Switzerland	No calls for projects open	<a href="http://www.interreg-rhin-sup.eu/">http://www.interreg-rhin-sup.eu/</a>	X			X			X	X	X	X	
Interreg Romania Bulgaria	Romania Bulgaria	No calls for projects open	<a href="http://interregrobg.eu/en/">http://interregrobg.eu/en/</a>			X	X			X	X		X	

























Programme	Countries Covered	Open Calls Information	Useful links	Thematic Objectives										
				Research & Innovation 	Low-Carbon Economy 	Combating Climate Change 	Environment & Resources Efficiency 	Social Inclusion 	Better Education, Training 	Employment & Mobility 	Better Public Administration 	Competitiveness of SMEs 	Sustainable Transport 	Information and Communication Technologies 
Interreg Romania Hungary	Romania Hungary	No calls for projects open	<a href="http://interreg-rohu.eu/en/home-en/">http://interreg-rohu.eu/en/home-en/</a>			X	X	X		X	X		X	
Interreg Slovakia Austria	Slovakia Austria	<b>Continuously open call</b>	<a href="https://www.sk-at.eu/sk/">https://www.sk-at.eu/sk/</a>	X			X				X		X	
Interreg Slovakia Czech Republic	Slovakia Czech Republic	No calls for projects open	<a href="https://www.sk-cz.eu/sk/">https://www.sk-cz.eu/sk/</a>	X			X		X		X			
Interreg Slovakia Hungary	Slovakia Hungary	<b>Call for small project proposals in the Eastern border area</b> <b>Continuously open call more info</b>  <b>Call for small project proposals in the Western border area</b> <b>Continuously open call</b>	<a href="http://www.skhu.eu/">http://www.skhu.eu/</a>				X			X	X		X	
Interreg Slovenia Austria	Slovenia Austria	<b>Continuously open call</b>	<a href="http://www.si-at.eu/en2/">http://www.si-at.eu/en2/</a>	X			X				X			
Interreg Slovenia Croatia	Slovenia Croatia	No calls for projects open	<a href="http://www.si-hr.eu/en2/">http://www.si-hr.eu/en2/</a>			X	X				X			
Interreg Slovenia Hungary	Slovenia Hungary	No calls for projects open	<a href="http://www.si-hu.eu/en2/">http://www.si-hu.eu/en2/</a>				X				X			












Programme	Countries Covered	Open Calls Information	Useful links	Thematic Objectives										
				Research & Innovation 	Low-Carbon Economy 	Combating Climate Change 	Environment & Resources Efficiency 	Social Inclusion 	Better Education, Training 	Employment & Mobility 	Better Public Administration 	Competitiveness of SMEs 	Sustainable Transport 	Information and Communication Technologies 
Interreg South Baltic	Sweden Denmark Germany Lithuania Poland	No calls for projects open	<a href="https://southbaltic.eu/">https://southbaltic.eu/</a>				X			X	X	X	X	
Interreg Sweden Norway	Sweden Norway	No calls for projects open	<a href="http://www.interreg-sverige-norge.com/in-english/">http://www.interreg-sverige-norge.com/in-english/</a>	X			X			X		X	X	
Interreg V-A Hungary Croatia Cooperation Programme	Hungary Croatia	No calls for projects open	<a href="http://www.huhr-cbc.com/en">http://www.huhr-cbc.com/en</a>				X		X		X	X		
Interreg Vlaanderen Nederland	Belgium Nederland	No calls for projects open	<a href="http://www.grensregio.eu/">http://www.grensregio.eu/</a>	X	X		X			X				
PEACE IV Programme	United Kingdom Nederland	No calls for projects open	<a href="https://www.seupb.eu/piv-overview">https://www.seupb.eu/piv-overview</a>					X						

## 5.2. Transnational Cooperation Programmes












Programme	Countries Covered	Open Calls Information	Useful links	Thematic Objectives										
				Research & Innovation 	Low-Carbon Economy 	Combating Climate Change 	Environment & Resources Efficiency 	Social Inclusion 	Better Education, Training 	Employment & Mobility 	Better Public Administration 	Competitiveness of SMEs 	Sustainable Transport 	Information and Communication Technologies 
Interreg Adrion (Adriatic Ionian)	Albania Bosnia and Herzegovina Croatia Greece Montenegro Serbia Slovenia Italy	No calls for projects open	<a href="https://www.adrioninterreg.eu/">https://www.adrioninterreg.eu/</a>	X			X				X		X	
Interreg Alpine Space	Austria Lichtenstein Slovenia Switzerland France Germany Italy	No calls for projects open	<a href="http://www.alpine-space.eu/">http://www.alpine-space.eu/</a>	X	X		X				X			
Interreg Atlantic Area	Ireland Portugal France Spain United Kingdom	No calls for projects open	<a href="https://www.atlanticarea.eu/">https://www.atlanticarea.eu/</a>	X	X	X	X							
Interreg Balkan Mediterranean	Albania Bulgaria Cyprus Greece	No calls for projects open	<a href="http://www.interreg-balkanmed.eu/">http://www.interreg-balkanmed.eu/</a>				X		X		X	X		

Programme	Countries Covered	Open Calls Information	Useful links	Thematic Objectives										
				Research & Innovation 	Low-Carbon Economy 	Combating Climate Change 	Environment & Resources Efficiency 	Social Inclusion 	Better Education, Training 	Employment & Mobility 	Better Public Administration 	Competitiveness of SMEs 	Sustainable Transport 	Information and Communication Technologies 
	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia													
Interreg Baltic Sea Region	Sweden Belarus Denmark Estonia Finland Latvia Lithuania Norway Poland Germany Russia	No calls for projects open	<a href="https://www.interreg-baltic.eu/home.html">https://www.interreg-baltic.eu/home.html</a>	X			X				X		X	
Interreg Central Europe	Austria Croatia Czech Republic Hungary Poland Slovakia Slovenia Germany Italy	No calls for projects open	<a href="https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/home.html">https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/home.html</a>	X	X		X						X	
Interreg Danube Transnational Programme	Austria Bosnia and Herzegovinian Croatia Czech Republic Hungary	No calls for projects open	<a href="http://www.interreg-danube.eu/">http://www.interreg-danube.eu/</a>	X			X				X		X	

Programme	Countries Covered	Open Calls Information	Useful links	Thematic Objectives										
				Research & Innovation 	Low-Carbon Economy 	Combating Climate Change 	Environment & Resources Efficiency 	Social Inclusion 	Better Education, Training 	Employment & Mobility 	Better Public Administration 	Competitiveness of SMEs 	Sustainable Transport 	Information and Communication Technologies 
	Moldova Montenegro Romania Slovakia Slovenia Germany Ukraine													
Interreg Mediterranean	Albania Bosnia and Herzegovina Croatia Cyprus Greece Malta Montenegro Slovenia France Italy Portugal Spain United Kingdom	<b>3rd Call for modular projects</b> <b>Continuously open call</b>	<a href="https://www.interreg-med.eu/">https://www.interreg-med.eu/</a>	X	X		X				X			
Interreg North Sea Region	Denmark Belgium Germany Nederland Norway Sweden United Kingdom	<b>Call 5 for full applications</b> <b>Continuously open call</b>  <b>Call 11 for full applications</b> <b>Deadline 11th October 2019</b>	<a href="http://www.northsearegion.eu/">http://www.northsearegion.eu/</a>	X		X	X						X	

Programme	Countries Covered	Open Calls Information	Useful links	Thematic Objectives										
				Research & Innovation 	Low-Carbon Economy 	Combating Climate Change 	Environment & Resources Efficiency 	Social Inclusion 	Better Education, Training 	Employment & Mobility 	Better Public Administration 	Competitiveness of SMEs 	Sustainable Transport 	Information and Communication Technologies 
Interreg North West Europe	Belgium Ireland Luxembourg Switzerland France Germany Nederland United Kingdom	No calls for projects open	<a href="http://www.nweurope.eu/">http://www.nweurope.eu/</a>	X	X		X						X	
Interreg Sudoe	Portugal Spain France United Kingdom Andorra	<b>2nd Call for projects at SUDOE</b> <b>Continuously open call</b>	<a href="https://www.interreg-sudoe.eu/gbr/home">https://www.interreg-sudoe.eu/gbr/home</a>	X	X	X	X					X		
Northern Periphery and Artic 2014-2020	Faroe Islands Greenland Iceland Finland Ireland Norway Sweden United Kingdom	<b>Preparatory project call</b> <b>Continuously open call</b>	<a href="http://www.interreg-npa.eu/">http://www.interreg-npa.eu/</a>	X	X		X					X		

### 5.3. Interregional Cooperation Programmes

Programme	Countries Covered	Open Calls Information	Useful links	Thematic Objectives											
				Research & Innovation 	Low-Carbon Economy 	Combating Climate Change 	Environment & Resources Efficiency 	Social Inclusion 	Better Education, Training 	Employment & Mobility 	Better Public Administration 	Competitiveness of SMEs 	Sustainable Transport 	Information and Communication Technologies 	
ESPON – European Spatial Planning Observation Network	All EU 28 countries Iceland Lichtenstein Switzerland Norway	No calls for projects open	<a href="https://www.espon.eu/">https://www.espon.eu/</a>										X		
INTERACT	All EU 28 countries Switzerland Norway	No calls for projects open	<a href="http://www.interact-eu.net/">http://www.interact-eu.net/</a>								X				
Interreg Europe	All EU 28 countries Switzerland Norway	No calls for projects open	<a href="https://www.interreg-europe.eu/">https://www.interreg-europe.eu/</a>	X	X		X						X		
URBACT	All EU 28 countries	No calls for projects open	<a href="https://urbact.eu/">https://urbact.eu/</a>	X											

## 6. Programme for Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (COSME)

The Programme for Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (COSME) aims to make it easier for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to access finance in all phases of their lifecycle – creation, expansion, or business transfer. Thanks to EU support, businesses have easier access to guarantees, loans and equity capital. EU ‘financial instruments’ are channelled through local financial institutions in EU countries. The Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME) manages COSME on behalf of the European Commission.

COSME helps businesses to access markets in the EU and beyond. It helps SMEs find business and technology partners, and understand EU legislation; the Your Europe Business portal that provides practical information on doing business within Europe. It also finances a number of IPR (intellectual property rights) SME Helpdesks.

COSME also supports entrepreneurs by strengthening entrepreneurship education, mentoring, guidance and other support services. Actions support specific groups who may find it difficult to reach their full potential.

COSME aims to reduce the administrative and regulatory burden on SMEs by creating a business-friendly environment. COSME also supports businesses to be competitive by encouraging them to adopt new business models and innovative practices.

COSME financial instruments:

- The Loan Guarantee Facility (LGF)
- The Equity Facility for Growth (EFG)

### 6.1. The Loan Guarantee Facility (LGF)

#### *Description*

Part of the COSME budget funds guarantees and counter-guarantees for financial intermediaries (e.g. guarantee organisations, banks, leasing companies) to help them provide more loan and lease finance to SMEs. This facility also includes the securitisation of SME debt-finance portfolios.

By sharing the risk, the COSME guarantees allow financial intermediaries to expand the range of SMEs and types of financial transactions they can support. The impact is substantial - due to the leverage effect, every euro invested in a loan guarantee is expected to release up to 30 euros of financing for SMEs. These guarantees are expected to help SMEs who might otherwise not be able to obtain funding due to their perceived higher risk or a lack of sufficient collateral.

A call for expression of interest has been launched. It is open until 30 September 2020. Financial intermediaries wishing to apply to the LGF can find more information on the EIF website.

Through COSME LGF, the European Investment Fund (EIF) offers guarantees and counter-guarantees, including securitisation of SME debt finance portfolios, to selected financial intermediaries (e.g. guarantee institutions, banks, leasing companies, etc.) to help them to provide more loans and leases to SMEs.



By sharing the risk, COSME guarantees allow the financial intermediaries to expand the range of SMEs they can finance, facilitating access to debt finance for many SMEs who might be having difficulties in accessing the traditional banking system.

LGF is a successor to the SME Guarantee Facility (SMEG), successfully implemented by EIF under the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) in the period 2007-2013.

#### ***Useful links:***

European Investment Fund Website:

[https://www.eif.org/what\\_we\\_do/guarantees/single\\_eu\\_debt\\_instrument/cosme-loan-facility-growth/index.htm](https://www.eif.org/what_we_do/guarantees/single_eu_debt_instrument/cosme-loan-facility-growth/index.htm)

Commission implementation decision on the financing of the Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises and the adoption of the work programme for 2019:  
[file:///C:/Users/mdias130/Documents/COMMISSION\\_IMPLEMENTING\\_DECISION\\_EN.pdf](file:///C:/Users/mdias130/Documents/COMMISSION_IMPLEMENTING_DECISION_EN.pdf)

## ***6.2. The Equity Facility for Growth (EFG)***

#### ***Description***

Part of the COSME budget is dedicated to investments in risk-capital funds that provide venture capital and mezzanine finance to expansion and growth-stage SMEs, in particular those operating across borders.

Within this framework, fund managers working on a commercial basis ensure that investments are focused on SMEs with the greatest growth potential. It is expected that some 500 firms will receive equity financing through the programme, with overall investment reaching up to EUR 4 billion. It is also anticipated that further finance will be attracted through co-investments from other public and private sources.

A call for expression of interest has been launched and is open until 30 September 2020. Financial intermediaries wishing to apply can find more information on the EIF website.

Through COSME EFG, the European Investment Fund (EIF) invests in selected funds – acting as EIF’s financial intermediaries – that provide venture capital and mezzanine finance to expansion and growth stage SMEs, in particular those operating across borders. The fund managers operate on a commercial basis, to ensure that investments are focused on SMEs with the greatest growth potential.

EFG is a successor to the High Growth and Innovative SME Facility (GIF), implemented under the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) in the period 2007-2013.

#### ***Useful links:***

European Investment Fund Website:

[https://www.eif.org/what\\_we\\_do/equity/single\\_eu\\_equity\\_instrument/cosme\\_efg/index.htm](https://www.eif.org/what_we_do/equity/single_eu_equity_instrument/cosme_efg/index.htm)

Commission implementation decision on the financing of the Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises and the adoption of the work programme for 2019: [file:///C:/Users/mdias130/Documents/COMMISSION\\_IMPLEMENTING\\_DECISION\\_EN.pdf](file:///C:/Users/mdias130/Documents/COMMISSION_IMPLEMENTING_DECISION_EN.pdf)

## 7. Financial Instruments and Support to Companies

### 7.1. *InnovFin – EU Finance for Innovators*

#### *Description*

**InnovFin Large Projects** aims to improve access to risk finance for R&I projects emanating from large firms and medium and large midcaps; universities and research institutes; R&I infrastructures (including innovation-enabling infrastructures); public-private partnerships; and special-purpose vehicles or projects (including those promoting first-of-a-kind, commercial-scale industrial demonstration projects). Loans from €7.5 million to €300 million will be delivered directly by the European Investment Bank.

**InnovFin MidCap Growth Finance** offers senior and subordinated loans or guarantees (including mezzanine and quasi equity financing), in order to improve access to finance mainly for innovative larger midcaps (up to 3,000 employees), but also SMEs and small midcaps. Loans from €7.5 million to €25 million will be delivered directly by the European Investment Bank to eligible beneficiaries in EU Member States and Associated Countries.

**InnovFin MidCap Guarantee** offers guarantees or contingent loans of between €7.5 million and €25 million, in order to improve access to finance for innovative larger midcaps (up to 3000 employees) in particular. This facility is implemented by the European Investment Bank, and is to be delivered through financial intermediaries – banks and financial institutions – in EU Member States and Associated Countries. Under this facility, financial intermediaries will be guaranteed against a portion of their potential losses by the EIB, which will also offer counter-guarantees to guarantee institutions.

**InnovFin SME Guarantee** provides guarantees and counter-guarantees on debt financing of between €25,000 and €7.5 million, in order to improve access to loan finance for innovative small and medium-sized enterprises and small midcaps (up to 499 employees). This facility is implemented by the European Investment Fund, and will be rolled out through financial intermediaries – banks and other financial institutions – in EU Member States and Associated Countries. Under this facility, financial intermediaries will be guaranteed by the EIF against a proportion of their losses incurred on the debt financing covered under the facility.

**InnovFin Advisory** services, provided by EIB on the basis of up to €28 million from the Horizon 2020 budget, aim to improve the 'bankability' and investment-readiness of large projects that need substantial, long-term investments. It will also provide advice to improve the conditions for access to risk finance for R&I. The main clients foreseen are promoters of large R&I projects that meet Horizon 2020's Societal Challenges. The advisory services are expected to accelerate the development of projects with an investment value of some €20 billion.

**Useful links:**

European Investment Bank: <https://www.eib.org/en/>

European Investment Fund: <http://www.eif.europa.eu/>

## 7.2. VentureEU

**Description**

Under VentureEU, the EU is providing cornerstone investments of €410 million in independently managed venture capital Funds-of-Funds, including €200 million directly derived from Horizon 2020. The selected fund managers are to raise at least three times as much from other sources (the EU investment is capped at 25%).

The funds are aiming to raise up to €2.1 billion of public and private investment. In turn, this is expected to trigger an estimated €6.5 billion of new investment in innovative start-up and scaleup companies across Europe, substantially adding to the amount of venture capital available in Europe.

Venture capital (VC) is vital to a well-functioning Capital Markets Union, but remains underdeveloped in Europe. In 2016, venture capitalists invested about €6.5 billion in the EU compared to €39.4 billion in the US. Moreover, VC funds in Europe are too small – €56 million on average compared to €156 million in the US. As a result, these companies move to ecosystems where they have better chances to grow fast. Around 1,500 start-ups and scale-ups are now expected to gain access to scale-up finance across the whole EU thanks to VentureEU.

The six funds selected to support VentureEU take stakes in a number of smaller investee funds and cover projects in at least four European countries each. These investee funds aim at helping finance small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and mid-caps from a range of sectors such as information and communication technologies (ICT), digital, life sciences, medical technologies, and resource and energy efficiency.

The EU investment in VentureEU is managed by the EIF under the supervision of the Commission and rolled out via six professional and experienced fund managers ensuring a fully market-driven approach. This will attract more investments and significantly increase the availability of VC funding for start-ups and scale-ups in the EU.

VentureEU is a priority action under the Commission's Capital Markets Union (CMU), and complements other actions to boost venture capital in Europe. What is notably proposed are an expansion of the European Venture Capital funds (EuVECA) regulation and proposals to address the bias in the tax system to favour equity financing over debt financing

**Useful links:**

Capital Markets Union Action Plan: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/growth-and-investment/capital-markets-union\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/growth-and-investment/capital-markets-union_en)

European Investment Fund:

[https://www.eif.org/what we do/equity/paneuropean venture capital fund of funds/index.htm](https://www.eif.org/what_we_do/equity/paneuropean_venture_capital_fund_of_funds/index.htm)

### 7.3. Invest Europe

#### *Description*

Invest Europe is an association representing Europe’s private equity, venture capital and infrastructure sectors, as well as their investors.

Invest Europe members take a long-term approach to investing in privately held companies, from start-ups to established firms. They inject not only capital but dynamism, innovation and expertise. This commitment helps deliver strong and sustainable growth, resulting in healthy returns for Europe’s leading pension funds and insurers, to the benefit of the millions of European citizens who depend on them.

Invest Europe aims also to make a constructive contribution to policy affecting private capital investment in Europe.

#### *Useful links:*

Invest Europe webpage: <https://www.investeurope.eu/>

### 7.4. Startup Europe

#### *Description*

The Startup Europe is an initiative of European Commission. The team works for entrepreneurs to be more connected within the European ecosystem. They believe Europe’s growth is going to be determined by startups, and they want to support their growth. It is based in four pillars:

- Connecting people through an array of networks, such as investors, accelerators, female entrepreneurs, corporate networks and universities to grow business and give them voice to have influence on new policies. They can also help find right combination of finance throughout EU, find high skilled employers and work across borders;
- Connecting ecosystem: supporting regional initiatives;
- Helping startups to soft-land in other markets such as Silicon Valley, India, etc;
- Celebrating entrepreneurs’ success (Techallstars and Europioneers).

#### *Useful links:*

Startup Europe webpage: <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/startup-europe>

Startup Europe Hubs: <http://www.startuphubs.eu/>

One-stop-shop for Startup Europe: <http://startupeuropeclub.eu/about-us/>

## 7.5. European Business Network

### Description

EBN is a network of around 140 quality-certified business and innovation centres, incubators, accelerators and other support organisations, and approximately 100 Associate Members that support the development and growth of innovative entrepreneurs, start-ups and SMEs.

EBN is a community of professionals whose day-to-day work guides these businesses to grow in the most effective, and efficient way, delivering sustainable impact.

The European Business Network, EBN, has set up **Business Innovation Centres** (BICs) in Europe to support start-ups. BIC's core mission is to accelerate innovative entrepreneurship at the local level, through the customised delivery of a comprehensive range of professional support and incubation services (pre-incubation, incubation, post-incubation) targeted at innovative start-ups, spin-offs, entrepreneurs and SMEs. BIC's value chain is classically described as follows: “stimulate, detect, assess, select, incubate, mentor, cluster, accelerate, internationalise”.

BICs also act like an intermediary between start-ups and big companies. On the one hand, the BICs can provide the big companies with the most promising innovations in a specific field while at the same time protecting the start-ups with regards to IPR issues.

EBN's core membership comprises organisations dedicated to supporting the creation and growth of businesses. And EBN's core services help these business support organisations (BSOs) deliver the most effective services possible to their clients: the start-ups, entrepreneurs and SMEs operating in their local area.

The BIC certification process allows BSOs to benchmark themselves against the only EU-recognised international standard of start-up support, and where appropriate become accredited BICs. Using the EU|BIC logo on a BSO's publicity material, gives potential clients an assurance of the quality of services being delivered. EBN has over 150 fully certified BIC in its membership, from over 40 different countries.

In summary BSOs have the potential to:

- Become one of the “gold standard” entrepreneur support organisations
- Deliver certified, high-quality services to clients and become an unquestionable node within your territorial ecosystem
- Benchmark against EU|BICs in the same country, region, across Europe, or EU|BICs of similar size
- Be part of the only EU-accredited network and gain recognition by the EU/EC etc
- Allow your clients to link with other network members and their clients or business partners

BSOs come in many shapes and sizes. EBN's services apply to all BSOs, and most have the potential to become EU|BICs:

- Business Incubators
- Innovation Centres
- Accelerators
- Coworking Spaces
- Living Labs

- Chambers of Commerce and Industry
- Business Centres

*Useful links:*

EBN main webpage: <https://ebn.eu/>

BIC Certification:

<https://ebn.eu/index.php?lnk=KzF0aDVES1I3bG9TYXFGGeEhLL2dQMvJwTGRaNXFyY0FLOHp2cUlkN3huTT0=>